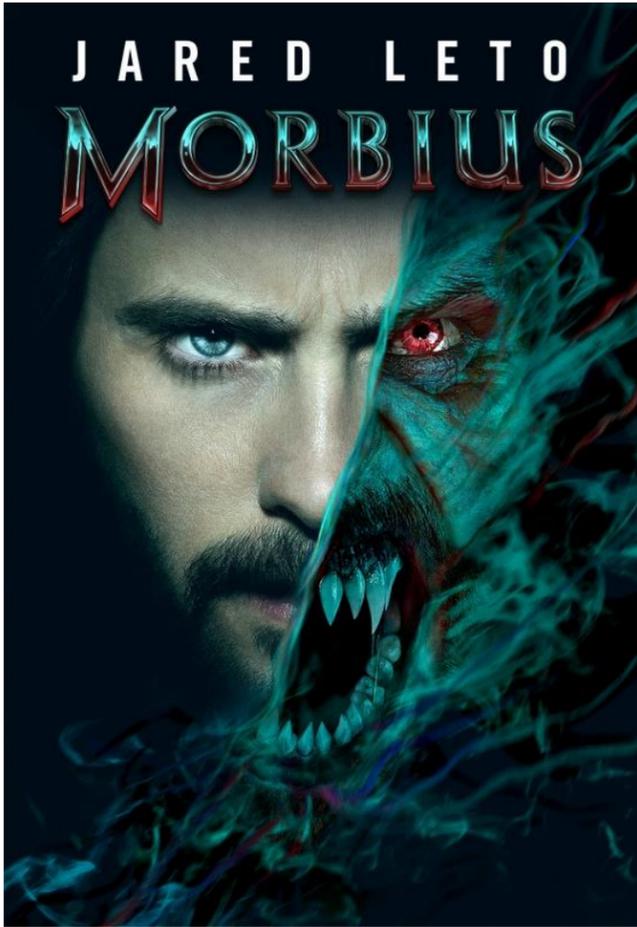


# BIG BLUE NEWS



## It's Morbin' Time!!!

**BARON ROGMAN**

The movie known as *Morbius* is about this man named Michael Morbius, played by Jared Leto. Michael Morbius is dangerously ill with a rare blood disorder and determined to save others suffering the same fate. He gambles his life to get rid of this illness, but a darkness in him is unleashed from said gamble.

But this movie, although it has a fast pace and cool visuals, only has a 15% on Rotten Tomatoes. It's not very good. Since it was so terrible, people decided to make it a meme. They then made the phrase, "It's morbin' time" and the word "morb." Morb can mean anything you want it to. According to Urban Dictionary, it can replace any adjective and prefix. The meme and the morbing sensation of this movie died out, about a month or two later. *Morbius* has now been tossed out into the ocean of terrible movies. The legend of *Morbius* can finally rest.

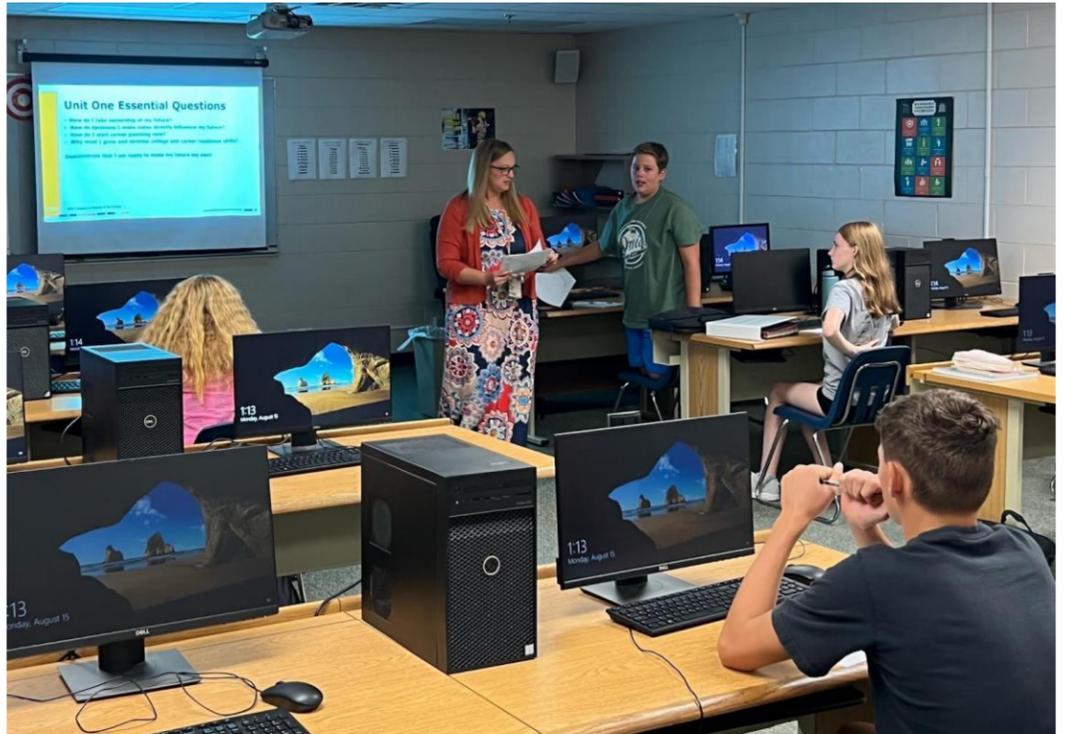


Photo courtesy of the Freeman Public Schools Facebook page

## Giving Guidance...an interview with Mrs. Alexander

**REBECCA FORD**

School has started, much to the dismay of students and teachers everywhere, but this year at Freeman is beginning to shape up to be a bit different. We've seen unprecedented, but most noticeably in the staff. Familiar faces have moved on, and with their departure, new faces are seen all over the building.

One such new face is Trish Alexander, Freeman's newest school counselor. Not only is Alexander new to counseling at Freeman, but she's also new to counseling in general, with her time now at Freeman serving as her first year of counseling. Despite the nerves that might come with counseling at a new school for the first time, however, Alexander is looking forward to her work at Freeman with bright eyes.

"I want to be here at Freeman because I know it is a great school in all areas and it is a good community. I also love the size of the school and that I can counsel students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade," Alexander says.

Although this is her first year of counseling, Alexander isn't for a lack of experience. She was working as an elementary school teacher and social worker in Lincoln before coming to Freeman, giving her plenty of experience working with students. However, despite her experience, Alexander confirms that many things have changed in the field of counseling. While guidance counselors used to focus primarily on class schedules and college navigation with students, counselors now have those responsibilities and more, ranging from helping students navigate academic responsibilities to emotional and social needs. This increased connection with students is also something Alexander loves about her job.

"My favorite thing about counseling is working with students. It doesn't matter what we are doing, I enjoy my day the most when I am with students," she states.

With Alexander, the focus is always on the student. Even her reason to counsel is motivated by how she can help students by including them, caring for them, and giving them a sense of hope. While she had been able to do this to an extent as a teacher in Lincoln, she's now taking it to the next level as a counselor at Freeman.

As expected, though, it can't always be smooth sailing. Counseling can come with its pros and cons, and Alexander finds it difficult when she's unable to help students the way she would like.

"Something that is difficult with counseling is that sometimes there is only so much I can do to help students and my best isn't enough," Alexander says.

While it can always be demotivating when things don't go as well as one would like, the fulfillment Alexander feels when helping students far outweighs the cons of the position, and she is looking forward to a great year at Freeman.

## EDUCATION NEWS

## Not Better, Not Worse, Just Different!

REBECCA PELLEGRINI

Differences between Italian school  
and American school

In the imagination of many young Italians, because of films and TV series, the American high school has become the ideal school. There are many differences between American and Italian schools, and here are some of them.

In the American school you enter around 8 am and leave around 3.30 pm, and you attend from Monday to Friday, while in the Italian school you enter around 8 and leave around 2 pm and in some schools, you also go to class on Saturdays.

There is an American flag in every class and before the first class, students look at that and take the "THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE", which does not happen in Italy.

In Italy, a lesson is about an entire hour and you never change class so you stay in the same room, with the same people, for the entire duration of the day and, of course, you don't have lockers but you bring everything in your backpack.

In America, a lesson is about 45 minutes. Before each lesson begins, there are a few minute breaks to go to your locker to get the materials for the next hour and change rooms.

In the United States, there are no pre-established subjects, but everyone can choose the course that they want to follow. In Italy, there are already pre-established subjects, based on the chosen school.

In fact, after middle school, a student must choose the type of school based on his interests and the subjects will consequently be those for the entire course of study (which in Italy lasts 5 years).

In Italy, the grades range from 0 to 10, and are not letters, and if you fail a test you have to keep the grade and you do not have the opportunity to retake it.



The American school focuses on socializing among students and services, so the school offers extracurricular activities such as extracurricular activities such as football, cheerleading, volleyball, wrestling, softball, track, cross country, band, choir, and theater. When, on the other hand, in Italy at schools, there are just such things limited to curricular lessons.

Certainly, at the academic level, the Italian school is more complex and the study programs are more complete, in fact, all subjects are studied at 360 degrees, when instead here in America we focus almost exclusively on what happens or has happened in the state itself.

American professors are keen to establish a relationship that makes everything much more pleasant for the student and, between extracurricular activities and breaks, one is much more motivated to go to school. In Italy, going to ask the students, many of them can declare that they suffer from stress and anxiety because of the school and for many attitudes of the teachers who, instead of helping and listening to the students, limit themselves to explaining their program and filling the boy himself with grades.

They are certainly two different types and like all things, there are strengths and weaknesses in both. There is no perfect school system and in my opinion, the two could take some aspects from the other to improve, although obviously this is not possible.

## PARA INTERVIEW

## Who is Mrs. Shubert?

HAILEY FORD

Our journalism class was tasked this year to choose one new staff member to interview for an article. For this article, I choose to interview Nikki Shubert, a new elementary para to Freeman. I interviewed Nikki and asked questions like why she wanted to become a para, and what a typical day would look like to her. Hopefully, you can learn something from this article, and maybe you too can become a para.

Why did you decide to start working at Freeman?

**NS-** I wanted to start working at Freeman as an elementary para because I like working with kids, and I wanted to help serve my community.

What is it like being a para?

**NS-** It is very busy but also very fun, I get to help a lot of different kinds of kids, and I get to learn new things all the time.

What does a typical school day look like for you?

**NS-** When I start my day, I go to the lunchroom and help with scanning breakfast and lunch, I also help out with recesses, making sure the kids are being safe, I also help out during 9th-grade science, as well as fourth-grade reading, first-grade math, and study hall, and I get to spend some time with Ashton and Kypton,

What do you consider to be some of your strengths and why?

**NS-** I would say being able to figure out what the kids' needs are and find out ways I can best help them. I am also empathetic, so I think that helps too.

List three adjectives you would use to describe yourself.

**NS-** I would have to say that I am fun, patient, and a good listener.

As the interview comes to a close, I learned about what an elementary para's typical day looks like. She gave me good insight into what a weekday would look like for her, as well as some of her strengths. I enjoyed meeting with Nikki, and hope you learned something new about a typical day as a para.

**PARAPROFESSIONAL:**  
The heartfelt hero. Using their talents to help students discover their own. Dedicating their time and energy each day to the students in their care, and doing it all while meeting the individual needs of many.



#schoolheroes  
teresa kwant



## Urban Legend? Skinwalkers

HAYLEIGH SHUBERT

*There is an urban legend out there that there is a creature who can shapeshift and do evil things. It is called Skinwalkers, they are often found and talked about in the indigenous culture but some people have reported suspicious sightings and activity.*

*Skinwalkers are a type of harmful witch that can shapeshift into wolf-like creatures and are often found in Navajo culture. They often prey on cattle, horses, and other livestock animals, but this has only occurred in the southwestern states such as Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and New Mexico. In Utah there have been several reports of cattle mutilations and disappearances, as well as UFO sightings.*

*One story of a skinwalker encounter is, one night a family was out walking their dog on their new ranch when suddenly they encountered a wolf with glowing red eyes, but this wolf was not any wolf, it was three times bigger than the average wolf. The creature stood there unfazed, then Terry Sherman fired three shots at it, blasting through its hide. The Sherman family wasn't the only family to be traumatized by the events that occurred at the ranch. After they moved out several other families came and went and eventually the ranch was bought and renamed Skinwalker Ranch.*

*Where did skinwalkers come from? Well, their name comes from Navajo culture and is translated to "yee naaldlooshii" which means "by means of it, it goes on all fours." In some cultures the skinwalker is believed to have been born of a benevolent medicine man who abuses indigenous magic for evil. All traditions mention the ability to possess or turn into animals. Other traditions believe men, women, and children can possess these abilities to shapeshift if they have committed an evil crime.*

*Whether you believe in skinwalkers or not, people say they are out there. Just beware of glowing red eyes in the darkness of the night, but only in the southwestern states.*



## Would You Eat That?

OLIVIA GOULDIE

What's the craziest thing you've ever eaten? Maybe you've tried shark one time on a vacation to Hawaii, or you ate alligator at a fancy restaurant you went to last year. But how far is too far when it comes to food?

First on our list were going to go to the Philippines, where the most popular food is a food by the name of Balut. Balut is a fertilized duck embryo that is usually cooked until the inside is hard boiled, it's supposed to be eaten by cracking a hole in the egg and sucking out the broth. Then you're supposed to eat it embryo and all. Balut is not considered a delicacy, but a street food, and is easy to find in almost all grocery stores, and even restaurants. Below is an example of Balut.



Next on our list is Korea which is mainly known for their exotic foods. Sanakji (san-a-chee) which is English translates to raw Octopus. This food is very well known is most restaurants around Korea. It is prepared by cutting the head off a live octopus, and either serving it whole and or cutting it into pieces to serve in soup, or with vegetables. This dish is usually not cooked, and the octopus is usually still moving when eaten. The tentacles are the most dangerous part to eat due to the suction cups being so sticky, they could get caught in your throat and cause you to choke.



Most popular type of food in many countries are bugs of all sorts, from grasshoppers of all sizes to wasps made into crackers. Boiled, fried or raw they are eaten all types of ways and it's a very popular food sold in restaurants and the food markets.

Whether you like stepping out of your comfort zone or not, I hope it was at least interesting to learn some of the exotic foods from around the world. To me it was very interesting learning about everyday foods in other cultures.

**TEACHER INTERVIEW**

## Say 'Hello' to Mr. Brening

**BARON ROGMAN**

We've got a new face in the building. He is energetic and is an absolute pleasure to be around. His name is Mr. Brening. He is the 7-12 band and choir teacher. Now unfortunately we weren't able to do this interview in person, but we were able to get in contact with him. We asked him a few questions about why he came to this school and what he likes best about teaching. Along with a couple fun ones. Here is what he had to say.

**Why did you become a teacher and why did you choose to come back to teaching?**

"I didn't always want to be a teacher. Teaching found me. What I mean by that is when I was young I knew I had a penchant for music. Singing and understanding music came easy for me. But what I discovered is I LOVE storytelling. After all, music is just storytelling set to melodies. I also have incredible memories in various music departments over the years and I wanted desperately to recreate those experiences that my former teachers worked so hard to create for me. After a brief stint in the private sector I soon realized I missed the moments that only teaching can provide."

**What made you want to come to Freeman?**

"I was aware of the excellence that Freeman Schools represented across the board. Witnessing how the children conducted themselves at multiple events such as athletics, FFA, and quiz bowl (I acted as a reader) I was compelled to move forward when the opportunity presented itself. Best decision ever!!!"

**What do you like about the kids you teach?**

"My observational instincts were correct. I'm overwhelmed at the care/respect they have for one another. Truly it's unique here. Absolute respect for the staff and peers is on display all the time. It's very evident to the onlooker or spectator."

**What is your favorite food and why?**

"Honestly, probably Indian food. Chicken Tikka Masala. Why? Because I can't make it myself. I don't own a tandoori stone oven. I can't even spell tandoori stone oven."

**What are your hobbies outside of school?**

"I like restoring my Shovelhead Harley, cycling, hiking, and gardening."

**What is your favorite childhood memory?**

"Playing catch with my dad. He loved baseball. I miss him terribly."

There you have it folks. This article will help you get to know Mr. Brening a little better. What his motives were about coming to Freeman. Why he likes the kids he teaches, and some other things that he likes to do outside of school. Let's make him feel welcome to his new home with the Freeman Falcons!



Picture courtesy of Freeman Facebook page

**TEACHER INTERVIEW**

## Learning More About Mrs. Busboom

**HAYLEIGH SHUBERT**

If you see a new face in the science department and want to get to know her a little better, then here is some information about Mrs. Busboom.

I first asked why Mrs. Busboom decided to become a teacher and she told me it was because when she was in high school she had a really terrible teacher and she didn't want any other students feeling the same way she felt while she was in their class. Mrs. Busboom lists another reason and she said it was because almost all of her family is somewhat teacher related. Next, I asked why she came to Freeman, she said she

likes the small community atmosphere and likes how there are 16-17 kids in a class. She said it makes labs so much easier to do because there is such a small amount of students.

I went on to ask her, "What are three adjectives that describe yourself", and she said she's a people person and she loves to talk to people and build relationships with people. She's nerdy and loves all things school, and then she says she's flexible and can change things on a whim. My next question was, if she could travel anywhere in the world right now, where would it be, She said she would go to any place with a beach. The last question I asked her was, what is her favorite childhood memory, and she said just going on vacation to the lake with her family, she loved getting thrown off the tube by her dad and still does to this day.

So, if you wanted to know a little bit more about Mrs. Busboom, there you go. I hope you learned something new about Mrs. Busboom and put a nice background to her face.



**Big Blue News Staff:**

- Hailey Ford
- Rebecca Ford
- Baron Rogman
- Olivia Gouldie
- Hayleigh Shubert
- Rebecca Pellegrini

## NEBRASKA NEWS

## Rhino Escapes Enclosure at Zoo

NOAH JURGENS

Tuesday, September 7th, the Indian rhino, Jontu, briefly escaped his enclosure at the Henry Doorly Zoo prompting visitors to shelter-in-place that afternoon.

At around 1 p.m, Jontu was found in front of the rhino enclosure on the behind-the-scenes path behind the aviary. Zookeepers and officials used motor vehicles to corral the Indian rhino. They also used the zoo's tram to block off the rhino from leaving the Asian highlands exhibit. Dan Cassidy, vice president of animal management, claimed that at no point was any member of the public in danger. Once the escape was known,

guests and staff were taken to a secure location and all entry points to the zoo were closed off.

Zookeepers appealed to the rhino's taste to lure him back into his enclosure with apples. Jontu was out for around 50 minutes until he returned to his enclosure with no one harmed. Zookeepers had tranquilizers in case signs of aggression were shown but luckily Jontu remained calm.

According to officials, the gate wasn't properly closed. Jontu then nudged the door open and wandered out. The zoo is now working on installing a secondary gate to the rhino enclosure



like the rest of the exhibits have. The zoo is also adding fencing to the area where Jontu roamed in order to prevent another escape.

## SCHOOL ISSUE

## Why Am I A Distraction???

GRACE VANDEGRIEND

Name one person who has said  
"omg her shoulders are so attractive"  
"those thighs make me distracted"  
"the holes in her jeans are so hot"

Those are normal clothes that average high schoolers wear, not just girls but guys too. There's no reason a girl should be forced to go home during the school day to change her clothes. All we're ever told is,

"go change your bra strap is showing"  
"your shorts are too short"  
"cover up nobody wants to see that"

There are limits that we understand. People know what's okay and what isn't. I don't understand why we have such a strict dress code. So many things have changed over the years. Clothes are different, jewelry is different. If you're sexualizing young girls from the ages of 12-18 then YOU'RE the problem. If it's too much for you to handle, that's YOUR problem. Just because somebody wears a necklace that is considered a "chain" does not mean they're in a gang. It's 2021, a lot of things have changed. The first ever dress code rule was made in 1969. That's roughly a 52 year difference. So many things have changed since then. Girls don't wear tank tops just to show off their shoulders to men. We wear them because we like to and they are comfortable. Especially when it's hot outside. Same goes for makeup. It's not a dress code violation but you shouldn't judge someone if they're wearing it. Some girls are super talented with it and they do it because they love it.



## What Makes a Good Student?

RILEY BERNHARDT

Do you want to be a good student? If so, follow along with your weekly advice from me, Riley Bernhardt!

A good student has a good attitude, maybe not every day but they always have a way to make their learning experience better. A good student seeks knowledge and gives their best effort no matter what! They are constant in effort to accomplish their goals. Being dedicated and being willing to learn something new will put you in the teacher's eye.

To me I think girls in school should be able to wear jeans with holes. I don't understand the issue behind it. You can wear shorts but not jeans with holes? That's crazy. You're showing more skin by wearing shorts then you are with holey jeans. If you don't want girls or guys wearing jeans with holes above mid thigh then say that. But don't make us buy a whole new wardrobe full of jeans without holes. You can dress code people who have holes above mid thigh but don't take all holey jeans away.

Speaking from experience, no girl should be sent home for wearing jeans with 1 hole in the knee. If i was wearing shorts you can see my knee. If anything, I'm more covered up by wearing jeans with 1 hole than I am shorts. Absolutely no reason a 15 year old should miss class to be sent home for 1 hole in her jeans. It's our bodies. Not just women but guys too. They should be able to wear tank tops and jeans with holes if they want. What happened to freedom of speech? People express themselves with clothing and you're gonna tell us no? I believe we have a right to express ourselves with clothes we like. If you want rules, you got them. But there is no reason jeans with holes and tank tops should be in those rules.

We don't pick our bodies we're born with. Just because one girl has a bigger chest than others, doesn't mean they shouldn't be able to wear a tank top. Normalize all body types. If you think it's a problem then YOU'RE the issue. It really shouldn't be a problem. If a man tells you that it's not okay because he's distracted, that's not a man. That's a boy.

Being a good student means looking into your strengths and knowing how to use them in situations. My most used strength is empathy because I feel for other people and if people are having a hard time I try to help them. Using your strengths in the classroom and in your sports teams is very important, acknowledging and understanding your strengths leads to a very bright student.

Being a good student isn't always easy, being a good student means paying attention in class, taking good notes, planning ahead for tests and projects, being able to break down your homework and figuring out what it is, but also asking for help when you need it, and always getting a good night's sleep. As students we all know that if you go to bed late then the next day you aren't focusing because all you want to do is sleep. A good student would take responsibility and try to change his sleeping schedule. Most of us teenagers would just put it behind us and do it all again the next day, but with an energy drink. A good student knows that they need to try harder to go to sleep so they can fully focus the next day.

Last but not least a GREAT student has a growing mind so they are eager to keep learning, so much that they might go and learn more about it on their own. Being a GREAT student means being brave (speaking up in class), being organized (knowing where homework is), being constant and persistent (studies for tests and gets homework done on time). A big thing that GREAT students really focus on is being able to deal with failure, being held to a standard is never easy so being able to accept that they did get a C or lower on a test. A good or even great student is never perfect, they struggle as much as the average person but they put effort in to try and help them understand.

