

# ***Breaking News***

**Volume 13 Issue 5**

## **Northwest PA Collegiate Academy's Student Magazine**

**LIVE**



**BREAKING NEWS**

**NEWS REPORTER**

**10:23**

**LIVE**

# BREAKING NEWS

Collegiate Academy Announces a Cell Phone Ban Next Year for all  
Erie Public School Students **4**

Another School Year to Jump Into **5**

Erie School Board Sacks Football Program **6**

Students Not Attaining Proficient On All Keystone Exams Will Transfer **7**

Collegiate Academy Raises Grade Requirements for Honors and  
VPA Classes **8**

Adventure Club Returns With White Water  
Rafting And Spelunking **9**

The Veterans Stadium is Going to be No More **10**

Locker Rooms are being renovated **11**

A New Sports Team is in Motion **12**

Collegiate reinstates uniform policy **13**

Coming Soon: A Library in the Sky **14**

Live Piglets Delivered for Dissection **15**

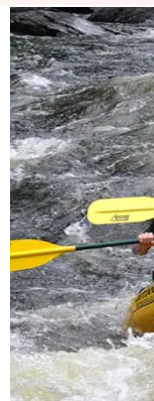
Collegiate Implements National Emotional Support Animal Program **16**

Collegiate Academy Takes on Erie High's Idea for a One Pass Policy **17**

Beloved Math Teacher Retires to Pursue Career in Softball **18**

Punxsutawnnians Experience Six More Weeks of  
Mourning **19**

Paranormal Activity or Drafts? Collegiate Has Some Explaining to Do **20**





# *Upcoming events*



# Collegiate Academy Announces a Cell Phone Ban Next Year for all Erie Public School Students



Photo from The Nexus

By Mariam Kanj

Erie Schools District's Superintendent, Brian Polito, announced that, beginning in August of the next school year, students will no longer be allowed to bring their phones to class.

Brain Polito says, "The concern about cell phones being used inside of classrooms has brought too many problems...Not allowing students to be on their phones in class just isn't enough, cell phones should be banned from all classrooms in general."

Mr. Shaut, Associate Dean of Collegiate Academy, says, "Students have paid more attention on their phones than on the lessons that teachers have been teaching."

Therefore, because of this, the Erie Public Schools District has decided to have a phone ban next year.

Due to the school year being almost over, Mr. Vieira, the Dean of Collegiate Academy, announces, "the 'Silent and Away' hasn't worked, so if students have phones, airpods, smart watches, or smart glasses, they will be confiscated during the morning scans." Freshmen at Collegiate Academy, Aisha Aladinov says, "This rule is unfair, we should be

allowed to take our own phones into our classes or at least have them at lunch."

Erie Public Schools' representatives say that this cell phone ban won't cost any

money. Students will just have to give their cellular devices into the office when coming in, and they will then be locked away and only given permission to have them if excused for a medical reason.

However, if a student needs to contact a parent, they will have to ask a teacher or staff to go and use the office phone. Cell phones should not be used to contact parents or guardians unless necessary. If there is a cell phone on a student in class it will be taken immediately and turned into the office; parents will also be notified and consequences will be put in place.

Smart watches will also not be allowed inside of class. Repeatedly violating this policy will result in suspension, and, if continued, more consequences will be put into place.

Teachers and staff will be allowed to have their cellular devices on them in case of emergencies, which will ensure the safety of the students and the staff.

Many teachers believe that this is a good idea to get kids to participate and be more social in class. Mr. Hood, a teacher at Collegiate Academy says, "Although many students may not like this, I believe this new policy will raise students' overall scores and allow people to participate more."

Another teacher, Ms. Parthenakis says, "I think we will be pleasantly surprised at all the benefits of not having a phone in school. Students will find out just how much they've been missing."



Photo from Etsy



# ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR TO JUMP INTO

By Kennedy Hildebrand

The Erie School District Superintendent Polito, announced that Collegiate Academy will add a “Super Senior Year” beginning in August of the 2025/26 school year. Collegiate Academy’s Dean Mr. Vieira says, “I find this very crucial to the students’ high school career, and I believe this will only benefit the students more.”

Mr. Polito has decided that the students would be more prepared for the rigorous demands of college by having a 5th year of highschool. Seniors graduating in the 2024/25 year will not be affected by this.

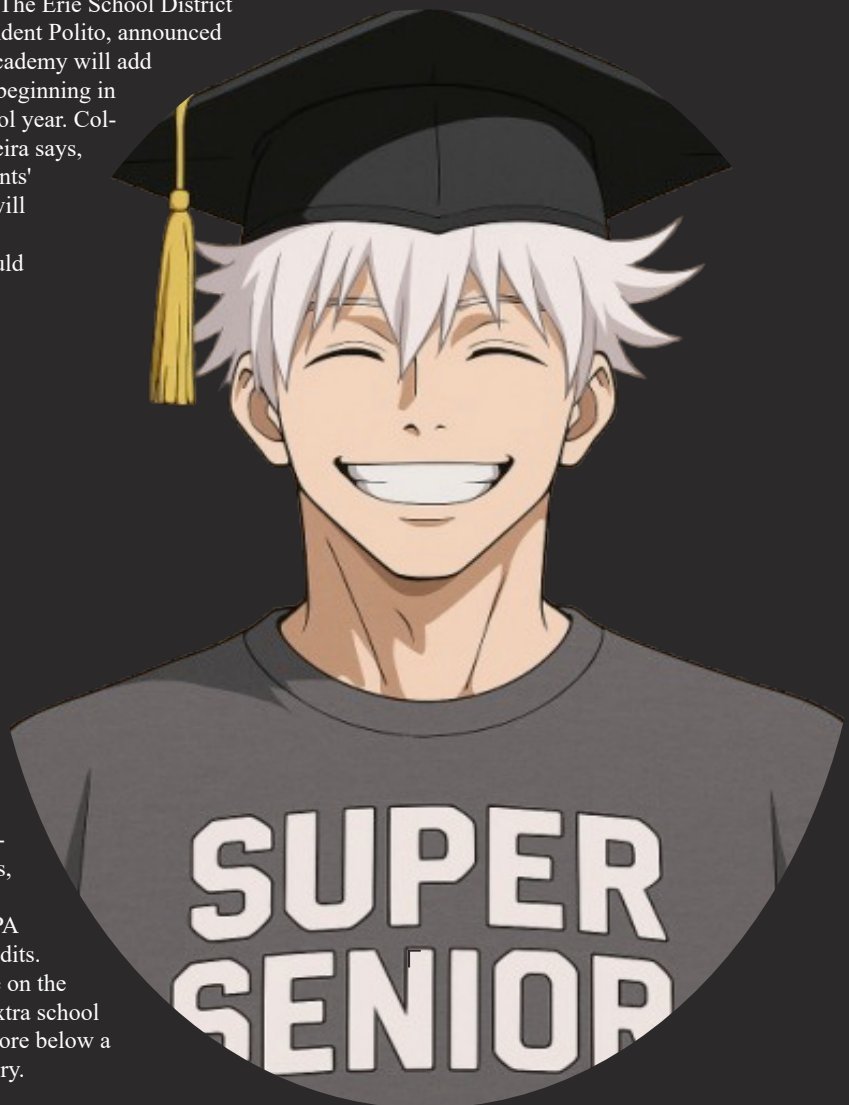
Most teachers and students are not happy about this change. Sophomore Anna Kranz says, “Adding another grade makes me want to move to another school.”

English teacher, Ms. Parthenakis, also speaks out: “I am not looking forward to teaching more students and having my planning period shortened.”

“The addition of another year of school would be minimal to taxpayers,” says Mr. Polito. The district will host bingo nights at the school, bake sales during the school day, and other fundraisers over the summer to help with raising money.

“Some classes are being extended to ensure students are still receiving an appropriate education.” Core classes must be taken all five years, a language class must be taken four years for honors students and three years for VPA students, and all must have four AP credits.

Students who score a 1200 or above on the SATs can opt out of taking the extra school year, but for students who score below a 1200, it will be mandatory.



# Erie School Board Sacks Football Program

By Serenity Crosby

The Erie School Board will terminate the high school football program after the 2025 season due to all of the sports related injuries and parent complaints.

Coach Walker says, " This is not fair to these kids to work so hard yet be denied the chance to play next year; it's not fair to them or us." Many players such as Dairion Jackson from Erie High find this new ordeal frustrating and rushed.

The school board believes that the injuries sustained in football are far too severe to continue letting students play the sport, and coaches are outraged that all their hard training is going to waste.

Walker says, " We spend all season preparing for these games by commending order, confidence, and discipline into our athletes for what? For them to be told this is the last game they'll ever play in highschool? That their chances at a sports scholarship has gone down?"

The school board assures parents that this will cost nothing and that parents will no longer have to worry about the injuries. The school suggests that parents who wish to keep their kids in sports should explore a different one such as basketball or soccer.

However, girls' soccer injuries are high as well. "We are looking into neck support and helmets for the girls to reduce concussions, but we will have to see the numbers on that," says Erie's athletic director, Jamison Sanders.



# Students Not Attaining Proficient On All Keystone Exams Will Transfer



By Maricella Garcia

Collegiate Academy Dean, Mr. Vieira, reports that students are now required to receive “proficient” on all Keystone Exams within the next two years. Those who do not will have to transfer to Erie High or another area school.

Mr. Vieira states that they plan on implementing this rule as a way to motivate students to achieve higher scores. He says, “I believe that students need a way to motivate themselves into doing better in school, hopefully this will provide that.”

After a discussion with outgoing Superintendent Polito, the deans have agreed to make this requirement, due to the increasing number of students with low scores. Most students who have received a proficient score are seemingly neutral about the rule. While others who struggle to accomplish that score are displeased with the decision. Students who have retaken the exams are complaining that they have not taken the classes in years and are not confident they will be able to achieve that score.

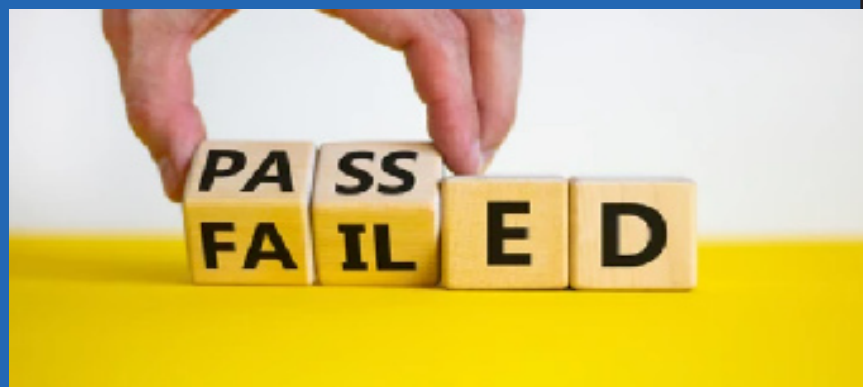
Senior Jordyn Vicander says, “This rule is unnecessary. Current students shouldn’t have to worry about passing an exam in order to stay in this school.”

Associate Dean at Collegiate Academy Mr. Shaut, says that over the years students' grades have lowered, and it has become an issue within schools. He believes that this action will have students take classes seriously and help them focus. Researchers in the US Department of Education noted that students' state assessment scores these past years are continuing to get lower.

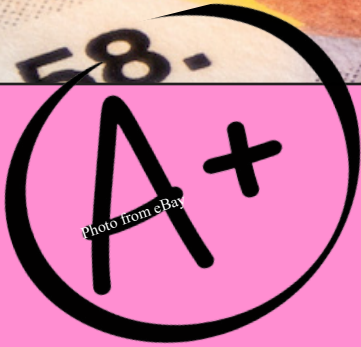
This new rule will enforce the graduation requirement set by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, which states that students must receive a “proficient” or higher in all tested subjects to graduate from highschool.

Students who have retaken the test several times before and have yet to reach the requirement will have to take shortened mandatory classes after school in biology, language arts or math. Students who do not meet the requirement within the second year of retaking the exam will be transferred to Erie High the following year.

Mr. Vieira explains that the new Keystone policy will take effect in the 2027 - 28 school year of Collegiate Academy. All other schools in the Erie School District are subject to this rule.



# Collegiate Academy Raises Grade Requirements for Honors and VPA Classes



By Kawthar Abdulzahrah

Dean, Mr. Vieira announces that Collegiate Academy is raising the passing grade for honors classes to 80% and VPA classes to 70% beginning in August.

“Our goal is to maintain high academic standards and ensure that students are fully prepared for future challenges,” says Mr. Vieira. “The school board believes that these changes will push students to strive for excellence.”

Mr. Vieira and Associate Dean Mr. Shaut proposed the new policy after analyzing student performance data. “We found that raising expectations leads to better results,” says Mr. Shaut.

Some students are feeling frustrated by the sudden change. “This is unfair,” says freshman Hussain Abdulzahrah, “We had no warning,

and now our grades might suffer because of a sudden rule change.”

As a freshman, Hussain says he is particularly worried about how this will affect his grades for sophomore year. He is already struggling with his freshman year because of getting used to the requirements and workloads.

Teachers were only recently informed of the change: “I understand the goal of academic excellence, but this is a drastic shift with no adjustment time,” states Mrs. Dahl, a science teacher at Collegiate Academy.

Many teachers fear that students who are already struggling will find it even harder to pass, and they will need additional support to meet the new standards.

The new policy may benefit high achieving students, while making it harder for struggling students to pass. “Students already struggle to pass the current grade requirements. This will just make things harder,” says senior Norah DeRooy. She isn’t too concerned about it, though, because she will not be at Collegiate next year.

Students who do well academically may do great, but those who find certain subjects difficult may feel discouraged, leading to loss of motivation.

School counselor, Ms. Palotas does have some reservations: “Without time to prepare for this grade change, students may experience higher levels of stress, which could result in lower test scores and increased pressure on teachers to provide extra help.”

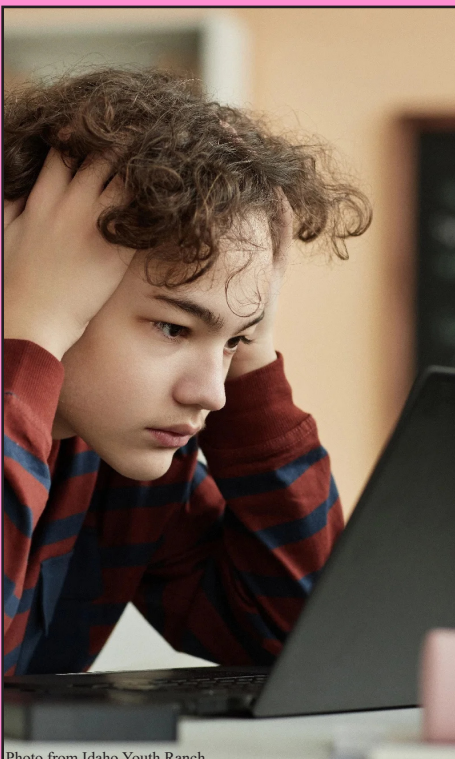


Photo from Idaho Youth Ranch



Photo from Erie Times-News



# Adventure Club Returns With White Water Rafting And Spelunking



Photo by KE Adventure Travel



Photo by Wikipedia

By Zinab Alhasan

Grab your life jackets and climbing gear because Adventure Club is returning to Collegiate Academy in May 2025 beginning with a kayak event on the peninsula.

Dean, Mr. Vieira says that the club will be



Photo by Northern Outdoors



Photo by Go Fjords

starting on May 2nd, and it will be after school every Friday from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

Adventure club will include canoeing, kayaking, spelunking, hiking, camping, and scavenger hunting. There will be fundraisers, like bake sales during the end of the year to cover the expenses of the activities, including transportation and food.

Collegiate Academy's gym teacher, Mr. Rawa

will be the one in charge of the club. Mr. Rawa says that he's really excited for the club's return, and thinks it's a great way to have kids get off their phones.

Mr. Vieira says students will need a parent's

permission slip which can be found in the main office. It will cost \$25 per person to join.

There will be a bit of drawbacks though. For example only 15 students are going to be able to join each activity. Additionally, students who are allergic to bugs or can't swim will also not be able to join. Students will also need to be passing all core classes.

The reason the club is returning is mostly because many students have requested it to come back in a survey done for club suggestions.

"In the past, the club was run by Mr. Schneider, and they did all kinds of activities. I hope this one sticks around," says Ms. Parthenakis.

Some students also complained about not having any clubs with outdoor activities.

Anyone who enjoys outdoor activities should join.



# The Veterans Stadium is Going to be No More



Photo by Carl Walker Construction

By A'Naja Barney

Erie Public Schools superintendent, Mr. Palito, approved plans for the Veterans Stadium to be renovated into a parking lot.

Mr. Palito states, "We have found cracks in the foundation of the veterans stadium, and for the safety of our students, we will be tearing it down. To make the most out of the empty space after the demolition we will be turning it into a parking lot for students and teachers."

"Parking is a big problem for students and teachers according to our climate surveys. The veterans stadium will no longer need to be used by the Erie high teams due to them building their own," says Collegiate Academy dean Mr. Vieira.

According to Mr. Palito, the project will cost 2.5 million dollars for demolition and construction. One idea to resolve the cost issue is to charge students \$200 a year and teachers \$300 for parking.

This plan will take around three and half years before it is completely finished and will go through three phases. The first phase will start out with parking near the gym doors designated only for teachers, the second phase will have priority parking for seniors, and the final phase will fill out the remaining property, closest to

26th Street.

Collegiate Academy students and teachers are very split between whether they are excited or upset with this new change.

Mr. Wright says, "The stadium has been around for over 100 years and has emotional value, but if we can't use it because of structural damage, I can understand the desire for change."

Sophomore Kennedy Hildebrand says, "It would be hard to share the Erie High field with other teams because of how small the field is." She also says there's not enough seating for people who watch the game.

Junior Lola Valenti says, "I'm really excited to have a parking lot, many students would benefit from this since they have to park their cars on the hill far away from the building."

In the summer, for more revenue, the lots will convert to pickle ball courts and a driving practice range for students who take driver's ed in the summer.

The lot will also be able to be renovated as a picnic area for large events and possibly a farmer's market on the weekend.



Photo by Parking Logix



# LOCKER ROOMS ARE BEING RENOVATED

By Savannah Livingston

Associate Dean, Lashawna Page, says that beginning in August, Collegiate Academy locker rooms will be gender neutral.

Associate Dean Page says, “Everyone deserves to feel comfortable in their body and not want to hide who they are, so that’s why we decided to make locker rooms more inclusive.”

Shostika Bista, the leader of Everyone Deserves the Same club, is assisting in the renovation of the locker rooms because “more kids are starting to come out and truly express themselves, so they don’t want kids to hide their true selves.”

Outgoing Superintendent Mr. Polito says that \$50,000 has been allocated to renovate a locker room, and the money will come from students’ Go Fund Me and bake sales.

Ms. Page says that she thinks gender neutral locker rooms benefit the school culture because everyone should feel equal.

However, Mr. Rawa says, “I don’t think that having gender neutral locker rooms should be allowed, I’m going to constantly have to be watching the bathrooms just to make sure nothing happens.”

Students have begun to protest against the potential gender neutral bathroom. Sophomore Allan Hedgar says he is nervous about the renovation: “I don’t want to be accused of anything when I go in to change. I think a lot of us are going to feel uncomfortable.”



Photo by: mertkantekin



Photo By: mertkantekin



Photo By: Sign Guys NYC

# A New Sports Team is in Motion

By Lor Brisson



Photo by: Harrow Sports

Erie Public Schools School district sports director Dale Mills welcomes the creation of a field hockey team next school year. Mr. Viera supports this decision, saying that it would be “a welcomed addition to our crew team.”

Mr. Rawa says, “There are many good things that can come from joining a sports team, and making another one is the same opportunity.”

Mr. Weiss is considering selling simple sports merchandise (t-shirts, water bottles, pens, headbands, etc.), and JROTC is considering the idea as well: “There are always opportunities to improve,” says First Sergeant Watson.



Photo By: Advantage Physiotherapy

It would be difficult, considering the apparent amount of sports that already exist with Erie High, and the cost required to create and maintain one could stop the program before it starts.

“Honestly, this is a shot in the dark. There isn’t too much demand for hockey, let alone field hockey,” says Rawa. The combined cost of cleats and other materials will easily add up, even organizations donate materials. The sticks, balls, gloves, uniforms and protective wear alone could cost \$150 each.

According to Mr. Luthringer who will be head coach, much of the cost will be minimized by donations from college programs: “There is a lot of material out there to help us and limit the out of pocket cost for the players. Once we get the program going, we can build up our supplies. Gannon and Mercyhurst programs have come forward to help us.”



Photo By: Etsy



# Collegiate reinstates uniform policy

By Brecken McLaughlin

In an effort to promote equality and minimize distractions in the classroom, Collegiate Academy Dean, James Vieira, has announced a new uniform policy set to take effect in August.

"This change will help students feel more connected to the Collegiate Academy community while also reducing distractions in the learning environment," Vieira states.

Teachers, who initially proposed the idea, seem thrilled about the decision. "Faculty requested this after repeated issues with enforcing the dress code," Vieira explains. "It was officially brought up at a monthly district board meeting."

However, some teachers are more excited than others. When asked about the policy's impact, Mr. Golembeski responded, "I'm just happy I won't have to check the length of students' shorts every morning."

One major concern among students and their families is the cost of the uniforms, something even school officials are wary of. Superintendent, Mr. Polito, estimates that uniforms



photo by st-beghian-society



photo by pinterest



photo by flickr.com

will cost around \$125 per student, bringing the total production cost to approximately \$100,000.

While teachers may be celebrating, students are far from pleased. "First, it was ripped jeans. Then, it was coats and outerwear. Now, it's full uniforms," senior John Sinnot said. "What's next? Are they going to make our haircuts uniform too?"



# Coming Soon: A Library in the Sky

By Isabella Oosterkamp

Dean of Collegiate Academy Mr. Vieira is utilizing the school's third floor for a library and cafe in August.

"Students should be able to have a place to quietly do work and check out books as they need. It's the Collegiate way. I believe it will also improve behavior because it is for students who are maintaining above a 2.5 GPA," Mr. Vieira explains.

Mr. Vieira says the total cost will be around \$35,000 dollars: "Because the school was recently renovated, so was the third floor, meaning the majority of funding will go toward an additional one-person elevator, which is mandatory to make all areas of the school accessible."

"The money for any additional cafe equipment, shelves, and other items will come from Gallery funds," states Ms. Ulmer. She is excited for the Gallery to have a more open and welcoming space, as well as students having accessibility to books.

"The idea started when many students complained about the removal of the library," says Mr. Shaut. "The PBIS room will still be avail-

able for all students."

Junior Alex Paris says, "Since the opening of the PBIS room, I and many other students have not been fond of it and miss having a library." James Carter an engineer at Collegiate explains that "the project will take the majority of the summer to get everything situated up there."

Students will need an additional month to organize and train for the new library/cafe equipment and procedures before the opening. Sophomore Naomi Baker says, "I am super excited! I've always wondered what was up there anyways. And now that it's practically going to be our own Barnes and Noble, sounds amazing."

Junior Ava Burns says, "There may be an issue with students acting up, but I think if they are told to be respectful they will. It will be an adjustment but such a cool privilege."

Students are also feeling appreciated: "It also feels good to be rewarded and that my hard-work in classes is being seen! Although, I won't be here next year to see it done," says Senior

Danica Roward.

English teacher, Ms. Parthenakis believes that it is a great privilege to have this opportunity, and she hopes "it will be used well and not abused." Many teachers believe that it is a great opportunity to have a library with a cafe that will encourage students to check out books.

"I think it'll be great. I'm very excited for a library. As an avid reader myself, I want students to understand the good in books," states Ms. Krahe, the current study hall teacher at Collegiate Academy.

Next school year she will continue being in charge of study halls but will also become our new librarian.



# Live Piglets Delivered for Dissection

By Norah DeRooy

Teachers of Collegiate Academy's human biology and anatomy classes were delivered live piglets for dissection instead of the usual fetal pigs; Mr. Vieira states that to avoid unnecessary expense all dissections are to continue as normal.

He says, "We've always emphasized hands-on learning, this is an opportunity to make the experience even more immersive." However, this choice sparks controversy among students and teachers alike.

According to Mrs. Dahl, the human biology teacher, the arrival of live piglets was unexpected. She says, "I've been teaching this class for years, and I've never received pigs that still blink." The live piglets are currently being housed in her room.

Many students also have concerns. Senior, Kawthar Abdulzarah expresses her discomfort, "I came prepared to dissect something that has been preserved, not something that is still breathing. It doesn't feel right."

Others, like senior Bikorimana Amando, find excitement in this situation. "Honestly, this is the most exciting thing that has happened in this class. I say we keep them as class pets."



Photo by Railer News

Photo by World Animal Protection Canada



Fetal pigs for dissection normally cost between \$20 to \$40 per pig, which approximates to around \$600 to \$1200 per class of 30 students. The school's decision to continue dissections with the live piglets gets rid of the need to reorder. By keeping the piglets, it would help the school save money.

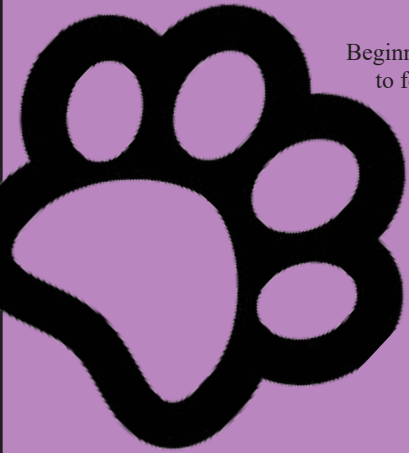
While some students suggest selling the live piglets to raise funds for replacements, Mr. Vieira and Mr. Shaut haven't confirmed any fundraising plans, especially since the maximum allowance of fundraisers has already been reached.

Senior Maricella Garcia says students are banding together in agreement not to kill the piglets, and some teachers are joining in. "I think we are learning more trying to save them than if we were trying to kill them," says Mrs. Imler. "Some people's houses are zoned for livestock, so there are places for them to go."

Mr. Vieira says that time is running out for the dissection lab, and decisions need to be made within the next few days. Abdulzarah is gathering signatures to petition the school board to release the piglets. Students can sign the petition in Mrs. Dahl's room.

# COLLEGIATE IMPLEMENTS NATIONAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL PROGRAM

By Jaydin Sheets



Beginning in May, Collegiate Academy teachers will bring their pets into their classrooms for emotional support to foster a less stressful learning environment as part of a national initiative trial, as mental health and school violence are at an all-time high.

Dean Mr. Vieira says that he thinks this new aspect of Collegiate will “help strengthen our students' learning, and contribute to the school’s wonderful culture.”

Associate Dean Ms. Page states that she has some concerns regarding allergies and caretaking, but overall she loves the idea and is excited to see how it develops: “The district has supplied permission slips for students hoping to interact with any of the animals.”

Ms. Parthenakis already has the emotional support certification for her black lab, Nala. Students are already volunteering to walk her and have taken permission slips.

Mr. Hillhouse is waiting to hear back from the Emotional Support Animal official registry for his cat, Mr. Mittens. Mr. Mittens is a hairless breed which should help with those allergic to cats.

Ms. Myers has a ball python named Silly String: “I have a spare tank for him that some students are setting up.” Silly String is already registered with ESA.

“I think this is going to be wonderful, students can stop in teachers’ rooms to relieve a little stress in the company of a furry or furless friend!” Ms. Godzwa says.

Teachers have the optional resource of attending a class on proper ways to manage emotional support in their students, and are responsible for the cost, caretaking, and well-being of their animal.

If a student is allergic to a specific animal, the teacher is required to accommodate their needs: seating them further away from the animal or keeping the animal in a different space, etc. To avoid students feeling left out, they can turn in a paper signed by their parents to the nurse, and they will be provided allergy medication.



Photo by: Emily Cline

“I’m allergic to Japanese spider crabs, but I doubt any teacher would bring that in!” says Sophomore Cassandra Geiger-Herman.

Ms. Palotas is excited about the idea: “Depression and anxiety are at an all-time high for teens, and this could be a fantastic program.”

Associate Dean Mr. Shaut says, “We’re going about this with caution. This is the trial stage, if things work out, we will continue to have this privilege in the future. Students and staff deserve



Photo by: Shutterstock



# Collegiate Academy Takes on Erie High's Idea for a One Pass Policy

By Cassie Geiger-Herman

Students and teachers of Collegiate Academy and Erie High will all be adapting to a new one pass policy on April 14th, 2025. "Erie High came up with an idea for a one pass policy. Because of our similar issues here at Collegiate, we've decided to implement this rule as well," says Mr. Vieira, Dean of Collegiate Academy. Students are overusing their pass privileges for unnecessary visits. Mr. Hillhouse says, "I'm tired of all these kids talking to me and interrupting my class." Teachers are tired of students skipping their classes, "Especially during 3rd period, students practically hop, skip, and jump out of my class to 'presumably' use the bathroom for definitely over 5 minutes," says Ms. Godzwa. "This is bogus!" says sophomore Jaydin Sheets. "I have to use the bathroom up to three times a day, due to a tiny bladder." Students of every grade are irritated with this

new policy: "It's not all of us that write on the walls and walk around for hours," says junior Mirela Saracovic. Most teachers simply don't care, but some are joyful at the prospect of having everyone in class or fewer disruptions. "I am so tired of always having three to four kids out at a time, and the fact they're gone for who knows how long is ridiculous," says Mr. Roberts. "Nobody ever really leaves my class," says Ms. Lutz. "Ms. Lutz? She scares me, I'd never skip her class. I'm afraid she's got eyes on the back of her head, something like psychic powers," says sophomore Eliza Borzon. "I believe this will be a successful and long standing rule put in place," says Mr. Vieira. "Prepare for April 14th, take all the time before school you need, because you won't have the chance in school."

photo by dalquestnews

Request Pass >

How much time do you need?

5 min

Round-trip

from Crisafi

Bathroom

+ Create Pass

Schedule Pass

photo by flickr





# BELOVED MATH TEACHER RETIRES TO PURSUE CAREER IN SOFTBALL

By Rory Gardner



Mr. Hillhouse will retire from Collegiate Academy after the 2026 school year to continue his passion, slow-pitch softball.

Mr. Hillhouse says, "After my favorite class graduates, I'll retire to pursue softball with The Rams. I'll seriously miss my favorite students: Elton John, Roar on the Shore, and Coop." Collegiate students are so devastated that Junior Mark Mitchell Jr., has already started a petition to convince him to stay. Mitchell says, "I want the future students to experience Mr. Hillhouse's class. He makes learning fun!"

The Dean of Collegiate Academy, Mr. Vieira, revealed that he and Mr. Hillhouse sat down and discussed it. He is sad to have him go, but is glad to have him teach until then.

Other teachers, such as Mr. Wojciechowski, are "sad because [they] won't have their great, friendly co-worker to talk to in the halls or during lunch."

According to Mr. Hillhouse, he's never had a class for all four years. He promises his students to give them the best education he can provide until he retires.



photo by eriesports-  
halloffame.org

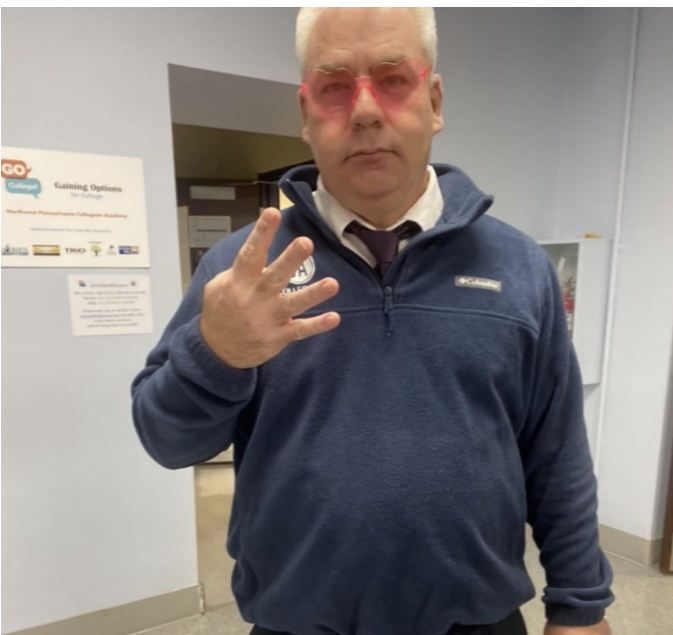


photo by  
instagram

photo by goerie

# Punxsutawnnians Experience Six More Weeks of Mourning

By Ava Burns

On March 20th, 2025, Pennsylvania's beloved groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, was found pulseless in his burrow in The Gobblers Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. "I don't know how this happened, I just found him cold, when I went to go feed him his breakfast," says A.J. Derume, his handler.

Punxsutawney Phil had a group comprised of 15 members including Derume, called his Inner Circle, who were assigned to protect him. The Inner Circle were appalled to find Phil lifeless, after a night of keeping watch. "We run a tight ship around here in order to keep Phil safe, so finding out what happened was incredibly shocking," says Circle's President Tom Dunkle.

In video camera footage, a figure can be seen sneaking into where Phil is kept at The Gobblers Knob.

Students in Erie had been asked how they felt about the situation, and the responses were not positive. "Even though I am mad that he predicted more winter, living in Pennsylvania, you kind of hold him to a high standard. We always celebrated Groundhog Day in elementary school, so we all started to build memories around him" Isabella Oosterkamp, a Collegiate Academy student states.

People began to question why someone would kill such a loveable Pennsylvania icon. Some presumed that it was because of the recent weather prediction Phil made this year.

On February 2nd, 2025, Groundhog day, Phil saw his shadow, announcing six more weeks of winter. Though his predictions are rarely accurate.

Punxsutawney police went to the scene and gathered as much evidence as they could, but there isn't much to go on.

Pennsylvanians, Phylis, Sunny, and Shadow - Phil's wife and kids - all await the news of the killer being caught.





# Paranormal Activity or Drafts? Collegiate Has Some Explaining to Do.

By Mirela Saracevic

Collegiate Academy Dean Mr. Vieira revealed on Friday that Collegiate Academy has three confirmed ghosts. Collegiate Academy opened in September, 1997, approximately 27 years ago, however, the building has served students for over 100 years. During its existence there have been a handful of deaths, and it is unconfirmed who the ghosts belong to.

Students have reported feeling cold air coming from nowhere, and seeing figures in the halls during Sophomore Lockdown. There could be a simple explanation like poor eyesight or open windows, but junior Camilla Mateen-Cooper does not think so.

"I was walking past the auditorium and one of the open doors shut, I tried to see what it was, but all I saw was a tall shadow that disappeared," says Mateen-Cooper.

When students go to perform on stage they say they feel like someone else is with them, some unknown presence. As they are performing, they feel like they're being watched, and not by the audience.

Junior Rachelle Mesmer says, "I was dancing on stage, and I felt someone tug on my hair, but all the other girls were in front of me. After that I could feel my body shivering from the cold air." There are no windows in the auditorium.

During Sophomore Lockdown, students heard whispers in the halls when the lights were off. They thought it was just a prank, but when they went to investigate, they found no one in the halls.

Mr. Vieira would like anyone who believes they witnessed paranormal activity to report to the office with dates and times: "I'm sure there is a logical reason for each incident, and now we have cameras throughout the school."

Students have asked for a Paranormal Club to help investigate the events and stories and are currently seeking a faculty advisor.



Photo from ColNews.com