

THE VIKING TIMES

Fall 2019 First Issue

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ACHS Artists
check out page
07 for some
featured
artwork by
our very own
ACHS
students!

New Teacher Spotlights (page 04)

keep reading
as we welcome
some new
teachers to our
ACHS family.
Spotlight
includes Mr.
Torres.



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ACHS Football Season

WRITTEN BY SONIA FLORES

The ACHS Football Team made a lot of changes and improvements this season. After a rough 0-10 season last year, the Vikings kicked off this year with a thrilling victory over rival Egg Harbor Township. The team is rebuilding, having only a few returning players

this year, including Senior linebacker Connor Culmone. He is a defensive player and is also one of the Vikings quarterbacks. Again this year they are faced with a tough schedule but new team member junior Jonathan Campos commented on the new changes and how the team worked hard to improve and become even more competitive. "I joined to get in shape and to become more healthy, but it's become more than that," commented Campos. "The guys on the team have good energy and there's no arguing how competitive and ready to win they are." The Vikings have a very hard schedule this year and know that it's going to be tough going, but with hard work and a competitive spirit, they are ready to build on their foundations and lead the team to victory.



“Viking Pride! Viking Strong!”

No More Uniform?

Written By Jetzaly Medina and Kimberly Serrano



In the United States, dress codes policies vary. The Department of Education in New Jersey is one of twenty-four states in the U.S. that allow their local school districts to create and enforce their own dress code policies. Nineteen percent of public schools across the country comply with a school uniform policy. With that said, this new year, Atlantic City High School has decided to join the majority. For this 2019 to 2020 school year, Our school has replaced the school uniform policy with a new and more refreshing school dress code policy.

For more than 12 years, Atlantic City High School has implemented school uniforms. The uniform consisted of solid black or dark navy-blue collared shirts and pants. This dresscode was established in 2007 in hopes of creating a better and safer school environment. It also aimed to control gang violence and student behavior. This being that many gangs would identify themselves amid distinct colors. This year however Atlantic City High School has decided to give a no uniform policy a new try. Our school is now allowing students to express themselves with a new dress code policy. This new policy encourages students to dress up for school and show their individuality.

So far, the new dress-code policy has shown to be a success. Many students were pleased with the new policy. When interviewed, senior Malaika Khan explained that the old uniform policy, "... limited our creative expression." She also went on to say, "I think that the new dress code policy has mostly had a positive impact ... it has made school more enjoyable." Not only were many students pleased with the new dress-code policy but so were many teachers. When asked if she thought this "no uniform" policy was here to stay, Atlantic City High School teacher, Mrs. Cocuzza responded, "I hope so!"





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IT'S A GREAT GROUP OF GIRLS AND WE HAVE A LOT OF FUN!"

-ASSISTANT COACH WILLIAMS

“

LADY VIKINGS TENNIS TEAM

Written By Malaika Khan

The Lady Vikings Tennis Team have officially completed half of their 2019 season. This year, we plan on dominating the season with Coach Godfrey and Assistant Coach Williams leading the way!

The girls tennis team record is at 2 wins 6 losses as of right now. However, we have 7 more matches to play! Come out to support the Lady Vikings and show your spirit! The schedule will be attached at the end of this article for your convenience. You're welcome.

The first match our Girls Tennis team played was on September 4th against Egg Harbor Township High School. It was a rough start to the season as we lost 5-0. However, the girls brought it back around by winning against Holy Spirit on September 10th with a score of 3-2. We also beat Bridgeton on our home courts by a score of 5-0. The match, for those of you who unfortunately missed it, consisted of five epic victories by our varsity team.

The ACHS Girls Tennis Team consists of a wide range of grade levels. Our first singles player, Juliet Loftus, is entering the school year as a junior this year. She started playing varsity doubles when she entered as a freshman and now holds the top spot.

One of our senior co-captains is Madison Condurso. She plays as our second singles but will, sadly, be graduating this year.

Third singles this year is our very own freshman, Mayla Burns. Mayla started playing tennis before entering high school and her hard work has definitely paid off!

Our first varsity doubles team this year is our dynamic duo Emily Monacello and Kylie Kaukeano. They are crushing it this season and will hopefully pass the torch onto another great doubles team as they graduate this year.

The second varsity doubles team this year consists of Ajra Jabin, senior, and Serena Su, junior. While Ajra will be leaving us this year, we wish Serena luck next year on her varsity journey.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT:

Mr. Torres

Written By JaMeela Roberts

I've asked Mr. Torres, a new Calculus teacher, a few questions pertaining to the new school year.

Is ACHS different from the previous school you've taught at?

"Yes it is! Students are more independent and are expected to take full responsibility for their learning."

Do you like ACHS better?

"Dr. MLK Jr. School Complex and ACHS have different learning experiences to offer. A teacher has more opportunities to connect with the students and their family members at MLK, and 80 minutes of math proves to be beneficial for student learning. At ACHS, one can get involved with higher order thinking in Geometry, Algebra 2, and Calculus. Also, I can guide students through the College application process and provide them with information I wished I knew when I was your age."

How do you feel about the new dress code?

"I like it, as long as students follow the minimal restrictions. It makes for a brighter and more motivating learning environment."

How do you like your students?

"I enjoy all my students and the different experiences they bring to the learning process. I truly find it motivating to see my students grow throughout the year and witness their intellect mature in making connections across disciplines in ACHS."

As a teacher coming from a middle school teaching pre-algebra to a high school teacher teaching calculus, there could be some changes. Especially in students, as he said above it is different experiences and the students are more independent than the ones he previously taught. I also asked Mr. Torres what are his goals for this school year and what is different about the school from when he went here a few years ago.



Freshman Survival Guide

Written By Sudipta Chowdhury

Freshman year can be pretty scary at first, you are gonna get lost and you might not know what to do at first. Luckily everything gets better. You'll learn a lot in your freshman year, so here are a few things that I have learned when I was a freshman.

1. Make Friends

Making friends can be pretty hard, especially in high school. I was a little scared about making friends freshman year. At first I felt kind of lonely in some classes. So try to get to know your classmates and be outgoing, I tried that last year and it worked out well. Just start off with a "hi" and introduce yourself. Make a friend in every class so that you don't feel lonely and uncomfortable.



2. Join a Club or Play a Sport

Joining a club or playing a sport is another great way to make friends, but it's another great way to find out what you like and don't like. ACHS offers a whole bunch of clubs and activities that you can be a part of. You can join Leo Club, Key Club, Drama Club, Mock Trial, etc. If you're into sports then you should join one of the sports team: crew, cross country, tennis, football, basketball, etc.



3. Always be Prepared and try your Best

Being organized, especially high school is extremely important. Organization can help you have a successful high school career. Always be prepared for all your classes and make sure to have all the materials that are necessary for each class. Also try your best in school. If you're having trouble with any subject ask questions or take the after school tutoring class. Do your homework, it can really help your grades sometimes. Also don't be late to class or else you will end up having detention.

So that's it for the freshman survival guide. Follow this guide and I'm sure that you will have an amazing year.



Cross Country Team

WRITTEN BY ILIANA PINEDA

“If you are new to Atlantic City High School or are just looking for a certain sport to try out, the Atlantic City Girls and Boys Cross Country team welcomes new recruits in the summer of 2020. In case there are those of you who are unsure of what cross country is, it's a long distance running sport that involves running in outdoor courses. Some of these courses include the boardwalk, woodlands where there is grass and dirt, open-field where there are hills, or even on flat gravel roads. For practice, our XC team practices on the boardwalk and occasionally on the beach but for races we do run a variety of courses. The XC courses are normally 5km(3.1 mi) but at practices, one builds up on their mileage. The girls team has two coaches, Colleen McVey and Jamie Trave, and the boys coach is Mike Pelosi. Summer conditioning normally begins in July. Monday thru Friday, at 7:45am.

One of the many ways to keep yourself active is finding ways to exercise in your spare time. Common ways people exercise is by running, biking, or going to the gym but nobody really wants to do that on their own. If you come to the boardwalk in the morning during summer vacation, you might just find a large group of people running together-that’s our XC team. The ACHS Cross Country team is all about unity and working together to build strength, endurance, and speed.

In Cross Country, anyone can improve and be in Junior Varsity or Varsity, as long as you put in the effort at every practice. You'll start of by running one mile to almost four through practice and encouragement from other teammates running with you. You'll almost rarely run alone, you can converse while also pushing each other to keep on running. Not only do your teammates push you but the coaches as well. The girls team has two coaches, Colleen McVey and Jamie Trave, and the boys team’s coach is Mike Pelosi, three amazing role models who always strive to make the team better runners. While they do want the best of their team, the coaches are very understanding and caring regarding any struggle you may be going through.

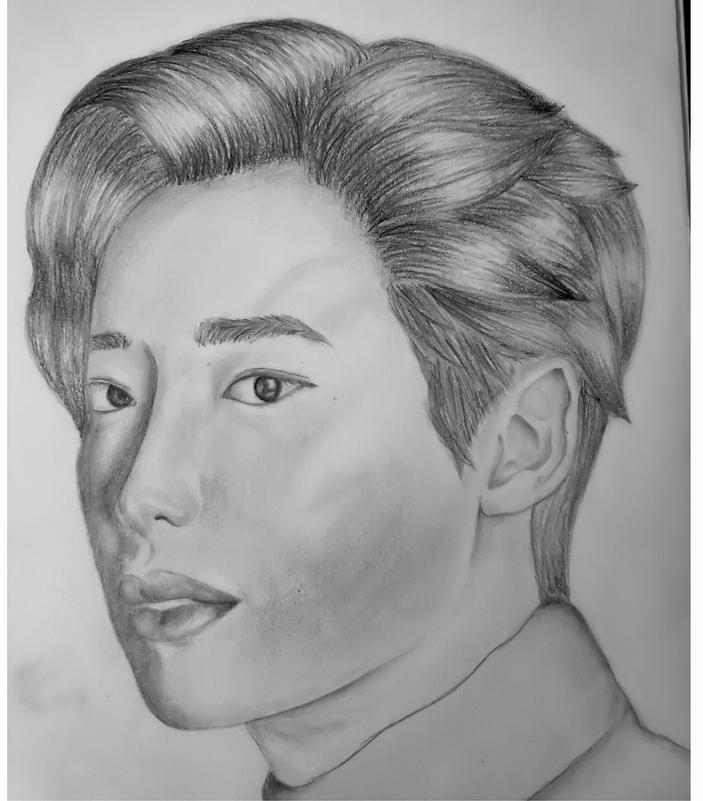
No team is more fun and welcoming then our ACXC team, so we welcome you to be a part of our family! There is “No Excuse” not to!



**"All Gas! , No Breaks!" Next
Summer/Fall Season, Join the
Atlantic City Cross Country Team!**

STUDENT ART SPOTLIGHT

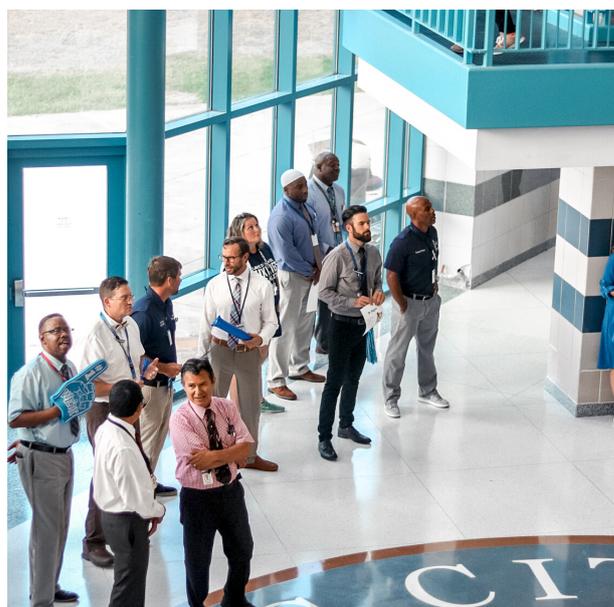
Artwork by Malaika Khan



Hope 4 AC Club

INTERVIEW BY MOHAMMAD MURSALEEN

Hope 4 Atlantic City Club is a community of Atlantic City High School students who wish to take part in community service in our school and neighborhoods. They club identifies and responds to the needs of their fellow students, extended families, and all AC community members. Hope 4 AC Club will achieve this through charitable acts such as fundraising, volunteering, mentoring, and advocating. This club believes all people deserve to be treated with kindness, dignity and respect. Through the club, members will develop leadership skills, explore career alternatives, and volunteer their time to the community locally through club determined service projects like participating in the 2019 Back to School Night. Members participate in fundraiser walks and runs as well as volunteer for events like the AC Marathon, Peer Leadership Conference at Stockton University and The Women's Shelter of AC Walkathon.



**"I get to spend time with my friends and help out the community."
- Mohammed (member)**

DR. SMALL

The Viking Times would like to welcome Dr. La' Quetta Small to our ACHS family as the new principal. Stay tuned for an in-depth article and interview with her in our next issue.



WATER BOTTLE POLICY



**Plastic
Reusable
Water bottles**

allowed



**Metal
Water bottles**

**not
allowed**



**Plastic
Disposable
Water bottles**

**not
allowed**