



# REAL NEWS IN SCHOOLS

**NIE** NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION

April 8, 2026

## ‘Making an impact’ Danvers students use DECA project to show up for veterans

By Caroline Enos

» Staff Writer

DANVERS — A group of Danvers High School DECA students have made it their mission to put up a Purple Heart memorial in town and support local veterans.

Chase Richmond, Haley Liporto and Ari Fajardo, all 17-year-old juniors, founded the Danvers Hometown Salute initiative through a project for their DECA class this year.

They needed to come up with a project that utilizes skills in the business world. In their case, the project would help them bring attention to issues in their community.

“I have a lot of veterans in my family, but my mom served in the Air Force from 2000 to 2008,” Richmond said. “We were already thinking about doing this, but then I looked deeper into it with my mom and I realized that she doesn’t really get as much recognition as she deserves. That’s kind of why I pushed this project forward.”

The trio organized a Veterans Day concert at the school that featured the Danvers High Jazz Band and the YellowHouse Blues Band in November that drew about 200 guests.

The concert raised \$2,000 for the initiative, which will be used to fund future events for veterans and provided a donation to the



CAROLINE ENOS/Staff photo

**From left: Ari Fajardo, Haley Liporto and Chase Richmond, all 17-year-old juniors at Danvers High School, stand in front of a new mural at the school that they founded through Danvers Hometown Salute, an initiative they created for their DECA class to support local veterans.**

National Art Honor Society, which saw some of its Danvers student members paint a mural honoring veterans in the school’s hallway by the field house.

That mural was also Richmond, Liporto and Fajardo’s idea.

Located where voters will see it when they go to Danvers High on election days, the mural features the black silhouette of a kneeling soldier against the backdrop of an American flag.

Inside the soldier’s form are phrases associated with service members. Painted in white, they include the words “Sacrifice,”

“Courage,” “Proud to be an American” and “A hero remembered never dies.”

The students plan to host another concert next school year and will expand their work to help homeless veterans. Likely, by volunteering with local food pantries and soup kitchens, Liporto said.

“We wanted to do a DECA project that actually means something, because a lot of them are just little things around our school or fake scenarios of using business skills,” she said. “But I feel like this really makes an impact. It’s a really long lasting thing.”

That’s the goal with the Purple Heart memorial they plan to erect in town this spring.

The memorial will cost about \$7,000 to install. The students, with support from the Danvers Veterans Council, want to put it at the Village Training Field on Centre Street where there are already markers honoring Purple Heart veterans. Town officials would like it at Town Hall, the students said.

“All the parades go right there, so that could be a good place to have it if we can’t get the field,” Liporto said. “But the veterans

wanted us to have it at the field.”

Danvers Hometown Salute has raised thousands of dollars through sponsorships from local businesses and organizations, including Kaffmandu Coffee House, the Knights of Columbus and Danvers FalconFest. Money has also come in through online donation portals set up by DECA.

They’ve met with the Veterans Council and veterans services director Kelley Rayos-Teixeira, and said they will continue to support the council’s needs going forward.

“It’s fantastic to see the

younger generation caring and getting involved with keeping veterans’ memories alive, whether it be with a monument or showing appreciation through a concert,” Rayos-Teixeira said.

The students placed first in their division at DECA’s state competition this year and will compete at DECA’s international competition in Atlanta later this month.

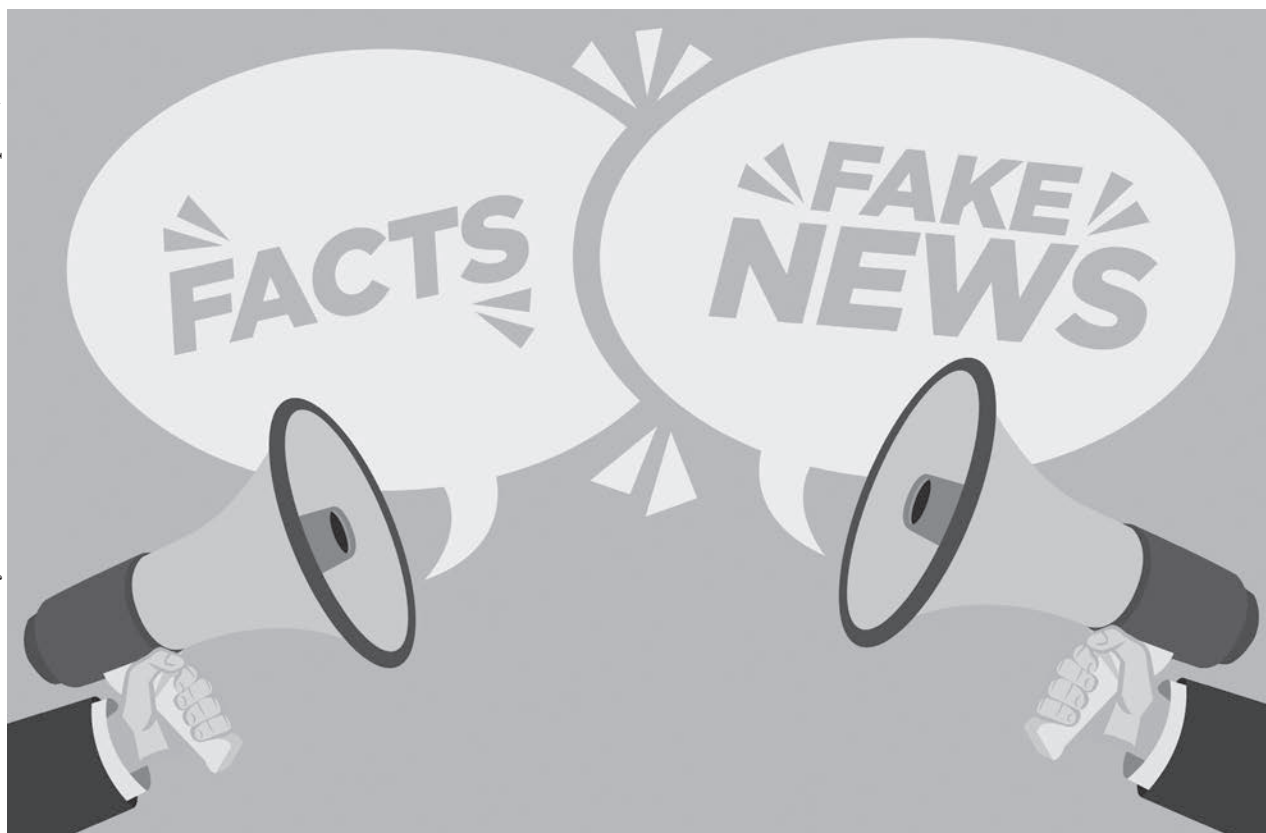
They’re all active in other areas of the school community, too. Richmond is a trombone player in the school’s ensembles and junior captain of varsity baseball, Fajardo is a National Art Honor Society member and varsity soccer player and Liporto is on the varsity volleyball team.

Beyond their current initiatives, they hope to expand Danvers Hometown Salute so that it helps veterans in other communities.

“We noticed that there’s not a lot of recognition for veterans in our town. There’s not a lot of things that people have done for veterans besides parades,” Fajardo said, also noting that both of her grandfathers served. “We want to make an impact even after we graduate and after our project’s over.”

Go to <https://givebutter.com/VkvPTw> to donate to Danvers Hometown Salute. For questions, email [danvershometownsalute@gmail.com](mailto:danvershometownsalute@gmail.com).

Contact Caroline Enos at [CEnos@northofboston.com](mailto:CEnos@northofboston.com).



## Looking to combat fake news?

Here are some resources to help you determine if what you've read is true:

» **PolitiFact** is the Pulitzer Prize-winning fact checking operation run by the nonprofit Poynter Institute. The site fact-checks statements by politicians and debunks myriad Facebook hoaxes.

<https://www.politifact.com/>

» **FactCheck.org**, run by Annenberg Public Policy Center, performs much of the same tasks, and also let's you ask questions of the fact checkers. An example question: Did the Supreme Court rule that it is illegal to take the oath of office with anything but the Bible? (The answer is no.)

<https://www.factcheck.org/>

» **Snopes** is the original fact-checking website. Use the site's search bar to get to the bottom of political statements, viral videos and urban myths.

<https://www.snopes.com/>

» **A Google reverse image search** is the best way to find out if that photo you saw making the rounds on Twitter or Facebook is real. This story from PC Magazine walks you through how to do it on your desktop or your phone.

<https://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2492468,00.asp>

» **Still need help?** Contact us at the Gloucester Daily Times or Salem News, and we'll get the answer for you, no matter the topic. Email Gloucester editor Andrea Holbrook at [aholbrook@gloucestertimes.com](mailto:aholbrook@gloucestertimes.com), or Salem editor John Castelluccio at [jcastelluccio@salemnews.com](mailto:jcastelluccio@salemnews.com)



## REAL NEWS IN SCHOOLS

### How the program works

Your school can have access to local, trusted journalism from The Salem News and Gloucester Daily Times on a daily basis. We report on news throughout the North Shore and Cape Ann, covering all things local — from schools, to sports, to government, people profiles, business, entertainment and more. You get the facts — the real news — from experienced reporters, photographers and editors you can count on at no cost to your school.

Here are the basics of the program:

**What is it?** The Salem News and Gloucester Daily Times partner with local businesses to provide free digital access to our newspapers to anyone within a school in our coverage area at no cost to the school. This access encourages students to value the vital news coverage being produced by The Salem News and Gloucester Daily Times. They will build awareness and gain critical thinking skills in the process.

**Who can participate?** This program will benefit teachers, students, and others in the school community.

**Where does it take place?** You can access our newspaper online. Teachers can incorporate the program into their curriculums, even having reporters, photographers and editors visit your class.

**When can we start benefiting?** As soon as we have your commitment to participate in Real News in Schools we will go to work to find a local business who wants to sponsor you. Once we have one, we will work with your IT Department to get the program up and running.

**Why is this valuable?** There's a lot of fake news out there on social media and elsewhere. The Salem News, founded in 1880 as The Salem Evening News, and the Gloucester Daily Times, founded in 1888, both award-winning publications, have long track records of fair and accurate reporting that cuts through the misinformation.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
[SALEMNEWS.COM/REALNEWS](http://SALEMNEWS.COM/REALNEWS)  
[GLOUCESTERTIMES.COM/REALNEWS](http://GLOUCESTERTIMES.COM/REALNEWS)

# Cape Ann's next business leaders test skills in statewide competition

By Bobby Grady and Stephen Hagan

» Staff Writers

High school students from around Cape Ann made their way to the Boston Convention Center to put their skills in business, marketing, finance and more to the test in the state DECA conference and competition.

Every year DECA, an international organization focused on educating students in the fields of business, finance, marketing and more with chapters in schools across the world hosts regional, state, national and international conferences and competitions for students in their school's respective DECA club.

The Massachusetts conference and competition brought over 4,000 students from across the commonwealth together this past weekend to compete in written presentations and exams as well as role-plays in different aspects of the business world. Those competing had to earn

their spot at one of the many regional DECA conferences and competitions.

In Gloucester, high school business teacher and DECA advisor Brady Frost said 22 of the high school club's 45 students earned a spot in the state competition, with several earning recognition during the event.

"All of our kids performed exceptionally well and it was a lot of fun for each and every kid," Frost said.

Those that win their respective competition earn a spot at the International Career Development Conference. Of Gloucester's competing students, only Aleena Brown scored well enough in her category, "Sports and Entertainment Marketing Operations Research," to move on.

Frost said Brown is electing not to attend the conference in Atlanta, Georgia, at the end of April but it is "still incredibly impressive that she won."

Gloucester's Julian Nixon also walked away with accolades, earning two college



BRADY FROST/Courtesy photo

**Twenty-two Gloucester High School students participated in the state DECA conference and competition held last weekend in Boston.**

scholarships, including the biggest one given out.

"That was something nice to hang our hat on as well and we were all extremely happy for Julian," Frost said.

Rockport High School senior Wyatt Wilkinson was a state finalist who qualified for the International Career Development Conference through a bump-up, said Scott Larsen, who teaches history and business courses at Rockport High.

Larsen, who has been advisor of the Rockport DECA

chapter for 21 years, said the Rockport students competed in the "Accounting Applications" category.

Manchester Essex Regional High School Principal Julie Sgroi said several students were state champions, including three who have only been in the school's DECA chapter a year. They are sophomores Keira Flynn who scored in Principles of Entrepreneurship, Cody Mears in Principles of Hospitality and Tourism, and Saskia Kueh-

Principles of Business Management and Administration.

Juniors Sarah Cort and Kiernan Day, both in the second of DECA, won the Hospitality Services category.

And winning for a second time were senior Connor Dickson in Restaurant and Food Service Management, and juniors Alex Hatfield, a chapter officer, and Benjamin Rubens in the Financial Services category.

Coming into the competition, Frost said each Gloucester student had been working

on their project both in and out of school for the event since September.

Frost is in his first year with the high school and comes from a corporate background, working for companies such as Fidelity, Planet Fitness and the Discovery Channel, and he said the club is giving kids real world experience.

"I think it's a fantastic opportunity for students of all levels and interests because it closely mirrors the real world," he said. "They are presenting and doing research and putting together thoughts and ideas on real world applications and then applying them."

He said the DECA club has grown in the last few years, and an increasing number of Gloucester students are participating in the competitions.

"Even if it's not something the (students) are doing directly in the future, it is still a fantastic experience in terms of preparing yourself and putting yourself out there," Frost said.

## Austin Prep students bring Passion Projects to life

By Andrew Skeirik

At Austin Prep, students in AP Language and Composition are using schoolwork to pursue something more personal: their own passions. From learning to play the ukulele to conducting environmental research with Gunstock Mountain, students are spending months building skills, exploring interests, and creating projects that reflect who they are and what matters to them. The multi-semester-long Passion Project concluded in March with a museum-style presentation, where classmates and faculty explored the wide range of student work.

My project featured an environmental study with Gunstock Mountain, exploring how different environmental and operational factors affect

the quality and safety of ski trails throughout the winter season. The project monitored multiple variables with the end goal of analyzing common factors that may contribute to an unknown problem. Understanding how trails changed over time demonstrated the ski industry's commitment to efficiency and safety.

"My passion project is learning how to play the ukulele, and it stemmed from middle school when I played the saxophone and realized that I enjoyed playing instruments," Austin Prep junior Stella Masciarelli, of Reading, said. "I've always wanted to learn another instrument because I think it is a good skill to have. This Passion Project assignment helped me to turn a fun idea into a reality.



AUSTIN PREP/Contributed photo

**Andrew Skeirik, Class of '27, of Melrose, presents his environmental research passion project on ski trail quality and safety at the Austin Prep museum-style AP Language and Composition showcase.**

The Passion Project has been so much fun, as it is combining something I'm interested in with schoolwork."

According to AP Language

and Composition teacher Stephanie Choate, the broad range is part of what makes the Passion Project so meaningful. "In the past, students

have learned how to play instruments and speak other languages," Choate said. "They have learned construction and created tables, bird houses, guitars, skis, and more. Students have also written books, poems, code and photographic reflections."

As part of a summer reading assignment, these AP students read "The Element" by Ken Robinson. The novel offers students a path toward self-discovery and discusses the intersection of natural talent and personal passions. Rather than taking a traditional test after finishing the book, students were encouraged to use their time to discover their own passion. The six-month process allowed students to reflect on their strengths, weaknesses, and untapped

potential as they developed a project centered on personal exploration.

While many school projects are based on class content and ask all students to complete the same task, the Passion Project challenges each student in a new and personal way. It asks students not just what they learned, but what they care about. Students choose their own topics, allowing them to dive into a subject that genuinely matters to them. The overall goal of the project is to show that real-world success is not just about remembering information, but about developing problem-solving skills and the ability to explore something meaningful.

Andrew Skeirik, of Melrose, is a student in the Class of '27 at Austin Prep.

# Shape Their College Journey



*...with a Flex-Line HELOC.*

**Flexible financing powered by your home's equity. Apply online today!**

**[learn.capeannsavings.bank/flexline](https://learn.capeannsavings.bank/flexline)**



NMLS# 480253



**Cape Ann Savings Bank**

CELEBRATING 180 YEARS

## Essex Agricultural Society offers scholarships to high school seniors

TOPSFIELD — The Essex Agricultural Society, the organization that runs the Topsfield Fair, recently announced the availability of scholarships for well-rounded high school seniors in Essex County.

These scholarships, created to support students pursuing higher education, will be awarded during the second semester of their freshman year and sent directly to their college or university. In 2025, the Society awarded more than \$80,000 in scholarship aid to qualified students and also administered scholarships for the Essex County Farm Bureau and the Essex County Fruit Growers Association.

In addition, the Charles E. Lerner Family Foundation is offering four additional awards this year, each valued at \$2,000. These scholarships aim to promote agriculture through sustainable farming practices, support the family farm, and provide special help to children who demonstrate a passion for agriculture.

Students can visit the Topsfield Fair website ([www.topsfieldfair.org](http://www.topsfieldfair.org)) for the scholarship applications and guidelines. A copy of the student's high school transcript is required and a note of all activities and volunteer performances of the individual. The deadline for applications is April 1.

"We're excited to continue providing scholarships to high school seniors ready to take the next step in their education," said James O'Brien, General Manager of the Topsfield Fair. "With a legacy of supporting agriculture and community for over 208 years, we're proud to invest in the futures of young people who share these values. These scholarships are one way we help students reach their goals and empower the next generation."

For more information, contact Nancy McCarthy at the Topsfield Fair by email at [nancy@topsfield-fair.org](mailto:nancy@topsfield-fair.org) or by calling 978-887-5000.

# Witches win first state basketball title in 31 years, defeating top ranked Hanover

By Phil Stacey

» Executive Sports Editor

LOWELL — Following a three-point attempt by Hanover in the waning moments, Salem High basketball captain Nate Lane was fouled with his team leading by four points and just 4.1 seconds left in the game clock.

That was it; the game was all but over. The Witches were about to win their first state basketball championship in 31 years, and junior superstar Elian Rodriguez, hovering near midcourt as Lane readied to take his free throws, looked towards the skies and started to tear up.

"I just thought about my (late) father Juan and how I wish he was here to see me do this. I know he'd be so proud of me," said Rodriguez, who poured in 27 points as Salem defeated top seeded Hanover, 57-51, before a raucous crowd at Tsongas Center March 14.

"I wish he could've been up there in the stands with the rest of my family," continued Rodriguez, tearing up again. "I did this for him."

Salem, which finished the season 24-2, did what it set out to do long before the 2025-26 campaign officially started: Win the school's fourth boys basketball crown in school history — and the first team state title of *any* kind since the Witches' football team captured a Super Bowl in 1999 — and also beat the same Hanover team that knocked them out of the playoffs a year ago.

"This was payback," said junior guard Matt Kenney, who coolly drilled two free throws with 16.4 seconds to play to give the Witches a 55-51 lead. "We didn't want to experience that same feeling of losing again to those guys."

Longtime head coach Tommy Doyle, who coached his 500th career game at his alma mater March 14 (career record: 365-135), was thanked by seemingly every person who lives in the Witch City after the game. Doyle now has a state title with Salem as a player (1990) and head coach.

"For these boys to do this, it's just spectacular," said Doyle. "I can't



JAIME CAMPOS PHOTOS

Salem's Matt Kenney, who buried two clutch free throws with 16.4 seconds to go night, jumps for joy after the Witches captured the Division 3 state title over Hanover. Teammates Jeyren Estevez (2) and captain Elian Rodriguez (with trophy) are behind him.



believe the amount of work they put in from last year to this year to make sure the moment didn't end the same way as a year ago.

"They had a mission, they took me along on the mission, and I am so happy to be a part of this group."

Tied after one quarter, the second seeded Witches (24-2) exploded in the eight minutes before halftime, scoring 23 points and holding Hanover to just 10 to take a 39-26 lead at the break. The Hawks made a big push to get within four (46-42) entering the final quarter and cut it to two (51-49) with 2:48 to go.

But the ever-cool Rodriguez drew a double team before dishing a backdoor pass to Kenney, who cut towards the lane and scored on a layup to increase Salem's lead to four. Kenney was fouled on the play and missed the free throw, but the Witches got the rebound and ate more time off the clock.

A lay-in by Hanover big man Ryan Mutschler (22 points) again made it a 2-point game, but those were the last points for the Hawks.

Hanover (23-2) had possession in their own end following a Salem miss with 22.1 seconds left and called time out to set up the potential tying or go-ahead shot. But Witches senior Cesar Mesa Castillo — in a season where the Witches prided themselves on aggressive team defense — made the play of the year by stealing the inbound pass and getting it to Kenney before the latter was fouled.

"I knew (Mutschler) was their guy on the inbound, and me and Elian were fronting him," said Castillo, who finished with five points and five boards. "I saw him make a twitch and knew we had a few fouls to give, so I took a chance. I'm a pretty good defender and it benefited there."

"I got the steal ... and the rest is history."

**LEFT: Junior superstar Elian Rodriguez (21) and the Salem Witches celebrate their Division 3 boys basketball state championship. Rodriguez led the way with a game-high 27 points.**

# Fenwick girls top Pittsfield to bring home program's first state crown in a decade

By Phil Stacey

» Executive Sports Editor

LOWELL — The free throw. It's the one shot in basketball that can't be defended.

For some reason, the Bishop Fenwick girls basketball team — whose offense is heavily predicated on inside play under the boards — was sent to the charity stripe just once in the first half of the March 15 Division 3 state championship game against Pittsfield. The opponents made 14 trips to the line, sinking eight, and as a result the contest was tied at the break.

When Fenwick finally started getting fouled regularly in the second half, they made the Generals pay.

Senior captain Celia Neilson swished seven of her eight freebies over the final 16 minutes and finished with a game high 19 points, 18 rebounds and four assists as the Crusaders held off Pittsfield, 49-44, to win their first state championship since 2016.

It was a fitting end for Fenwick's three seniors — tri-captains Brittney Figulski, Caitlin Boyle, and Neilson — who went to the state final as freshmen, didn't have the opportunity to play in the state tournament with a dominant club as sophomores



ROSE RAYMOND PHOTO

The 2025-26 Division 3 girls basketball state champions from Bishop Fenwick.

because of an MIAA ban on their school, and were knocked out in the second round as juniors before winning it all in the final game of their high school careers.

"I think so," Fenwick head coach Adam DeBaggis said when asked if it was the 'right' way for his three captains to

end their careers. "I still wish those other girls (on the dominant 2024 team that weren't allowed to play in the postseason) got their shot, but I know (they) will be very happy for us."

DeBaggis put the names of those 2024 seniors on his clipboard for the final game

and told his Crusaders that "they were with us. I hope it worked."

Neilson was a force down low, not only scoring on a variety of post moves but also controlling the glass. In one fourth quarter sequence, she literally punched an offensive rebound back to one of

her backcourt mates; then, after another opportunity came up, she tapped the ball back to another white-and-gold clad teammate, keeping possession for the Crusaders.

Boyle, the Stonehill-bound standout from Beverly, finished with a double-double that included 13 points, a

dozen rebounds and making three of her four foul shots.

"It's just the greatest feeling," said Boyle. "You work so hard towards a goal and have ups and downs and go through a lot, but to win it all at the end is the best way to finish it."

As a team, Fenwick finished 11-for-13 from the line, with Boyle and Neilson combining to haul down 30 of the squad's 37 total rebounds.

Top-seeded Fenwick (20-5) was also buoyed by a 13-0 spurt to end the third quarter, turning a one-point deficit into a comfortable 12-point lead in a span of just 2 minutes and 29 seconds.

Neilson got it started with a lay-up to give the Crusaders a lead (30-29) they'd never again relinquish. Junior guard Abby Jenkins (9 points) then drained a three-pointer from the right side, Neilson followed with a spin-and-score move to the hoop, senior captain Caitlin Boyle (13 points) drilled a pair of free throws, Neilson scored again down low, and finally junior guard Reese Spurchise stole the ball from Pittsfield and took it to the hole for two more points.

"It's such a rush," Jenkins said of taking home the title. "We worked so hard for this the whole season."

## Danvers High AP program earns second honor

By News Staff

DANVERS — Danvers High School has received a second recognition for its Advanced Placement program this winter, the district announced in a statement.

The school earned an AP Access Award from the College Board, which is given to schools that effectively encourage low-income and

underrepresented minority students to take AP courses, the district said.

DHS had 307 students participate and take one or more AP exams last year. Of those students, 76% scored a three or higher out of a possible score of five, and 78 students earned a five on a total of 136 different exams.

"It takes a coordinated

effort from students, teachers, counselors, administrators and parents to make AP access a priority. We are very pleased to receive this recognition," Superintendent Daniel Bauer said in the statement.

Twenty-two AP courses are currently taught at the school, though DHS plans to raise that number to 26 for the

start of the 2026-2027 school year in the fall.

DHS earned its first AP honor earlier this winter, a Silver Medal that is the third-highest ranking of four distinguished rankings that a school can receive for the types of AP classes it offers, and how successful students are while in those classes.

"We are thrilled to once

again be recognized by the College Board as DHS and the entire district has worked hard to remove the barriers that are often preventing some students from finding success in college level courses," Principal Alan Strauss said in the statement.

"Our AP teachers have worked intentionally and diligently to remove the typical

hurdles, such as prerequisites, so that all students can find success in AP courses. What is even more impressive, as seen by our first Silver Medal honor this year, is that our AP scores have continued to rise, in conjunction with the number of students taking AP courses. That is a model that we are extremely proud of," he said.

# Bettencourt, Hall named Moynihan Lumber Student-Athletes of the Month for January

Based on their achievements both in the classroom and in their respective athletic endeavors, senior Lizzie Bettencourt of Peabody Veterans Memorial High School and sophomore Gus Hall of Manchester Essex Regional High School have been selected as the Moynihan Lumber Student-Athletes of the Month for January.

Lizzie, a three-sport captain at Peabody High, helped lead the girls basketball team to a 14-6 mark this winter and a spot in the Division 1 state tournament. She also dominates in the classroom and is ranked No. 2 in her senior class with a 4.014 grade point average.

The 18-year-old, the third of Mark and Lauren's four children, will head off to Bates College in Lewiston, Maine this fall, where she'll play volleyball and softball for the Bobcats. The emphasis there on academics, plus the school's small community and hometown feeling, made it the perfect choice for her.

"There's the expectation to do well academically, but for the most part it's more I know I can do it," said Lizzie. "It's the same as in sports; as long as I'm having fun, that's what makes me happy."

Lizzie's unselfish play on the basketball court — "the sport I have the

most fun in" — is a huge reason for her team's success. A factor in the paint who averaged 7.5 rebounds a night this winter, she also excels defensively and takes each assignment of shutting down an opponent as a personal challenge.

"I like to focus on doing my job and trusting my teammates to do theirs. That's what works for us as a team," said Lizzie, whose sister Abby (now at Brown University) won the Moynihan Lumber Female Student-Athlete of the Year Award in 2024. "Focusing on the small things is important, because that's what ultimately helps you win games."

Beating Masconomet twice has been a hoop highlight for her, said Lizzie ... especially after missing out on a playoff spot last season after losing their final regular season game against those same Chieftains.

As an outside hitter on Peabody's volleyball team, Lizzie became the first player in program history to record more than 1,000 kills in her career. As a power hitting first baseman on the softball diamond, she hit .508 a year ago with 11 home runs and 31 RBI.

Having always been good with numbers — she enjoys helping her father, Peabody High's varsity



Lizzie Bettencourt, Peabody



Gus Hall, Manchester Essex

baseball coach, with his team stats — stats and calculus have been particular favorite classes of hers. "I've always been good with numbers," she said.

Among her favorite teachers at PVMHS are Molly Foster, her advisory teacher who also teaches PE, and Jeanne Posteraro, a pre-calculus teacher who "is very invested her students and makes sure everyone knows what they're doing. She taught me in a way that I really understood."

Gus, who was chosen as a captain for Manchester Essex's indoor

track and field team as a sophomore, helped the Hornets win their first meet in two seasons this winter. Against both Lynnfield and Ipswich, he tripled by winning the 1,000 meter, mile and 2-mile races. In doing so, he scored over 30 points individually for his squad and finished as its top point scorer on the season.

He was admittedly "very excited and proud" after earning a top time in the indoor mile in 4 minutes and 45 seconds.

"Running is a great way for me to reset, a physical challenge between

what I do for work in school and what I have to do once I get back home," said the 16-year-old Gus. "I started running in the sixth grade, stuck with it, and the stamina and the speed started to come to me where they became natural. It's become very rewarding for me."

A three-sport varsity athlete at Manchester Essex who also competes for the school's cross country and sailing teams, Gus is also a straight A student who takes all honors classes. He carries an otherworldly 5.1 GPA and says that he really enjoys history, particularly the current Environmental and Health Society class that he's taking.

"I've always been interested in history and reading about it," said the son of Hilary and Donald Hall and the older brother to twin sisters. "My Environmental class, it's really hands on and challenges me, which I like. Plus, it's really important nowadays."

"Studying is something I've always had to work really hard at," Gus continued. "I have to plan out strategies and such to make it work. Fortunately, it has."

In addition, Gus has been active in Scouting for several years, engaging in community service activities and pursuing his Eagle Scout award.

## Bishop Fenwick names new president



COURTESY PHOTO

**Dr. Michael Volonnino, the new president of Bishop Fenwick High School in Peabody and St. Mary of the Annunciation School in Danvers.**

**By Caroline Enos**

» Staff Writer

PEABODY — Dr. Michael Volonnino will lead Bishop Fenwick High School and St. Mary of the Annunciation School as their new president.

Volonnino will take over the role on July 1 from current President Tom Nunan, Bishop Fenwick said in a statement.

Nunan announced his impending departure in October, saying at the time that he and his wife will be moving out of the area to be closer to family. He is set to finish out the school year before handing over the reins.

Volonnino will be the schools'

second-ever president. He is currently the principal of Archbishop Williams High School in Braintree, where "he has helped lead significant enrollment growth, major capital improvements and mission-centered academic and spiritual development," according to the statement.

"The Board of Trustees unanimously affirmed the Search Committee's recommendation, reflecting a strong and unified confidence in Dr. Volonnino's leadership, vision and character," Bishop Fenwick said in the statement.

Volonnino was hired in a national search for a new president that was carried out over

the last four months. Along with other finalists for the position, Volonnino met with faculty, staff, students, parents and alumni over two days on Bishop Fenwick's campus, the school said.

He has a Ph.D. in education administration from the University of Texas at Austin, a master's in education from Rutgers University and a bachelor's degree in history from Harvard University. Volonnino has also presented at National Catholic Educational Association conferences and has published scholarly work on instructional leadership and educator effectiveness, according to the statement.

"I am incredibly grateful and

excited to join the Fenwick and St. Mary's community," he said in the statement. "There is a visible momentum here that is hard to ignore, and it's been inspiring to see how deeply the mission is lived out every day."

"My first priority is to listen and learn from all of you as we move forward together, staying focused on what matters most: preparing our students for lives of leadership, service and purpose."

Bishop Fenwick and St. Mary's have created a committee to assist in the leadership transition between Nunan and Volonnino in the coming months, according to the statement.



### FAMOUS MARINADES

Sirloin Tips | Boneless Chicken  
Boneless Pork | Wings & Thighs

### MEATS

Full Line of Packaged &  
Custom-Cut Meats

### BEER & WINE

A Great Selection of Beer & Wine  
to Compliment Our Food Items

### NEW SEASONED STEAKS

Seasoned With Montreal Seasoning  
Available In All Cuts

### PRODUCE

Expanded Produce Department

### PREPARED FOODS

Salads | Soups | Quiche  
Dips | Desserts

# *The* **BUTCHERY**

---

*The Difference is Delicious*

DANVERS: 182 North Street, 978-777-3000 • NEWBURY: 2 Morgan Ave., 978-463-3001

LET US CATER YOUR NEXT FAMILY OR COMPANY PARTY

*Open 7 days a week*  
[www.danversbutchery.com](http://www.danversbutchery.com)