

# The Eagles' Eyrie



Mills E. Godwin High School  
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# Godwin Senior gives back to community

## Sarah Welch supports Wounded Warrior Project with Theatre



photo Ava MacBlane

L to r: senior Sarah Welch, junior Lydia Logsdon, senior Brittany Alley, junior Mason Jett, and senior Davis West are amongst the crew members that have been practicing all summer to make sure their production was a success.

### Sarah Burroughs Assistant Editor-in-Chief

The Godwin Theatre Program has been an integral part of the Godwin Community for a number of years. It has positively affected the lives of students, teachers, parents, and those both within and outside the Godwin community.

Godwin senior Sarah Welch is one of the numerous students whose high school career has been shaped by Godwin theatre, and she is eager to give back.

Welch has participated in Godwin plays and musicals throughout her high school years, including *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, *Fools, The Addams Family*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and more.

She credits her involvement in the program to both her close friendships and her growing passion for music and theatre.

"In every production I have been involved in, I have gotten closer to these people. You learn so much about one another and we are all so closely knit," said Welch.

As a senior this year, Welch feels it is necessary to give back to the program that means so much to her.

"I see this as my senior project for Godwin Theatre. I really want to do something to not only give back, but inspire more people to join as I and many other seniors in the program are departing at the end of this year," said Welch.

For her project, Welch chose

to take on the challenge of producing and directing a bonus play that will take place in the second week of September.

"I first thought of the idea in November and approached principal Leah Dunavant and theatre teacher and director of Godwin productions Todd Coolidge over winter break with the idea. They both loved it and the project took off from there," said Welch.

The play is *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. It will show on September 14 and 15. The production is a nine-person cast and is described by Welch as a stand up comedy with improvisation scattered intermittently throughout the production.

"I loved this play from the moment I first looked into it. It is absolutely hilarious and guarantees a laugh. There is quite a bit of improv, which is different from a lot of our productions, and there is, of course, some audience participation," said Welch.

Welch had to buy rights to the play as well as the script, cast the play, schedule rehearsals and the space to do so, handle the building of a set, and run the project as a whole.

Both the cast, Welch, and her mentors have given a large amount of time to the completion of this project thus far, showing up at Godwin at 9:30 am four days a week to rehearse and perfect the production over the summer.

"It was definitely equally, or maybe even more, of a chal-

lenge as I expected. It has taken huge amounts of persistence, concentration, and dedication from not only my part, but from everyone involved. I could not be more impressed with everyone's dedication to this project," said Welch.

Throughout the project, Welch's appreciation for the theatre has grown exponentially.

"I know that by doing this project I would have an effect other people, but I had no idea how much it would affect me personally," said Welch.

In previous productions Welch had been focusing on a single aspect of a play or musical, most commonly the acting element. However, this experience has exposed her to the myriad of other equally important aspects of a theatre production.

"I never knew how many other things were going on beyond the visible stage. The tech, lights, sound, music, set changes, etc. This experience has enabled me to see a play as the whole production that it is, not simply the one element I see on stage," said Welch.

While admission to the play will be free for all, Welch elected to make all suggested donations made at the play charitable to the Wounded Warrior Project. Wounded Warrior Project is a charity dedicated to providing aid and recovery programs to injured veterans.

"I chose this charity because the cause is very near to my heart. I think our veterans de-



Senior Sarah Welch serve more recognition for the amazing work that they do, both on and off the battlefield. My great grandfather was a World War Two hero, my grandfather served in Vietnam, and I had an uncle die while serving the country. The military is a part of my family, and I feel blessed to have the opportunity to support them," said Welch.

Welch is excited to see what impact the play will have on the student body and hopes that it will bring laughs and smiles to students, parents, and staff amongst the often stressful back to school season.

Welch hopes that when students see that a high school senior can produce and direct a successful play, they will not only be inspired to try out and join Godwin theatre, but to pursue their own aspirations as well.

"This venture has taught me so much, I can't put it all into words. I hope that the final product does not only bring smiles to every face in the audience, but confidence in themselves to go after their own goals," said Welch.

# New Counselor takes Godwin by Storm

**Kaitlin Dunn**  
*Online advisor*

For most, it is rare to change career paths or college majors after finding success in a certain field. Most people go to college for one thing and then stay in that field for the rest of their career. This isn't the case, however, for Ros Runner.

Runner will be leaving his position as a meteorologist for NBC12 to work as a counselor at Godwin.

While converting from meteorologist to counselor may seem like a significant change, Runner claims the two paths are more alike than they are different.

"When you work in television and you're working in a news environment or doing weather, weather can suddenly become severe and you have to break into broadcasting. So I think [school counseling] is similar in the fact that they both have the potential for that same sense of urgency because a student can come to you and need your help and attention," said Runner.

While it may seem to some that going from doing TV weather to being a school counselor is a drastic change, this isn't the first time Runner has worked with students in an educational setting.

Runner obtained his undergraduate degree in Psychology at the College of William and Mary, a masters degree in Counselor Education at Virginia Commonwealth University, and a Masters in Geosciences with a concentration in meteorology at Mississippi State University.

After obtaining his undergraduate degree, Runner worked in business before deciding to return to school to pursue his Geosciences degree.

Following his master's degree in Geosciences, Runner eventually decided to pursue his goal of helping students through teaching.

"I had had my degree for about seven years, and then I took another job in TV weather here in Richmond working for NBC12, and it was sort of like a bucket list. So now that I've accomplished that, I wanted to use my degree in counseling to give back in a different way and work with students," said Runner.

As Runner goes through the transitional period, he is learning, "a tremendous amount. It's a challenging transition from what I did in television, but it's very rewarding."

Runner taught Earth Sciences at Hermitage High School for two years and mainly credits



photo google

Runner on NBC12 giving the daily weather report.

this for his desire to change his career.

"When I was in high school, my school counselor was always someone I could come to with a question. But what was an even bigger influence [in becoming a counselor] was when I was a teacher... I had students who needed more help than I could give them as a teacher, and I always thought it was great that they had a counselor as a resource," said Runner.

When Runner decided to pursue a career in school coun-

seling, he already knew that he wanted to help students. The only thing he had to decide was which group of students he wanted to work with.

"I thought I could help high school kids with getting ready to make that transition - either to college or whatever it is they want to do in life. I have three degrees, but I also recognize that that isn't for everyone. With all the life experience I have, I thought I could be more beneficial to high school kids," Runner.

# Changes around Godwin

**Julianna Jett**  
*Online Editor*

This summer, Godwin underwent its annual renovations.

Major areas of the school such as the commons, library, and auditorium were the main focuses of the remodeling.

The commons and the library received new tiles in the ceilings and the wood paneling was painted white in order to brighten the room.

LED lights were installed in both areas and some classrooms to augment the brighter feel and to help compensate for the lack of windows. Those lights are now connected to motion sensors and are overall more cost effective.

"The LED lights are a more efficient method of lighting. The lights are also better for the environment," said Dunavant.

Both the library was re-carpeted and the carpeting outside the auditorium was torn up and replaced with new tiling.

Other renovations to the library began last school year with the addition of new technologies.

"We have put a lot of money into the idea of remodeling the library to make it look more 21st century as we have already placed new technologies such as the Bright Board and the green screen. We want our library to be on top of the new technological changes going on in our society," said Dunavant.

During the summer, the interior was not the only aspect of Godwin touched up. After heavy rain initially delaying the project, the parking lot has finally been paved.



photo Asha Hayes

Repaving areas of the parking lot was supposed to happen earlier this year, but due to all the rain it had to be postponed until the last few weeks of August.

New changes have also been made to the schedule of the school week. The faculty has decided to end homeroom DEAR.

This school year, students will be seeing new faces around the hallways. 15 new teachers have joined the Godwin nest.

"We are excited to have new folks in the building this year. It is always good to have new and fresh ideas, and it is great to have the energy and excitement that new folks bring!" said Dunavant.

Throughout the year, new and improved quality water fountains will be installed in the commons, main hallway, and gym hallway.

Fortunately for the school, all of this was made possible due to tax money.

Every time community members eat at a restaurant in Henrico, part of the tax money from that meal goes to schools for renovations. The tax money will also be used to renovate



photo Ben Grott

In addition to new carpeting, the library also has LED lights. Godwin's Axelle Stadium with turf for the 2019-2020 school year. Another change regarding the schedule is that the pep rally, usually held on the first Friday of the school year, was held on the first day.

According to Dunavant, the change was made in order to make the first day more exciting for the faculty, staff, and stu-

dents, and to ignite school spirit and a sense of community. The changes at Godwin are also ongoing as more areas are being painted, and new suggestions are being made.

"We are exploring a number of other projects. If students have suggestions, I am all ears," said Dunavant.

## Eagle's Eyrie

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**or the Eagles' Eyrie.**

## Fall sports previews

### Football to tackle new season



photo courtesy Thor Macht

**Last year's Record:** 6-5

**Head coach:** Ron Strine

**Key players:** Brian Carroll, Will Shulleeta, Adam & Will Ballard, Spencer Rife, Austin Pitts, Finn Lee, and Charlie Stanton

**Key players Lost:** Sam McRoberts, Nick Aaron, Sean Bowers, Traneil Moody, and Andy Barnett

**Important games:** Deep Run

**Coach quote:** "Hopefully we learned from last season what it takes to be successful and continue with the same work habits," said Strine.

### Golf is set for a hole-in-one season



photo courtesy Hunter Thomas

**Last year's record:** 9-4

**Head coach:** Hunter Thomas

**Key players:** Charlie Kennedy, Jacob Vernon, Ari Lehman, James Howe, and Zach Smith

**Key player lost:** Diana Do-

**Important game:** Regionals

**Coach's quote:** "A very strong team is able to compete with anyone. Look for us at states," Coach Hunter Thomas.

### Girls Volleyball serves up their competition



photo courtesy Thor Macht

**Last year's record:** 17-7

**Head coach:** Chris Wakefield

**Key players:** Carmen Wright, Aggie Hughes, Katlyn McNeel, Hanna Cillo, Veronica Chobotova, and Charlotte Clyde

**Key player lost:** Ava Stokes

**Important games:** Season opener against Deep Run

**Coach quote:** "We should be a very solid team this year. We will be very exciting to watch this year and we would love to have the student body support," said Wakefield.

### Field Hockey to stick it to opponent



photo Ava MacBlane

**Last year's record:** 11-3

**Head coach:** Clara Roman

**Key players:** Malone McGhee, Caroline Godkin, Anna Hundley, Maddie Grega, Gracie Matz, and Ashley Ford

**Key players lost:** key forward, Goalie, and Defensive Midfielder

**Important games:** Deep Run, Maggie Walker, and Glen Allen

**Coach quote:** "We have a

team that has speed, power, skill, and the mental toughness to take on anything that comes our way," said Roman.

### Cross Country looks to make positive strides during the season



photo courtesy Kemper Towler

**Last year's record:** Boys finished 7th in the region, Girls finished 5th in the region.

**Head coaches:** Katie Spicer and Kemper Towler

**Key runners:** Ryan Newman

and Lucas Cusick, Ellie Jeffery, Blaker Henderson, Caroline Hedrick, and Ria Misra

**Key runners lost:** "We have lost depth throughout the whole team."

**Important meets:** Regionals and States

**Coach quote:** "We have more freshmen than ever before. We have depth," said Towler.

### Boys Volleyball strikes towards successful year



photo Ava MacBlane

**Last year's record:** 10-10

**Head coach:** Conner Hicks

**Key players:** Patrick Lyons, James Lesniak, and Ethan Joynt

**Key players Lost:** James Carroll, Cory O'Shea, and Sumner Levenson

**Important game:** Deep Run

**Coach quote:** "You should expect to see us compete at a high level this year. We have eight seniors so I will be relying on their leadership in our big matches," said Hicks.

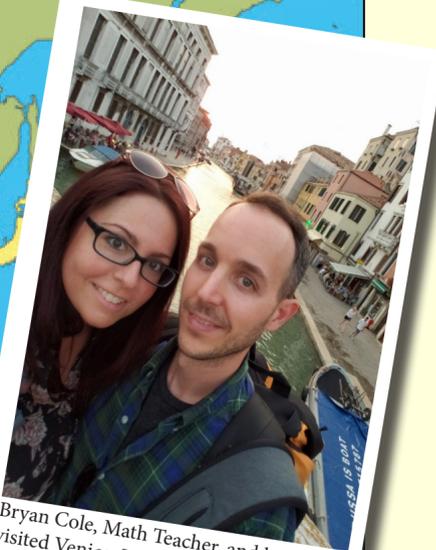
# Teachers Around the Globe



Jenny Andrews, Exceptional-Ed teacher, on a cruise to view the Hubbard Glacier in Yakutat Bay, Alaska.



Stephanie Koplits (right), School Counseling Secretary, outside The Parliament building in Budapest, Hungary.



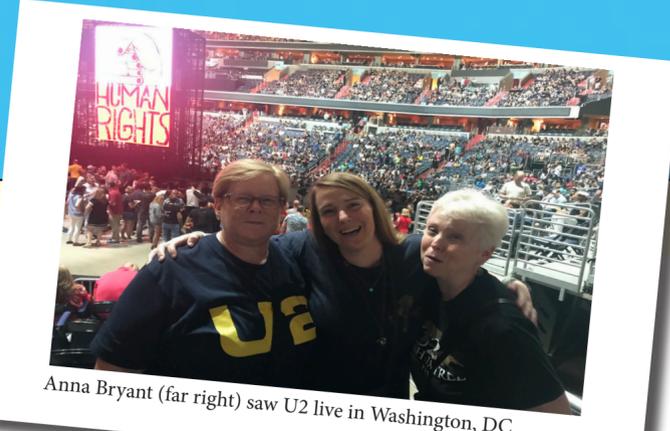
Bryan Cole, Math Teacher, and his fiancée visited Venice, Italy this summer.



New English teacher Katie Wood (Mrs. Spicer) married Drew Spicer and honeymooned in Honolulu.



Maria Buruss, Spanish teacher, visited Cristo de la Concordia in Cochabamba, Bolivia.



Anna Bryant (far right) saw U2 live in Washington, DC



Rob White, Math teacher, visited The Coliseum.



For more vacation, baby, and wedding pictures visit [godwineagles.org](http://godwineagles.org)

## FEATURES

# Welcoming new teachers to the nest



**Name:** Drew Austen

**Position/Subject:** Oceanography

**Interesting fact:** I was born in England and have visited exactly 100 different countries to date.

**Advice for students:** Define yourself by what you love.

**Hobbies:** I'm currently writing a book for parents to teach their children critical thinking skills.

**College:** VCU for two Bachelor's degrees, VCU for first Master's degree, University of Richmond for second Master's degree



**Name:** Katie Spicer

**Position/Subject:** English 12

**Interesting fact:** I went to Godwin! Class of 2012!

**Advice for students:** Put yourself out there and don't be afraid to try something new. Take advantage of all of the opportunities you have here at Godwin.

**Favorite part of Godwin:** Everyone at Godwin is a family. This is a very special community, and I'm so excited to be here!

**College:** VCU



**Name:** April Raimo

**Position/Subject:** Registered Nurse

**Interesting fact:** I graduated from Godwin in 2004.

**Advice for students:** Make it your best year yet!

**Favorite part of Godwin:** The community!

**College:** Bryant and Stratton College for Associates degree, WGU for Bachelors and Masters degrees.



**Name:** Josh Young

**Position/Subject:** English 9 and English 11

**Interesting fact:** I have an incredible, and priceless, air-guitar collection.

**Advice for students:** Find a few close friends who you can be yourself around.

**Favorite part of Godwin:** I love that it really feels like a family here.

**College:** West Virginia University



**Name:** Nancy Barrett

**Position/Subject:** School Counselor

**Interesting fact:** I worked at Godwin from 1982 until 2003.

**Advice for students:** You create your own future.

**Favorite part of Godwin:** School spirit!

**College:** Longwood College and VCU



**Name:** Nick Dzienny

**Position/Subject:** Physics and Geometry

**Interesting fact:** I have ridden as a volunteer EMT for years in Henrico.

**Advice for students:** Be curious and keep an open mind.

**Favorite part of Godwin:** Because of the temperature aberration, I can wear winter fashion all year round!

**College:** VCU



**Name:** Matthew LaMotte

**Position/Subject:** Technology Education Woodworking, Photography

**Interesting fact:** I graduated from Godwin.

**Advice for students:** Carpe Diem!

**Favorite part of Godwin:** Woodshop.

**College:** Virginia Tech



**Name:** John Hendrix

**Position/Subject:** English 12C

**Interesting fact:** I'm the first member of my family that was born in the USA.

**Advice for students:** Have fun and learn as much as possible.

**Favorite part of Godwin:** The welcoming atmosphere and positivity.

**College:** VCU

# FEATURES

## Welcoming new teachers to the nest



**Name:** Caroline Velazquez  
**Position/Subject:** Art  
**Interesting fact:** My Senior Superlative was "Most Spirited"  
**Advice for students:** Find your inspiration and lean into your gifts.  
**Favorite part of Godwin:** The students are wonderful, excited to learn, and go on to do great things.  
**College:** JMU

**Name:** Chris Conti  
**Position/Subject:** World History I and US History  
**Interesting fact:** I am an only child.  
**Advice for students:** Enjoy your time in high school while you can.  
**Favorite part of Godwin:** The overall support and family-like atmosphere from the faculty and students.  
**College:** College of William & Mary



**Name:** Ros Runner  
**Position/Subject:** School Counselor  
**Interesting fact:** I have spent most of the last 20 years as a television meteorologist.  
**Advice for students:** Work hard and do your best, but have some fun along the way!  
**Favorite part of Godwin:** Everyone has been extremely friendly and welcoming!  
**College:** College of William & Mary, Mississippi State University, VCU

**Name:** Kevin Simonds  
**Position/Subject:** Exceptional Education, Algebra 1  
**Interesting fact:** Been all over the world except for Australia and South Pole.  
**Advice for students:** Doesn't matter... Get better!  
**Favorite part of Godwin:** Football  
**College:** Randolph-Macon College, UVA



**Name:** Nicole Hansinger  
**Position/Subject:** School Counseling Director  
**Interesting fact:** I have a Brittany Spaniel puppy.  
**Advice for students:** Be open-minded to new opportunities and do more of the things you love.  
**Favorite part of Godwin:** How friendly and welcoming the Godwin family has been.  
**College:** Virginia Tech

**Name:** Jake Oliver  
**Position/Subject:** Exceptional Education, Biology 2, Geometry  
**Interesting fact:** I make a mean pork BBQ.  
**Advice for students:** Go to every sporting event, dance, and extra curricular activity.  
**Favorite part of Godwin:** The front office staff  
**College:** VCU



**Name:** Katherine Wells  
**Position/Subject:** IA Instructional Assistant  
**Interesting fact:** I love children and animals.  
**Advice for students:** Make it a great year.  
**Favorite part of Godwin:** Staff  
**College:** Brevard Community College

# Freshmen give advice to Seniors

Yes, you read that right

**How do seniors balance work and school?**

“Make a plan and stick to it.”

**What should a senior do to get into their dream school?**

“Study and don’t party too much.”



**Owen Mega**



**Ryan Poquis**

**How should seniors balance work and school?**

“Get a planner or an agenda to help stay organized.”

**How can a senior avoid senioritis?**

“Go to the gym every week.”



**Molly Stein**

**How can a senior win Senior Assassin?**

“Don’t get shot.”

**How can a senior avoid senioritis?**

“Stay motivated and work hard.”

**How can a senior ask someone to prom?**

“Try not to be a jerk.”

**What should a senior do to get into their dream school?**

“Work hard and spend more time studying than partying.”



**Caroline Kane**

**How can a senior win senior assassin?**

“Learn the other person’s schedule.”

**How can a senior avoid senioritis?**

“Don’t drink.”



**Emily Haueis**



**Aidan Beaumont**

**How can a senior win senior assassin?**

“Get some killer camo.”

**What can a senior do to get into their dream school?**

“Focus on multiple subjects instead of just one.”



**Daniel Phillip**

**How should a senior apply to colleges?**

“Just go wherever you want to.”

**How should a senior ask someone to prom?**

“Come up with a good pun.”

**How can a senior win senior assassin?**

“Be yourself”

**How can a senior ask someone to prom?**

“Make it a unique presentation.”



**Cece Emory**