



- Many more stories online at tritonvoice.co
- Follow us on *Twitter*, *Facebook* & *Instagram* **TritonVoice**
- Read the print version online at tritonschools.org/high



RITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

March 1, 2019

Parents Just Don't Understand Changes in School Make Getting that A Tougher than they Think

By **Kaelyn Scalley & Andrew Maiuri**
Staff Writers

Throughout the course of students' lives, parents and adults have always had certain expectations for their children. Parents want their children to do better and be better than they already are, which at times can be a little challenging for the average student.

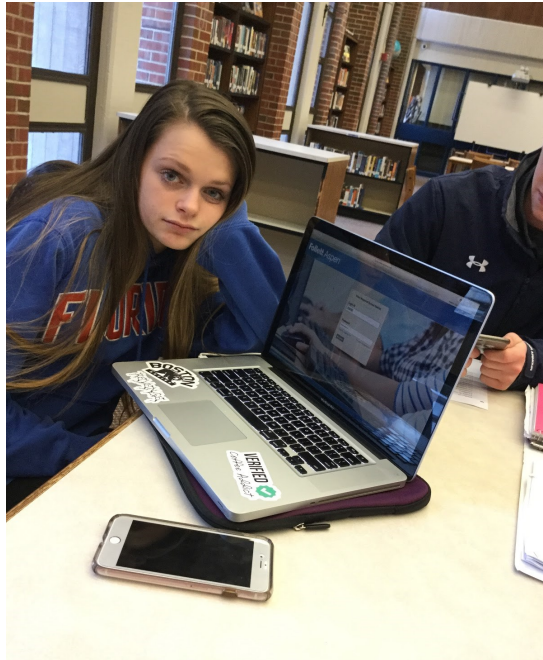
When it comes to getting straight A's in high school, parents make it seem like it's an easy task, but what they forget is that it's not all just about grades. There's friends, social lives, sports, extra-curriculars, family, college applications, work, along with many other things on a teenager's mind that seem to be forgotten when report cards come out.

Of course, there are some students who don't worry about their grades because they know they are always trying their best and living up to their own standards. Due to this, they work hard for their grades and, in return, they get rewarded.

Senior Spiros Markopoulos is a hard-working student who is planning on going to college in the fall. On top of applying to different schools and filling out scholarship applications, he still focuses on his high school work. When he was asked whether or not he gets nervous for his parents to see his report card, he quickly responded back, "I don't really get nervous at all because I do my best all the time and my parents know that. Through the grades I get, my parents can see how hard I work. It's definitely a good feeling knowing my hard work is paying off."

Sophomore Madi Landry, who's a member of the soccer team and winter and spring track teams, and who also plays on an indoor soccer league during the off season, is always busy. Due to this, getting her school work done correctly and on time can be difficult.

"My grades are really important to me, but I have so many other things going on," says Landry. "Whenever my parents get on my back about my grades, it annoys me so much because they act like an A-plus is something I can just receive without trying. I have a lot of other things going



Junior Abbie Magee, nervous to check her Aspen (Scalley photo).

on that sometimes a bad grade just happens and I hate how much a number on aspen impacts so much of my life and determines my capability of being able to have a certain job in the future."

There are many things today that weren't around when adults were younger that impact how kids are today. For example, we have phones and better technology which makes it easier to do things that adults couldn't do when they were our ages. Because of this, students procrastinate, since we know that we will be able to get the work done in a quick manner. "My phone definitely distracts me from doing my work sometimes," says junior Anthony Ostrander, "but on the other hand, it can also be a useful tool since teachers post our homework on Google Classroom, which is something my parents don't get. I understand why they think my phone is an issue, but it's also helpful."

Aspen's Eagle Eye How Student Records and Data are Sent to and Kept by the State

By **Amanda Bowman & Ethan Tougas**
Staff Writers

Imagine this: You are well into your senior year of high school, and you go to defend yourself against robbery allegations. You are innocent, however after searching through your records, the judge states that you were reported as absent on the day of the crime!

How might the state know this you ask? The answer: Aspen. Many students are unaware of the number of ways Aspen is actually used. It isn't just for grades; multiple times a year, a data report is sent to the state for each student and teacher that contains various information.

"There are 52 data points for each of you (students) that gets reported in one report three times a year, and then your schedules and your grades get reported twice a year," said Deb Jones, Triton Director of Technology.

This sharing of information may be jarring to those unaware, but is it something that can be used against them?

The *Triton Voice* took a deeper look into what actually goes on behind the scenes with Aspen. Through numerous interviews with Jones, Triton Data Specialist Julie Warren and Guidance Administrative Assistant Rebecca Piecewicz, as well as students, information was uncovered about how Aspen is used. Reporters also got in touch with Jacqueline Reis, Media Relations Coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Education.

Before looking into the aspects of Aspen that are less known to students, The *Triton Voice* assessed some common complaints about Aspen.

"What I hear from students or even parents, is that they have a difficult time logging in, they don't understand how to navigate it," said Piecewicz, who uses Aspen programs daily. "They just need more practice, because once you understand the way something works you can just buzz around it."

Another issue with Aspen was brought to our attention by Triton senior Diego Fernandez.

"I think Aspen is a really useful tool for students to check their grades and keep tabs on how they are doing, but I'd say it isn't extremely intuitive or user friendly. It really enables 'helicopter parents,'" added Fernandez.

Jones detailed some possible reasons for the complaints she hears about Aspen.

"I provide training every fall for new teachers and experienced teachers to get up to speed with the program," said Jones. "The complaints that I've heard consistently is that there are a lot of clicks to get everywhere. It's so robust that there's always more than one way of doing something. That confuses the users a lot."

Jones also said that Triton's Data Specialist, Julie Warren, is required to send out data throughout the year about students and teachers. In an interview, Warren gave us insight as to what data is reported.

"The state collects all kinds of data on the students, on just demographics about students, and then about teachers, and about your classes. They collect all this information about teachers and students, and then they merge it all together to see if it all matches up," said Warren. "If we are saying that this teacher teaches these five classes, but they look at the student information and they see that there are no students taking those classes, they are going to ask us about that."

Warren went on to discuss the data collection process.

"They collect the data every day and every night, and then three times a year we certify the data... It's all information about who you are, your date of birth, your race, and where you live because they want to make sure that the students who live in our towns are going to our schools."

The *Triton Voice* wanted to find out how this data could be used in the future, and whether or not it could be used against us. Warren spoke about that possibility.

"Certainly the information is there, and it's available. Presumably because students are underage, there would have to be warrants. If a judge were to allow an investigative police department to access the information than I would assume the state would give it to them."

Warren was asked how long the state keeps our data after graduating, but she could not provide an answer for us. However, Reis, Media Relations Coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Education, was able to provide an answer.

"We keep the data collected for many years for analytical and other reporting purposes," said Reis. "Student privacy laws govern what we share publicly. Even for our own analyses, the aggregate data is what is most useful. For instance, it is more useful to know that a school offered computer science and that 20 students took it in a particular year, but it is less useful to know that John Doe took it."

Reis also responded to our question about how the data could be used against us in our futures.

"If it was a legal issue involving a specific student, it's possible that someone would seek information from the district, which has much more information about individuals than we do. However, there are limits on what districts can share, too."

Based on the interviews conducted, there seems to be a possibility of student data being used in negative ways, but each source has made it clear that the data would not be very useful.

Student Athlete Life

How Triton Sports Stars Deal Every Day

By **Caitlin White**
Staff Writer

Senior varsity track runner Amy Clark says she knows how difficult it is to balance academics and sports.

"Being a student-athlete is challenging but worth it," said Clark. "It can be stressful from time to time due to also having a part-time job and taking challenging courses at school, but being a part of a team and exercising with your friends is the best feeling in the world."

Student-athletes are continually being asked to perform at high levels in both the classroom and on their sports teams. With pressures coming from parents, teachers, and coaches, it is hard to find the time to socialize when the athletes are at school. They then go home, go to practice, then come back from practice and stay up late doing homework, only to then repeat the cycle five to six times a week.

"You get up in the morning and you are already tired from late-night practices, and trying to finish up homework at night," said junior Paige Volpone, a varsity lacrosse, basketball, and volleyball player. "Then you get to school, and after that you know you still have to go to practice later. It just gets tiring after a while."

The *Triton Voice* researched the ad-



Junior student athlete Emily Colby (number 20) hustles for the ball during a soccer game this past season (photo courtesy *Daily News of Newburyport*).

vantages and disadvantages of being a student-athlete and conducted several interviews. To truly understand what a day in the life of a student-athlete looks like a reporter also observed one student-athlete for a day.

See **ATHLETE** on page 2

Triton Regional School District is committed to maintaining a learning environment free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, political affiliation, disability, or any other factor as defined and required by state and federal laws.

Halftime Hazard

In Wake of Controversy over Super Bowl Show, Some are Calling to End the Tradition

By Jaqueline Downs
Staff Writer

It is difficult to Google the 2019 Super Bowl halftime show without seeing the word ‘controversy’ in the title. While one of the most anticipated shows of the year has come a long way from its college marching band beginnings in 1967, this year’s spectacle has raised eyebrows and questions. With all the attention surrounding this halftime show ending in yet another lackluster performance, the question remains: should the NFL continue with Super Bowl halftime shows?

The *Triton Voice* investigated this question through research, student’s opinions, and surveys. We looked into this year’s controversy and past halftimes along with questioning students and teachers at Triton about what they thought of this year’s halftime show.

Before it was even announced that Maroon 5 would headline the halftime show, artists such as Cardi B and Rihanna decided to stand in solidarity with Colin Kaepernick against police brutality. Kaepernick has been left unsigned since he began kneeling in protest during the 2016 NFL season. Many thought that Maroon 5 should do the same, with over 100,000 fans signing a petition for the band to drop out. The band went on to play at the halftime, only to face more criticism - this time for their less-than-spectacular performance.

"It was mediocre - is that fair to say?" stated Marissa Galante, one of the math teachers here at Triton. "It wasn't super great, but it wasn't terrible until Adam Levine took his shirt off."

"I didn't have any strong feelings one way or the other," explained senior Ethan Tougas. "I didn't think it was bad by any means, but I also don't think it was anything incredible."

Some have accused the band of giving a stale halftime performance, even with the addition of rapper Travis Scott and Atlanta-based rapper Big Boi. Of course, Levine is not the only artist, especially recently, to receive underwhelming reviews of his halftime show. Just over a year ago, Greg Kot from *The Chicago Tribune* wrote in the article "Justin Timberlake fades in ho-hum Super Bowl halftime show," that Timberlake's show had "No Prince hologram, no NSYNC reunion, and no wardrobe malfunctions" and was basically a "12-minute, nationally televised commercial for his latest album."

Pop singers like Levine and Timberlake have graced the halftime stage only since 1989, the year that saw a show which included 2,000

dancers and "an attempt to broadcast it in 3D," in an effort to "appeal to non-football fans," according to Michelle R. Martinelli's article "Marching bands to Maroon 5: A brief history of the Super Bowl halftime show," from *USA Today Sports*. In all the halftime shows before then, starting in 1967, Martinelli notes that college marching bands were the performer of choice, especially the band



Levine is a member of Maroon 5 and is no stranger to concert audiences (karina3094 courtesy photo).

mashup of Grambling State and University of Arizona, who played in Super Bowl I. The Grambling band's "six Super Bowl halftime performances remain the most of any band, according to nola.com."

Drew Nantais, author of the article "Super Bowl halftime show history: List of best, worst performers of all time," lists Prince in 2007, Michael Jackson in 1993, and Beyonce in 2013 as the three top halftime performances of all time. At the bottom of the pile, Nantais ranks Coldplay in 2016, The Black Eyed Peas in 2011, and "Be Bop Bamboozled" in 1989 as the worst three halftime shows.

With two out of the three worst halftimes being within the past decade, and following this year's show, it appears that halftime shows have rarely been spectacular, with only one of the top three performers, Beyonce, being within the last decade, leaving some wondering whether halftime shows have a place in the Super Bowl.

Though recent performances have left many wanting more, Senior Jeremy Duford still said he felt that halftime shows shouldn't go away, but officials should only choose artists that fit the occasion.

"I think [halftime shows are] sick, but I just feel like these weren't the right musicians for it," explained Duford. "Like Travis Scott and Adam Levine at, like, an intense Super Bowl? No, I don't think it was the best idea."

"I think they should keep [the halftime show]," junior Adrianna Deeb stated, "but they should have better acts."

Student's opinions are very similar to a poll conducted by the *Triton Voice*. Six students responded to the question "After this year's controversy with Adam Levine, should the NFL do away with the halftime show?" Over half, four out of six, responded "no" while answers "yes" and "it doesn't matter" each received one vote.

od was her gym class, where she played basketball. During fifth period, she had to teach a lesson in her AP English class. In addition to the lesson, Colby also had made a quiz and two homework assignments. It was evident to the reporter that this lesson took a lot of time and preparation because of how well put together the lesson was. Finally, after school, Colby did homework before her 6:30-8:00 p.m. practice. After practice, Colby finished homework and got ready for bed, finally going to sleep at around 10 p.m.

The benefits of such a packed day include the skills developed as a high school athlete: teamwork, perseverance, responsibility, physical endurance, com-

Triton's Trophies?

Out of Sight for Years, Administrators, Coaches & Students Plan for New Awards Display Cases

By Jeremy Duford
Staff Writer

Triton has a new trophy case on its way, and it is closer than the community might know.

Hosting over 70 awards from sports such as wrestling, football, and softball, Triton's trophy case represents the decades of success that Triton athletics has worked so vigilantly to achieve.

Unfortunately, as of the date this was written, Triton's Trophy case was located in what is arguably the least-visited part of school, locked behind a glass wall, hidden even further back, and hardly viewable due to the old treadmills to its front. Students, staff, parents, and alumni barely have the opportunity to appreciate the vast array of Triton's athletic successes.

Starting a little more than a year ago, planning began for a new trophy case, initially with a search for donors to help fund one. Soon after, designs and locations were established, and a place between the two sets of pillars at the T's is where the new cases will be constructed. That's right, two cases.

The *Triton Voice* investigated the usage and future of the trophy cases, with a reporter seeking out coaches, students, administrators, and some alumni to prepare the story. What was discovered was that a trophy case is in fact on the way due to planning by Triton's athletic director and the student council, as well as generous donations from Triton's community.

Triton's long history of athletic success is summed up in the phrase, "Triton Pride," but many do not know where our trophy case is.

"Where...? Probably not? We have a trophy case?" said junior Jack Crocker, who like many other Triton Vikings, has no idea where Triton's trophy case is, or even that we have one.

"We have a trophy case?" said coach and math teacher, Mr. Joe Galante.

"I don't think I've ever seen it [the trophy case] once. I had no idea we have one." said senior John Bradley.

Since Triton's construction, the trophy case has been in the same place, according to Athletic Director Sean McInnis. Though it might seem that the trophy case has been neglected and fallen out of the community's consciousness, this is only because that section of the school has been utilized less and less throughout the years. Where the treadmills and bikes are, in front of the trophy case, was once a class, and before that, the case could easily be seen and was well represented and updated. Triton has not been neglecting the case, it has just shifted its educational priorities, which unintentionally affect the prominence of the trophy case.

More recently, Triton has been struggling financially. This makes it harder for the school to make purchases unless grants or donations come in. McInnis, has been working to obtain donations needed to finally bring change.

"The one we have now is in a spot where nobody can see it, and everybody thinks we're a bunch of bums, but they don't know we have trophies," said senior Jon Rolfe. Students such as Rolfe think that the lack of a trophy case makes other schools question Triton's athletic ability. Our complete lack of representation for the trophies can make it seem as if Triton has

mitment, and time management. Athletes such as Colby are also learning skills like loyalty, being dependable and responsible, and learning to work well with others.

Some disadvantages of being a student-athlete are that "the hours of the day start passing you by and the prospect of social life becomes slim to none," according to the article, "The Struggle is Real: How Being a Student-Athlete is More than Just Fun and Games," by Megan Bender. "Between studying, class, practices, and games, your team eventually becomes your only source of social life."

Triton junior Connor Kohan, a varsity hockey and varsity golf player, explained that being a student-athlete means a hectic schedule sometimes.

never had success. "All I want for it is to be put in a better spot," said Rolfe.

A popular opinion for the worst characteristic of the trophy case is its location. Lack of quality aside, most interviewees were frustrated that the case resides where nobody can see it.

"I wish they would move it to somewhere like the T's or even better, the main entrance," said junior Connor Kohan. "I feel like the trophy case could bring Triton together as a community too."

Having a spot where the student body could appreciate its successes would create a closer community, some said. Instead of only being told once about a win over the intercom, or maybe seeing in the newspaper that the swimming team won CALS, the student body could be reminded everyday that the Vikings are winners.

Mr. Richard Dube, a Triton coach, had an interesting idea: Instead of getting an entire new trophy case, a small case could be used that holds "meaningful trophies, like state championships," instead of all the trophies. This could tackle the problem of needing more funds for a trophy case, but wouldn't represent all of Triton's Athletics.

Now, Triton's trophy case is officially on its way. McInnis said one of his earliest goals for Triton once he was working here was to get a new trophy case. He sees the potential it has to improve Triton and bring us closer together as a community.

"Sometimes when you get a trophy case its too small, you can only put in the recent ones. We want to make sure we have the right ones out there," said McInnis. "We want to do a nice job where it's nice and big and students can see it, displaying not only the past trophies, but also the most recent trophies."

The final steps are being planned now. A Triton parent has willingly taken the task of construction out of Triton's hands and has generously donated lumber as well. Other Triton alumni have also been generously donating to the project since its conception. The last thing needed is funding for both the cases glass, which is estimated to cost \$6,000. Hopefully, Triton's trophy case will begin construction before the end of the school year.

"Sometimes when you get a trophy case its too small, you can only put in the recent ones. We want to make sure we have the right ones out there," said McInnis. "We want to do a nice job where it's nice and big and students can see it, displaying not only the past trophies, but also the most recent trophies."

"A hard day is waking up early to go work out before school. Then having to go to school and then straight to practice," said Kohan. "Then going to the gym again after practice. Finally, a pile of homework to do so I'm up until midnight doing homework."

Being a student-athlete has its positives and negatives, but ultimately the thing that keeps athletes coming back is their love for the game and the unbreakable bond of being a part of a team.

"Being a student-athlete is great, not only does it give you friends and memories, but it gives you drive and in many cases gives me good time management," said junior Rylee Lucia, varsity field hockey and varsity swimmer. "It makes me accountable, if I want something I need to work for it."



Photo taken by Jeremy Duford showing where Triton's T's, where the new cases will be held (Duford photo).

ATHLETE from page 1

Junior Emily Colby plays varsity soccer, varsity basketball, and runs varsity track. A member of the *Triton Voice* observed her academic school day on February 13, 2018. Colby started her day off bright and early at 6 in the morning. She arrived at school on time and started her day. Second period, she had to listen to a debate and take one page of notes. The notes included one thoughtful question for each of the members of the debate team.

During third period, she got a test back and as a class they went through and made corrections in preparation for a possible retake test. Fourth peri-