

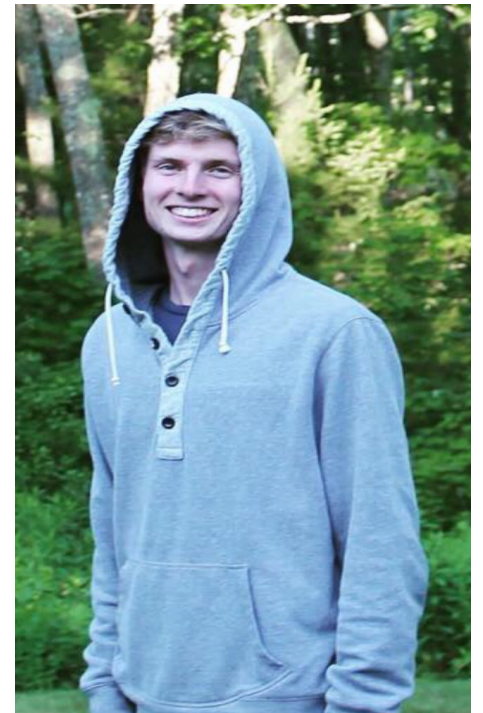
## Admidst Pandemic, Class of 2020 Enters Next Chapter



Senior Class Picture  
Photo Courtesy of Nicole Overbaugh

## 2 in 650: An Interview with Toby Foehl and Nicole Overbaugh

By MOLLY SULLIVAN and LIVIA MORALES



## Seniors in the Arts

By LAURA DUPUIS

During their time at Mount Greylock, various students in the class of 2020 have delved into the arts through their own independent work and opportunities within the school. As their high school experience is drawing to a close in the coming weeks, the seniors reflected upon the highlights and memorable moments of their artistic careers.

**Emi Soza-Foias** is known around the Mount Greylock school community for capturing local wildlife on camera.

When asked how he became interested in photography, Soza-Foias said, “my brother took Mr. Powers’s photography class and was inspired enough to buy a camera. I decided I would jump on and pay half so I could use it as well. We would walk around town, through the woods, and go anywhere with the camera.”

Soza-Foias was inspired to pursue photography further after he actually took one of Powers’ classes. Soon, he became particularly interested in nature photography: “I took a photo of a horse and for some reason that felt a little more right. That then led to small birds as they are everywhere. After a while I began looking for a new location that held a wider variety of species, which is when I stumbled upon the same spot I use basically every single time. Soza-Foias attributes his “lifelong passion” to Mt. Greylock’s photography department.

**Eva Myers** got involved in multiple different forms of art during her time at Mount Greylock, including the orchestra as a violinist and various school productions on the tech crew.

Myers said, “In seventh grade I participated in orchestra, chorus, and was one of three members of the Greylock Glee Club,  
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## Seniors in Sports

By JOHN SKAVLEM

In the final days of our senior’s time as high school students, the class of 2020 can take a step back and reflect on their accomplishments at Greylock, as well as the memories they made along the way. Many of those memories - and accomplishments - occurred on the sports field.

**Finn Welch**, captain of the boy’s soccer team, recollects one away game in particular that stands out to him. In his junior season, Mount Greylock and Berkshire county rival Monument Mountain faced off in the quarter-finals of Western Mass. After Mount Greylock went 1-1 against them in the regular season, they knew it was time for redemption. It was a game filled with nerves and mud, but ultimately, Welch and the Mounties came out on top, winning 1-0. After the loss to Monument earlier in the season, the victory solidified the game as Welch’s favorite memory playing in a Greylock uniform. He will continue his soccer career at Springfield College next year.

The next memory comes from the captain of the girl’s volleyball team, **Gabby Alvarez**. Alvarez’s favorite memory on the court came this past fall, on her senior night against Lenox. A packed gymnasium watched Alvarez and her team battled back after facing an early deficit to top the Millionaires in 5 sets, with Alvarez earning a strong 21 assists. After the final point, the home team fans rushed the court to congratulate Alvarez and her team on their come-from-behind win, making it her favorite memory on the court as a Mountie.

**Toby Foehl**, a multi-sport Mount Greylock athlete, reflects on a memory formed on the basketball court.

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## Teacher of the year: Kellie Houle

By EMMA SANDSTROM

*This year, the senior class elected Mt. Greylock English teacher Kellie Houle as their teacher of the year. The Echo sat down with Houle to learn a bit more about her time at Greylock, her journey with virtual learning, and what winning the award means to her.*

**Echo: When did you start teaching at Greylock?**

Houle: I started teaching at Greylock when my youngest daughter was in first grade, and now she is in college. Yikes! So, that was 2007.

**E: What do you like about Mount Greylock?**

H: The people. I love the way students and adults interact in the classroom, the hallways, at events. It is a special community.

**E: What do you like about teaching? Why did you choose to become a teacher?**

H: My father was a math teacher and coach at Wahconah for years. I grew up seeing him love his job and his work/life balance. Math wasn’t my thing, but the profession was. I’ve never regretted my career choice. Every day is different; I get to interact with incredible people, I am able to continue learning and discovering forever...what’s not to love?

**E: Are there any lessons you have learned from being a teacher? Have your students taught you anything?**

H: My students have taught me a million lessons over the years. The one that is con

*Continued on Page 4.*

Every year, two seniors are chosen to speak at graduation. One speaker is chosen by the faculty while the other is voted for by his or her fellow seniors. This year, the faculty chose Toby Foehl and the senior class elected Nicole Overbaugh. The Echo sat down (virtually!) with these two seniors to hear some of their parting words.

**Echo: What’s one memory that stands out to you from your time here at Greylock?**

Toby Foehl: My favorite memory was probably our class trip to Gettysburg in eighth grade. I have plenty of great memories, but Gettysburg stood out because the entire class was involved.

Nicole Overbaugh: Yeah, I think our Gettysburg trip. We were the last class to do the Gettysburg trip and I just remember becoming so close with so many people that I wasn’t exactly close with before.

**E: Could you speak on the effect Coronavirus has had on your senior year?**

TF: I just think it’s sad because we didn’t really get to do any of the fun senior things. We didn’t get our prom. I’d say that not having a graduation is probably the biggest, like an in-person graduation is probably the biggest. But, you know, I wasn’t going to play a spring sport so I can’t talk about how that has affected me. I know that a lot of people have been super let down by the fact that they didn’t get to play their spring sport, so that makes me pretty sad.

NO: Honestly, it’s been a bummer not being able to spend these couple of months with my classmates, and nothing has really felt like a goodbye yet. It’s kind of hard to get the feeling that one would normally feel during these last couple of months from home. I’ve been more anxious to go to college to get out of the house. But at the same time, I still feel like I need that last bit of highschool to tie everything together.

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## SIX YEARS OF ARCHIVES

Take a trip down memory lane with the headlines that have defined the class of 2020

See Page 3.

## AP EXAMS MOVE ONLINE

Mackenzie Sheehy examines student’s reactions to the new AP format

See Page 3.

## GABE’S EATS

Gabe Gerry walks us through his favorite meals of quarantine.

See Page 5.

## LOCAL BUSINESSES

Lucy McWeeny reports on the affect COVID has had on Berkshire County stores

See Page 2.



# NEWS&FEATURES

## Local Businesses React to COVID-19

By LUCY MCWEENY

Just a few months ago, Spring Street Market, a local business of Williamstown, was bustling, filled with customers in search of sandwiches and baked goods. Now, the store is as closed and desolate as the street outside.

“What the closing came down to was that it became really scary,” Karen Gosselin, owner of Spring Street Market, said. Spring Street Market is just one of the countless stores in Williamstown and across the globe that has shut down because of COVID-19. When Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker ordered the closing of all non-essential businesses on March 24, the majority of Williamstown stores closed, not knowing what the future would bring.

Some food businesses remain open, like restaurants for takeout only. But with many stores closed, most owners and staff alike can no longer rely on income from their stores.

In Williamstown, stores such as Blue Mango, Spice Root and Ramuntos are open for takeout. Others are completely closed, like Chapter Two Books and Purple Dragon games. Many businesses have closed their physical store, but remain available through their online presence.

Where’d You Get That?, a toy store in Williamstown, is one of those. Vice President of the store Ken Gietz said that “the store door is closed, so we wind up getting people calling in and ordering stuff and picking it up outside the store, and we also make deliveries locally.”

Gietz added, “fortunately members of the community seem to be looking for things to do like puzzles and games, and all sorts of things along those lines, which is helpful for us.” Keeping Where’d You Get That? open for pickup and delivery has helped the business financially, as many people are still buying items.

While some food businesses are open for takeout, Spring Street Market decided to fully close. The store stayed open for to-go for a week, but then made the decision to stop. “I would say single handedly that was definitely the hardest business decision that I’ve ever had to make, and one of the hardest decisions I’ve had to make in my 50 years, really,” Gosselin said.

“The risk to customers and my staff; I just couldn’t do it,” she added. “I don’t know if it was the best decision, but it was the right decision at the time. I just really in my heart believe, as you hear in the news, that everybody needs to go home and we need to stop this.”

As of right now, stores are awaiting the

go ahead from governor baker to open, but business will not be as abundant as past summers due to the cancellation of The Williamstown Theatre Festival (WTF). This festival is an annual occurrence, and brings customers in from all over, including both the attendees and performers.

But, on April 7th, it was announced in a press release that this year it will not go ahead as planned due to COVID-19. Instead, they are partnering with Audible to do a version that can be heard. This will make it available to listen to globally, but will seriously cut down on the number of potential customers that come to Williamstown this summer.

Gosselin, who often acquires a great deal of business from the people who come to see WTF, said, “I’m petrified to be honest with you, of what the summer is going to be like.” She added, “It’ll be our first summer without any of that business, so it’ll be truly just relying on the locals.

for ways to keep the community and employees safe, so has set aside the first hour they are open for customers sixty and older only.

“We changed our hours around that time as well, to make sure that it was the first hour of the day for those folks,” Menhinick said. The store is now open from nine to eight, seven days a week.

To keep the physical exchange between customers and employees to a minimum, Wild Oats has implemented a number of safety measures. Menhinick said. “we’re now all wearing masks in the store, which is a recent development this week.” Additionally, the store has “new plexiglass screens up at the registers to try and keep a little distance between the customers and the cashiers, which is very difficult to do.” Many stores have been forced to lay off employees, and Wild Oats is no exception, although they have not had to as much as some other stores. Since there is no longer

## “The Hardest Business Decision I’ve Ever Had to Make”

Thank God we have amazing people here.”

Although there will be no customers from WTF, Gosselin said, “Am I going to say, ‘Oh, we’re going to go out of business.’ No, absolutely not.” Spring Street Market has catered many events in the past, and Gosselin hopes to expand on this aspect of her business. “I think that will take off more because people are going to be entertaining more from home.”

Spring Street Market, along with other stores, does not have a definite date of opening, but Gosselin said, “We are probably going to have to do take-out and curbside service for a while, but we can’t be closed more than May, just for sanity alone.”

While some food businesses are closing, Wild Oats is still open. Scott Menhinick, the marketing and owner relations manager said, “the most significant development for us has been the move to curbside pickup with our customers.” It is also still open for in-store shopping, although pickup is strongly encouraged.

Explaining the advantages of curbside pickup, Menhinick said, “customers can basically order from home, stay in their cars, and we bring stuff out to their cars, so there’s no contact with the public.” He added, “it lowers the amount of shoppers in the store at any given time which is healthier for them and our employees”

Wild Oats has constantly been looking

a hot bar, “We didn’t have jobs for everybody that would be doing that,” Menhinick said. “But for the most part, we’ve been able to shift people around to do other things.”

He added, “We’ve been very lucky that we’re an essential business.” While some non-essential stores have had to lay-off a number of employees, Wild Oats has not been put in an as unfortunate position.

But Nature’s Closet, an outerwear store, has had to make seven cut-backs of their employees. Beth Mclean talked of the re-hirement of some, and said, “Hopefully, we’ll be able to at least hire back myself and two other employees.”

While Nature’s Closet is currently closed, there are still ways to support it. Mclean said, “I can drop stuff off at their [customers] homes.” She added, “Buying gift cards or store credit helps us.” Many stores still have to pay rent, but are not able to make money through selling. For Mclean, that concern is not a relevant one. She said, “Our landlord, Mark Paresky, has been absolutely amazing and he is raising our rent until further notice.”

The store has been able to acquire loans, and Mclean said, “The [Williamstown] Chamber is doing a ton.” The chamber has been a source for many of the local businesses. “Just being a conduit of information; that’s really all they can do,” Mclean said.

For stores all over Williamstown, the news that Williams College was closing came as a bad sign for the future. Mclean said, “It was as if someone had dropped a bomb.” She added, “We [local businesses] all got the news at the same time, and we all looked to each other for solace.”

Chapter Two Books closed even before Williams did. Marisa Daily, Book Manager, and Andrea Malone, Marketing Manager, commented on the impacts Covid-19 has had on the store.

“Our last day of business was on Friday, March 13th. We closed our store in conjunction with the closing of the Milne Public Library, since much of our work is done in our Donation Center at the library,” they said.

“As the full reality of this situation became clear, our primary concern was not about our business but about the health of our volunteers,” they added. “We have over fifty community members working at the store, and many of them fall into high risk categories for COVID-19.”

Not being open has been difficult for many stores, including Chapter

Two Books, in aspects other than financial. “Many people find comfort in books and our inability to get books into the hands of customers right now, when they may need them most, has been hard.”

When asked when the store is hoping to open again, they said, “we will not reopen until the library is open again and social distancing guidelines are no longer in effect.” But, “we miss being in the store and talking books every day with our community.”

Purple Dragon Games, a store where people can come to play tabletop games together, is fully closed. “My store is built on events, and it didn’t feel responsible to encourage/allow people to gather in that way,” Nico White said.

“I think it’ll be okay for the health of the business assuming the closures don’t last too long,” he said, “but I’m lucky that Williams is my landlord and is understanding, so my costs are also very low while closed.”

The future for all of these local businesses is uncertain, but as we progress aspects of the opening of stores will become clearer. The majority of stores are not selling nearly as much as they would normally, which is scary for many.

These times can be unpredictable, but, as Mclean of Nature’s closet said, “We live in such a great community, I know we’ll all rally and get through this.” ♦

## Students Adjust to Virtual Learning

By EMMA SANDSTROM and MACKENZIE SHEEHY

On Monday, April 13, Mount Greylock officially began its first full week of virtual learning after school had been closed for a month due to the unprecedented outbreak of COVID-19.

On April 8th, the School Committee voted that teachers would work through the spring break that would have occurred from April 13th to April 17th and virtual learning would continue during that time. The teacher’s union has agreed upon assigning 2.5 hours of work for each class and having 20 minutes of direct contact with students per week. It has also been decided that the rest of the school year will be graded on a pass-fail basis.

With the switch to online education, many classes have had to adjust. Science teacher Mrs. Starz will no longer be teaching her classes with a baby on the way, so Ms. Holmes will now be teaching her biology classes. While Mr. Bell was supposed to come in as a substitute for her two health classes, he will no longer be teaching them during this time. Instead, health will be suspended as a formal class for the rest of the semester and may be picked up by the rest of the wellness department in

the future.

During this time, teachers are using a variety of platforms to connect with their students. Many teachers are having to navigate new technologies and push themselves out of their comfort zones, adjusting to this new way of life. The expectation is for teachers to use what they know to the best of their abilities. Principal Mary MacDonald said, “I’m not asking teachers to learn on the fly, but most teachers are familiar with Google Suites in some way. For example, people who have used Google Sheets or Google Forms are learning how to turn that into a quiz.” Other teachers, like Calculus teacher Robert Thistle, are reaching out to their colleagues to learn new skills to connect with students. Thistle said, “I am using Screencastify. [History teacher] Mr. Blackman taught me how to use it.”

One of the most important aspects of virtual learning is keeping communication with students effectively. Some teachers have chosen to use emails to send messages and video lessons, while others are

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## AP Exams Move Online

By MACKENZIE SHEEHY

From May 11 to May 22, Mount Greylock students joined students all over the world in taking this year’s Advanced Placement exams, administered by the College Board. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, exams were modified to be taken online in 45 minutes as opposed to the hours-long paper exam that is usually given.

Many students felt that the 45 minute time constraint made them feel rushed and didn’t give the College Board a chance to assess a student’s overall knowledge of a subject. Junior Leo Rossitter said, “It’s almost impossible to test someone on a whole year in 45 minutes.” Senior Charlotte Rauscher said, “I do feel like for my math test in particular, how I did on the two questions wasn’t representative of my understanding of calculus as a whole.”

Some students found that it was very stressful to try to do the work and get it completely submitted without feeling rushed. Senior Julia Jammalo said, “Those last few minutes of trying to submit my work was very stressful. I felt it was a little cramped having the exam squished into 45 minutes.”

Others like the shorter exam, namely the ability to have resource materials and faster typing over handwriting. Sophomore Luca Hirsch said, “I did like the ability to

use autocorrect and have the rubric on a separate tab.” Parts of the shorter exam were even preferred to some students. Junior Elizabeth Dupras said, “It was much less stressful than taking a multiple hour exam,” while Junior Oscar Low said, “I like the online format for English and history because I can type much faster than I can hand write, so I was able to talk about more ideas than I would usually be able to in a written test.”

Various Greylock students struggled with technical difficulties during the submission process. Although students were allowed to submit photos of work, only certain types of photos were compatible with the submission program. Photos taken off of an iPhone were not automatically in the approved format, unless sent in an email, which caused many students to have to retake the exam or have submission issues that the College Board had fix

Others had trouble with copying and pasting their work as well. The text box did not allow students to directly type in it or fix minor errors; corrections had to be made in a separate document. Sophomore Malina Woodbury said, “When copying my answer into the text box, it was difficult

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The Greylock Echo

GRADUATION

# Where They’re Headed - Senior Destinations

*Please Note: this list only includes students who filled out an Echo form emailed to all seniors and those who shared their plans on the public Instagram account @mgrhsseniors2020. Seniors wanting to be listed in the online edition should send the editors an email at mountgreylockecho@gmail.com*

**Patrick Aliberti:** BCC  
**Gabriella Alvarez:** Providence College  
**Madeline Art:** Yale University  
**Miriam Bakija:** McGill University  
**Alexis Barzousky:** BCC  
**Liam Brady:** Army - combat medic  
**Marleigh Briggs:** The College of Saint Rose  
**Julia Butler:** Ithaca College  
**Tyler Canata:** MCLA  
**Taylor Cornell:** Nichols College  
**Owen Crowell:** Bryant University  
**Nima Darafshi:** Union College  
**Khushi Devre:** UMASS Amherst  
**Julia Donati:** MCLA  
**Lily Edge:** University of Vermont  
**Sarah Egan:** University of California, Los Angeles  
**Ashtyn Faas:** Westfield State University  
**Brandon Fahlenkamp:** Oregon State University  
**Alex Falk:** Carleton College

**Cole Filson:** Fairfield University  
**Toby Foehl:** Williams College  
**Lucas Forman:** Brandeis University  
**Tarryn Gaherty:** Smith College  
**Brendon Goss:** BCC  
**Logan Gould:** Siena College  
**Noah Greenfield:** Skidmore College  
**James Hetherington:** Middlebury College  
**Molly Howard:** Carleton College  
**Julia Jammalo:** Fairfield University  
**Mitchell Jezouit:** University of Massachusetts  
**Joseph Jones:** Bentley University  
**Jonah Kelly-Whitney:** UMASS Boston  
**Saville Keyes:** Simmons University  
**Cassidy Kiernan:** MCLA  
**Natalie Leroux:** MCLA  
**Alex Morin:** Union College  
**Amelia Murphy:** Smith College  
**Ryan Narey:** Skidmore College  
**Nicole Overbaugh:** Clark University  
**Brooke Phelps:** Framingham State University

**Cairra Ramos:** MCLA  
**Charlotte Rauscher:** Boston College  
**Max Rhie:** Williamstown Youth Center  
**Paul Roder:** MCLA  
**Madison Ross:** University of Hartford  
**Kayo Rosse:** Rochester Institute of Technology  
**Grace Sanchez:** Springfield College  
**Cierra Schwarzer:** University of New Hampshire  
**Anna Scott:** Brandeis University  
**Lucy Shepard:** Pitzer College  
**Brayden Smith:** University of Hartford  
**Emanuel Soza-Foias:** University of Vermont  
**Owen Tucker-Smith:** Yale University  
**Xavier Vilaubi:** Hamilton College  
**Stormy Wade:** BCC  
**Finn Welch:** Springfield College  
**Anna Welch:** St. John’s University  
**Spencer Zheng:** UMASS Amherst

## 2 in 650: Toby Foehl & Nicole Overbaugh

*Continued from Page 1.*

**E: Do you feel like your class has been brought closer because of Coronavirus?**  
TF: I don’t know if there were any positives in terms of school. There really aren’t any positives. The only positive for me was that I got to spend a lot of more time with my brothers and I normally don’t.  
NO: I find myself texting and calling significantly more people than I would have if we were in school. It’s been a lot of simple check-ins like “how are you,” or “how are things.” I find that I’ve gotten a lot closer with people, even from the beginning of the year, that I only spoke to now and again.

**E: Who are people (teachers, students, others) who have influenced you over the years?**  
TF: Definitely Mr Thistle, my basketball coach for four years, and my calc teacher senior year. You ask anyone, he’s just a super great person, great coach, great teacher, great guy. So he’s definitely been a positive influence. Coach Dils, who is also a great coach, definitely pushed me to be the best person and soccer player that I could be. So I’d say those two, probably.  
NO: The first one that sticks out to me is Mr. Moors. Especially this year, he’s allowed me to have some form of creative freedom. He’s allowed a safe space for me to come and just openly talk, and he’s done so much for our class over the past six years. I can’t believe just how much he’s done. I also think of Ms. Cope. I had her for Latin last year, and then I was a TA for her briefly this year. While I wasn’t exactly the best at Latin, I thoroughly enjoyed her class. She was always so open armed and willing to take in anything, which I really, really appreciate.

**E: How has being part of sports and extracurriculars impacted your high-school experience?**  
TF: It’s made it exponentially better, just because I think a lot of my closest friends and I played the same sports, and I got to be on the same team with a lot of them. And I’ve also made a lot of new friends because of sports. So I think if I hadn’t played sports, I just wouldn’t have as many great relationships with a lot of people.  
NO: It’s allowed me to discover things that

I never had thought I’d be a part of. I stage managed for Anything Goes this year. At first I just did it because it was my senior year, I had nothing to do in the winter, and I thought dipping my toe in something new wouldn’t hurt. I ended up coming out of it with an entirely new perspective. It changed the way I looked at the arts and music and theater.

**E: If you could go back and talk to your seventh grade self, what advice would you give?**  
TF: That’s a good question. Stop trying so hard to be cool. I think, as the years have gone on, I’ve cared a lot less about what people think about what I’m doing and I’ve kind of done a lot more of just what I want to do.  
NO: Take some time for yourself. Make sure you put yourself first before everyone else. While it does seem a bit selfish at times, you aren’t able to take care of others if you can’t take care of yourself.

**E: Along that same note, what advice would you give to the current junior, rising senior, class?**  
TF: I would say that I know that being a junior and applying for college and everything, or whatever you’re doing, is very stressful. I just finished that a couple months ago. But it’s all gonna work out, and everything is gonna be fine. And you’re gonna end up doing something that you enjoy, so don’t stress so much.  
NO: Enjoy it, because we had it taken away from us almost immediately. Savor every moment, capture every moment, and just take it all in because this is the last time you’ll be close with everyone before you go off on your separate endeavors.

**E: What is one lesson you have learned in your time at Greylock?**  
TF: One lesson I’ve learned is be nice to everyone, whenever you can. When you’re not nice to someone, people will get a lot of bad ideas about you.  
NO: Kind of along the extracurricular line, take every option that’s available to you. Open every door and let everything come in; you can always close the door if you don’t like it. Take the world around you and explore new things, because you never know unless you try.

**E: What will you miss the most at Greylock?**  
TF: Probably high school sports. High school sports are more fun because no one’s being recruited. It’s just like the people that you grew up with and you’ve been playing with your whole life. It’s the big climax of your sports career as a younger kid.  
NO: The sense of community. I don’t think if I had gone to another school I would have gained that sense of community. I find myself so close with my classmates, especially now more than ever. I don’t think I would have been able to gain this experience elsewhere, and I love my classmates so much. Even in college I don’t think I’m going to have as tight of a class as I have with the class of 2020.

**E: Can you share your plans for next year?**  
TF: If everything goes according to what I want to happen, I’m going to go to Williams and play on the golf team. But there’s a whole lot of ‘I’m not sure that’s gonna happen next year.’ There’s a chance that I could take a gap year if I have to do a virtual semester, but I don’t really want to do that in my first semester of college.  
NO: I’ll be going to Clark University in Worcester. I’m going in undecided, but I’m leaning towards either screen studies or management.

E: Finally, what is one thing every Mount Greylock student should do before they graduate?  
TF: I’d say go to the school musical, because you get to see a lot of people that maybe you don’t know as well. You know, I wasn’t really a theater person. I just played soccer and basketball. And so I wasn’t super close with a lot of people who did the musical. But I knew them, I was friendly with people that did the musical. It’s really fun to see people who you don’t necessarily know what they’re good at, and then you go, and you see some people are really good at it.  
NO: If you’re not involved yet, get involved. That was life changing for me at Greylock. Say hi to new people and explore every single option that comes your way. ♦

## Senior Reflections

### Alex Morin

When I first walked through the doors at Mount Greylock in the fall of 2014 as a middle schooler to the last time I walked out this past March, Mount Greylock was a wholesome experience for me. I have had an interesting high school career in the sense so much changed during my time here. The building project is the big one that comes to mind. I will be a part of a unique class that will remember the old building and the new one. As we all know high school is not about the building that you are in. It is rather about the teachers and students that occupy the building. I have met so many wonderful people here. Teachers have helped me grow into a young adult now ready for college. It has not always been easy but we almost always have been able to share a laugh along the way. With small class sizes it is easy to develop strong bonds with friends that will last a lifetime.  
I know all seniors are heartbroken the way this year has ended. In spite of all of this devastation, we have many fond memories together. Whether it be a fun joke in class or having a hard subject click for the first time. Our memories will never be taken away from us. After the dust settles, we will be better people. We will understand the gift of giving a compassionate hand to those who need it. We will appreciate a hug and kiss. The best is yet to come.

### Natalia LeRoux

When I first came to Greylock in seventh grade, I was majorly behind. I was pulling all nighters to get caught up. With help from Mr. Walter in eighth grade, I got caught up to everyone else. I’m thankful he continued to help me through the years to keep me caught up. We formed a bond I didn’t fully develop with any of my other teachers, not that I didn’t try to. I’ve always kept to myself through school. The rule in my household was school came before anything, even friends. Due to that, I’ve stayed an introvert. In eighth grade my class went on a field trip. The assign

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# GRADUATION

## Seniors in the Arts

*Continued from Page 1.*

but after that year I was solely a member of the orchestra. I had let my anxiety take control of what I participated in, and that hurt me socially.”

Myers shared some advice for underclassmen: “Take a leap of faith if it feels right. Last year I chose on a whim to join Shakespeare and it was honestly the best experience of my life so far. That group is the most caring and fun-loving group anyone could be a part of, and I will forever be grateful for the family I have with them.”

Myers also described her journey in joining the pit orchestra, which was a similar leap of faith. She said, “I couldn’t let my fear overcome my love of music, and I am so glad to have been a part of that group for two years as well.” Myers enjoyed the camaraderie that came along with participation in the arts at Greylock, but also the opportunity to learn new skills and step out of her comfort zone.

In a final message to her Greylock peers, Myers said, “For anyone thinking about joining an arts or performance group, I encourage you to do so, no matter what your background in arts is. And to my orchestra, Shakespeare, and musical family, thank you for being my favorite people in the world and for making me a better person. I love you all, and I can’t wait to see all of the amazing things you will accomplish!”

**Nicole Overbaugh** is also known for her photographic endeavors. She can often be seen around school with a camera swinging around her neck. Among many other activities, Overbaugh was part of the Yearbook club as well as Powers’ photography class.

When asked about her overall experience in Greylock’s art programs, Overbaugh said, “I played trombone my seventh grade year, and tenor sax my eighth and ninth grade years for the band. I made the decision in my sophomore year to quit band in order to explore photography.”

Overbaugh also pursued her passion in less traditional ways, choosing to take

into photography, and I started picking up guitar. I decided that I wanted my electives to be fun, so I took two semester-long photography course, and a music lab course. And even though I had quit, I found myself back in the band room way more often than in prior years.”

Overbaugh said, “Overall, the arts at Greylock have made it possible for me to

closest friends now, and I wouldn’t take a single second of it for granted.”

**Elizabeth DeGraff** got involved in the arts through the medium of painting, and her artwork could be seen displayed around the school. When asked about her experiences with art, DeGraff said, “I have been making art for as long as I can remember. I enjoy it because it gives me a break from reality and lets me express myself in ways I can’t otherwise do.”

**Ashtyn Faas** could be seen participating in band, the musical, and heading Greylock Plays. Faas has been a prevalent member of the arts programs since she arrived at Mount Greylock as a freshman. About her experience in the arts, Faas said: “As a kid, I was always really close with my dad, and throughout my childhood, he introduced me to all genres of music. This made my musical taste very diverse as you can imagine. I began to develop a strong love for music because of him. Wherever we went or whatever we did, music was somehow incorporated”

Fass described the importance music has had in her life, and said, “It has this unspeakable power that brings people together in a way no other thing can. Complete strangers listen to the same song at the same time on the radio- some are on their way to work, some are driving aimlessly, some may be coming back from a funeral. Every listener is at a completely different point in their life, yet they’re all in that moment, listening to that song. It’s truly incredible.” Fass likened this phenomenon to Greylock Plays, where “The student population of our school gathers in the foyer.” ♦



*Image Courtesy of Erica Wetherell*

an independent study her junior and senior year that focused on film. She also outlined her last year involved in the arts: “As my senior year approached, I slowly got back

explore career options and personal interests, as well as allowing me to get closer with my peers. I’ve met so many beautiful people through the arts, some being my

## Teacher of the year: Kellie Houle

*Continued from Page 1.*

sistently reinforced is to be kind; never judge a person because you never know what is really going on in their lives.

**E: How have you been adjusting to on-line learning?**

H: Online learning has been a mixture for me. I miss being in school. Interacting with students face-to-face is my favorite part of teaching. The energy in the classroom and hallways is palpable. I love that. Remote learning, however, has given me time to work one-on-one (via Zoom) with several students, and it has enabled me to have time to read research papers and provide detailed feedback without having to assign grades -- my LEAST favorite part of teaching is assigning grades to writing.

**E: How do you feel in regards to being chosen as teacher of the year? What does it mean to you?**

H: Being chosen as teacher of the year by this very special class is a humbling honor. There are so many fabulous, generous, kind, and intelligent teachers at MG; knowing students appreciate us reinforces what we do every day. The mutual respect is palpable. We are all so fortunate to work here.

My heartfelt thanks goes out to the Class of 2020, not just for this unexpected but much appreciated recognition, but also for your passion, your energy, and your dedication to our school. You have made the last six years memorable in ways that other classes never have. You have seen things that no other class ever will...from living through the building of a new school to finishing your high school career during a global pandemic. You are a class for the history books, for sure. You handled it all with grace and maturity. Moving forward, always remember to be kind, patient, and determined. If you can manage that, the rest will fall into place. ♦

## Staff Member of the Year: Ryan Skrocki

By LUCY MCWEENY

**Echo: Congratulations on winning staff member of the year -- that’s big! When did you start working at Greylock?**

Ryan Skrocki: March 12, 2012.

**E: What are some of your favorite things about Mt. Greylock?**

RS: The view is excellent, I love everybody who’s here, a good group of people to work with -- the students, faculty, everybody involved. The newer things that we got, the building, the new grounds, the stuff we’re doing this year with the fields.

**E: What encouraged you to come work at Mt. Greylock?**

RS: I was in Florida at first, then I came back home, and then I worked at MCLA, doing the same thing for Aramark, and

RS: Well, we had a period of time off while everybody figured everything out. We came back, you’re wearing the mask, disinfecting everybody. Going forward, I don’t know yet. There’s a lot of different things that the governor’s been saying and that you hear, so you don’t know what’s true and what’s not true. But if and when we go back to school, it will be really interesting to see how the state regulates everything with class sizes and everything else. It will be a puzzle.

**E: During this time have you picked up any new hobbies to keep busy?**

RS: I’ve been more active in my gardening. I doubled the size of my garden this year, which was what I was doing when the kids came to present to me. I’ve been doing a

*“It makes my job a lot more interesting and better when you guys are here, otherwise it’s just a quiet building.”*

then the same position opened up here, and I actually got the call back on my birthday in 2012, so that was kind of cool.

**E: Do you have a favorite memory from your time at Greylock?**

RS: There’s been a lot of different things, good and bad, one of the soonest memories would have to be Friday the 13th, when we had the plumbing issue and we all got released and never came back. That was not a fun day for anybody. Last year when I got the staff member of the year, I had no idea -- everybody knew around me. Nancy McMullen told me they needed something in the gym, so I go into the gym thinking I’m going to clean something up, and then everybody turns around and I’m like “ohh-hh.”

**E: How has COVID-19 affected your job and how do you think Greylock will adjust when school starts up again?**

lot of running and hiking, so just trying to keep occupied while social distancing. Keep out of the couch and the snacks.

**E: Do you have any parting words for the class of 2020?**

RS: Good luck in your endeavors, be safe, be happy, and we’ll all get through this. Hopefully everything starts back up for everybody, whether it be going to work, going into a field or going to college, or whatever else you may do.

**E: How do you feel in regard to being chosen as staff member of the year?**

RS: I feel great about it. I love the kids. I love seeing them every day. It makes my job a lot more interesting and better when you guys are here, otherwise it’s just a quiet building with nothing. You guys make this school. Talking to you guys and helping you guys out when you need it. ♦

*The Greylock Echo is the student newspaper of Mt. Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown, Mass. While the Echo posts most content online, print editions are published periodically. Any Mt. Greylock student is welcome to join the Echo staff.*

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*Mt. Greylock students can submit letters to the editor in response to published stories. Send them to [mountgreylockecho@gmail.com](mailto:mountgreylockecho@gmail.com). The Echo will not publish anonymous letters.*



## Financial Crash Casts Uncertainty on Turf

By CHARLIE MCWEENY

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been felt across almost every facet of life, including on plans for the use of the Williams Capitol gift.

As covered in previous Echo articles, the capital gift, originally five-million dollars worth of the Williams College endowment, was intended to be used for buildings and facilities improvements that would not be reimbursed by the state as part of the new school building project. In June of 2019, that number likely peaked at over six-million dollars.

However, given the financial crisis as economies worldwide have ground to a halt, the Williams College endowment has almost definitely taken a major hit, including the portion of the endowment gifted to Mount Greylock.

In a May 14 School Committee Meeting, Superintendent Kimberly Grady read an email from Williams VP James Kolesar. In the email, Kolesar promised the school a read on what their share of the endowment was currently worth, and said, "The accepted wisdom is to push off spending from the capitol to the degree possible, but you've got a couple of things you have to do."

The May 14 School Committee followed a May 6 meeting of the finance subcommittee, during which Grady and Subcom-

temporary district offices and a new multipurpose building. The Committee had suggested using the remaining funds for Title IX and ADA accessibility improvements to the softball field and other sports field, which they are legally required to do, a new grass or synthetic turf field, and an endowment for future capitol expenses.

At the May 14 meeting, committee member Al Terrenova committed himself as "In favor of immediately moving forward with a brockfill turf field." Other members of the committee also advocated for making a decision on the use of the funds now.

"Information has been gathered, and it's up to the School Committee to make a choice," said Steven Miller, who also cited this as a "very good time to move forward" with field improvements given the need for outdoor exercise areas amid the pandemic.

School Committee member Carrie Green agreed with Miller, saying, "I don't understand the logic for not moving ahead for the fields project," before suggesting they send the issue back down to the Finance Subcommittee and members from the Phase II subcommittee. The full committee will next publicly meet on June 11. ♦



mittee Chair Jamie Art warned that the full School Committee would need to have, "a frank conversation about what the changes to the economic landscape mean to future capital projects," as Art said.

That conversation began at the May 14 School Committee meeting, which ended with no vote or consensus. The Committee has already committed 2.5 million dollars to payments for the trailers that hosted

## Gabe's Eats: Quarantine Edition

By GABE GERRY

Home cooking in quarantine is one of the best things to come out of this crazy time. The ability to make something creative for breakfast, lunch, and dinner is amazing. We have the freedom to try new recipes and experiment with new spices. It's fun to fail and have a loaf of bread end up looking like a cookie. With the time and liberty to try and mess up, and just go have fun in the kitchen.

I have found some staples that I am sticking to for most days, but on some days without class I go crazy and try some great recipes.

For breakfast I usually have a bagel and a banana for breakfast, or honey nut cheerios. But when I am feeling adventurous I branch out and surprise myself with pancakes or french toast. I have found that french toast is now my go to for special quarantine occasions. The best part is you do not need any fancy bread or other ingredients, but if you want some fancy upgrades, stick around. Just soak some white or wheat bread (if you're one of those) for a few seconds on both sides in a beaten egg. Then just plop that baby on a warm pan with some butter and cook until brown. Serve with a nice pat of butter and loads of maple syrup. Cut into fun shapes like dinosaurs and enjoy. If you have leftover egg from soaking you can make scrambled eggs, BAM yum.

Fancy upgrade time!! Challah instead of sandwich bread raises the level. Or if you are the wheat bread type you could put maple yogurt and berries on it. Finally some cinnamon sprinkled on top with fresh squeezed oj and you have yourself a feast. For lunch I have been perfecting the grilled cheese. A staple of lunch food that nearly every American loves. I like them very simple, nothing floufy and extra, just bread and cheese. I have found that sourdough or similar bread works the best. It adds another level of complexity that makes the grilled cheese better overall. Cheese is more personal but for me it's extra sharp cheddar. I try to find the sharpest one I can find (the longer the cheddar is aged, the sharper it is!). As a little note it is nearly impossible to put on too much cheese, the more you put on the better it is. Before placing on the pan, butter the outside of the bread for extra crunch and so it does not stick to it. If you want to try something crazy instead of butter go for mayo for even more crunch. For another upgrade you could go for blackberry jam, and bacon on it.

For dinner the best thing to have on these hot days is pesto. On pizza, pasta, or chicken, pesto creates new and exciting flavors that are perfect for summer. I have also been putting some of it on grilled cheeses. Grilled chicken on pesto pasta in my summer staple and it is a great light dinner. Topping it with veggies like summer squash, zucchini, and fresh corn creates an ideal meal. And of course loads of parmesan cheese to top it all off.

For dessert going out (with a mask of course) and getting ice cream from lickety split is a must. Mudpie and cookie combustion are must tries and my go-tos. If you do not get sprinkles on it you might as well not get any ice cream. ♦

## UN Environmental Report Induces Urgency

By CHARLIE MCWEENY

### BUILDING COMMITTEE CONSIDERS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF NEW SCHOOL

By GRETA SAVITSKY '16

## Why You Should Vote in the 2016 Elections

By SAM SWOAP '16

## THE HANGAR: A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE YEARS

By SAM SWOAP ('16), MATTHEW KLEINER ('17), AARON KLEINER ('17)

## BOYS' AND GIRLS' NORDIC SKIING: REIGN CONTINUES

By AARON KLEINER '17

## BUILDING PROJECT IS FINALLY FRICKIN' APPROVED

By MARISSA GOOSE

## Williams Capital Gift to be Used for Multipurpose Building, Athletic Facilities

By CHARLIE MCWEENY

## Students Struggle With Narrow Stairways

By KRISHAN RAI

## Mt. Greylock Students Attend March For Our Lives

## Mt. Greylock Mourns Mrs. Keeley

## ENTS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER BATHROOM SIGNAGE

By VICTORIA MELKONYAN

## Boys Soccer Appeal Denied

## School Committee Approves Regionalization

## Coach Larry Bell gets Inducted Into

## MSTCA Hall of Fame

By SEAN NEMTZOW ('17)

## Grande's Album Satisfactory Yet Shallow

By SOPHIE JONES

*Saying  
Goodbye: a  
Letter from the  
(former)  
Editor-in-Chief*

I've had the fortune of serving as editor-in-chief of the Echo since the spring of my sophomore year. Since then, we've reported on four climate protests, controversy surrounding bathroom signage, a large handful of state and western mass championships, six student productions, and much, much more. But as much as I treasure the dozens of meaningful conversations I had with you through my own reporting, there's something I treasure even more: watching new generations of Echo reporters have these meaningful conversations. Some of my happiest Echo moments have been reading through a first-year staffer's first big feature story and seeing my managing editor put together this issue as she begins her tenure as editor-in-chief.

Mt. Greylock journalism is strong, but

it can be stronger. If you are an underclassman reading this, the Echo has a place for you. Trust the power of the press to build community and speak truth to power. This school is facing rapid change. Regionalization's ripples still run through the district, an unprecedented school-level leadership switch will soon call for adjustment across multiple school administrations, and uncertainty about the future will have its hold over Greylock for the foreseeable future. Change demands solid reporting, and everyone has a role to play in providing it: the reporters and editors who create content, the sources who are willing to share information and tell their stories, and the students and community members who are willing to consume what we have to offer. COVID-19 has shut down local newspa-

pers across the country. Journalism is in danger. While the Echo might not be under financial stress, all reporters need to step up right now.

To the core audience of this issue -- the seniors: I care about all of you and know that you will change the world. Relentlessly seek the truth in whatever profession you choose. And if you want, join a college paper! I promise it will be fun, enriching and important.

Thank you for making these past six years so memorable. You've always had stories worth telling, and you're all just getting started.

Best,  
Owen Tucker-Smith



## COVID & College Admissions

By LEO ROSSITTER

The spread of COVID-19 has affected almost every aspect of life, but colleges and universities were especially influenced, with shutdowns and virtual learning falling into place early. These changes could last long past the pandemic, altering the college admissions process for many current juniors.

Colleges are a perfect incubator for diseases like COVID-19. Kids from all over the country and world come together and live in very close, usually unhygienic, quarters and then go home, bringing any pathogens they may have contracted with them. This elevated risk caused widespread closures and the transition to online learning in colleges across the world, effectively shutting down all campuses.

The effects of changes to college life are not limited to the students already in college. Juniors in high school, who are just reaching the point where they should be ramping up their college search, cannot tour, go to summer programs, or get to know potential schools in any of the traditional ways.

So what are they doing instead? Junior Gabe Gerry told the Echo that he has been attending “virtual information sessions.” Gerry explained that they have their upsides and downsides. “They let you get a feel for how much effort a school has put into creating a seamless virtual experience,” Gerry said. “They let me experience schools that I could not have otherwise because of how far away they are.”

Virtual tours and information sessions pose problems, though. Students can only see what the schools want them to see, and getting to know the area around the school is not feasible.

Junior Hazel Scullin said that she had scheduled plans to visit schools in March and April and has had to switch to online platforms.

“While the tours are a very useful tool, I think that it is OK to take a break from thinking and planning for the future while the future is so unpredictable,” Scullin said. “This pandemic can be extremely stressful, and there is no need to put yourself under more stress if that is what the college process does to you.”

Some students are using this time to bulk up their applications in an attempt to increase their chances of being admitted into schools they’re interested in. Despite many schools going test optional, such as Williams, Amherst, and the UC system, some students are still working to improve their odds of getting a good test score.

Junior Will Starenko says he’s been doing “pretty consistent SAT prep” while school has been out. Some teachers are even assigning SAT practice as part of their online curriculum.

While the college admissions process is just one of the many things altered by COVID-19, colleges and prospective students alike are finding resourceful ways to keep the situation as normal and manageable as possible. ♦

## Virtual Learning

*Continued from Page 2.*

sending out announcements via Google Classroom and Canvas. Teachers have been experimenting with Zoom conference calls as well to teach live, interactive lessons where students have the ability to ask questions in real time.

A lot of teachers, such as English teacher Jessica Cook, were already using some of these online programs to communicate with their students. Many students, especially in the language department, have taken advantage of websites typically used for enrichment in the classroom, like Duolingo and Khan Academy. Some have even gone out in search of their own resources, such as junior Ruth Weaver, who said, “Kaplan has a free 30 day SAT prep course that I like.”

On how effective and engaging these online programs have been so far, Physics teacher Shawn Burdick said, “More than half of my students, at all grade levels 9-12, are currently staying active and well-engaged!” Additionally, teachers are taking this time to encourage independent activities that weren’t necessarily emphasized while in school. Cook said, “I am also excited to continue encouraging and fostering independent reading when so often students ‘Don’t have time to read...’ Now we have an abundance of time!”

Still, challenges for teachers have been numerous. MacDonald said, “It has been challenging to work on timing, as well as trying to find a pace and consistent communication. We are trying to be flexible and respect that students can’t be expected to sit in front of a computer for a school day.” A lot of teachers are learning new technologies during this time, while also trying to help their own kids. Cook said, “It’s definitely a new challenge to try and teach, zoom, connect, etc. with my own two small humans at home who require feeding, playing with, attention, reminders, etc.”

For others, it is tough to be limited in the material they can continue to teach. Burdick said, “I am frustrated with the state DESE’s and MG administration’s decisions NOT to move forward with the curriculum, NOT to grade work, and to keep things optional.” There is a lot of anxiety around the new modified AP tests, as well as MCAS. Burdick said, “It is the uncertainty that is the hardest.”

As far as assessments go, it really depends upon the teacher. Seeing as all classes will be done on a credit-no credit basis, traditional testing won’t occur. Some teachers, like Burdick, are sending home tests and trusting students to complete them honestly and send back photos of completed work. Others are anticipating that assessments won’t be a large part of their curriculum. Thistle said, “I haven’t assigned assessments, just math problems

to work on to keep the mind sharp.”

A big question from many students is how much work will be assigned and when. Burdick said, “I am providing a set of assignments every week or so.” Other teachers like Mr. Thistle, who have students working on AP and SAT practice exams, are checking in two or three times a week with videos going over different problems that students struggled with. A general trend among high school teachers is to assign work on Monday for the entire week and let students divide their time based on their own schedule. Those assignments would then be due on Friday. Cook said, “I’m assigning work each week and allowing them to organize their time in the best way for their own lives. For instance, there are 5 assignments—one student might choose to do them all on Monday, another on Friday.”

Quite a few students have voiced concerns over the sudden amount of work after a month of getting all optional assignments. Junior Charlotte Sanford said, “I wasn’t getting a lot of assignments and then all of a sudden there were a ton.” Junior Kyle Trotter echoed her sentiments and said, “I feel teachers should work their way slowly into virtual learning. All this work so quick is going to cause kids to panic.”

However, others seem to be finding effective ways to budget their time. Freshman Jennah Simpson said, “I spend about a half an hour to an hour per class per assignment. Senior Cole Filson added that he has been generally pleased with the way teachers have handled virtual learning. Filson said, “I think that my teachers have planned a schedule that doesn’t stress us out so they have done well in that regard and because of that I really don’t have anything else I would ask them to do.”

Others still have suggestions about the technology used for virtual learning. Freshman Kiersten Simpson said, “Honestly, I wish there were more zoom calls. I really appreciate having face to face learning as much as possible. Or at least, hearing a teacher explain something to me.” Junior Hannah Gilooly said, “I wish teachers would understand that they are overwhelming us and that we are learning about platforms just as they are, so they should be more flexible.”

Mount Greylock is also working upon ensuring equity for all students. The school has made Chromebooks available to those who didn’t have one prior to COVID-19. Mobile hotspots will be provided for those who aren’t currently able to access virtual assignments online.

Ultimately, virtual learning is clearly a learning process for students and teachers alike. MacDonald said, “as a person, I’ve learned how important it is to recognize how differently people will respond to such an unprecedented situation, which has helped me make decisions.” ♦

## AP Exams Move Online

*Continued from Page 2.*

as my whole answer would not paste completely. It took 3 tries until it finally completely pasted into the box.”

Overall, the submission process was riddled with errors that only worsened the student testing experience. The only way for a student to solve a submission problem is to apply to take a make up test, meaning student have to study again for an exam they already took. Senior Molly Howard said, “I’m going to have to take a makeup test which is not the end of the world but is kind of disappointing because I thought I did well on my first test and honestly just wanted to be done with the test and everything.”

If the College Board were to pursue online testing in the future, students had various recommendations to improve the experience. Many said they would want the exam to be longer to encompass more

material. Sophomore Adriel Benko said, “A 45 minute, one question test is not an appropriate culmination to a year’s worth of academics. The College Board has a great deal of influence over students’ futures and they need to deal with that influence responsibly.”

Greylock students commented that the submission process should be improved. Rossitter said, “I would improve the submissions process by accepting more kinds of submissions and having more tolerance for people who submitted their tests late because of technical issues.” Also, many believe the cost of the exam should be lowered for a much shorter test. Woodbury said, “We paid nearly 100 dollars for a little test that did not even come close to allowing us to show how much information we learned.” ♦

## Senior Reflections

*Continued from Page 3.*

ment was to go around and fill out our worksheets. Being a loner, I stayed quiet and kept to myself. A young boy came up to me and asked if I wanted to work with him. I nodded and our friendship blossomed. From then on, that boy was my best friend. Soon later, I considered a girl who I talked to also be one of my friends. From then on friends came and leapt out of my life like a jumping spider in water. No one ever stayed, except for those two friends. They followed me around, and I followed them around all through the six years we had left at Greylock. Without them, I don’t think I would have stayed caught up and came out of my shell, or be very successful at this school. Thanks to Mount Greylock I’ve learned a ton and made friends that I’ll keep for a lifetime. I am so grateful for everyone who helped me become the young lady I am today. Thank you!

## Maddy Art

Obviously, this is not the way any of the seniors wanted to end. I’m devastated

to be missing out on prom, our class trip, and a typical graduation with the immediate support of our teachers, friends, and family. What’s been harder for me, though, is processing that, when we get through the pandemic and life returns to some semblance of what it used to be, we will be in a completely new stage of life. The people and routines at Mount Greylock have been the backdrop for our personal development and defining life experiences over the past six years. Finishing high school must be an uncertain and emotional time for anyone, but to close that chapter without warning or a clear picture of how the next chapter will open is really hard.

When Mr. Thistle talks about why you should take classes that are hard for you, he has talked about doing hard things to show yourself you can. If you took AP Calculus or Honors Pre-Calc or whichever class was a challenge for you, you can live the rest of your life knowing you did it—you can do hard things. All of us are going to face challenges in our lives, and many of us could face challenges that are harder on a personal level than what we are dealing with now. When we get to those points, we can remind ourselves that we graduat-

ed high school and stepped into our new worlds in the midst of a pandemic. We have the power to handle uncertainty.

I’m grateful for much about my past six years at Mount Greylock, but I think more than anything else I feel endlessly appreciative to have been surrounded by people who care so much. Mount Greylock students don’t always care about the same things as each other, and we don’t always feel the same way about the things we care about. I’ve certainly gotten passionate pushback for opinions I’ve written in the Echo, editorial decisions we’ve made as a team, and things I’ve said in class. The lack of apathy at Greylock, fostered by teachers and administrators, has pushed me to be more thoughtful, attentive, and open minded. Thank you. ♦

We’d love to publish more senior reflections on our website, so please email them to [mtgreylockecho@gmail.com](mailto:mtgreylockecho@gmail.com) if interested.

## Seniors in Sports

*Continued from Page 1.*

After losing by nearly 25 in their first season meeting against Taconic, Foehl and the Mounties knew that their next meeting on the opposing team’s senior night would be the perfect time for revenge. The Taconic team was packed with 13 seniors, none of whom wanted to leave their home court disappointed. Foehl and the Mounties had other plans, though, pulling off an upset victory by a margin of 22 points.

Madison Ross, a senior who participated in soccer, basketball, and track and field, shared her favorite sports memory as a Mountie. Although her senior track and field season was cancelled, Ross recalled her junior year experience at New Balance Nationals. Ross competed in the High Jump and Long Jump events, finishing third in the Emerging Elite Division for the long jump. But to Ross, the real memories were formed in the time spent with teammates and coaches.

As Ross describes, sports can bring accomplishments and trophies, but also teammates and coaches who begin to feel like family. We congratulate all of our senior athletes. ♦