



# BENJAMIN LOGAN HIGH SCHOOL EST. 1971

Newsletter: May 2017

As we come to the end of another school year, it is a time to reflect as well as look at what tomorrow will bring. Over the course of the 2016-17 school year, one of our building goals was the implementation of a “One-2-One” Chromebook Initiative with students and staff. This instructional tool was rolled out to freshman and sophomores with full implementation taking place over a three year span. On-going professional development was a key factor in expanding resources and techniques to enhance their instructional practices. Students have embraced the concept through endless resources while providing them with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. In year three of our partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, we hosted (10) professional speakers that shared their job experiences along with the necessary skills and training required. Along with our speaker series, we had (4) students attend a Police Academy workshop, (79) juniors and seniors attend a Workforce Expo in which (23) interviewed and (8) were offered jobs, and (35) students attended Manufacturing Day at HTM. Our guidance department also made arrangements for a two-day tour for juniors to experience a two-year college as well as a four-year college. In all, we had (62) students tour UNOH, Rhodes State, OSU Lima, and Bowling Green State University. The goal of this initiative is to allow students to gain a better understanding of their options beyond high school.



The 2016-17 school year also brought many accolades for individual students as well as teams and organizations. Below are just a few of the many highlights that served as proud moments for the Raider Community:

Sarah Seeley – Superior Rating at State Science Fair

Macy Arn – State participant in Swimming

Nikki Current – All-Time Leading scorer in basketball

Mackenzie McManus & Tyler Cox – All-Star list at the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Ohio State University jazz festival

Quiz Bowl Team – Finished 12<sup>th</sup> in the National Competition in Chicago

Robotics Team – National Competition in Marion (Gold Rating in Combat Robots)

FCCLA – State Gold Rating for Outstanding Chapter / 2 Teams Qualified for Nationals in Nashville, Tennessee

FFA – State Gold Rating and Ag Comm Team

Band – Excellent Rating at State Competition

Jazz Band – Placed 1<sup>st</sup> in “Music in the Parks” at Cedar Point

Football – Reaching the State Playoffs ... 1<sup>st</sup> in school history

Volleyball – Conference & Sectional Champions

Girls Basketball – Conference Champions

Girls Swimming – Conference Champions  
Cheerleading – Conference Champions, State Runner-ups  
Boys & Girls Track – Conference Champions

As we close this current chapter of the school year, new adventures await us for 2017-18. Some of the anticipated additions include; Forensic Science class, Aquatic Ecosystems class, Coding & Programming class, and three new staff members.

On behalf of the faculty at Benjamin Logan High School, we would like to wish our seniors the best of luck as they start a new beginning. We would also like to say Thank You to the Raider Community for their continuous support in making Benjamin Logan such a special place to call home. Have a safe and relaxing summer!!

**Mark Butler, Principal**

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES



### AAA VEHICLE MAINTENANCE INSPECTION DAY

Automotive technicians from AAA recently conducted vehicle maintenance checks on high school students' vehicles. In an effort to lessen teen's risk behind the wheel, they looked at belts, hoses, tires, lights, batteries, and fluid levels. Students were given an inspection sheet to share with their parents and encouraged to sign a banner not to text and drive.

## HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMS 'SWEET CHARITY' MUSICAL



The Benjamin Logan Music Department performed the musical romantic comedy "Sweet Charity" on March 31st and April 1st. The musical, in its 50th anniversary this year, tells the story of a young woman's quest to find true love in New York City. Popular songs included "Rhythm of Life," "Hey Big Spender," "I'm a Brass Band," and "Baby Dream Your Dream." Accompanied by a wonderful orchestra performing the cool jazz and sixties styles of music featured in this show, it was a production enjoyed by many.





### JAPANESE NHS INDUCTION CEREMONY

Congratulations to the newest members of the Japanese National Honor Society. Students were able to participate in many Japanese culture events at the high school recently such as a traditional tea ceremony, calligraphy lessons, and a Japanese dance ceremony.

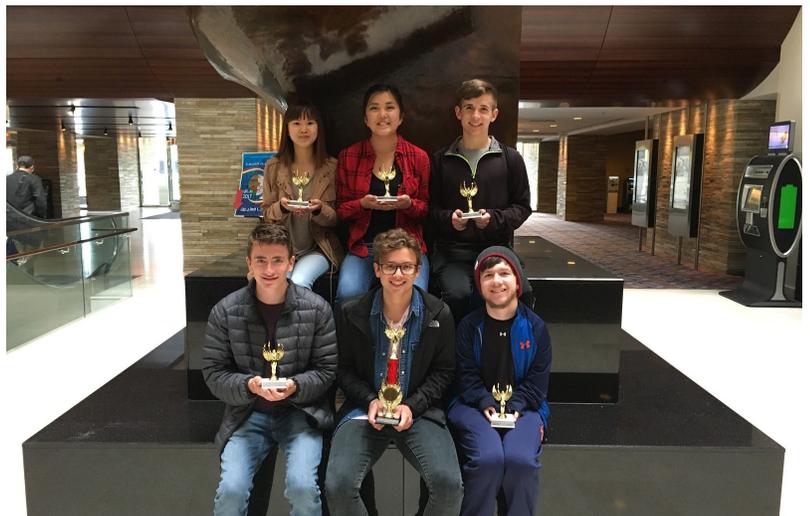
### FCCLA



FCCLA Benjamin Logan students recently competed at the state level garnering several awards. Receiving Silver was Caitlyn Wheeler in Interior Design and Lexi Stewart in Career Investigation. Receiving Gold was Lexi Stewart, Caitlyn Wheeler and Ashley Armstrong in Life Event Planning (3rd in state) and Ashley Armstrong in her Chapter Service Project Display. Ashley will advance to Nationals. Additionally, Phoebe Reames received "Gold level Outstanding Chapter," one of only seven in the state. Well done, ladies!

### QUIZ BOWL

The Benjamin Logan High School Quiz Bowl team competed in the NAQT Small School National Championship in Chicago on April 28-29, 2017. They took on a really talented field of competition and ended up finishing 12th in the nation. Representing the high school were: Bryson Tipton, Bradon Studebaker, Holden Baker, Kayla Stafford, Mei Carner and Ray McCormick.



## ROBOTICS TEAM



The Benjamin Logan Robotics Team competed at the National Robotics Challenge in Marion, OH. The team entered in various competitions including combat bot, robo hockey, Sumo bot, and Internet of Things. The Robo hockey team competed in the finals, where it placed fourth. The Internet of Things team made up of Christian Cooper and Holden Baker was awarded Silver in the competition and nominated for the Honda Innovation Award where they received a \$250 award from Sparkfun for the Robotics program. The team entered a contest where they had no prior knowledge or expectations and not only placed, but did exceptionally well. Sparkfun representative Jeff Branson said of this team, "this team made the whole trip worth it. I am humbled by these two young men."



## COLLEGE AND MILITARY SIGNING DAY

On May 4th, 74 Seniors at BLHS committed to higher education upon graduation. Congratulations and best wishes for a successful future ~ we are proud of you!

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT ~ JILL MCKELVEY & LUANN SCHMITMEYER

This May marks the end of two remarkable teaching careers, that of Jill McKelvey and Luann Schmitmeyer. Both began teaching at Benjamin Logan in August 1986. They became best friends that year and continue that friendship to this day, sharing lessons, stories, experiences, and memories that will carry on long after they leave their mark on the students and staff they have touched through the decades.

Mrs. McKelvey followed in the footsteps of her grandparents when she became a teacher. During her sophomore year in college, she did some field work and really enjoyed working with high school students. When asked what she most enjoyed about teaching, Mrs. McKelvey said it was allowing the students to have “life experiences” without the real life consequences. She recalls a unit on WWII and the Holocaust where the class did a crossover unit with Mrs. Schmitmeyer and librarian, Linda Schofield. Mrs. Schmitmeyer taught the Holocaust through the numbers obtained from the Jaeger Report. Mrs. Schofield taught a poetry lesson where the students wrote a poem based on images from the time period. When the students shared the poems there was not a dry eye in the house.

Mrs. Schmitmeyer was fueled to pursue a degree in secondary math education by being told as a student how important math would be in her life. “So, if math was that important, then why was it not presented in such a manner that more students understood it?” Mrs. Schmitmeyer thought...I could and would do that! Firmly believing that teaching has always been about the students, she felt that there was nothing more rewarding than making an inviting environment for them to learn. She has always enjoyed seeing and hearing former students’ success stories and making a student’s math journey a successful one.

Both outstanding teachers can site many changes over the course of their careers. Technology and state testing top the list of instructional changes. Both commented that “great teaching is great teaching” and that the profession is not an 8-4 job. Mrs. Schmitmeyer believes that teaching is a gift and that great teachers are teachers 24/7 and 365 days/year. “Summers and weekends are spent creating new lessons, learning new curriculum, and brainstorming ways to stay fresh in the classroom.” Mrs. McKelvey echoes this sentiment stating that the greatest lesson learned from teaching is that “people matter and what you do teaches more valuable lessons than what you say.” Mrs. Schmitmeyer adds, “teaching is a thankless, underpaid, undervalued profession...and yet, it can be the most rewarding one at the same time.”

As for retirement, spending time with family and friends, traveling, sleeping in past 4:00 am, and home improvements top the list for both retirees. Their classrooms may be empty come June, but as for their teaching legacy, the halls of Benjamin Logan High School will quietly echo the lessons learned and lived by Mrs. McKelvey and Mrs. Schmitmeyer.



## IMPROVISING A CURE



The High School and Middle School Jazz Bands performed at the 2017 Improvising a Cure event raising over \$1400.00 to be donated to Relay for Life. The event featured live music, raffles, artwork, and food donated by the Music Boosters.

