

Wildcat Roar

Nov. Edition 2021

Advisor- Kevin Conley

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Meet The New Teachers of Rocky Hill

By: Olivia Lee and Jayaditya Buddan Ramesh

There are around 20 new teachers that have joined Rocky Hill Middle School. We have interviewed five new teachers to share with everyone. With the pandemic we are still trying to get to know everyone. Please take a minute to read about our new Rocky Hill staff members.

Ms. Palmer (8th grade math teacher):

Wildcat Reporter- Can you tell me a little bit about your background in education?

Ms. Palmer- I have been a teacher for over 10 years. I have taught at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

WR- How long have you been teaching for?

Ms. P- Over 10 years.

WR- Any advice for students at Rocky Hill?

Ms. P- Always be the best version of yourself.

WR- What do you like best about teaching?

Ms. P- Instilling/introducing new knowledge to students.

WR- Any fun facts we should know about you?

Ms. P- I have taught math both in the United States and outside of the United States.



Mrs. McCagg (8th grade counselor):

Wildcat Reporter- Can you tell me a little bit about your background in education?

Mrs. Mc Cagg- I grew up always wanting to be a teacher and in high school and college worked in an elementary school as a student teacher. However after my first semester in college I changed my major to psychology because I wanted to be a school counselor. I took some time after graduation working as a substitute teacher in mostly middle schools in Carroll County until deciding to go back to school for my master in education. And the rest is history!



WR-: How long have you been a counselor?

Mrs. M- I have been a counselor on and off for 2 years now. Before getting to dedicate all my time at Rocky Hill, I was a substitute counselor for school in Carroll County and Montgomery County. In fact, I was the long term sub in October-December of 2019.

WR- Any advice for students at Rocky Hill?

Mrs. M- My advice for students at Rocky Hill would be to be respectful. You will get much farther being kind to others.

WR- What do counselors at RHMS do?

Ms. M- Counselors at Rocky Hill do it all! We go into classrooms to share information with you once a month. We meet with students individually to discuss anything from academics and high school planning, to issues with friends or peers, to anything happening at home. We work to make each student a schedule that will best benefit them. And, we meet with teachers and parents/guardians to advocate for you and help you be successful.

WR- Contact information?

Mrs. M- You can get in contact with me best at Michele_m_mccagg@mcpsmd.org

WR- Any fun facts we should know about you?

Mrs. M- I love giraffes and have had breakfast with them at the zoo twice. I have a dog and two cats-one of which doesn't have a tail.

Mrs. Musgrove (P.E and Health Teacher)

Wildcat Reporter- Can you tell me a little bit about your background in education?

Mrs. Musgrove-I got my undergraduate/Bachelor's of Science degree from Salisbury University. I got my Master's Degree from Walden University in Literacy and Learning in the Content Area. This is my 18th year of teaching, 1st year at Rocky Hill Middle School. I am certified K-12 in physical education and health but have only taught at the middle school level



WR- Any advice for students at Rocky Hill?

Mrs. M- Enjoy your time in middle school and do not try to grow up too fast. You will be an adult before you know it. Also, get involved in activities and try new things. Make the best of your middle school experience.

WR- What P.E activity do you like to teach the most? / What is your favorite thing about teaching?

Mrs. M- It is hard to narrow down what my favorite PE activity to teach is as I like so many of them. If I had to pick though I think my favorites would be volleyball and flag football. My favorite thing about teaching is helping students to see their potential. Also, encouraging them to really enjoy physical activity and providing them with many opportunities to try a variety of sports and fitness activities. The hope is that they will find at least one activity that they love and will continue to participate in throughout their life.

WR- Contact information?

Ms. M- Christina_M_Musgrove@mcpsmd.org

WR- Any fun facts we should know about you?

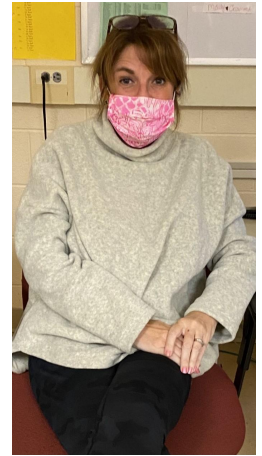
MS. M- I have 2 kids, Alice and Calvin. I went to MCPS schools from 2nd-12th grade and graduated from Quince Orchard High School. Ms. Smetanick (6th grade science teacher at RHMS) was my science teacher when I was in 7th grade at Ridgeview Middle School. I had the fastest female mile time in 8th grade with a time of 6:19. I am a water person and love going to the beach, pool, and lake

Thank you to the teachers that gave me permission to interview them. Here we met three different teachers that are new to Rocky Hill Middle School. I hope people got to know them better and got a better understanding about our school's staff! Thank you for reading.

Mrs. Molly Crismond (Digital Literacy and English)

Wildcat Reporter- Can you tell me a little about your background in education?

Mrs. Molly Crismond- Teaching is a second career for me. I worked as a promo writer and producer before I had kids. Then I went back to school and got certified to teach English because writing skills opened so many doors for me and I wanted to give those same opportunities to young people.



WR- How long have you been teaching?

Mrs. C- Ten years

WR- What is your favorite thing about teaching?

Mrs. C- The relationships that I make with my students. A lot of my former students come to me later when they need help with their college essays, and I love seeing how great they have done in high school and how awesome their futures look.

WR- Is there an important person or role model in your life?

Mrs. C- I don't have a specific role model.

WR- Any advice for students at Rocky Hill?

Mrs. C- Always treat others the way you want to be treated. Compassion is the best quality you can have.

WR- Would you like to share anything about your family?

Mrs. C- I'm married to a baseball player turned commercial banker named Bobby, and I have two sons. Charlie is an 8th grader at Rosa Parks Middle School, and Mac is a sophomore at Sherwood High School. They are both baseball and basketball players.

WR- How do you think that Covid 19 has affected you as a teacher?

Mrs. C- Covid has been hard on us. I hate that kids lost all the in-person time not just because of learning gaps but also because of the lost social time. I am happy to be back in person with my students and hope that we keep moving forward in that manner.

WR- In your opinion, what was the most suitable option for you? Would you prefer online teaching, or would you prefer in-person teaching?

Mrs. C- In-person without a doubt.

Finally, how do you think that students can improve on staying safe and healthy during COVID 19?

Mrs. C- Things are getting better with COVID 19 but it is still something we need to keep in mind so that we all stay well. I think for my students because they are sixth graders and do not have the option of vaccination due to their age, the biggest thing is to continue to be mindful of social distance and hand washing/sanitizing.

Ms. Susan Patton (Read 180)

Wildcat Reporter- Can you tell me a little about your background in education?

Mrs. Patton- This is my first teaching job I have ever had. I started school at UMD 2 years ago and will graduate in December. I became interested because I was a LT Substitute previously and decided I would like to change careers. My other jobs were working with the homeless women of Montgomery County, Leading an International Exchange Program, HR for an Electronics Manufacturer, Corporate Recruiter, and Marketing and Sales for Houston Instruments.



WR- How long have you been teaching?

Mrs. P-This is my first teaching job I have ever had.

WR- What is your favorite thing about teaching?

Mrs. P- I love teaching so far, and the best part about it is getting to know all kinds of kids and being able to help them reach their goals.

WR- Is there an important person or role model in your life?

Mrs. P- I think my Mom was my greatest role model.

WR- Any advice for students at Rocky Hill?

Mrs. P- The advice that I would give students at RHMS is to relax and enjoy learning. Don't get overwhelmed by where you think you need to go, just start moving forward and you will grow, even if you aren't "there yet"!

WR- Would you like to share anything about your family?

Mrs. P- I am a part of a huge family and we live close to one another on an old farm property where the 37 cousins played with each other everyday! Now it's fun to meet the next generation of kids while the grandchildren's numbers increase quickly! I am a mother of 6 and a grandmother of 4.

WR- How do you think that Covid 19 has affected you as a teacher?

Mrs. P- Covid has been an obstacle for community and collaboration. I am learning how important that is to a school this year. I dream of a day that we once again can see everyone's smiles and the barriers come down. I prefer in-person teaching with no masks! :-) I understand the importance of masks but it is not comfortable or very compatible with face to face teaching.

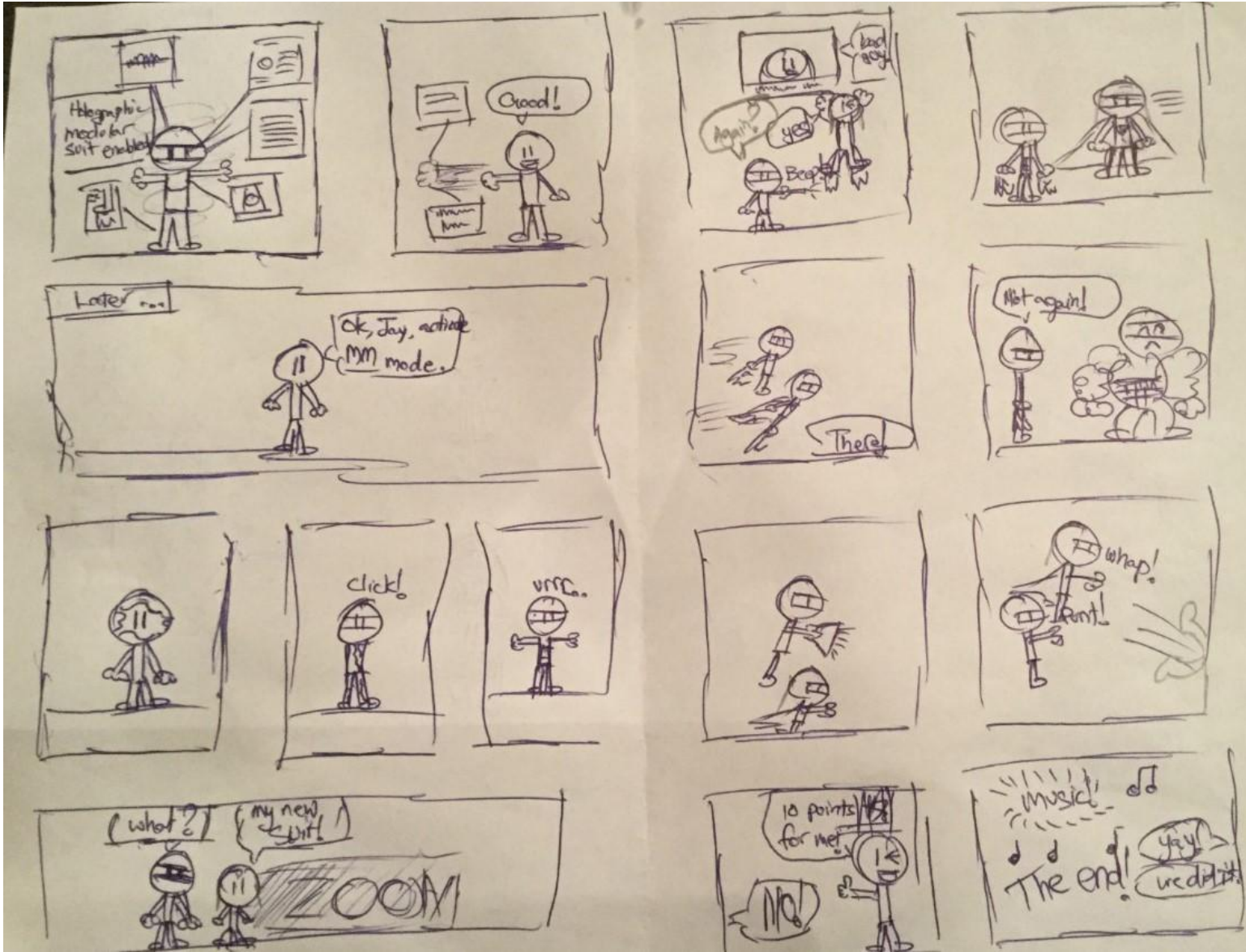
WR- Finally, how do you think that students can improve on staying safe and healthy during COVID 19?

Mrs. P - Students are doing a good job with the covid circumstances in my opinion, even though it's not easy for most.

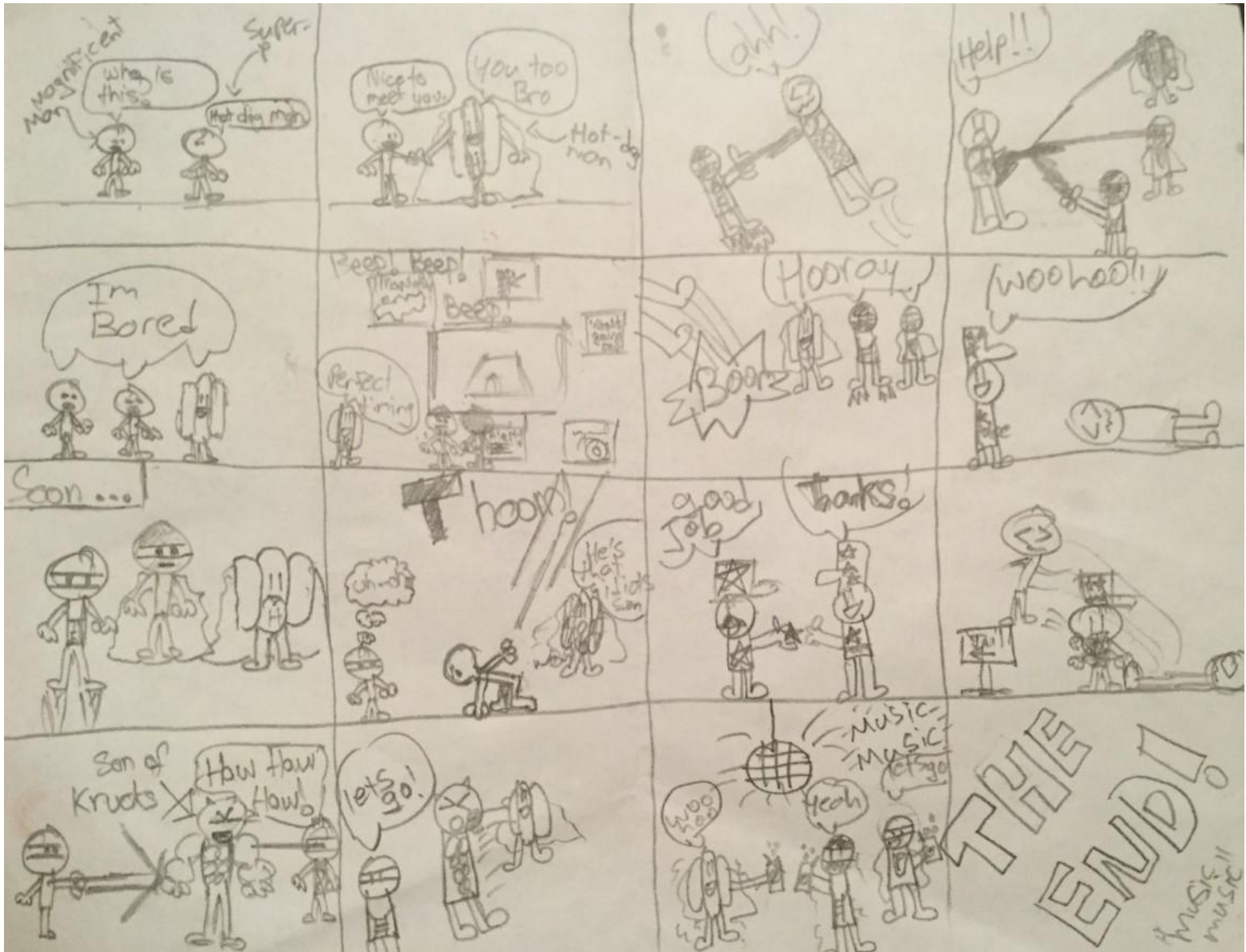
Look for more interviews of our new RHMS staff in the next edition.



Magnificent Man Comics
By: Jayaditya Buddan Ramesh



Check out Magnificent Man as he is testing his suit and gives his sister a suit. But "Oh No" here comes the "Perry Monster". Magnificent Man and Marvelous Kid battle him and Police Officer is very happy. Of course Magnificent Man and Marvelous Kid celebrate!



Magnificent Man is introduced to another Superhero.....*Hot Dog Man*. But as soon as "I'm bored" is uttered a warning of a new villain is sent. The son of Krux is battled and in the end the Police Officer gets a star, and the son of Krux goes flying to jail. And of course the 3 heroes party!

Fall Sports at RHMS

Cross Country

Coach- Sean Stevenson



Boys Softball

Coach- Ashley Barber- Strunk



Girls Softball
Coach- Emily Prather



Winter Sports start soon- Boys Basketball, Girls basketball.

We also have many different clubs and after school activities available for our students. **GO WILDCATS!**

Thanks to Mrs. Cross and the Arts Department for the Pinwheels for Peace design.



Breaking News~Vandalism is occurring in our school!

By: Grace Lin

There have been many sightings of kids doodling on the desks. You may think that pencil is easy to erase and won't do any harm, but besides erasing cleanly, like on paper, it WILL smear when you try to erase it on your desk.

Remember, these tables are school property, these tables are not yours. People don't want you destroying their stuff, if you constantly draw on the desks, the school might have to buy new ones to replace them due to the horrid smears.

Drawing on the desks can also irritate the people that use it next period. One eyewitness said, "When I sat at my desk in history class, I saw someone write a curse word on my desk. I didn't appreciate it and tried to erase it." You should be aware that whatever you draw on the desks, the next person will see it.

Ways to stop this from happening, you could write in your notebook or just a blank sheet of paper, or just try to stop yourself from doing it.

How To Improve Your Grades

By: Olivia Lee

The first quarter has ended already and we all got our report cards. Are you happy with your grades? Or are you sad? The first quarter is hard for everyone since we're all getting used to going back to school in person and learning a lot of new units. I'm sure everyone has thought at least once, "How can I do better in school?" If you want to know the answer, keep reading to know how we can improve our academic skills.

1. Turning your work in time/Turning in missing work

Turning your work in on time is very crucial. If you turn in your work late you will get points taken off and will impact your grade. If you have late assignments you will have to catch up with other students which will be very stressful to you. Also, if you are missing assignments try to get it done as quickly as possible. Missing assignments can have a huge impact on your grade. For example, if you are missing an assignment that goes in the 90% category it can bring your grade down from an A to a B.

2. Doing your homework

Even though homework is in the 10% category, if you don't do them it will bring down your grade a lot. Homework can also help your grade a lot if you have a low grade in your class. For example, if you have a 98.6% in a class and you do your homework your grade can go up to a 99%. Also, homework is very important because it is a good review of what you have learned in class. Homework can help you be more prepared for an upcoming test.

3. Studying

I know a lot of people hate studying, but sometimes you just need to study to maintain/get a good grade. There are many ways to have fun while studying. For example, you can listen to background music while you study, use the pomodoro method etc. Also, a really good tip for studying is to take short breaks in between your studying sessions. If you study for 1 hour, you should give yourself at least 5-10 minutes of break time to rest your brain. This method is very helpful because if you're not taking breaks in between a long period of time it will tire you out faster and you won't be able to learn effectively.

4. Bonus tip - Getting Enough Sleep

A quick bonus tip is to get enough sleep. As a fellow student in Rocky Hill I noticed a lot of people have not been able to sleep well. Sleeping can impact how you do in school tremendously. If you get only 2 hours of sleep before a test you will be very sleepy during the test which will result in you getting a bad grade, contradicting if you had 7 hours of sleep. Every student should be getting at least 6-8 hours of sleep every night in order for your body to grow better and perform better in school.

Those were some tips on how to do better in school. Reflect on what you did well and what you did not so well in the first quarter and use some of the tips listed on the article to help you get better grades next quarter. Thank you for reading!

Spirit Week on Monday and Tuesday

Mon. Nov. 22nd

Wear your pajamas (*must be appropriate*) and/ or a hat to school.



Tues. Nov. 23rd- Decades Day

Dress like you are from the 60's, 70's, 80's or 90's!



We are off starting Wednesday, Nov. 24th for our Thanksgiving break!

