

# Wildcat Roar

Feb. Edition 2022

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## Meet The New Teachers of Rocky Hill

**Mr. Jordan Patterson** 6 & 7 Studio Art, 8 Lights, Camera, Media



*Can you tell me a little about your background in education?*

I always wanted to be a teacher since I was young, but I also wanted to be a professional artist. Having the best of both worlds was a challenge but I did it! I went to *Baltimore School For The Arts* for high school and continued to *Parson School of Design* for college. While living in NYC I decided that I need to get k-12 art education under my belt. I decided to move to Baltimore City, and attend the Maryland Institute College of Art, Here I studied art but also art education. I was able to intern at 6 schools all over Maryland and this experience shaped me a lot. Finally, to top off my education I attended Towson University for my last degree. In total I did 7 years of college. All together this long college journey has allowed me to teach art but in an advanced way to all ages. Bringing traditional art practice into the middle school classroom and so far, my students love it! Working as an art curator and publisher outside of school has also helped me expand my knowledge for my students who want to go to art school or who wants to advance their knowledge in the arts. I didn't have the traditional education path that a normal teacher has but what I was given has allowed me to do a lot more in my classroom!

*How long have you been teaching?*

I have been teaching for 5 years, 4 years in private school and this is my first year in public school!

*What is your favorite thing about teaching?*

My favorite thing about teaching is making student connections and helping my students with navigating the world!

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

My older brother, who used to teach at Clarksburg High School, is my role model. He is the closest person to me in my life. I go to him for everything, and our relationship is the strongest I have in my life.

*Any advice for students at Rocky Hill?*

Always be yourself and don't be afraid to stand out!

*Would you like to share anything about your family?*

I grew up in a huge education family! Growing up I was always around teachers and the education system! My mother was a big part of the Maryland State Department of Education, and since 2008 she has owned her own school! So, it's no surprise that I ended up a teacher. My youngest brother is studying to teach as well, and even his boyfriend is in school to be a teacher! I love that my family is helping the future of our youth, and now that I am a part of it, I could never see myself doing a different job! If it wasn't for the amazing support from my parents and siblings, I wouldn't be the teacher I am today!

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

Covid 19 has had a huge effect on me as a teacher, First off covid 19 started when I was the Director of Fine Arts at a private school. This changed everything about school and how us as teachers had to teach and care for our students. Teaching art online was a challenge but with the amazing support of my team we overcame it! During these times I was no longer just a teacher, but also a caregiver, counselor, support system, and a friend to all my students and their families. Covid has had many negative outcomes but it has also brought together communities and shown that our students are strong and determined to learn in any environment!

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

I prefer in-person teacher over online any day! The connection I have and that I create with my students cannot be created over the zoom classroom. Also teaching art online is not the easiest thing to do. Being in the classroom and allowing my students to fully immerse themselves in creative thinking and problem solving is always the way to go! Being able to have a friend next to you to bounce ideas off of and get support while creating is an essential part of art making!

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

Students can stay safe and healthy during COVID 19 by wearing the proper face coverings and being cautious when out in the world. I believe that we can overcome this and that we will overcome this. Wear a mask, drink lots of water, and be safe! And if there are any problems students should know that I am here for them, and all RHMS staff are here for them! We as educators wake up every morning to come see you! And I wouldn't change it for the world!

## **Sticking Pencils and Pens on Walls**

By: Grace Lin

You might think that sticking pencils onto walls is just harmless fun. But in reality, you are actually damaging school property. When you stick a pencil or pen on the wall it isn't caused by "static electricity" it's actually caused by the paint on the walls. When you rub the pencil on the wall hard enough, it sticks to the paint and causes it to stick on to the wall. One proof is that after you stick a pencil or pen on the wall, you will see some white paint on the side of the pen that you rubbed against the wall. If you constantly rub on the same place, the paint will eventually disappear and reveal the less appealing inner wall. What is the point of harming school property for just some temporary fun.

## Winter Sports at RHMS

### GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM



Kelsey Miller  
Sofia Galvez  
Janelle Korsah  
Aroush Jamil  
Ella Chave  
Rihanna Prather

Victoria Cole  
Briana Dupree  
Destiny Turner  
Jada Burch  
Tyveyona Cloude  
Fatou Kande

The Lady Wildcats have a new Head Coach this year in Mr. Sullivan Phillips. Mr. Rau Doh is his top assistant. Ms. Tip has stepped back to be able to attend her own daughter's sports programs, but still helps when she can!

The Lady Wildcats are a quick paced and exciting team to watch! Guards Destiny Turner, Sofia Galvez, and Rhianna Prather lead the ladies in scoring and rebounding. Fatou Kande and Janelle Karsah take the center position. Kelsey Miller, Victoria Cole, Ty Claude, Brianna Dupress, Aroush Jamil, Jada Burch, and Ella Chavez come off the bench to provide much needed support and gameplay. All our ladies hustle after the ball, and create all kinds of havoc on defense. *Come support them in their final game of the season Thursday, February 17!*

## BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

The Men's basketball season started with tryouts December 7<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup> . Coach Shull shared there were 47 students that tried out and the names below made the roster. We are 2-2 with a 30-28 victory over Neelsville. We were led by Rahul Sanon and his 13 points. We look forward to completing the rest of our schedule.



Jude Amoakohene  
Jurem Cabrera  
Dominic Jenkins  
Taven Turner  
Steve Vargas

Mohamed Bah  
Jaime Galvez, Jr.  
Rahul Sanon  
Noah Vando  
Jayden Kule

### Safety in School

By: Olivia Lee

Staying safe in school is the most important thing as of now. Every student should be trying to stay as safe as they can while still attending school. As covid cases are rising rapidly after winter break, students should try their best to follow the safety rules.

*1. Wear your mask properly.*

Every student should be wearing their mask above their nose and tightly pinch the metal to your nose. Masks should be worn at all times, except when eating. Students should not be eating in class where it is filled with students. Wearing your mask consistently can help lower the covid cases.

*2. Wash your hands.*

Everyone should be washing their hands after every activity. After you use the restroom, after you touch something, after you go outside etc. Washing your hands can help remove germs off your hands.

*3. Disinfect your supplies/surroundings.*

When you lend someone your supplies, always clean them afterwards. Touching things that other people have touched already is an easy way for germs to spread. If there is time, students should also be cleaning their desks/tables so it stays clean for other students.

*4. No close contacts.*

No students should be having close contact with anyone. This includes, hugging, holding hands etc. During these times it is important we stay a certain distance from each other to ensure no germs are spreading on to one another.

*5. Quarantine.*

If you are tested positive, you should not be coming to school but instead quarantining yourself. Even though you are not attending school, you will be able to do your work through the check-ins and modules on MCPS classroom/Canvas.

Those were all the safety rules that every student should be following at all times, especially when the covid cases are rising.

## **Winter Desserts**

By: Olivia Lee

Winter break started on December 23rd all the way through January 1st. Winter break can get boring if you keep eating the same thing over and over again, so in order to spice up your winter break I will show you five different winter desserts.

### *Winter Dessert 1:*

Snowflake Cookies: 24 cookies, total time: 1 hour 45 minutes

Ingredients for the cookie dough: 3 c. all purpose flour, plus more for surface, 1 tsp. Baking powder , ½ tsp. Kosher salt, 1 c. (2 sticks) butter, softened, 1 c. granulated sugar, 1 tsp. Pure vanilla extract, 1 tbsp. Milk.

Ingredients for the royal icing: 3 c. powdered sugar, ¼ c. light corn syrup , ¼ c. milk, plus more for thinning, ¼ tsp. Almond (or pure vanilla) extract, Blue food coloring, Pearl sprinkles, for decorating.

#### Directions:

1. Make cookie dough: In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt.
2. In another large bowl using a hand mixer or the bowl of a stand mixer using the paddle attachment, beat butter and sugar until fluffy and pale in color. Add egg, milk, and vanilla and beat until combined. Add flour mixture gradually until totally combined.
3. Shape into a disk and wrap in plastic. Refrigerate for 1 hour.
4. When ready to bake, preheat the oven to 350 degrees and line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Lightly flour a clean work surface and roll out dough to ⅛" thick. Cut out snowflakes and transfer for baking sheets. Freeze for 10 minutes.
5. Bake cookies until the edges are lightly golden, 8 to 10 minutes. Let cool completely before icing.
6. Meanwhile, make icing: In a medium bowl, stir powdered sugar, corn syrup, milk, and almond extract. Add more milk a teaspoon at a time to thin, if necessary.
7. Transfer half the icing to a small bowl and tint with blue food coloring. Transfer both icings to two piping bags and ice cookies. Decorate with pearl sprinkles.



### *Winter dessert 2:*

Peppermint Bark: 12 servings, prep time: 10 minutes, total time: 50 minutes

Ingredients: 12 oz. semisweet chocolate, chopped, 12 oz. white chocolate, chopped, ½ tsp. Peppermint extract, 8 candy canes, crushed

#### Directions:

1. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Fill the bottom of a large pot with 3" water and bring to simmer over a medium heat.



Reduce heat to low, then place a large heatproof bowl on top. Add semi-sweet chocolate and stir occasionally until chocolate has melted. Stir in extract. Pour into the prepared baking sheet and spread into an even layer with an offset spatula. Refrigerate until set, about 20 minutes.

2. Over the same pot of barely simmering water, place another large heatproof bowl. Add white chocolate and stir until melted. Pour over set semi-sweet chocolate then top immediately with candy canes. Refrigerate until set, about 20 minutes.

### *Winter dessert 3:*

Chocolate Kisses Snowball Cookies: 24 cookies, prep time: 15 minutes, total time: 2 hours 25 minutes

Ingredients: 1 c. (2 sticks) butter, softened, 1 ½ c. powdered sugar, divided, 2 c. all-purpose flour, 1 tsp. Pure vanilla extract, 1 c. walnuts, very finely chopped, ½ tsp. Kosher salt, 2 tbsp. Water, 24 chocolate kisses, unwrapped

### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment.
2. In a large bowl using a hand mixer, cream together butter and ½ cup powdered sugar. Fold in flour, vanilla, nuts, salt, and water.
3. Mold 1 tablespoon cookie dough around each chocolate Kiss and roll into a ball. Chill for 1 hour.
4. Transfer to prepared baking sheets and bake for 20 to 25 minutes, until cookies look dry and have not taken on any color.
5. Cool cookies for 20 minutes, then roll in remaining 1 cup powdered sugar.



### *Winter dessert 4:*

Candy Cane Cheesecake: 8-10 slices, prep time: 30 minutes, total time: 8 hours

### Ingredients:

For the cheesecake: 3 8-oz. Bars cream cheese, softened, 1 c. sugar, 3 large eggs, ¼ c. sour cream, 1 tsp. Peppermint extract, 2 tbsp. All-purpose flour, 1 tsp. Kosher salt, ½ c crushed candy canes

For the crust: 1 sleeve graham crackers, finely crushed, 5 tbsp. Melted butter, ¼ c. sugar, Pinch of kosher salt, for the topping, Whipped cream, for dolloping, Crushed candy canes, for garnish

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees and grease an 8” or 9” springform pan with cooking spray. Wrap the bottom of the pan with aluminum foil and place on a baking sheet. Make cheesecake filling: In a large bowl using a hand mixer or in a stand mixer using the paddle attachment, beat cream cheese and sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, then sour cream, flour, peppermint extract, and salt. Gently fold in crushed candy canes.
2. Make crust: In a large bowl, mix together graham cracker crumbs, melted butter, sugar, and salt. Press mixture into prepared pan.
3. Pour filling over the crust. Bake until the center of the cheesecake only slightly jiggles, about 1 hour 30 minutes. (if you want to bake the cheesecake in a water bath, wrap the bottom of the pan and place in a deep baking pan. Pour in enough boiling water to come up halfway in the baking pan.) Turn off heat, open the oven door, and let cheesecake cool in the oven, 1 hour, then remove aluminum foil and refrigerate cheesecake in a pan until firm, at least 5 hours and up to overnight.
4. Add whipped cream along the border of cheesecake and sprinkle with crushed candy canes.



*Winter dessert 5:*

Santa Hat Cheesecake Bites: 8 pieces, prep time: 10 minutes, total time: 10 minutes

Ingredients: 1 plain cheesecake (homemade or store-bought), 1 ½ c. whipped cream or Cool Whip, 12 strawberries, tops sliced off

Directions:

1. Using a round biscuit cutter, punch holes out of cheesecake. (Depending on the size of cheesecake you should be able to get 8 to 12 cheesecake bites.)
2. Transfer whipped cream or Cool Whip to a piping bag and pipe a layer on top of cheesecake.
3. Top with strawberry, sliced side down.
4. Pipe a dot on top of strawberry and serve.



**SMOB Visit**

Our Student Member of the Board Hana O’ Looney visited our school in December.

Students had an opportunity to speak with her and ask questions about what is going on in MCPS.



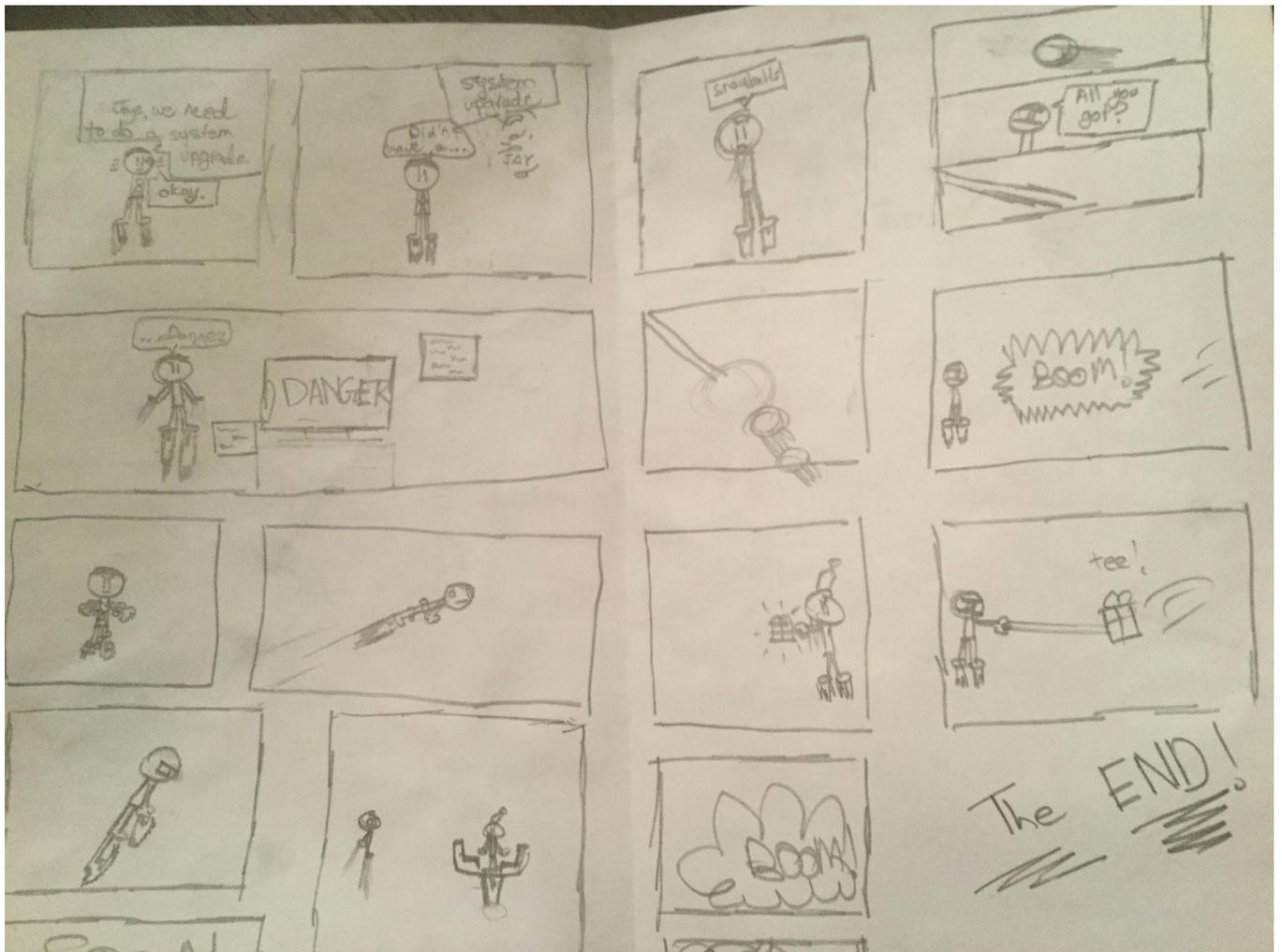
**Spring Sports** start soon March 8th. We will offer Boys and Girls Soccer. See Ms. Brouillard with any questions and make sure to get a physical.

## **GO WILDCATS!**

We also have many different clubs and after school activities available for our students. Get involved and have some fun.

### **Magnificent Man Comics**

**By: Jayaditya Buddan Ramesh**



*Magnificent Man is testing his suit and finds out there is a robotic evil clone Santa. MM has to fight the bomb throwing robotic Santa in order to save the world.*



*Magnificent Man asks his AI what the news is for the day. He finds out a villain named the Snow Monster is causing havoc in town. MM calls his sister Marvelous Kid for back-up. After fighting with the frost freezing snowman MM uses his flame throwers to defeat the snowman, put him in jail and save the day.*

**Our last Wildcat Roar edition will come out in May 2022.**