



Travel Troubles

Buses Constantly Arrive Late or Not at All to Pick Up Athletes

Ava Johnson & Peighton Hertigan
Staff Writers

Sports teams all around Triton High School have been faced with extreme bus issues, ranging from drivers showing up very late to games and events, to games even having to be canceled due to no driver availability.

Although the problems began at the end of last school year, they are now much worse than before, for reasons many aren't aware of.

"I won't speak for them, but I would guess part of their challenges in finding drivers are a combination of pay, the hours, type of work, and potentially benefits or lack thereof," said Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Bryan Perry.

Transportation is extremely important to any regional school, however this year it is lacking reliability at Triton. Athletes and coaches around the district have faced moments of stress and worry when trying to get to an event.

Triton uses NRT buses — North Reading Transportation — and we are in our fifth year of our five-year contract. Inconveniently, there are not many other available companies to switch to. Students and faculty say that there are very few drivers available and the number is only decreasing, making it harder to find drivers who are willing and able to work overtime to drive the athletes.

"So if a driver calls out [for whatever reason], they are scrambling to either find another driver or figure out how they can combine routes," Perry said.

While we don't know the exact reasons for drivers calling out, money is a huge factor in finding drivers and getting them to stay. Athletic Director Joel

McKenna said when it comes to prices of buses, the minimum is \$240, even if the bus ride is just a quick 10 minutes to local schools. Just to take the winter track team to a meet in Boston cost \$880, he said.

"This time of year there are more athletic programs going on right now than any other time of year,"

McKenna said. "We have 11 different programs going on, so that's going to be the first and biggest thing that affects transportation."

Having so many different sports in one season makes getting buses more difficult since each sport needs a different bus for each separate away game. It's not simple to obtain a bus driver to bring a team somewhere, especially when money comes in to play.

In addition to hearing from faculty, the *Triton Voice* also spoke to fellow students about their experiences with the difficult bus issue.

"My team and I sat outside for over an hour because they said our bus was at 2:30," junior volleyball player Aubrey Jodz said. "It was a half an hour later with no word, and then at 3 we got an email saying it was delayed until 4."

Better communication would have been more beneficial, knowing that homework, or other productive things could've been completed instead waiting for a bus, students said.

"I think my experience with the busing for field hockey there is like a 30 percent chance the bus will be on time, which is frustrating because it cuts into our warmup," senior field hockey captain, Sophie Chapman said. "I also know that my friends on the cheer team don't get a bus unless they ride with some of the football boys."



Image from NRT bus website

Vikings Rising

Key Game v. 'Port at Home Tonight

By Rowan Cole
Staff Writer

The Triton Vikings Football team has turned over a new leaf this year. So far, they have lost to only two teams in the league, and their head coach, Paul Sobolewski, along with his brother and assistant coach, Bob Sobolewski, have been collaborating to give the players the game plans they need to succeed.

The team prepared all summer in the off-season and their hard work is paying off, players said. This has been proven by the amount of strength gained in the weight room and the aggression displayed on the gridiron.

Triton football had been on a rollercoaster for several years with ups and downs and new coaches building up a new team, but the Vikings have accomplished many things this year. In an early game this season, they took home a win against rival Amesbury for the first time in seven years.

Tonight, the Vikings take on Newburyport at home at 6:30 for a game that has been anticipated all season. During the season, there are star players who have made headlines, including running back Jayden Torres, kicker and wide receiver Liam Fris, tight end Carl Lucy, and left end Anthony Navaroli. Triton will again be looking to them tonight for big things.

But what is the team doing differently this year to accomplish their progress?

"I didn't get here until mid-July last year. Everyone was just trying to get the program established and we had a rocky start," said head coach Paul Sobolewski. "But in the off-season everyone was committed to the weight room. And as a team we have gotten so much stronger, and with strength builds confidence."

Senior player Anthony Navaroli agrees. "We got better as a team by strength training and dedicating work outside of the sport to personal development. The most valuable skill for a team's success is mental fortitude and passion."

The Vikings' first game of the season was a home opener against Hamilton-Wenham where the offensive line proved that they were the strongest point on the field helping end the game with a 37 to 6 win

The team's first away game was one of the most important of the season as they were determined end the annual losses to Amesbury. After a nail biting game against cross-river rivals Amesbury, the final score was 30 to 22 with Jayden Toress putting the nail in the coffin with the final touchdown in the last minutes.

After the Amesbury game, Triton was gifted with a well deserved bye week in preparation for Manchester-Essex. During the break, some players and coaches decided to scout out Manchester in person on Friday night. They were met with a student section predicting that Triton would lose by over 40 points, with Manchester-Essex players taunting Triton coaches. Triton was more than happy to prove them wrong and scored 16 points while only allowing eight.

The two following games were met with heartbreaking defeats against North Reading and Lynnfield, but seniors kept this in the back of their minds going into the game against Ipswich this past Friday

"After a tough loss like Lynnfield we keep the team motivated by showing them the improvement we have had and by becoming a family," said Sobolewski. "We lift each other up."

Ipswich was met with a crushing defeat, 36-6, rewarding Triton with confidence going into a game against super-rivals Newburyport tonight.

Upcoming Viking Sports
Tonight the **Varsity Vikings football team** has arguably their biggest game of their season tonight taking on Newburyport at 6:30 at home. The student section is going to be packed and ready to cheer on the Vikings. The theme is "blackout," so make sure to dress accordingly. Also on Friday, the **girls field hockey team** takes on Essex Tech at 4 p.m. in Georgetown.

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Vikings football team members, from left, Charlie Mollineaux, Giovanni Rodriguez, and Anthony Navaroli (photo by Audrey Jodz).

Hello Adulthood!

Vikings Discuss Freedoms Earned When Turning 18

By Maddie January
Staff Writer

One major event of being a senior in high school is turning 18 and becoming "legal." The *Triton Voice* spoke with a teacher and some students who are 18, or turning 18 soon, to see what their plans are, and what they hope to do.

What can you actually do once you turn 18 in Massachusetts? Here's a partial list:

- Vote
- Serve on a Jury (Jury Duty)
- Get married
- Enlist in the Military
- Take out a loan
- Run for office (city, county or state office)

Some of what the class of 2025 is excited for when turning 18 was different for Mr. Joseph Galante when he turned 18.

"[When I turned 18] I had a plan to go into the army after high school, but my allergy to shellfish made that hard for me, so I ended up just going to college at the University of Maine," said Galante. When asked about the freedoms he was able to get, he said, "Yes there are more freedoms, but what also comes along with that is more you can get into



Our *Triton Voice* reporter purchases a lotto/ "scratch" ticket at a local convenience store recently (courtesy image).

trouble with." While some students plan on going to college, there are others who are planning on other careers, including senior Krysh Vashon who plans on going into the military after high school.

"I turn 18 in April and I plan to go into the military and be a mechanic," said Vashon. "My dad and my grandfather did it when they turned 18 so I guess that's what I've always planned on doing."

Senior Luke Sullivan, who turned 18 back in September, has already used some of his new freedoms.

"The first big thing I did when I turned 18 was go to The Brook (casino) in Seabrook and played Blackjack, as well as buy a scratch ticket," said Sullivan. He expressed the excitement he had for entering the world of being 18. "Yeah I'm thinking about maybe getting a tattoo, too, at some point," said Sullivan.

Turning 18 is a major milestone in a teenagers life (other than the golden sweet 16 of course). Hearing from Galante opened a perspective that turning 18 isn't all about the things you can do, but rather the things you should be more aware of.

Seniors Luke Sullivan and Krysh Vashon each have different plans for their time as an 18 year old, but both plans are optimistic and adventurous.

Student Apathy

Fighting a Leading Problem Facing Today's Educators

By Sadie Deveau, Staff Writer

Watching other students in class say they “don’t care” or just don’t want to do their school work can be upsetting to both their peers and their teachers. Not knowing what an apathetic student might be going through or why they may be affected by apathy is a leading concern among educators.

Students’ indifference is shown in many ways at school, but can present a lack of motivation or less interest in the learning environment.

In an article released by, *Student Centered World*, the authors write that student apathy has become more of an issue since the pandemic in 2020. Phones and social media have been a big problem with it too. Kids are going to school but struggle once they get there, which has become a huge issue and can lead to bigger problems in the future.

“Student apathy is shown by student absences and tardies,” said Ms. Aimee Mansfield, special education teacher. “When students are not motivated to put any effort into their work, it can be very noticeable by the way a person carries themselves.”

“During the pandemic we lost a lot of the human connections and motivation,” stated Carrie Yespy, Triton adjustment counselor. “Getting to stay home for an extended period of time may have made people less motivated.”

Student Centered World, an organization of teachers who create shareable lesson plans to increase student motivation, stated that apathy has never been reported until around 2008. Since then it has become worse over the years, according to growing research. The COVID pandemic seemed to have a big impact on all people’s attitude towards work, and it affected many kids and teens. It’s been a challenging ride for students to come back to school.

This has been a big cause as to why students are unmotivated, causing student apathy to become more prevalent.

Education Week, a resource for teachers on educational news for students, K-12, conducted a survey where 58 percent of high school teachers said their students showed little to no care about completing their work. Additionally, 72 percent of students said they are routinely distracted by cellphones.

Phones have been one of the biggest issues making kids feel insecure and worthless when watching others on social media. Worsening with the pandemic where it had caused everyone to stay in their house for almost a whole year before being able to somewhat come back to school. Even when coming back it was only for two or three days a week. All this has had an impact on them and has made kids and teens lose motivation causing them skip school, classes, failing academics and other things which revolve around student apathy.

Other people believe that the pandemic was one of the biggest parts of student apathy getting worse as well.

“While students were at home they retreated to their cell phones and social media to maintain real life connections to the outside world.” said Mrs. Pacheco, the vice-principal. “In the process they grew addicted to their devices. Their hours of screen time include viewing social media influencers who often promote things that go completely against what we are trying to achieve in a school environment [devious licks]. In addition, the overwhelming presence of phones within our school is a distraction to the students, faculty, and staff.”

Education to the Core, a website to give teachers help on students and resources for work, stated that building connections with students, listening to them, celebrating and letting them know when they are doing a good job, and finding out their interests can be beneficial for ice breakers and helping them learn to be more interested.

Tyler Jacobs, an instructional aide, stated “motivation almost always occurs intrinsically -- students have to learn what motivates them and work to cultivate that interest. Of course there are things that teachers can do to improve kids' motivation, but I also think that they [kids] place too much emphasis on teachers creating motivation for them instead of creating it for themselves.”



Christian Murray is distracted by his phone (Deveau photo).

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On Saturday, the **girls varsity soccer** team has its senior night at home against Ipswich at 5:30. The **boys varsity soccer** team will play the Ipswich Tigers at Ipswich at 10 a.m. The **boys JV football** team will play at Newburyport at 10 a.m. The **boys and girls varsity cross country teams** will run in the league championships at 2 p.m. at the Wrentham Developmental Center. And the **varsity cheer team** will have its first competition at the Billerica Invitational with the team performing at 12 noon.

Going, Going... Pink House Under Demolition



The iconic “Pink House” near Plum Island is under demolition despite protests from locals who see it as a symbol of the area. The Parker River National Wildlife Refuge is taking the house down (Matthew Mollica photos).

MEET THE TEACHERS

New Staff Join Triton District

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Murphy Comes Out of Retirement to Join NES

By Luke Sullivan & Sophie Chapman
Staff Writers

Ms. Karen Murphy, the new instructional assistant at Newbury Elementary is already making her mark on the little ones who roam the school. In an interview with the principal of NES, Mrs. Beth Yando, it was clear she was making an impact.

When asked how Murphy is doing so far, Yando didn’t have to think twice.

“I think she’s doing great; her classroom looks great, the students are happy, and when you go in there, they’re all engaged,” said Yando. “So, yeah, she’s doing a great job.”

After retiring as a paraprofessional and living in Virginia for 26 years, Murphy thought it was time for a change.

In 2017, she took on babysitting, this gave her even more experience to add to her resume. She moved back to her roots in Massachusetts where she was born, in search of cooler weather. Little did she know her knack for teaching would rekindle in her home state.

Teaching has been a part of Murphy’s life for as long as she can remember. From volunteering at a preschool, to working in a regional school with its autism program, it’s safe to say Murphy has a lot of experience. When a fellow NES teacher asked her to join the team, she was delighted and couldn’t wait.

In a recent interview, Murphy walked into the room and immediately lit up with a welcoming smile. Having two kids of her own, and many grandchildren, she is no stranger to little ones. After graduating from

Hanover High School in Massachusetts, she knew right away what she was destined to do. She took many special education courses in California, Massachusetts, and Virginia, which ultimately kickstarted her career.

While in Massachusetts, Murphy applied for the Triton District’s summer program and worked there for her first gig when moving back to Massachusetts. While working, a teacher approached her asking if she would like to go back to work full time, to which Murphy told her she applied for the kindergarten position the other day, where she would be an instructional assistant in a kindergarten classroom. Coincidentally, the teacher explained that she was applying to be in her room. Without surprise, she got the job full time.

Murphy has many goals for this upcoming school year such as learning new things, taking new courses, and improving on getting to know the students and their needs. According to Murphy she’s hoping to bring many great qualities to NES.

“I think I bring compassion and patience,” Murphy said. “You have to have a lot of patience with the kids. I love the children and just really want to be here.”

One person who gets to see these qualities first hand, is Murphy’s mentor, kindergarten instructional assistant Paige Sullivan. Sullivan luckily got the opportunity to work with Murphy over the summer in the same classroom. This gave her the chance to observe her and see her in action.

“She is very calm and patient,” said Sullivan. “She never seems rattled, and working with two students is a lot but she does a great job.”



Karen Murphy sits in the Newbury Elementary conference room for an interview (Sullivan photo).

A Taste Of The New Rave

It’s ‘Crumbl’ vs. ‘Cookie Monstah’ in Cookie Faceoff

By Taylor Richard, Angela Simmons, & Chloe Price, Staff Writers

As you walk through the halls of Triton High School you may hear students conversing about this week’s Crumbl cookie flavors, but is it really worth all the hype? Last week, Triton junior London Cole told us it’s “pretty average.”

But this year, the famous cookies have been a rising topic for students at Triton, and a weekly tradition for some.

“I think it’s fun going each week and trying the new cookies that they have,” junior Lily D’Andrea said.

But is it too much? Junior, Genaro Carrillo said, “It’s just a little mushy, like... I like them soft with a nice, crisp edge.”

Even with mushy cookies, the bakery seems to be doing just fine. With over 900 locations worldwide and an income of over \$1 billion per year, cousins Jason McGowan and Sawyer Hemsley have created the fastest-growing cookie company in the U.S. since opening in 2017, according to bonappetit.com. We asked four Triton Students for their opinions on the dessert, including ones from ‘Cookie Monstah,’ a less popular chain bake shop in Danvers, MA, that also opened in 2017.

“Cookie Monstah is so much better because they have gluten-free cookies,” junior Dani Prendergast said. “They make me feel included.”

The newly-popular shop has gluten-free options which is something that ‘Crumbl’ lacks in their sweet



Triton students weighed in on two popular cookie retailers: Crumbl cookies and Cookie Monstah (Crumbl/Cookie Monstah website images).

shop for their customers with allergies. Differing from Dani, junior Bella Carmody said, “I really like Crumbl...I try and get it every week.”

The students’ opinions were untied by senior Rowan Cole and sophomore Maecy Gay-Killeen who both chose Crumbl as their #1. “I love it,” said Rowan Cole.

However the fun cookie rivalry isn’t over yet for Triton and their love of Crumbl.

“VTV is looking to pair with Crumbl Cookie,” said VTV teacher, Mr. Robert Lathrop “Our goal is to be able to create social media posts for them that would advertise their flavors of the week, in exchange for a free box of Crumbl cookies.”