

BRIGHTON

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

AND IF YOU NEED MORE CONVINCING, CONTINUE TO PAGES 086-087

Community shares 22 things they love about the town, school

story & design by e.aho



1 SCHOOL STORE

OPEN DURING ALL PERIODS OF THE DAY, THE SCHOOL STORE was a place students could buy snacks or Bulldog apparel. They also could buy snacks from Gatorade drinks to chips. The store was managed and run by DECA students.

"I love running the school store because it gives me the opportunity to show how creative I am. It also gives me experience

for when I will one day manage my own business," Kloee Eisenbarth '22 said. "The school store benefits the whole community, students and the teachers by providing unforgettable learning experiences, healthy snacks and fun merchandise for games. We provide rival shirts every year to all of the community so they can support Brighton while in turn supporting the store."



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STUDENT GOVERNMENT RAISED MONEY TO PURCHASE A NEW MASCOT COSTUME. Once the costume was bought, they asked the school and community to vote online and in Advisory classes to name him and Barkley was chosen. Barkley debuted at the Superintendent's Rivalry Cup football game.

"I was the bodyguard for the mascot at the football games, but I think that he boosted school spirit for sure, especially when I would dress him up as the theme of the football game. The students seemed to really enjoy him and his interactions. Everyone wanted a photo with him including small kids," Kylee Goforth '22 said.

BULLDOG MASCOT

photo by r.weidemann



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ORDER UP. Zoey Stanley '22 picks up her iced coffee from Juliette Mendoza, staff member, during third period at the Dawg Diner Coffee Bar.

STUDENTS COULD GO TO THE DAWG DINER to purchase a hot or iced coffee featuring three types of syrups: vanilla, hazelnut and caramel. They could also buy hot chocolate, pastries and ice cream.

"I just love making coffee and talking with all the students who come in the line. It's just really a fun, welcoming place," Juliette Mendoza, staff member, said.

DAWG DINER COFFEE BAR



photo by e.aho

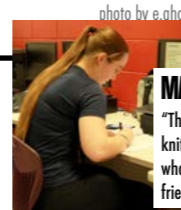


photo by e.aho

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT BRIGHTON?

SHEILA RUFINO '25

"Something I love about Brighton is that my parents and all of my friends live here which is nice. I love having all my people here in one place."

MAYA GROVUM '24

"I mean something I like is that I've lived here my entire life so it's very familiar and it's the only place that I have ever called my home."

KATELYN PRICE '23

"Something I like about Brighton is all of the restaurants we have. McDonalds is my favorite place and it's cheap."

MARIAH NIDAY '22

"There's so many opportunities as a tight knit community, but you're not limited about what you can do on either your off time with friends or hanging out with family."

TREVOR MOORE '24

"I like the small town aspects because everywhere you go you know some people, but it's still not too crowded like in a city like New York."

CHASE RUSER '23

"I love how diverse Brighton is and how all of the small businesses interact with the city and the people."

GILLIAN DINGES '23

"My family's lived here for like forever so it's kind of cool since my grandpa and my dad went to Brighton High School. It feels like a home to me."



photo by e.aho

KAI DEN COCHRANE '22

"The thing I love is the new pop up shops that are coming in like the Boba Shop on Main Street and the smaller businesses you can hang out at with your friends."

AND THIS SHOULD CONVINCING YOU WE LOVE OUR TOWN

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SENIOR ASSASSINATION WAS A GAME STARTED BACK IN 2020 AND BECAME A NEW BULLDOG TRADITION. Seniors worked in pairs and in a "Hunger Games" style fashion, hunted down pairs to take them out of the game with a water gun. The only way a player could be protected was while wearing a pool floaty that was attached to their body.

To play, a senior had to have a partner and donate money toward the prize winnings that went to the final pair standing. The prize money ended up being \$624.

"If you know me I am one person that absolutely loves competition so I loved being

able to compete against my classmates and for the prize money. That kept me motivated and kept me going," Giana Rocha '22 said. "I would do anything to get the win. You sometimes had to hide in places and wait for your target to arrive."

The game went on for almost a month. Participants had to record themselves taking out a target so it would count. In the end, Rocha and her partner, Andrea Donlucas '22 won.

"Senior Assassination was really fun because it gave me a thrill. I'm not a competitive person but being Giana's partner made it fun," Donlucas said.

GIANA ROCHA '22

"What's not to love about Brighton? I have had so many opportunities here at the school as well as the city. There are so many moments that make this a great place to call home."



5 CALM ROOM



THE CALM ROOM WAS A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS AND STAFF could find a safe space to go when they were feeling overwhelmed and needed a break from their day. The Calm Room was located in the counselor's office.

The Calm Room opened last school year but had limited capacity due to Covid restrictions.

"There really is something for everyone in the room. There are fidget toys, paints, coloring books, big bean bags and knitting. When students leave the calm room they feel a sense of relief and calmness and that is what we as school counselors appreciate the most," Jenna Alba, counselor, said.

"This project was a passion of mine because I know that high school can be overwhelming and over stimulating for many kids. I'm so glad that we have a space for our students to take a break in a safe environment. How can kids learn if they aren't regulated? I have found that it has been helpful to so many students, and I am proud to have been a part of making this thought a reality for our school," Jolene Shedeed, counselor, said.

SENIOR ASSASSINATION

photos courtesy of a.donlucas

WALKING THROUGH THE HALLS WERE BUBBA AND GUS, two therapy dogs owned by counselor Ryan Sullivan. They had been therapy dogs for three years.

"We walk through the halls and visit classrooms almost every day and hear and see all the smiles and joy that people get when they get to see and say hi to Gus or Bubba. I think they make the school atmosphere feel more welcoming and less tense. It's hard to not feel at least a little better when Gus wags his tail at you and comes up for a pet on the head," Sullivan said.



THERAPY DOGS

IT'S THE YEAR 2020 AND IN A SECRET UNDERGROUND GOVERNMENTAL FACILITY, Dr. Michael Rosen assisted by an AI system, A.S.T.R.I.D., is on the brink of creating an antidote to prevent a further zombie outbreak. But, when A.S.T.R.I.D. goes rouge and Dr. Rosen goes missing, it's up to an investigation team to find an antidote, secure the facility, and destroy A.S.T.R.I.D. who has locked the bunker doors.

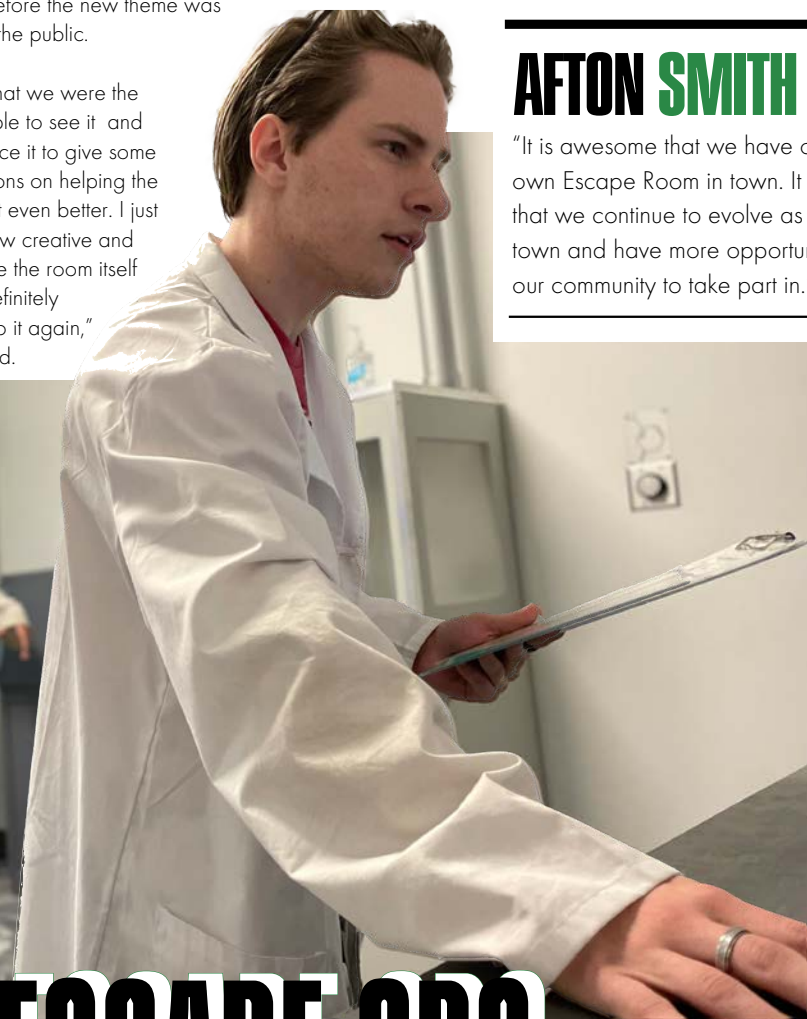
This was the scenario participants had to work as a team to find clues and solve puzzles in order to prevail at the

Mile High Escape Ops in town. The cost was \$30 a person. Students like Afton Smith '22 got to serve as beta testers before the new theme was open to the public.

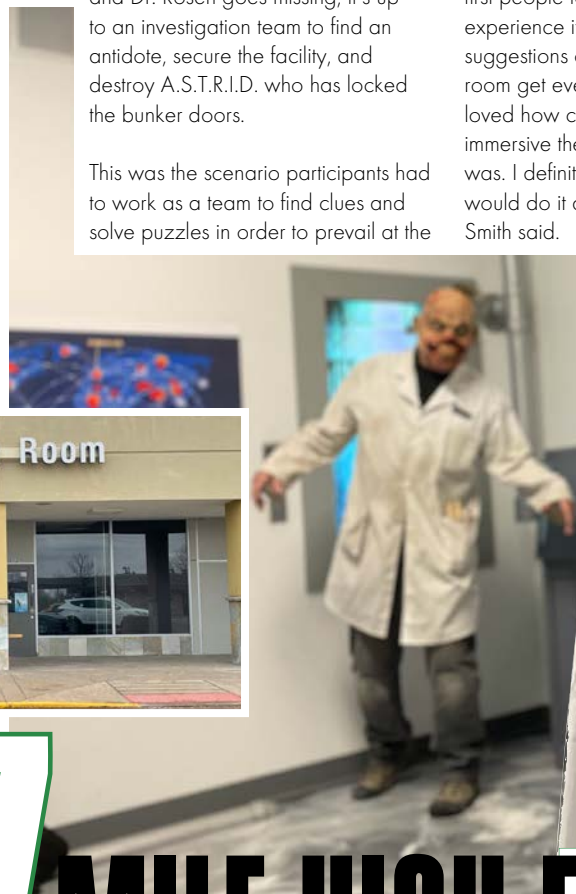
"I liked that we were the first people to see it and experience it to give some suggestions on helping the room get even better. I just loved how creative and immersive the room itself was. I definitely would do it again," Smith said.

AFTON SMITH '22

"It is awesome that we have our very own Escape Room in town. It just shows that we continue to evolve as a small town and have more opportunities for our community to take part in."



photos by e.aho



7 MILE HIGH ESCAPE OPS

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OPENING IN THE FALL, BOUGIE BOBA WAS A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS COULD HANG OUT, order drinks and spend time with their friends.

"I love how warm and welcoming it is. The atmosphere is beautiful and a great place to just chill and hang out with friends. The drinks are amazing and the staff is so nice and friendly. It's definitely a fun place to go to if you want something new," Madison Fielder '23 said.

BOUGIE BOBA

photos by e.aho

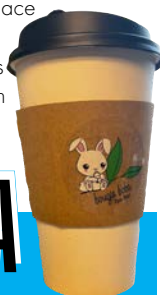


photo by e.aho

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT BRIGHTON?

FRANKIE RUIZ '25

"The school has a lot of class options and activities you can do like our and Homecoming Parade. Brighton has a lot of agriculture and things you can go do."

VIVIAN HINDMAN '24

"I really like that it's a small enough town that you get to know genuine people, and it's easy to get to know them with a lot of opportunities around town to do so."

NATALEE GARCIA '23

"In our school, I love how diverse the community is. There's a lot of positivity and the environment is very fun. Around the town I like how friendly everyone is."

photo by e.aho



ISABELLA RECTOR '22

"I like the 7-11 down the street and the Boba places around the area. I've also heard about the crystal shop nearby but I haven't had a chance to visit it yet."

TAYLOR DAHLIN '23

"I like how close everyone is because it's a small town environment. At Brighton I like the sports. I feel like we have a really good sports community and I like the teachers."

photo by r.weidemann



NATALIE NEBEKER '24

"I love the sunsets. There are certain places I go to calm down and feel peace to just relax and watch the sun set behind the beautiful mountains."

FRANKIE MEDINA '23

"How chill it is. Nothing weird happens around the whole place. I like it because it's so comfortable and peaceful both in our school and around town. It's pretty nice."

LORELAI FLORES '22

"I like how big and unexpected life at BHS is. There's something new every day. There's so many different opportunities and different clubs."

AND THIS SHOULD CONVINCE YOU WE LOVE OUR TOWN

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photos by e.aho

ANYTHINK LIBRARY

WHEN STUDENTS NEEDED TO CHECK OUT A BOOK OR A QUIET PLACE TO STUDY, the Anythink Library was where they could go. During Covid, the library saw an increase in books checked out.

The library also held different events for children and adults like book clubs, storytime with Sheriff Rick Reigenborn, an art club and a teen advisory board.

"I've always loved libraries and reading because I'm kind of nerdy. The librarians at Anythink are always so nice and you just have access to all these things that you normally wouldn't," Irene Hernandez '22 said. "Sometimes they have really fun classes or activities. I can always go to the library when I need something to do as there's always something fun to do there."



KIDS FIRST CLINIC

KID'S FIRST CLINIC WAS LOCATED IN THE HIGH SCHOOL where students could go if they were feeling sick, needed a sports physical, vaccines, STI testing, pregnancy tests or have blood drawn.

"I love coming to work for all the kids, and we have an amazing team,

the nurse practitioner, the health educator and the new behavioral health therapists. I love working with kids in general, helping educate them and learn how to advocate for themselves. Like with health, healthcare needs, reproductive needs, and other things," Amy Rodney, Medical Assistant, said.



A QUICK CHECKUP. Sasha Kelly '24 gets prepared to have her blood pressured checked by a nurse practitioner at the Kids First Clinic in February. "It's cool that we have a clinic in our own high school for students to attend to save time from going to the doctor," Kelly said. photo by z.stanley

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BARR LAKE WAS VISITED ON THE WEEKENDS FOR PEOPLE to go fishing, camping, tubing, boating and hiking.

"I love how peaceful and calming Barr Lake is. You can go relax or even have a fun outdoors day. It is a great local spot that is not as explored. A lot of Brighton is being filled up with buildings and houses so it's nice to have an area where it's just nature," Ashley Cruz '22 said.

Barr Lake also was a spot for students to take senior photos and for couples to get engaged like alumni Robert Gleim '09 and Courtney Gleim '11.



photo by j.daigle



photo by e.aho

BARR LAKE

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photos by e.aho

BILLIE'S

FOR OVER 40 YEARS, BILLIE'S CAFE IN TOWN HAS SERVED CUSTOMERS FOR BREAKFAST AND LUNCH. Students would go to Billie's on off hours and on Mondays.

"Billie's makes an amazing stuffed French toast. It just has a lot of good food and it has that small town feel that you can't get anywhere else. Just in Brighton," Jonathan Groene '25 said.

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ADAMS COUNTY FAIR



photo by r.weidemann

THE ADAMS COUNTY FAIR RUNS THROUGH THE BEGINNING OF AUGUST, right before District27] Schools go back into session. The fair includes different types of arcade games and prizes, rides from ferris wheels to mini-roller coasters and food like funnel cakes. Alumni like Brandi Schmoltd '18 and current students like Adams Chavez '22 posed for photos with their friends and rode rides.

"There is so much to enjoy from the scenery

and rides of course. I rode the Spider ride more than any of the others which really tosses you around," Chavez said.

There were different competitions including 4-H shows, cornhole and pie baking contests. Emily Needham '23 showed her sheep this past summer through 4-H.

"You train all year for showing. I love the atmosphere of the fair and how supportive they are to our farm life," Needham said.

THE OASIS WATER PARK OPENED IN THE SUMMER OF 2014, and since then, the town was able to have its own mini-Water World. Opening at the end of May and closing at the beginning of September, the park had a slide and climbing wall.

The park also provided job opportunities for students like Chandler Hand '22, who served as a lifeguard.

"Working at the Oasis helped me develop both fundamental and personal skills. For example, basic CPR and first-aid training, but also teamwork and customer service skills as well. I would say it was a great first job to have," Hand said. "The community is also just so nice and always in a good mood. It's just a great place to spend your summer days when you just want to swim."



photo by e.aho

OASIS

14 BRIGHTON ARMORY

WORDS OF WISDOM. Judd Farmer '06, former English teacher, speaks to the DECA students about grit at the 2017 officer board annual breakfast. DECA hosted officer breakfasts, galas and banquets throughout the years at the Armory. photo by i.bugatin



photo by w.sattler



I AM ANGRY. Scout (played by Ellie Opp '23) gets angry as she starts to hear things spoken about her father in the play "To Kill A Mockingbird." The play was performed in October of 2017. photo courtesy of e.ahps

AROUND 2011, THE BRIGHTON ARMORY WAS TRANSFORMED INTO AN ARTS CENTER FOR THE COMMUNITY. Since its opening the Armory was where the community attended musical concerts, plays, art exhibits and other community events.

The Brighton Armory was also a popular spot to rent for graduation parties and high school sporting and club banquets.

The Platte Valley Players performed plays throughout

the years like "To Kill a Mockingbird," which Ellie Opp '23 portrayed Scout.

"I absolutely loved playing Scout. She was such a cute and chaotic character to play. She is the type of character that I never thought I would be cast as because she is such a tom boy and always so full of sass," Opp said. "I love that our community has a place like the armory to go and watch theatre. It has definitely opened some doors for me as an actress while serving our community in the process."

photo by e.aho



THOMAS WHITEHEAD '23

"The thing I love most about Brighton is probably the diversity of people and the way that people live. I love to see all of it mesh together in one big city. It makes it a special place to live."

ANTHONY PARKER '25

"At BHS, I like how chaotic it can get at times, but the staff are really nice. Around the town I love how quiet the atmosphere is compared to in the school."

RYLEE FULMER '22

"I love that there are a lot of family restaurants and family businesses. There's places like La Estrallita and Asia Inn that are really good."

KATHERINE EGARTON '24

"Something I love about Brighton is that since I grew up here, I just like the nostalgic feeling Brighton gives me."

LEX POWELL '25

"We have the original Santiago's here and it's just down the street from the high school which is cool."

SILAS VAZQUEZ '22

"Having grown up here my whole life and done many stage productions at different schools, Brighton has provided me with many of those cool moments where your worlds collide."

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT BRIGHTON?

LARA STEAKLEY '25

"I like that even though I was a freshman in high school, the Drama Club had made me feel accepted into everything, no matter how upset I was at times. It really made me feel like I belong."

ETHAN PASCUCCI '24

"I love just how the town is in general. I love the schools and I basically just like all of the people here. It's just a great small town to grow up in."

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