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A PUBLICATION OF USD 230 | WINTER 2024

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

A new calendar year has arrived as has the second half of our 2023-24 school year. Whether it be Day 1 or Day 171 of a school year, USD 230 staff are committed to providing a high-quality and memorable educational experience to all students. Yet, much effort from many individuals is necessary to achieve that commitment. Staff at every level within a school district play a pivotal yet often overlooked roles, forming the essential framework that upholds any educational organization.

Teachers meticulously plan lessons, create materials, grade assessments, and offer mentorship and guidance to students. In that same vein, their influence extends beyond academics and in to personal development.

Support staff—custodians, maintenance workers, cafeteria staff, and administrative assistants—keep the physical and administrative aspects of our schools running smoothly by ensuring cleanliness, functionality, nourishment, and efficient operations.

Specialists like counselors, nurses, psychologists, and interventionists provide crucial emotional and mental health support to students, addressing social issues and fostering well-being.

Technology specialists have gained importance with digital integration in education, maintaining IT infrastructure and supporting the use of technology for effective learning at all levels PK-12.

Other critical contributors like bus drivers, crossing guards, and library media specialists also play vital roles in ensuring students' safety and access to resources.

Collectively, these individuals



create an ecosystem that supports education comprehensively. Regardless of visibility, each role is integral to students' holistic development and success. Their collaboration and expertise lay the foundation for a conducive learning environment, fostering growth and achievement.

In essence, the behind-the-scenes efforts in a school district are a symphony of collaboration and dedication, unified in the pursuit of providing the best education and nurturing the potential of every student.

This issue of 'Spring Hill Schools' has several articles on individuals and programs that definitely operate 'behind the scenes' but are essential to our overall daily success.

As always, feel free to reach out to me at anytime with thoughts or questions.

Best wishes for a fantastic 2024.

Link W. Luttrell, Ed.D

Superintendent

Twitter: @usd230supt

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Cover Photo:

Anna Manning, English and Communication Teacher at Spring Hill High, featuring Caden Bartek and Caleb Brewer, seniors at SHHS.

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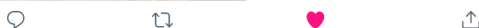
Dayton Creek Elementary @DCESCavaliers
Fourth graders went on a field trip to The Steamboat Arabia Museum, where they had the exciting opportunity to excavate some lost treasures! 🏴‍☠️ #Learn230



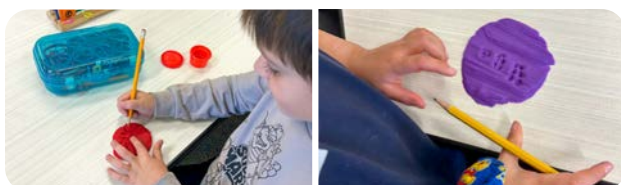
Prairie Creek Elementary @PCESMustangs
Thanks to a SHEF Grant, Rebecca Boomgaarden is igniting our students' creativity in STEM. Excitement is building for the Lego BricQ Motion kits! #Learn230



Spring Hill Elementary @SHESColts
Spreading paw-sitivity at SHES with Goldie the Therapy Dog! 🐾 Bringing smiles, tail wags, and a whole lot of love to brighten up our school days. #Learn230



Timber Sage Elementary @TSESRangers
First graders delved into Mesopotamian civilization, exploring writing and cuneiform. 🌐 Students made play dough tablets and wrote their names! #Learn230



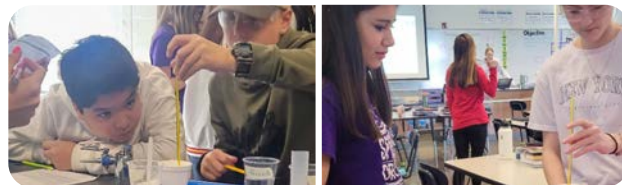
Wolf Creek Elementary @WCESWranglers
Our fifth grade students learned how to plant and irrigate corn! 🌽 #Learn230



Forest Spring Middle @FSMSChargers
Emma Wilm & Dalton Maples teamed up to teach sixth grade social studies about the Pharaohs! Students learned a ton, and then voted for the best one. 🗳️ #Learn230



Spring Hill Middle @SHMSMavericks
Eighth grade science got exciting with endothermic and exothermic reactions tested using beef liver! 🧪 #Learn230



Woodland Spring Middle @WSMSStallions
Thank you to Spring Hill High for inviting the district's eighth grade students to watch the final dress rehearsal of "The Music Man"! 🎭 #Learn230



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TEACHER FEATURE

Noah Zoller

Striking the Right Note

By Hannah King, SHHS Journalist

Teachers across the district strive to inspire students to achieve their dreams. Whether they want to be a doctor or in the MLB, many students' pathways develop through the support of their teachers, but what inspires teachers to teach? Noah Zoller, elementary music educator and high school band assistant director, has the opportunity to influence students across the district by teaching at both the high school and elementary school.

Zoller assists in directing the high school band daily throughout the concert and marching season in the morning and teaches music classes at Timber Sage Elementary during the day. Throughout his time at both the high school and elementary school, he has faced challenges but for Zoller, the outcome is rewarding.

"One of the most rewarding parts of teaching at the high school is listening to the students play their instruments and seeing how much they grow in their musicianship and as wonderful people over the years."

He expressed that passion is not something that is taught, but rather something that a person creates individually. Being able to stand in front of a room of students with all different backgrounds and bring them together as one, is an achievement that his students have described as one of his talents. He brings joy to the high school classroom and field.

Zoller's assistance does not go unseen by the high school students. He spends extra time with students, helping them prepare for marching festivals, concerts, and district band auditions. Dylan Estes, high school student, prepared for the district band auditions with the assistance of Zoller. He had to prepare scales, excerpts, and a song of his choice.

"I knew I could rely on him to help me find music to play for my district band audition in April," Estes said.

Students have also recognized him for his realistic view and dedication to meeting everyone where they were at with their skill. Being an elementary school teacher takes extreme patience and care; Zoller exemplifies the USD 230 standards. He gives students motivation to dream big in and outside of music.

Zoller found a passion for music when he was in the fifth grade band. As he explored career paths in high school, he found that his heart always led him back to music. He had planned to be a professional musician, but



As Noah Zoller, music educator, conducts in front of the band, students watch for their cues. The band puts great trust into their teachers, as they often contribute to the success of the band (Photo by Hannah King).



At Noah Zoller's, music educators, final high school recital, he played alto saxophone. He celebrated by playing with kittens following his performance (Photo provided by Noah Zoller).

in college he debated between degrees in music performance and music education. After consulting with teachers, he realized education was what he was meant to do. Zoller jumped at the opportunity to work at Timber Sage.

"I like working with kids and seeing the potential that they have because I think it but I also get to help them do things that other adults may not see that they can do," Zoller said.

Outside of teaching, he plays in pit orchestras and for musicals. Zoller plays all saxophones, clarinet, and piano. He plans to play Music Theatre Kansas City in the beginning of December. Having professional experience helps him train his students and prepare them for future careers, but it also allows him to live out both of his passions. Zoller inspires many of his students to test their limits and try things outside of what they know.



ABOUT THE JOURNALIST

My name is Hannah King and I am a Junior in high school. I participate in cheer, SPUB, AV club, band, StuCo, Links, and FFA. I'm also on the agricultural communications team and the gold division national floriculture team. I am thankful for this opportunity to share the stories of our district!

MEET GOLDIE!

OUR PET PARTNER'S CERTIFIED THERAPY DOG

By Marisa Winkel, for Spring Hill Schools



Students at Spring Hill Elementary show Goldie some love during recess.

As of last year, and coming to light this year, Spring Hill Elementary introduced Goldie the therapy dog to students. Helen Kuttes, former Spring Hill Middle nurse, is Goldie's handler who received certification through Pet Partners.

"We went through a K-9 dog school here in Spring Hill, for... basic obedience training, and then she had a certification test that she had to go through [to ensure] that I could be an okay handler for her," Kuttes said.

Shelby Fleming, Spring Hill Elementary counselor, and others wanted to create more positivity in the school environment. An idea came up that a therapy dog would be a great fit.

Goldie is a three-year-old Golden Irish who visits schools, hospitals, and nursing homes to bring positivity to places of need. Goldie comes to Spring Hill Elementary on Monday afternoons.

Students have come to love Goldie so much that she is recognized in the community.

"What I've noticed is that when [students] notice her out in the community, they're really excited. At the Fall Festival, she could have had her own booth, because people were like 'oh it's Goldie!'," Kuttes said.



Having Goldie around at schools provides students comfort and stress relief by stopping by to pet her. Fleming and Kuttes both have seen an impact of student attitudes and the excitement Goldie creates. Fleming provides the opportunity for parents to schedule their students to have one-on-one meetings with Goldie during times of need. These meetings are found to work well for

students as it has been a popular request made by students and parents.

"We try to find as many ways as possible to help kids have a positive school experience and want to come to school and enjoy being [there]. I think Goldie is one piece in that because they get so excited to see her and they look forward to it and are always asking about her," Fleming said.

"Either I identified a student that maybe had tough stuff going on at home or might

need a bit of extra emotional support. Or sometimes parents will reach out and let me know that their kid is struggling. [Goldie] is one of the options that I suggest in those cases," Fleming said. "They'll sign a permission form for the student to come and meet Goldie when she comes in."

Goldie also visits classrooms and recesses. During recess, students get to spend more time with Goldie.



Not only is Goldie fun to snuggle, she also has a few tricks up her sleeve.

"We walk outside and you hear people screaming 'Goldie!' from across the playground. She stays on a leash and we usually find a spot to sit down because some kids are scared of dogs and so they want to stay away; but for the most part, kids will run up and pet her and talk to her for a minute. Sometimes they'll want to stay the whole recess with her," Kuttles said. "It is very popular. A lot of kids are very excited to see her."

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MIC CHECK

By Olivia Tarvin and Ashlyn Watson, SHHS Student Journalists



Communications receives grant for updated technology.

During the 2022-23 school year, **Anna Manning**, *communications teacher*, took over the high school's Video Production classes. This switch was made in hopes to begin to integrate the video and journalism classes offered to the students, as well as start publishing their work and understanding what careers in those fields may look like.



Pictured is the Video Productions class receiving the grant banner. They are thrilled to have received this grant.

Caden Bartek, 12th, has been in video production classes for all four years of high school. Bartek has a passion for videography and plans to continue in college. Bartek saw that the program was in need of new equipment and set out to make that happen. Bartek and Manning were able to apply with the Spring Hill Education Foundation to purchase more enhanced equipment for the "Rein It In" podcast. On Oct. 25, the communications department received a \$2,986 grant.

"The past four years I've been asking for new equipment and [we haven't gotten] a single thing since

last year, which was just simple tripods," Bartek said. "But now after our \$2,900 grant, we were able to get a tremendous amount of new equipment that has been able to boost the way that our channel and our AV program are able to run."

As project manager, Bartek was tasked with finding the equipment needed within the budget. Bartek highlighted that the microphones were the hardest pieces of equipment to find, and emphasized the students' gratitude toward SHEF for the grant. The group believes that the new equipment will only help them further their knowledge and

interest in the field.

This grant allowed the communications department to purchase microphones, a sound mixer, cables, sound panels, and headphones. New this year is the student-run podcast called, "Rein It In", created by the Video Production students. The new platform is a place students can tune into topics that matter to the student body. Even though the students were able to produce a podcast without professional equipment, the addition of new, upgraded equipment transformed the recording process. Hosts, guests, and the producer can now hear themselves talk, and the noise-canceling feature helps reduce background noise during recording, allowing for the best quality for the recording sessions. With these new additions, students can now get hands-on experience using technology used in future careers.

"[The new equipment] enhances our audio and it helps us look more professional when we invite guests," Caleb Brewer, 12th, said.

Brewer has taken many communications classes and has progressed far in the department. They have taken every graphic design class that is offered, three photo classes, and is currently in Video Production. Brewer is another student that has been able to watch the program grow.

"The grant has made this year far easier compared to last year," Brewer said. "Our quality wasn't the best last year, and we had troubles with sound and picture quality."



Not only does having the new equipment enhance the quality and ease of the work, the students are also having more fun with this new experience.

"This year has been so much better [with the new equipment] and more fun," Brewer said. "It's pretty cool."

The Video Production students have already begun to put the new equipment to work in the newest episodes of the podcast. The student reporters and their guests can be seen in the podcast studio using the headphones and microphones provided by the grant.

Faye Dent, 12th, was a guest on the podcast before and after the new equipment was implemented. Dent said that the recording session felt more professional and having the headphones and microphones was less awkward than just talking to a camera.

"There is an amazing difference with the microphones that we have compared to the ones [we had] and the sound mixer makes it

so much easier to record," Bartek said.

Another addition to the new found success for the communications department is the new MacBooks. With the switch to iPads across the district, the classes that needed MacBooks were able to get better MacBooks that has also increased the Video Production student's productivity. Brewer mentioned that the group had difficulties editing on the old MacBooks because they were slow. The new tech has allowed for an easier and more reliable editing process.

With the influx in content being produced by these students,

the podcasts and entertainment content needed a space to be published, thus bringing the first step toward the integration of the Student Publications group and Video Production students.

All of the content published by SPUB and Video Production can be found in the biweekly email subscription and on stampedenews.net!



Caden Bartek, Caleb Brewer, Aidan Wycoff, 12th, and Anna Manning unboxing the equipment from the SHEF Grant. Bartek holds the sound panels that help eliminate background noise.



Ashlyn Watson, Caden Bartek, Caleb Brewer, Aidan Wycoff, 12th, are pictured viewing the new equipment. Watson holds the new hand-held microphones used for videos.



ABOUT THE JOURNALIST

Hello! My name is Olivia Tarvin and I am a junior at SHHS. This is my second year on the Publications Staff. Outside of working on staff, I'm a part of the band, NHS, LINKS, and I will be on the swim team this year! I cherish my time with family and friends and I'm looking forward to the year ahead.



ABOUT THE JOURNALIST

Hi! My name is Ashlyn Watson and this is my first year in SPUB. Last year, I was a student reporter for the University of Michigan's gymnastics and basketball teams. Journalism matters to me because I love to share the voices of others through writing, photography and videography.



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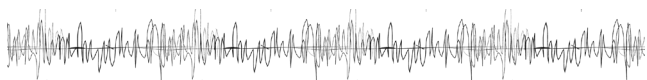


DRAWING UP A PLAN TO COMPETE

By Danny Heinen and Macey Chaulk, SHHS Student Journalists

At art competitions, creativity knows no bounds, and students showcase their talent to others who have similar interests.

These competitions inspire and ignite a spark of inspiration in the artist community. Simply attending the events and seeing the work of fellow students can easily captivate artists' and inspire them to improve on their own pieces.



Audrey Harris, a senior at Spring Hill High, had multiple pieces go to competitions, those being a graphite drawing of a lion, a watercolor painting of a peacock, and an oil pastel drawing of a bird. Their graphite lion was only sent to competition however, as they weren't able to attend due to them being a freshman at the time. They used criticism and a better understanding of how the competitions work to improve their works.



Mikayla Duncan, 11th, using colored pencil for a drawing assignment.

"Being able to go and see everyone else's artwork is very inspiring," said Mikayla Duncan, 11th. "It really makes you reflect on your own artwork and take what you've seen and put it into your new pieces."

Duncan said that putting up their artwork was stressful as they were unable to stop thinking about the critiquing happening around them, but walking around and viewing the art of other attendees was fun for them as they liked to listen to people complimenting pieces and admiring the artwork. Duncan had this experience with a graphite art piece of their dog that they created; an older lady complimented their piece and said it resembled a photograph.

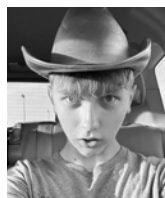


Audrey Harris, 12th, working on one of her paintings. Harris is in painting III, making it her third semester of being in the class.

Duncan didn't earn a ribbon at the first show their piece went to and was expectedly very bummed out. However, their piece made it to another show and they earned a blue ribbon for their hard work and dedication. This is an experience that many other students encounter throughout the competitions they attend, and it can be an inspiration for them to continue doing what they're doing. Audrey Harris, 12th, claimed that their experience at one of the competitions gave them a better understanding of how the competitions work and how to use criticism.

"I'm one of the drawing and painting students so I work on sidewalk art, where they give you a theme there and you have to follow the theme to the best of your abilities and compete against the other schools," said Harris. "The ceramic kids do some sort of sculpture activity and I don't really know a lot about that, but it always looks really cool to watch."

Through both art classes and attending such competitions, these artists begin to learn from mistakes they made. Art competitions for this year don't begin until May 2024, which gives artists lots of time to focus on their craft. Veterans are able to use their past experiences as a reference for what they can improve on. As for underclassmen, they can receive help from both teachers and fellow artists.



ABOUT THE JOURNALIST

Hey! My name is Danny Heinen and I'm a sophomore at Spring Hill High. I'm in my first year in SPUB, and I love everything about it. I like to draw in my free time, as well as spend time with friends and family. I used to do backstage for the musical in my freshman year, and I'm currently in scholars bowl.



ABOUT THE JOURNALIST

Hi! I'm Macey Chaulk and this is my first year in SPUB. I've always had a passion for writing and it's just been a big part of my life. I am excited to be able to become more involved with the SPUB community. Outside of school, I am involved in soccer and enjoy reading, writing, and baking.

IN THE SHADOWS

By Faye Dent and Hannah Mueller, SHHS Student Journalists

The high school put on *'The Music Man'* this year which featured lots of technical components completed by crew, some actors, and mainly, the stage managers.

This year's stage managers were Sav Bard, 12th, as the head, and Mikayla Duncan, 11th, and Addelyn Horne, 11, as the assistant stage managers. This was Horne's first year stage managing.

"I truly have had so much fun, and I have learned so much just from the other two stage managers. It has been such a huge learning curve for me, and I have done things I wouldn't have done if I wasn't a stage manager," Horne said.

The other two stage managers have experience stage managing for the shows at the high school. There's a huge process that goes into stage management as a whole, especially at the high school level.

"My job has been basically the same. At the beginning, we sit and block everything that happens on the stage. We move on to lines, so when [actors] are off book and they call 'line,' we mark that down so they know what to go over. I have been head of the backstage for the past four shows. I make a backstage scene change list, I assign people to them, and I keep track of all set pieces," Duncan said.

Sav Bard, head stage manager, has managed for several shows, starting with community theater. They have stage managed for several shows through Madison Avenue Performing Arts, a local community theater program in Spring Hill.

"The normal rehearsal process is first to get there, last ones to leave. We take attendance, make sure everyone's doing okay, we take blocking notes if it's a blocking rehearsal, we take line notes. It's not that hard, but it does have its complications to it."

The stage management team divides and conquers for the backstage tasks that need to be done. Sometimes, they'd even stand in for an actor or two and assist directors and actors onstage.

Tech week is the week leading up to the show days. It's a time where all technical aspects of the show: lights, sound, set changes, costumes, makeup, and hair meet actors. Each stage manager has a different reason for getting into it.

"I had done theater back in middle school. I did four shows where I was onstage, but I had always admired the backstage part. My mom used to tell me all the things she used to do as a stage manager when she was in high school. I wanted to do that. When I got to high school, I wanted to [be a stage manager] and now I'm still here," Duncan said.

As a whole, stage managers do a lot for shows, not just at the high school, but in other community theater programs as well. The stage manager's job is never done, and it's important that actors and directors don't take advantage of them, because of how much they do for the theater.



(Above) Horne paints a bookshelf that was used in SHHS fall production of *"The Music Man."* (Photo by D. Phan)

Duncan helps apply eyeliner to cast member Zachary Vasser, 11th, before a full run of the show. (Photo by A. Albright)



ABOUT THE JOURNALIST

Hi! My name is Faye Dent and I'm a senior at SHHS. I am the lead copy editor on our publications staff, as well as a staff writer. I enjoy theater, I do both onstage and backstage. Alongside journalism, I enjoy writing for fun, hanging out with my friends and family and listening to music.



ABOUT THE JOURNALIST

Hi, my name is Hannah Mueller and I'm a junior at SHHS. I am currently one of the copy editors on our staff as well as a staff writer. Along with journalism, I involve myself in a ton of theater and also play volleyball. In my free time, I enjoy spending as much time as I can with my friends.



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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CLASS OF 2003

(Right) Excerpt from the Spring Hill High School 2003 yearbook, the first year that the broadcasting program began.



MALLORY LOVELL

I graduated in 2003 and attended JCCC, then transferred to UMKC to get my undergraduate degree in middle school education with an emphasis in mathematics. I earned my master's degree from Fort Hays State University in instructional technology.

I currently teach PE at California Trail Middle School. I'm also the head cheer coach and head girls track coach. This is my 16th year of working in education, but only my second year of teaching PE. Prior to teaching PE, I taught all levels of math in the middle school grades.

When the broadcasting program first started, it was very exciting! I really enjoyed the video announcements, and they added so much to the culture and climate of the school. It took a while to get used to the equipment, but it was fun to figure it out!

I will never forget one time when we were in the process of recording the announcements and we took a break and one of the anchors forgot to turn on their microphone when using the restroom! When the student walked back into the room, there was an eruption of laughter, it was one of those silly mistakes that we learned from. I was so lucky to be able to a part of the broadcasting program!

On the Tube

New class gives students broadcasting opportunities

With the addition of a broadcasting class, students got the chance to not only learn how to direct and report news, but also how to operate the plethora of technology it takes to make a complete broadcast.

Many different jobs were involved in putting a broadcast together. The director received the morning announcements and organized them according to anchor responsibilities. Ali Wells, junior, said directing was her favorite position, "because I get to be in control."

Teleprompting was another important job. "Through a computer and a mirror, the teleprompter allows the anchors to see and read the announcements. The person operating the teleprompter

controls how fast the text goes," said Sierra Healy, senior.

The responsibilities of tech director consisted of putting transitions between the two anchors and making sure that all of the video came in on time. Jared Robinson, senior, said, "Tech director is my favorite job because you have control of everything."

Sound and audio tech was often described as the most difficult job. Dylan Hoffman, junior, said, "Audio tech is a difficult job because you have to make sure that everything sounds good, because if it looks good but the sound isn't good, then it's pointless."

As with any group effort, collaboration was needed to make the production a success and teach students the importance of team work.

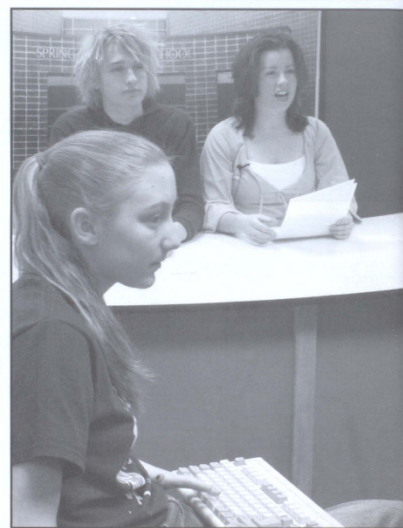


Jared Robinson, senior, films the if/then video. "I like filming because I can be creative and express myself with the camera," said Robinson. (photo by Sierra Healy)



Elizabeth Huggins, junior, prepares Gorman Whitman for an interview on sleep deprivation. Whitman was asked questions such as whether she got more sleep in high school than she does now. (photo by Lisa Curry)

In a run-through taping, Mallory Simmons, senior, controls the teleprompter, which allows anchors Paul Nickel and Sierra Healy, seniors, to read the script. (photo by Lisa Curry)



Academics. Tradition with a Twist.

A New Horizon



"[One of the most difficult things about filming] is a lot of times getting students to go on camera to interview." Elizabeth Huggins, junior (photo by Lisa Curry)



"[Like this job [editing videos] more than any other job because it is more of a behind-the-scenes job." Dylan Hoffman, junior (photo by Sierra Healy)



"[If running the VCR] is one of the lower jobs. I don't like it because it is boring, but it keeps the world turning." Jennifer Farnsworth, senior (photo by Lisa Curry)



"Anchoring is my favorite job because it's the easiest." Jessica Dziadura, junior (photo by Laura Prince)



When working on editing a video, Jared Robinson, senior, said, "I really enjoy editing because it allows me to be creative." (photo by Sierra Healy)



Paul Nickel, senior, takes the job as teleprompter. (photo by Sierra Healy)



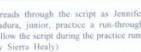
"Filming is one of the more enjoyable aspects of broadcasting," said Ali Wells, junior. (photo by Lisa Curry)



Tech director, Jared Laughlin, senior, reviews the script so he will know when to transition from camera 1 to camera 2. (photo by Sierra Healy)



Director Mallory Simmons, senior, reads through the script as Jennifer Farnsworth, senior, and Jessica Dziadura, junior, practice a run-through broadcast. Often the director would follow the script during the practice runs to ensure a smooth taping. (photo by Sierra Healy)



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