

Remembering the history of Brighton High School culture

Jacob Tenney
Illustration Artist

It's the start of a new year and Brighton High School is constantly evolving. As things continue to change at BHS, it's important to keep the history of the school alive.

The year 1946 saw the publication of Brighton's first Brightonian Yearbook following the end of World War II. Brighton High School was a fraction of the size it was today, with only twenty-eight seniors in the graduation class.

That year also saw publication of the school's first newspaper. The Orange and Black News was a weekly publication detailing the news going around the school. The paper was run by nine female students.

The 1946 Brightonian Yearbook was the first school yearbook to be published following the start of World War II. The high school was a fraction of the size it was today, with only twenty-eight seniors in the graduation class.

Unfortunately, interest in Yearbook class has decreased over the years, with fewer and fewer students taking the course. With graduation requirements increasing, students have found it harder to fit in elective classes, such as Yearbook and Newspaper, into their schedules.

"It's sad to see print media go by the wayside," teacher Roger Tillman said.

Tillman has been a teacher at Brighton High School since 1986. He has taught the Yearbook class for twenty-eight years, beginning in

1987, as well as teaching Newspaper for a period of time.

"Yearbook and Newspaper provide the only recorded history of the school. Who will carry that on once they're gone?" Tillman said.

As the years have gone by, the culture of the school has changed as well. Student population has increased, new technologies integrated, and additions added on. Likewise, student dynamics have evolved.

Teacher Kim Davis graduated from Brighton High School in 1994. She returned as a member of the teaching staff in 2005. Davis has noticed a shift in relationships among the student body.

"When I was here, things were much more 'sink or ship'. Everybody was more on their own," Davis said.

During Davis' time as a student, there was a separate cafeteria for freshman students. The BKOM mentoring program currently in place to help freshman students acclimate to the school was not in place at the time either.

"The freshmen were less integrated with the rest of the school. I think there's a more welcoming atmosphere here now," Davis said.

With changes occurring every year, there's no telling what the culture of Brighton High School will be like years from now. Through new programs and emphasis being placed on school community, the hope is for BHS to continue to become an open, friendly environment that values its history.

Gas prices benefit more than just BHS students this year

Tim Mason
Staff Reporter

When people are driving in the world today, they are doing whatever they can to save a buck at the pump. They could be selling their gas guzzling truck and getting a Prius, or even carpooling, or it could be as simple as going 65 on the highway. These are all factors that matter when gas is \$3.00 a gallon plus. Lately, this hasn't been an issue because gas is slowly declining in price.

"The gas prices are great because I don't work a lot of hours, and don't work close either so im spending my money on thing I want instead of just gas," senior Austin Cook said.

Gas prices are as low as they have been in six years according to USA-today.com. They also note that GasBuddy.com had the 2015 average gas price at \$2.64 a gallon. In 2014 it was \$3.34. Diesel drivers haven't gotten much of a break thus far on gas prices. Around Thanksgiving everyone gave thanks to the \$2.99 prices, but I'm sure everyone can agree that these \$1.99 prices are a much better present during the Holidays and the winter months, especially since people need to start their car in the morning to stay warm.

Oil is the main cause for the cheaper gas prices, supply has gone up, and demand has gone down. Oil barrels have gone from around \$100 in August of 2014 to around \$45 this month. This all happened because they are starting to drill in the Gulf of Mexico again after the big 2010 explosion that released millions of gallons of oil in the Gulf.

"I think what BP did was really bad.



Low gas prices in Michigan.

Google Images

They wasted so much oil," Evan Cameron said.

Oil is in everything, and since the price of it has gone down so much since the summer of last year, people are spending more money on things they want now, they're buying RV's because its cheaper than flying, all kinds of toys are cheaper, almost everything with oil in it, or that use oil are cheaper.

"My parents are thinking about getting a RV instead of using a tent this year when we go camping,"

senior Matt Harris said.

According to TheHill.com, AAA stated that gas prices have fallen for a record breaking 102 days in a row as of 1/5/15. AAA also stated that Americans saved around \$14 billion on gas in 2014 compared to 2013, and motorists are expected to save as much of 97 billion overall this year if prices stay this low. Some people speculate if the prices will stay this low, or if it is going to go up in the near future, but thats a topic for the future.



Junior Austin Hessling preparing for upcoming exams.

Photo by Chase Braidwood

Sip and Study makes an impact on students readying for exams

Allie Knapp
Copy Editor

Right around the time of the end of semesters, or when exams are just around the corner, many students become very stressed out. At Brighton High School, a program called Sip and Study is offered after school in the library within the school. The main thing that goes on here is just as it sounds, students study. There is also a small variety of snacks provided by the school for the students to enjoy while working hard.

Many think that you just go into the library and study on your own, but it is much more than that. What is really great about this program, is that there are tables set up everywhere labeled with a class name. So say one needs help with their science or math class, one would go

to those specific tables and receive help. Students may be asking who is there to help them. There are a handful of teachers designated to certain tables, depending on what they teach everyday, and then there is also a large amount of Brighton High School students who go to help others in need in a subject they are strong in. One of the teachers that helps out at Sip and Study is Ann Marie Dobry, a math teacher here at BHS and loves helping the students.

"I am at Sip and Study every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and am always willing to help the students," Dobry said.

Being one of the high school students who goes to help students, is so extremely generous and helpful. Junior Darby Mckernan has been going to Sip and Study every year

she has been in the high school, right around the time of exams. Last year and the year before she would go to the program to study and get help. Now she goes to help others.

"So many of my teachers have told me that to learn material better, it helps to teach it to someone else. When I help at Sip and Study and teach certain things, it not only helps the student, but also myself," Mckernan said.

From what is known, Sip and Study has only done good things to Brighton High School. Sophomore Chad Rensi has attended a few of these after school sessions and believes they really do help students study for exams.

"I got a lot of help there and I like how they give us snacks, cause it makes me learn a lot better," Rensi said.

BHS Executive Board plans to make positive changes in the school

Kalli Hedden
Staff Reporter

The BHS Executive Board is a group of involved students working together to make positive changes for the school. Every year three or four teams of students campaign for this opportunity to run the school with their ideas for change. The teams are selected by a student body election and also by a vote from the teachers and an essay. This year's executive board is called The Rush and is made up of students from all grades.

"I believe Exec Board is crucial for a successful school year because I believe that students have a lot of good ideas for the school that the staff may not always think of," senior Ronnie Briggs said.

In The Rush's campaign they mentioned many positive things they were going to bring to the school this year such as off campus lunches, back to school and winter wishes, paintings on the walls, more charity programs, etc. Some things they hoped to achieve they were unable to do, such as leave something new and unique for the school to remember Class of 2015 by, but for the most part they have successfully completed many of their promises.

"The thing that I like best about being on Exec Board is that we became a family, working and creating new ideas together has brought us closer than ever, and I met many new people that I never thought I would become friends with," pres-

ident of Exec Board Ryan Schaller said.

One thing that made The Rush stand out from other teams in the race was their promise of paintings on the walls. This idea is a creative way of making the school a more fun and exciting place for everyone. The team has also expanded their idea of adding paintings. Now they are in the process of getting a giant rock that all students can paint on, bringing the creativity of all students together.

"I believe that our team is a beneficial representation for the entire student body because we are made up of students from all grades and social groups, and we work together to make changes that we believe will benefit the majority of the students," Rush member Jeremiah Johnson said.

The best thing that The Rush brings to BHS is its individuality. It is essential that our Exec Board represents the entire student body to ensure that all students needs and opinions are met.

The team, for the most part, is made up of students that have never been on Exec Board before and have never been in Student Council. This is a good thing because all the kids have new and fresh ideas to bring to the table that the students in power before may not have thought of.

Overall The Rush has been working hard this year the make a positive change for all the students to ensure a fun and successful school year.