

# The Cougar Review

February 2023



## The New School Year is Upon Us

by Cougar Review Staff



In recent announcements, GCHS has provided key updates for its students regarding class scheduling, Physical Education (PE) exemptions, diploma options, and exciting additions to its course offerings.

The class scheduling portal is now open for all GCHS students, allowing them to choose their classes for the upcoming academic term. It's important to note that the portal is set to close on January 29. Students are encouraged to act promptly to ensure they secure their preferred classes and schedules.

Mark Your Calendar because during the month of February, GCHS counselors will conduct individual meetings with all students to assist them in finalizing their class schedules. If schedules need to be adjusted, the portal will open back up on February 26th for any necessary changes. This personalized approach aims to address students' academic needs and goals, providing valuable guidance for the upcoming academic term.

Good news for incoming freshmen, sophomores, and juniors actively participating in sports – you can now be exempt from PE requirements. This initiative aims to recognize and accommodate students involved in athletic pursuits, aligning with GCHS's commitment to supporting a well-rounded education.

Student-athletes at GCHS must ensure that their class schedule includes a minimum of 6 credit-earning classes. This requirement underscores the importance of maintaining academic excellence alongside athletic commitments. GCHS is expanding its course offerings with the introduction of several exciting classes:

- **ALS Plant and Soil Science:** Delving into the fascinating world of agriculture and plant sciences.
- **Food Science:** Exploring the science behind food production, safety, and quality.
- **Education Professions Capstone:** A culmination course for students aspiring to enter the field of education.
- **Radio and TV Capstone:** A hands-on capstone experience for students interested in broadcast media.

GCHS students have the opportunity to earn one of three distinct diplomas:

- **Academic Honors:** For students excelling in rigorous academic coursework.
- **Technical Honors:** Tailored for those pursuing technical and vocational education paths.
- **Core 40:** A well-rounded diploma option providing a solid foundation in core subjects.

These updates showcase GCHS's commitment to providing a diverse and enriching educational experience for its students. As the portal remains open for a limited time, students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities and plan their academic journey accordingly.

# Evening of Excellence: Hall of Fame Awards

by Chaney Brown



Greenfield celebrated its Hall of Fame night, honoring community members for their significant contributions. Attendees brought guests and enjoyed floor seats at a game. Nominees had to impact students positively, contribute to athletics, demonstrate character, and achieve state recognition in sports. Honorees included Jeff & ConnieJo Harris, DeWayne Roland, and Bill McKenna. The athletes honored were Drey Jameson, Zach Cook, Chris Joven, Shanna (Milne) Durban, and Ben Rader. Their achievements exemplify leadership and good character.

Jeff and ConnieJo Harris were honored for their significant community contributions. Jeff, owner of Ye Olde Head Shoppe, was a key figure in fast-pitch softball and operated the football game score clock for nearly 30 years. ConnieJo, who retired in 2020 after 23 years in the athletic office, played a crucial role in coordinating sports events, greeted people at ticket tables, and was active in community service through the Rotary and Interact Clubs. Known for her friendliness and support, she was a beloved member of the community.

Dewayne Roland has significantly contributed to Greenfield Athletics for nearly 28 years, mainly through managing concessions for various sports, including football, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, and track. His responsibilities include ordering products, maintaining equipment, and handling deliveries. Additionally, he is a dedicated supporter of the Cougars, attending almost every home game to watch and support the teams.

Bill McKenna, who retired in 2021, significantly influenced Greenfield's Radio & TV production over 21 years. He actively supported and promoted sports teams through his radio shows at sporting events and played a crucial role in enabling Nine Star to stream some of these events. His leadership skills, character, and impact on others were recently acknowledged through the Robert Albany Award.

Drey Jameson had a distinguished career as a baseball player, earning 8 varsity letters in high school across football, basketball, and baseball. He received multiple awards, including all-conference and all-county honors, won a sectional championship, and was a North/South all-star. Jameson continued his baseball career at Ball State University. In 2019, he was selected in the first round, 34th overall, by the Diamondbacks in the MLB Draft and played his first Major League game in 2022.

Zach Cook excelled as a four-year varsity swimmer in swimming and diving, achieving significant success in the Hoosier Heritage Conference. He was a three-time champion in the 200 medley relay, 100 backstroke, and 400 freestyle relay, and a four-time champion in the 100 butterfly, winning the IHSAA state championship in his junior year. He still holds the records for the 100m butterfly and 100 backstroke, underscoring his status as a highly accomplished swimmer.

Chris Joven played a significant role in the swim program, winning multiple events in conference competitions. He was part of the team that secured four consecutive IHSAA sectional championships. Throughout his high school career, he participated in the state meet ten times, finishing in the top 3 on four occasions. Additionally, Joven's academic achievements were recognized; he was a NISCA Academic All-American and received the Hoosier Heritage Scholastic Award.

Shyanne Durban (Milne) significantly contributed to the success of the diving program, earning the title of Hoosier Heritage Diving Champion. She qualified for regionals three times and placed at the IHSAA state meet on multiple occasions. Currently, she holds records in six out of 11 dive categories. Shyanne has returned to Greenfield Central Junior High and is actively involved in coaching for GCAT.

Ben Rader significantly contributed to the diving program's success, serving as both a varsity diver and cheerleader. He was a two-time Hoosier Heritage Conference Diving Champion and part of a team that won four Hoosier Heritage Conference and IHSAA sectional championships. His skills took him to regionals multiple times and the state level on three occasions. He holds diving records in 6 of 11 categories. Additionally, Ben won the Hoosier Heritage Scholastic Award and achieved a state victory in Varsity Co-ed Cheerleading.

Each individual mentioned is truly deserving of this recognition, as evidenced by their remarkable achievements. They have exemplified outstanding character and leadership, setting a positive example for the community. Congratulations to all on your impressive accomplishments!



Hall of Fame Inductees lined up  
after receiving their award  
Photo Credit - John Kennedy



# Curtain Call Spotlight with Ms. Newlin

by David Wasson



The cast of "The Iliad, The Odyssey, and All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less" performing on Night Two.

Ms. Newlin, our new Drama Department Head, has brought a fresh wave of enthusiasm for theater arts. The play, "The Iliad, The Odyssey, and All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less," debuted this past weekend. Here's what Mrs. Newlin had to say about her work with the department and the play:

## Her Favorite Thing About Theater

When asked what drew her to the theater, Mrs. Newlin responded: "My favorite part about theater is the fact that everyone can find their place." She explained that the theater offers an opportunity for everyone, on or off the stage, to be a part of something great. If someone doesn't necessarily like being in the spotlight, they can join a crew and make lifelong friends that way. Additionally, the creative process that goes into making a show is unique and fun, providing a way for someone to express their feelings in a completely different way than painting or singing.

## Looking Forward to the Play

Mrs. Newlin was asked about her thoughts on the play and what she looked forward to the most. "The play is coming up this weekend, and I am most looking forward to just seeing it completed," she said. Her part in the show is done after Thursday, so she is excited to sit back, relax, and watch all the hard work that her cast and crew have put into the show finally come to fruition.

## The Making of the Play

When asked about the amount of time and effort that went into the play, Mrs. Newlin revealed that they had been working on it since the middle/end of November. They spent about three months rehearsing for it. She stumbled upon the play, "The Iliad, The Odyssey, and All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less," and was fascinated by the concept of taking Greek mythology and turning it into a play. She explained that the play was technically written for only five people to play over 20 roles each, but she knew she had to break that down even more to get more students involved. She broke it down into 12 roles, and for her actors, it was about making sure each individual character was different from the last. Overall, the show was a lot of fun to make, and it is undoubtedly hilarious.

## Mrs. Newlin's Impact on the Drama Department

Mrs. Newlin has put a lot of time and effort into the theater program since she joined, and she has already made a significant impact. She has brought a work ethic to the theater program and will ensure that it shines for years to come.





## Stroke of Genius:

### Greenfield Girls Swim Team Aiming for 11th Straight Sectional Title

by Chaney Brown

The Greenfield Girls Swim Team is preparing for another successful run at the sectional title, hoping to claim their 11th straight victory. The girls have worked incredibly hard to reach their current level of success, remaining undefeated thus far in the season. They will continue to compete in regular season meets until the first week of February.

On February 1st, the team will compete in sectional prelims, followed by the state prelims for those who advance after sectionals. Here are some of the individual events and the corresponding swimmers who will represent Greenfield:

Alyssa: 100 breast, 2 IM

Cece: 200 free, 500 free

Rachel: 100 free, 50 free

Taylor: 100 fly, 100 back

Kersey and Avery Colton: Diving

Aiden and Isaac: 100 free

We wish the team the best of luck as they strive for excellence in the upcoming meets!



GCHS Women's Swim Team on the podium after winning the HHC meet.



# Women's Wrestlers Pin Their Way to the End of the 23-24 season!

by Addi Herrin

The Greenfield-Central Women's Wrestling team had four athletes punch a ticket into the IHSGW State Finals at Kokomo High School. Asia Bowen, Kylie Smith-Foster, Jasmine Camacho, and Keely Allen all competed on January 12th in hopes of their hard work throughout the season paying off.

Jasmine Camacho, junior, placed sixth in her weight class. She commented that her experience at state was definitely a learning experience. While sixth place wasn't exactly where she was looking to place, she is ready to grow from her experience this year. There was a lot of preparation put towards her accomplishment at state. Jasmine says that she worked on her best moves and also worked on moves that needed more attention. She wanted to have more options when competing. She also tried to care for her body the best she could. Her favorite memory from this season was winning her regional match, she felt very accomplished.

Jasmine will be a senior next year, this comes with leadership responsibilities. Jasmine is looking forward to having fun her senior year but making sure to still lock in and compete when needed. She also wants to work on the mental side of wrestling and keep her body completely healthy!

Girls' wrestling is one of the up-and-coming sports, as the IHSAA recognizes it as an "emerging sport." Our girls had a very successful season, and we are very proud of all of them!



Jasmine Camacho pinning her opponent during a finals match at regionals



Victory captured: Jasmine Camacho raising her hand high after clinching her finals match at semi-state

# A Record Season in the Making



**By: Madison Sonsini**

In Coach Luke Meredith's fifth season with the Greenfield-Central men's basketball team, he started the season 15-0 and ranked ninth in the state. He holds his team to a high standard, but if they show up, compete, and play like they can, "Who beats us? Nobody." He is also pleased with the culture that has been created within the team because of the great group of young men.

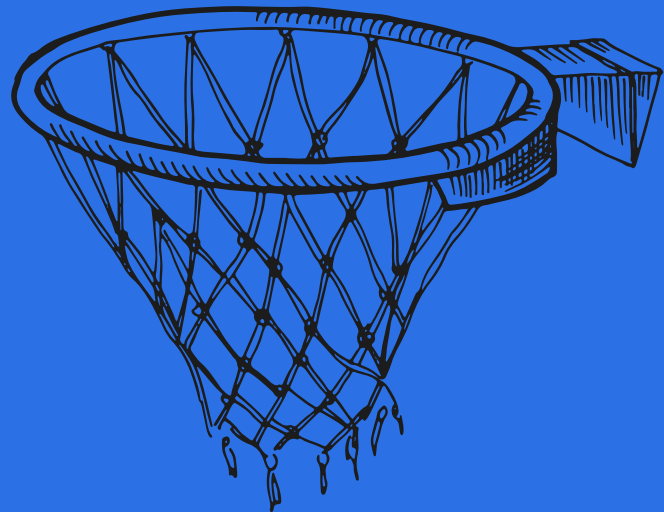
One of their focuses this year has been for them to learn and relish their role, leading them to success. Meredith said, "Braylon (Mullins) has been really good, and we expect that every day...but it is really just the complimentary pieces of Braden Robertson being a senior leader, Jacob Hinton setting screens and rebounding; their roles are an important part to our team. Boston Willard and Dallas Freeman have also been phenomenal coming from a jv to varsity starting spot."

They are all excited about the opportunities they have been presented with and are proud to represent Greenfield in those big games. Senior Braden Robertson said, "I am looking forward to sectionals. Everybody talks about how we have had a good regular season, but sectionals are when it matters. This year, we want to prove people wrong." They are excited for their opportunity to go far in sectionals and a HHC championship, which they haven't done since 2004. They have been putting in the time and effort, so they are now repping the benefits of their hard work.



Senior Braden Robertson shot over Pendleton Guard in the double overtime win against Pendleton.

Photo Credit: John Kennedy





# Athlete Spotlight: Braylon Mullins

By: Addi Herrin

We are a little over halfway through the men's basketball season and Junior Braylon Mullins has been dominating the court. The Cougars are currently 15-0 with Mullins averaging 26 points per game. If you have never watched Braylon play, he's a threat to any opponent. Mullins is a tall guard who has a natural flow to his game. He has offers from many big division one schools like Indiana University, Purdue University, Notre Dame, and Iowa.

During the Eastern Hancock Game on January 13, Mullins hit a huge milestone in his basketball career as he dropped 44 points in three quarters and reached his 1000 points. When asking Braylon about this huge accomplishment, he talked about how this milestone has been a goal of his since he was a little kid, it's been his favorite part of the season. Braylon gets into the gym everyday which accounts for his success. He says that, "Getting into the gym everyday has definitely payed off! It's been surreal."

Braylon has big goals for the team as he wants to win sectionals. The Cougars have not won a sectional in over 25 years. Mullins says, "It would be great for our program to win a sectional." He has big personal goals as well, especially fro his senior year. Some of those goals include Mr. Basketball, Indiana All Star, All Time Leading Scorer at Greenfield Central, and All Time Three Point Leader at Greenfield Central.



Photo Credit: John Kennedy  
Braylon's 1000th point vs. Eastern Hancock  
on January 13, 2024.

The future is looking bright for Braylon Mullins. We are lucky to have him here representing Greenfield Central!

# Senior Spotlight: Cece Johnson

By: Madison Sonsini



The senior spotlight of the month is Cece Johnson. She has been a 4-year varsity swimmer and has competed at a state level all four years. She also is involved in the National Honors Society and Spanish Honors Society. She intends to go to Indiana Bloomington to study Environmental Studies and Sustainability. What she enjoyed most about her time at GC were the school events like Prom, where she could hang out with her friends and create memories. Cece said, “The advice I would give to underclassmen is that time goes by extremely fast, and while you're here, it is extremely important not to get caught up in high school drama because it ends when you walk out the doors your senior year.” Cece is a great example of a top student-athlete and a student of character.



**Cece medaling at HHC meet.**





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