

# Fort Benton High School

# THE CANNON REPORT

FBHS Journalism

October 27, 2023

## Student Life

### FBHS Gains School Resource Officer

by Allyson Jacques (9th grade)

Fort Benton High School was lucky enough to gain an SRO (School Resource Officer) this past month, as Police Chief Adam Jacques stepped into the new position. Officer Jacques is a Veteran and has been in law enforcement for over 20 years. Jacques is planning on being in our school building two hours a

day, and additionally when he is needed. Officer Jacques will have his K9, Benny, a trained narcotics dog, alongside him.

Chief Jacques approached high school principal/superintendent, Mr. Hould, this past August and requested a possibility of “office hours” within the high school building. An official letter was written to discuss the lengths of an SRO, and it was shared at our school board meeting. Mr. Hould said, “Members of the School Board were very supportive of the idea, and they voted unanimously to accept the offer.” The results of the board meeting showed the members were thrilled about this idea.

As far as the K9 friend goes, Benny is a very friendly dog, and he loves to love on people and make his presence known. Chief Jacques says, “I’ve already seen positive reactions from students and teachers when they get to interact with [Benny] and love him.” Although Benny is a very loving dog, he is trained to do his job when needed.

Benny helps to make our school a hard target, which is an area that is well-protected and will be stronger than the threat. Adam wants people to know that, “I am there for them and will do anything in my power to protect them.”

From October 22-27th, Officer Jacques is attending an SRO training in Chicago, IL to get certified and learn more about this duty.

Chief Jacques wants to make this school year great and exciting. Chief Jacques hopes to build trusting relationships while he is in the school, he says, “The importance of me being in the school is earning trust and developing relationships with students so they feel comfortable talking to me,” Chief Jacques is a trusting officer and will make sure we are all safe.

### SRO & K9 Benny



Since the end of September, Officer Jacques has been present in the school as our new School Resource Officer, along with Benny, a certified narcotics dog. The goal is to keep the school a safe environment, and gain a positive relationship between law enforcement and students.



# Student Life

## A Memorable Senior Night at FBHS

by Max Manning (11th grade)

The atmosphere at Fort Benton High School was filled with excitement, nostalgia, and bittersweet emotion as seniors, their families, and much of the school and community gathered for the fall senior honor nights on October 13th and 14th, 2023. This cherished tradition marked the culmination of four years of hard work, growth, and unforgettable memories for the graduating class of 2023.

Seniors, dressed in their respective uniforms, walked through a tunnel of applause and cheers as they were introduced, and then they participated in their final home events of the regular fall seasons. Both the volleyball and football teams came away with victories on their home courts. Also honored was cheer and cross country.

For many seniors, this was a night that marked the hard work and dreams they have had since they were young children. "I started high school cheerleading my freshman year, I had wanted to do cheer since 5th grade, so it was almost a dream come true for me," Dakota Campion declared. "Though the cheer team in Colorado was fantastic I would say that Fort Benton beats that. I felt more included cause it was a smaller team and all of the girls were very nice, and with my past cheer comp experience I was able to have a bit of input when it came to stunts and tumbling."

The event was not just about acknowledging athletic accomplishments, but also celebrating the bonds formed and the memories created. The school's gymnasium was adorned with banners, photos, and mementos showcasing the students' involvement in various clubs, sports, and extracurricular activities.

Senior Night was not just a farewell but a celebration of the bright future awaiting these young graduates. Their collective spirit and determination inspired the entire school community, reaffirming the belief that they are

well-prepared for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The seniors honored are as follows:

Football: Cade Ball, Brock Grossman, Damian Ort

Volleyball: Laela Borero, Casha Corder, Kylynn Nack, Lina Vaughn

Cross Country: Brock Grossman, CJ Griffin, Katie Cline

Cheer: Alli MacDonald, Dakota Campion, Layla Morgan



*Congrats, Seniors!*

# Sports

## Cross Country Wraps Up Season at Rebecca Farm

by Kailyn Rominger (10th grade)

The cross country season came to an end this past weekend on October 21st, with the state meet held in Kalispell at Rebecca Farm. The Fort Benton team placed in the top 10, and coach Jacob VanEvery - who coached cross country for the first time this year - said that he “really enjoyed seeing the kids progress throughout the year.” Each of the athletes improved this season with multiple P.R.s (personal records), and 11 out of 12 runners qualified to compete at the state competition.

Coach VanEvery said that this first season of coaching cross country was great, and expressed how much he enjoyed getting to know some of his students better outside of the classroom. He said that the best part of coaching cross country this year was, “seeing the kids set their mind to something and then achieve their goal.”

Unfortunately, not everyone ran their best at state - in fact, many of the runners thought it was one of their worst races - but Coach VanEvery was still, “extremely pleased with our state performance this year!” Many runners faced injuries that knocked them out of practice for several weeks, and it hindered their performance at the big meet.

VanEvery said there are always things to improve on, though, both on his side and the athletes’. He would like to work on making his expectations more clear and improve on his communication skills with the runners. As for the team, he would like for runners to be more conditioned. He says that cross country is a difficult sport, but, “most of our athletes were able to excel this year.”

Overall, the Longhorns experienced much success this year. They will miss graduating seniors Brock Grossman, CJ Griffin, and Katie Cline, but have some new young talent coming up!

# Student Life

## Fort Benton Band and Choir Begins New Playing Season

by Christine Banks (9th grade)

Fort Benton High School has pulled together a complete choir and band group. Our band and choir is led by the returning director Kathleen England for the second year. Our pep band has been practicing hard since the first day of school and they have played for all of the home football and volleyball games, and they will be playing again for the post season in the coming weeks.

Despite small numbers, the pep band is said by many to be one of the best sounding pep bands in the area, something Fort Benton has always prided themselves on. The kids that are doing band are much appreciated and they are great players that give all of the audience members entertainment during the games.

According to MyCal Lane, who is a following student in the HS Pep Band, “Our high-school band this year is quite small compared to other years, but we are still able to manage by pulling together and playing our hardest.”

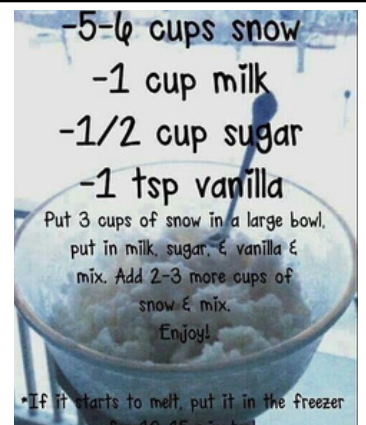
The middle school and high school bands will have winter concerts in December, and spring concerts later on, giving the community a chance to see these young musicians play a different tempo of music.

Possibly for the first time in a very long time, the choir is made up of all gentlemen. Logan Peterson, Riley Grossman, and Silas Lewis are the strongholds for choir this year. They will be also performing at the winter and spring concerts.

*First Snow of the season:*

10/24/23

## Snow Ice Cream





# Student Life

## FBHS Celebrates Homecoming Week Festivities

by Braydee Lehman (9th grade)

This year's Disney themed homecoming week was September 25th through the 29th.

Throughout the week, we students participated in events such as corn hole, powderpuff football, boys volleyball, class competitions, and much more.

On Monday, the dress up theme was anything but a backpack day. In the evening, the student council hosted a corn hole tournament and the bonfire, with David Olson and Truman Giese winning the tournament and winning points for their team. Casha Corder and Addison Reichelt placed second, splitting points for the junior and senior classes.

Tuesday was Red Carpet/Glam day, and it was also the day for some powderpuff football and the first day of door decorating! The seniors and freshman teamed up against the juniors and sophomores, and the senior/freshmen team defeated the sophomore/junior squad 12-6.

On Wednesday, everyone wore their western attire for Western Wednesday. That night, the boys tried their hand at volleyball; it was a spectacle to remember. The freshmen boys pulled a big upset over the seniors in the semifinals to advance to the championship. The sophomore boys beat the juniors in the semifinals, and advanced to the championship as well. In the consolation, the seniors topped the juniors for 3rd place, and the sophomores defeated the freshmen in the championship match.

Thursday was supposed to be rhyme without reason day, but due to a water main break, we were unable to have school. We made up the dress up day the following Friday. However, the water line break did not stop volleyball from happening. The Lady Longhorns defeated the Box Elder Bears in their volleyball game, and on Friday night, the Longhorn football team defeated the Harlem Wildcats as well.

## Yearbooks!

We have extra Pioneer Yearbooks for sale for \$55.00! If you would like to purchase one, email Miss Woodhouse

@

[mwoodhouse@fortbenton.k12.mt.us](mailto:mwoodhouse@fortbenton.k12.mt.us)



You can pick them up from Miss Woodhouse's classroom!



### Homecoming Festivities:

FBHS Celebrated a fun-filled week, full of dress up days, boys volleyball, girls football, the parade, class competitions, and varsity wins for football over Harlem and volleyball over Box Elder. The senior class came out victorious and won homecoming week, narrowly defeating the sophomores. GO HORNS!



# Middle School Sports

## Middle School Basketball Kicks Off

by Riley Layne (9th grade)

As the fall season comes to an end, the winter season swiftly approaches. Middle school girls and boys basketball started up these past couple of weeks, and both teams have already played games.

Starting on Monday, October 9th, the Middle School girls basketball team began practicing; they are coached again this year by Rheanna Fultz, Shannon Grossman, but welcome volunteer Kim Hibl to the coaching staff. There are a total of eleven 8th graders and four 7th graders on the team this year. The boys team started the following week

According to Coach Rheanna Fultz, they will be focusing more on rebounding, quick transitions, shooting, as well as how the players body language is on and off the court this year. As stated by Coach Fultz, the girls already have a good feel when it comes to offense, which is a good skill to have. Coach Fultz said "Overall, these girls have a desire to play and they are fiery at practice. I think we should compete well with the other teams in our league, and we have a goal to get first this year in our conference."

8th grade basketball player, Lily Ferris stated, "I feel great about how it's going to go, and I'm proud of how far our team has come and personally I'm really excited for what the future holds for us!"

The boys team started a week later on October 16th; this was due to the middle school football season ending on October 13th. They are coached again by Megan Lords and Cali O'Hara, and will be joined by volunteer and new varsity head coach, Hardy O'Hara.

There are eleven boys on the squad this year with three returning 8th graders and eight 7th graders. Coach Lords stated, "I plan on working on defense with the boys. They need to work on defending not only their guy but also

watching the others in order to help out their teammates. If they can get the defense side down, the offense will come easy. We will also be working on teamwork because we have different levels of players. They need to all work together in order to get better, so the more advanced players need to help the lower levels."

The middle school team will be led by 8th graders, Brooks Diekhans, John Goldhahn, and Kelton Vielleux.

Even though the season has only just begun our coaches have high hopes for our basketball players. Both coach Lords, and coach Fultz have high hopes, so we must as well. So as the season begins we wish our boys and girls the best of luck, and we hope they have a great season.



### The Best Band in the Land

The FBHS Pep Ban has played every home football and volleyball games. They are set to also play for the post season games this coming weekend. Look for them at the district volleyball tournament, and the 1st round football playoff game versus Lone Peak.



### FFA Flag Bearers

Melodie Starman, Grace Heryford, and Taryn Reid present the USA, Montana, and FBHS flags at the senior night/pack the house pink night football game.







**Homecoming Royalty**

Landon Good and Zoe Donner were crowned sophomore prince and princess. Junior prince and princess were Sadie Cole and Landon Jacques. Kylynn Nack and Brock Grossman were crowned homecoming king and queen. Congrats to all the candidtates!

**Student Life**

**FBHS Speech and Drama in the Preparation Stage**

by Hailey Campbell (11th grade)

Fort Benton’s Speech and Drama team began practicing at the beginning of October, and returning members include Cali Hanson- who was the dramatic oral interpretation state champion last season- as well as Kailyn Rominger and Hanna Bach. The team is also welcoming a new member to its team, Lucia Johnson. Coach Amy Hanson will be coming back for her sixth year of coaching as well, and she has big goals for the new season.

Coach Amy Hanson states that she hopes the same thing this year as every other year, “that they do well as individuals and find something that they are passionate about.” Of course, since the season has just begun, the team is still practicing their individual events and preparing for their first meet on November 11th, at CJL.

Caeli Hanson will be participating in Dramatic Oral Interpretation again this year, Hanna Bach will be participating in Memorized Public Address, Kailyn Rominger will be participating in Informative speaking again this year, and Lucia Johnson will participate in Spontaneous Oral Interpretation.

We wish them the best of luck in their new season.

October 27, 2023



**The Final Football Games of the Season**

The Longhorn Football finished their regular season with wins over the Harlem Wildcats and the Shelby Coyotes. They finished the season 6-1-1 and advanced to the playoffs. They will host the Lone Peak Big Horns on October 28th at 1:00 pm.



**Longhorn Volleyball Finishing Strong**

The Lady Longhorns are headed into the district volleyball tournament ranked 3rd in the conference. The Lady Horns are looking to advance to the divisional tournament next week. The top 4 finishers advance.



## Middle School Sports

### Middle School Fall Sports Seasons Come To An End

by Paetyn Templet (9th grade)

On August 14, 2023, middle school volleyball, middle school football, and middle school tennis all started their first day of practice for the fall seasons. Just a few weeks later, they were all wrapped up, beginning with tennis which ended on September 26th with a home meet, and then volleyball on October 7th with their home district tournament, football wrapped up their season on October 13th with a win at home as well, and finally cross country finished on October 14th in Townsend.

During the seasons, the teams all had some great executions, and the coaches expressed how excited they are for the development of these programs and the improvements they are seeing in these young student athletes.

Middle school assistant tennis coach, Emily Engen, states that her favorite part about tennis is “watching long rallies play out and seeing people strategize their shots.” Emily is in her 2nd year of coaching middle school, and she is accompanying 6th year coach Miranda Woodhouse. Coach Engen is very grateful for her strong tennis team that her and Coach Woodhouse have put together. At their final tournament, John Goldhahn and Aubree Vischer won their pool, and took 3rd in the winners bracket. Bridger Ball and Mia Mondloch, as well as Kailee Fuller and Romey Johnson also advanced to the winners bracket. Erika Goldhahn and Tenlea Vielleux also won the 5th and 6th grade brackets!

The middle school volleyball team ended their season with a winning record of 8-3. They had their district tournament in our home gym on October 7th, and placed third. Coach Gannon reflected on the successful season, and stated, “My favorite part of the game is when all three things: a great pass, a great set and a great kill, come together in one beautifully executed

play.” Coach Gannon coached the Fort Benton middle school volleyball team for 12 years and completed her final season this year.

The middle school football boys went the entire season undefeated with an ending record of 6-0. First year coach, Joe Manning, had a great season with the team. He stated, “Coaching the boys was a fantastic experience. Outside of being really good at football, they were also just a great group of guys.” Coach Manning has a great bond with the middle school football boys. Although it is his first year, he has made a great connection with them. He is helping Dan Wirth with the team, who is also in his first year of coaching.

Middle school cross country wrapped up in Townsend on October 14th, and had five participants this season. There was one 6th grader, Jetta Hucke, on the team, and was joined by 7th graders, Emery O’Hara, Everett Bowers, and Dary Cartwright, as well as 8th grader, Mae Wicks. According to Coach Jacob Van Every, “The MS team did great this year. I was really happy with their overall effort and commitment to the team. They showed a lot of progress throughout the year.”

All together, the middle school sports teams had great seasons. Next up for winter middle school athletics is 7th & 8th grade basketball, which just started in the past couple of weeks. It will be followed by wrestling and 5th & 6th grade basketball shortly thereafter.



**The First Fall Finishers:** All of the middle school seasons wrapped up the past few weeks, and they are beginning their winter seasons, as basketball started this past couple of weeks.