

# The High Times

SINCE 1933

RIDGEWOOD, June 2020

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**In light of the recent events regarding police brutality and race relations in America — namely, the murder of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor — the RHS High Times stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.**

**Much work must be done to not only heal our country, but also to rebuild America into a more accepting, just, and equal nation. This movement is not confined to just one isolated incident after another. Instead, it embodies an ongoing, evolving discussion.**

**As aspirational high school journalists, it is our job to report the news with rigor and integrity, and it is with these same values that we will educate ourselves with the reality of the country that we live in today. We ask all of our readers to do the same.**

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## *Return to "Normal" Around the World*

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LAUREN SHIN  
STAFF WRITER

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Going back to school is something that is currently out of the question for students here in the United States. However, this seemingly impossible event is becoming a reality for many other high school students in different parts of the world. After months in quarantine, countries like South Korea, Germany, Australia, and China are reopening their classrooms. Nevertheless, resuming education in the time of COVID-19 does not come without difficulties.

Most notably in South Korea, the education systems are taking extreme measures in order to contain the spread of the virus. POV: a female student living in Korea is about to go to school. Before entering the school she would need to get her temperature checked to make sure that she is not sick. Once she passes this “test”, she can then go on to her regular classes, however, she will need to sit in a desk that is six feet away from her peers’ desks. Finally, she can go to eat lunch with her friends—except she would have to talk to them through the plastic barriers that separate each student....

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CHLOE CHO, Ridgewood High Times

# *RHS Choir From Home*

MEADOW PALIOTTA & EMMA SCHMALZ  
STAFF WRITERS



The shift from regular to virtual school has been an interesting one to say the least. For most core classes and even some electives, the transition to online learning was fairly smooth, as worksheets and notes can be shared virtually, and a teacher's guidance is often offered through Zoom or Google Meets. But for the RHS Choir program, a much more interactive class, the switch was a bit more difficult to navigate.

Each year, the choir has their spring concert at West Side Presbyterian Church. Students spend months learning and perfecting a repertoire of new songs which they get just one night to showcase; but, because of recent circumstances, one of the choir's favorite concerts of the year was canceled. Thankfully, choir director Steven Bourque was not planning on letting months of his students' hard work go unrewarded. He quickly thought up a way to create a virtual ensemble that emulated the real deal as best it could. Inspired by famous choir composer and conductor, Eric Whitacre, RHS choir, with the special assistance of concert choir student James Harkins, was able to produce their very own virtual choir. Each student recorded a solo video of themselves singing their part of the combined piece that was meant to be performed at West Side, entitled "Baba Yetu", and submitted it to be edited with the rest of their peers' voices by Harkins. The outcome was an amazing video featuring all choir members just performing, as they love to do. It is amazing to see how useful and powerful technology can be, still bringing us together, when we are all apart.

While it may not have been a "real" concert, it was such a gift for the choir to even be able to "perform" just one of their pieces. The choir continues to meet virtually, typically once a week for class, and also works diligently through Google Classroom as well. After the success of the "Baba Yetu" video, the choir produced another virtual video in honor of their graduating seniors. "I Lived", unlike "Baba Yetu" was learned entirely online, and had the year gone as planned, it would've been performed at the choir's annual final concert. It was a beautiful testament to the choir class of 2020 and brought a little joy to their otherwise gloomy quarantine days.



# *Return to "Normal" Around the World*

...continued from front page

Of course, this would all be while wearing a mask and practicing social distancing from her other classmates. There are many precautionary measures that the average student needs to take in South Korea, nonetheless, many of them would understandably argue that it is better than being isolated at home and doing online. Rising sophomore in high school, Kim Ji-hoo, talks about his school reopening in Daegu, South Korea, "There were plastic barriers surrounding our desks. We had to sanitize our hands before every class. So yes, school was very different from when we left it!"

Furthermore, other Asian and European countries are taking different steps in order to get their youth back to school. For example, in Germany, hallways are becoming one-way systems and class sizes are being cut in half. In Australia, schools are opening in staggered stages, having classes one day a week for ¼ of the students from each grade. Even in the epicenter itself, China already has schools reopening—naturally, having the standard precautionary measures like temperature checks before opening schools and plastic dividers for cafeteria tables. Additionally, an upcoming junior in high school from Singapore, Annie Decastro, recently had her school reopen and she states that "It was very surreal... I never imagined going back to school. We all had to wear masks and social distance from each other, but I was really happy to see all of my friends and teachers again so it was worth it."

It is important that if the public school systems were to reopen in the near future here in the Ridgewood community, the students would have to try to model the same precautionary measures that the students in European and Asian countries are currently taking. This way, hopefully in time, normality will return to Ridgewood.

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## *100 Days in Quarantine: What Have We Been Doing?*

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ALEX JERDEE  
OPINION COLUMNIST

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On June 21st, 100 days will have passed since the last day of in-person schooling at RHS. For some, it feels like barely any time has passed. For others, it feels like years. So what have we done with all this time?

Beyond our hair growing to awkward lengths and the occasional patchy beard, we have undergone larger changes. We have enjoyed more sleep, watched an obnoxious amount of movies and television, and gamed on our old consoles. Some rewatched the Office, rediscovered the beauty of Animal Crossing, deep-dived on Reddit, read a book, or discovered a new podcast.

Quarantine meant more responsibility. We suddenly needed to motivate ourselves to complete our assignments. We needed to take accountability for our education, and we needed to record our gym workouts, as much as we hated it. We saw our teachers' kids and homes and our peers with their families as well. We learned to cook, acquired more chores, and learned that birds never shut up. We got to know our siblings and parents better than ever before, even when we did not feel like it, and we found virtual ways to stay in contact with friends and family.

There were some tough times. Times when we or our families felt or were unsafe due to the virus. Staying inside got lonely, and we missed our friends. We even missed the people we would have light conversations with in the hallways, and the familiar faces we never even greeted in school before. We missed our sports seasons, the chance to bond as teams. We missed our clubs, the competitions, and events that got canceled. We missed bubble tea and going into town after school.

But despite the struggles, we made it. Nearly 100 days! And we are still here, bracing ourselves for 100 more. Quarantine gave us the chance to learn new things: piano, guitar, gardening, cooking, biking, skateboarding—whatever we pleased. Quarantine gave us the chance to rally together like never before: many RHS students tirelessly fundraised to support Valley Hospital, and more recently, rallied behind the Black Lives Matter movement. We have protested here in Ridgewood and across Bergen County. We have shared our solidarity on social media and in person.

As much as quarantine has taken away from all of us, it has given us a whole lot of time to think. To think about the people we care about most. To think about our biases. To think about what we all can do better. And for that, we can all be grateful for these 100 days.

# Coach Johnson's Legacy

EMILY SUE  
STAFF WRITER

Everyone in Ridgewood is aware of who Coach Johnson is and even when you branch out into other towns his name carries a legacy with it. Since 1984, Coach Johnson has been Ridgewood High School's football coach and has carried with him a successful career consisting of seven New Jersey state titles. His team had back to back wins in 2018-2019, 2003-2004, and in 2016 his group had an undefeated season and tore through the New Jersey football scene and dominated in the area.

However, in 2019 a serious infection forced him into intensive care and his duty as Ridgewood's head coach had to be placed on hold as he recovered. With the 2020 season not being confirmed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, one factor has been confirmed: Johnson's retirement from his position. As news spread around Ridgewood and the North Jersey area, many current and former players, as well as friends and community members, began reminiscing about memories with Johnson. Junior Ryder Langsdale comments that Johnson's impact on both his football and personal lives has been immensely significant and quotes that Johnson, "was like a 3rd Grandfather to me."

Other players have also felt the impact of Johnson's coaching and attribute the team's success to his dedication to each player and pushing them to their best possible state. While talking to two other juniors, Sean Emmanuel and Jake Petzold, it was evident that Johnson also had a strong sense of humor and they discussed back and forth about hilarious comments and moments during their seasons.



Coach Johnson's consistent hard work and immense care for the sport is seen throughout North Jersey and is displayed by his numerous victories and talented players who have moved on to play college football at some of the nation's best schools. While Johnson's health condition may have taken him out of his position as head coach his legacy will always remain at Ridgewood High School. Many students who did not even play football quote hilarious moments with Johnson as their gym teacher or even during a casual conversation. Johnson was invested in the school and wished to see every student and player succeed and reach their fullest potential.

Although he may be leaving the football scene he will always remain as one of Ridgewood's most memorable staff members and coaches. Many players have said that even though he is not returning as head coach they will continue to work hard and succeed in remembrance of Johnson, and those who have had the pleasure of working with him will know that his presence still remains both on and off of the field.

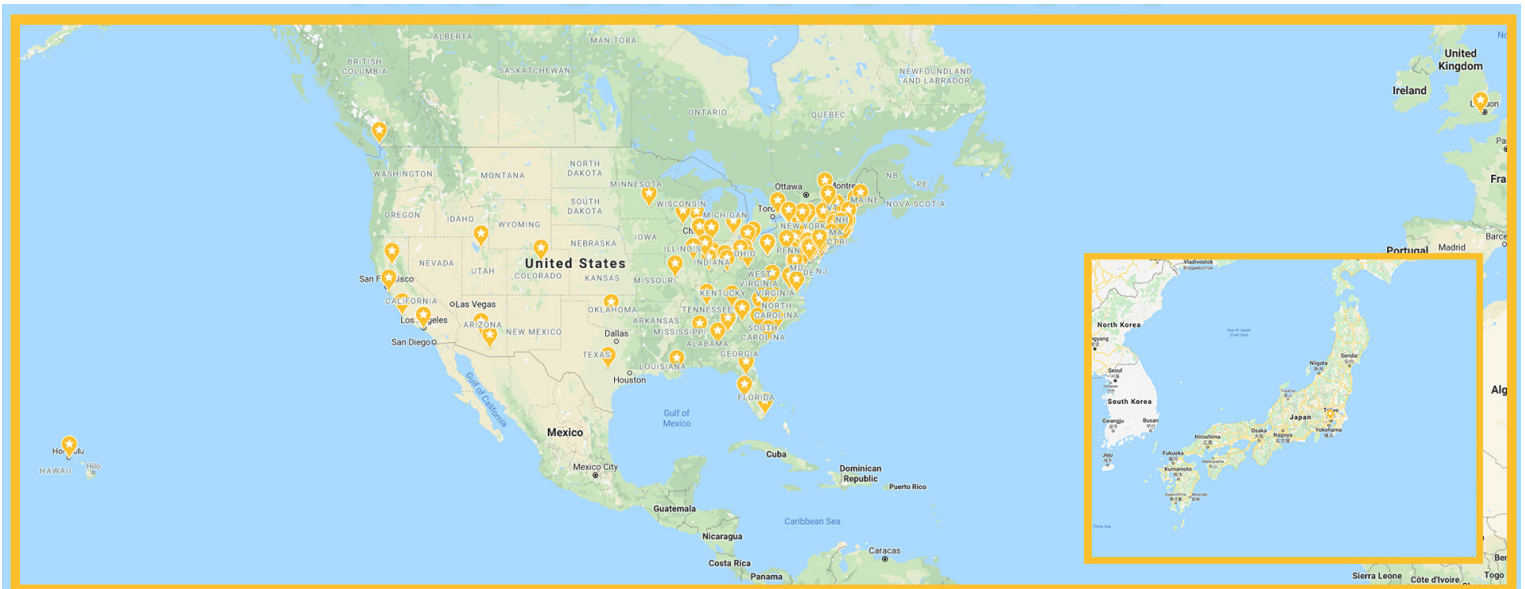




# Class of 2020

## College Destinations

ELLIE TSAPATSARIS & EUGENE PARK  
MANAGING EDITOR & FEATURES EDITOR



American University (3)	Cornell University (3)	Keio University (1)	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (1)	The University of Texas at Austin (1)	University of South Carolina-Columbia (1)
Amherst College (1)	Dartmouth College (2)	Lafayette College (3)	Rider University (3)	Tufts University (2)	University of Southern California (1)
Arizona State University (2)	Davidson College (1)	Lehigh University (11)	Ringling College of Art and Design (1)	Tulane University of Louisiana (1)	University of Vermont (5)
Arizona State University-Tempe (1)	Denison University (1)	Lincoln Technical Institute (1)	Rochester Institute of Technology (4)	University of British Columbia (3)	University of Wisconsin-Madison (2)
Auburn University (1)	Drexel University (3)	Loyola University Maryland (3)	Roger Williams University (4)	University of California-Los Angeles (4)	University of Wollongong (1)
Bates College (1)	Elizabethtown College (1)	Marietta College (3)	Royal Holloway University of London (1)	University of Chicago (3)	Ursinus College (1)
Bentley University (1)	Elon University (4)	Marquette University (1)	Rutgers University - Camden (1)	University of Cincinnati (1)	Vanderbilt University (4)
Bergen Community College (6)	Emerson College (1)	Marymount Manhattan College (1)	Rutgers University-New Brunswick (22)	University of Colorado Boulder (1)	Vassar College (2)
Boston College (4)	Emory University (1)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1)	Sacred Heart University (2)	University of Connecticut (3)	Villanova University (2)
Boston University (3)	Fairfield University (4)	McGill University (3)	School of the Art Institute of Chicago (1)	University of Delaware (5)	Virginia Tech (4)
Brandeis University (3)	Fairleigh Dickinson University (1)	Miami University-Oxford (1)	Seton Hall University (2)	University of Florida (1)	Wagner College (1)
Brown University (1)	Fashion Institute of Technology (1)	Middlebury College (1)	Skidmore College (1)	University of Hartford (1)	Wake Forest University (5)
Bucknell University (5)	Fordham University (1)	Monmouth University (2)	Springfield College (1)	University of Hawaii at Manoa (1)	Waseda University (1)
California Polytechnic State University (1)	Franklin and Marshall College (3)	Montclair State University (1)	St. John's University (1)	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2)	Washington and Lee University (3)
California State University-Chico (1)	George Washington University (2)	Muhlenberg College (2)	St. John's University (1)	University of Maryland-College Park (4)	Washington University in St. Louis (3)
Carleton College (1)	Georgetown University (4)	New Jersey Institute of Technology (3)	Stevens Institute of Technology (5)	University of Massachusetts Boston (1)	Weber State University (1)
Carnegie Mellon University (3)	Georgia Institute of Technology (2)	New York University (10)	Swarthmore College (1)	University of Massachusetts-Amherst (2)	Wellesley College (2)
Case Western Reserve University (1)	Gettysburg College (2)	Northeastern University (6)	Syracuse University (6)	University of Miami (3)	Wesleyan University (1)
Catholic University of America (1)	Hamilton College (1)	Oberlin College (1)	Temple University (1)	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (9)	Western New England University (1)
Clemson University (3)	Harvard College (2)	Ontario Tech University (1)	The College of New Jersey (2)	University of New Hampshire (2)	William and Mary (2)
Coastal Carolina University (2)	Haverford College (2)	Pennsylvania State University (6)	The Los Angeles Film School (1)	University of Notre Dame (3)	William Paterson University of New Jersey (3)
Colby College (1)	High Point University (1)	Pennsylvania State University - Harrisburg (1)	The New School (2)	University of Oklahoma-Norman Campus (1)	Worcester Polytechnic Institute (1)
Colgate University (4)	Hocking College (1)	Princeton University (1)	The Ohio State University (3)	University of Pennsylvania (1)	Yale University (1)
College of Charleston (2)	Hofstra University (1)	Providence College (1)	The University of Alabama (1)	University of Pittsburgh (4)	
College of the Holy Cross (4)	Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis (1)	Purdue University (3)	The University of Arizona (1)	University of Rhode Island (2)	
Columbia University in the City of New York (1)	Indiana University-Bloomington (6)	Quinnipiac University (1)	The University of Scranton (1)	University of Richmond (3)	
Connecticut College (2)	Ithaca College (2)	Ramapo College of New Jersey (10)	The University of Tennessee-Knoxville (3)	University of Rochester (1)	



### RHS High Times Editorial Staff

Staff Advisor	Adam Brunner
Editors-in-Chief	Amelia Chen CJ Lee Eddie O'Keefe
Managing Editor	Ellie Tsapatsaris
Graphics Chief	Sofia Lee

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Katie Hu  
Caroline Loscalzo

### Opinion Editors

Daniel Son  
Julia Zambito

### Arts and Culture Editors

Allison Hong  
Anna Meringolo

### Graphics

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Ryan Rhew

### Sports & Wellness Editors

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Lexi Liu

### Features Editor

Eugene Park

### Digital Content Managers

Tess Cundiff  
Logan Richman  
Luca Richman

### Columnists

Aaron Friedman  
Alex Jerdee  
Claire Sullivan

# High Times Senior Spotlights

TESS CUNDIFF  
DIGITAL CONTENT MANAGER

## AMELIA CHEN EDITOR IN CHIEF

### FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE HIGH TIMES

"Ahh I can't pick just one. I love that this club brings different people together to achieve one goal: to produce great content every month. Also, there is something so rewarding about a print issue perhaps because it's a real life depiction of many people and their dedication."

### ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HIGH TIMES

- National Honor Society
- Chinese National Honor Society
- Orchestra ~ Violinist
- Asian Fest



### PARTING WORDS

"Everyday might not be good... but there's something good in every day" - Alice Morse Earle



ART HISTORY MAJOR  
MASTERS IN  
MANAGEMENT

## CJ LEE EDITOR IN CHIEF

### FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE HIGH TIMES

"Pitching in with all the editors to order and eat a delicious take-out meal in the middle of a grueling Late Night to finish editing a print issue!"

### ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HIGH TIMES

- Golf Team
- RHS Ambassadors Leader
- Fencing Club
- Orchestra ~ Violinist



### PARTING WORDS

"The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness" - Pope Benedict XVI



COMPUTER  
SCIENCE MAJOR

## EDDIE O'KEEFE EDITOR IN CHIEF

### FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE HIGH TIMES

"The staff is the best, chilliest group of people. Also, the Columbia trip is very fun."

### ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HIGH TIMES

- Student Government ~ Senior Class President
- RHS Varsity Alpine Ski Team ~ Captain
- ALPS



### PARTING WORDS

"Join High Times! HT was my favorite organization at RHS and definitely made my RHS experience much better."

"Life would be tragic if it weren't funny" - Steven Hawking



OPERATIONS  
RESEARCH AND  
FINANCIAL  
ENGINEERING

## ELLIE TSAPATSARIS FEATURES & MANAGERIAL EDITOR

### FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE HIGH TIMES

"The camaraderie between the members. Everyone is so supportive of each other, and through my two years on the editing staff, I've made some of my best friends."

### ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HIGH TIMES

- Orchestra ~ Violinist
- Tutoring Liaison for the National Honor Society
- Latin Club Co-President
- Ballet
- Tutoring Chair for the Latin Honors Society



### PARTING WORDS

"Get really involved in what you love, no matter what that may be. I've found some of my best friends and mentors through engrossing myself in activities that really interest me (like journalism!). Pursuing what makes you happy can really make a difference in your overall success, especially in a school as academically rigorous as RHS."



FILM & MEDIA  
STUDIES MAJOR  
DANCE MINOR

## KATIE HU NEWS EDITOR

### FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE HIGH TIMES

"The community of people and how we all work together."

### ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HIGH TIMES

- New Jersey DECA President
- Peer Counselor
- Student Government ~ Secretary



### PARTING WORDS

"Seek discomfort! Don't be afraid to try something new."



BUSINESS MANAGEMENT  
& PUBLIC HEALTH MAJOR  
FINANCE MINOR

## JAMES ELLINGHAUS NEWS EDITOR

### FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE HIGH TIMES

"Working together with my fellow editors and writers. Late nights in the computer lab were always so much fun and really fostered a sense of community."

### ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HIGH TIMES

- Peer Counselor
- Project Interact
- National Spanish Honor Society
- Tutoring Liaison for the National Honor Society



### PARTING WORDS

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." - James Baldwin



PSYCHOLOGY  
MAJOR



## EUGENE PARK

### FEATURES EDITOR

#### FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE HIGH TIMES

"The relationships amongst the staff is personally the best part of the High Times experience. Every person is so welcoming and supportive and the two years I've spent with everyone have been full of some of my best high school moments."

#### ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HIGH TIMES

- Fundraising Officer for the National Spanish Honor Society
- Project Interact Leader
- Cello player in RHS Orchestra and various outreach groups



#### PARTING WORDS

"If you're interested but unsure about something like joining a club, just take a chance! I went into High Times unsure of my writing abilities and armed with only a general knowledge of journalism and newspaper writing. But as I went from an occasional staff writer to a more involved editor, I've found myself learning new things, discovering new interests, and meeting new people that introduced me to an amazing activity I'd like to continue pursuing in college."

"Also, try a little bit of everything at RHS! It never hurts to explore a bit, especially when we're all trying to find our place and what path we want to walk on."



DARTMOUTH

UNDECIDED

## LEXI LIU

### SPORTS & WELLNESS EDITOR

#### FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE HIGH TIMES

"Reading our peers' opinions in a more formal format and getting informed about current events through the lens of a high schooler, not some distant professional."

#### ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HIGH TIMES

- DECA
- Crew
- Employed by someone running for Congress



#### PARTING WORDS

"Work smarter, not harder" - Carl Barks

"Do all things in love"



Tulane University

POLITICAL SCIENCE & COMMUNICATIONS  
MAJOR  
AFRICANA STUDIES MINOR

## RYAN RHEW

### GRAPHICS EDITOR

#### FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE HIGH TIMES

"Late nights, when we're all together just doing our thing."

#### ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HIGH TIMES

- A founder of the RHS Students Against Destructive Decisions chapter
- Delegate for Student Government
- TRI-M Music Honor Society
- Violin player in RHS Orchestra and in small ensembles



#### PARTING WORDS

"Why NOT me?" - Brian Selander



DOUBLE  
CONCENTRATION  
IN NEUROSCIENCE  
AND MUSIC

BROWN

## LUCA RICHMAN

### DIGITAL CONTENT EDITOR

#### FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE HIGH TIMES

"How close we are as editors; I feel like we're a big family and we work really well together."

#### ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HIGH TIMES

- Cross Country
- Track & Field
- National Honor Society
- French National Honor Society
- Project Interact

#### PARTING WORDS

"Dedicate yourself with passion, and success is inevitable."



NYU



MEDIA,  
CULTURE, AND  
COMMUNICATION

## NICOLE KYE

### GRAPHICS EDITOR

#### FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE HIGH TIMES

"The energy that surmounts to the final issue"

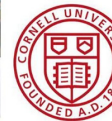
#### ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HIGH TIMES

- Crew
- Cambodia Club Leader
- Civics Youth Corp Leader
- National Arts Honor Society President
- TEEM Intern



#### PARTING WORDS

"Stride confidently, strive for your goals, and don't stop! Focus on your passions, meet new people, try different activities and most of all: Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going!"



BIOLOGY MAJOR  
SOCIETY &  
ETHICS MINOR

