

Black Horse Pike Regional School District Spotlight on Alumni Spotlight – NOVEMBER 2020



John Biederman, co 2007

“John was always a hard working student so it is no surprise that he is a successful adult who gives back to his community. John and his wife Brittney started a non-profit called Keeping Hope Alive to support families struggling with infertility. They went through a very intense and difficult infertility journey and in that process they decided there needed to be support for families in this same situation. Keeping Hope Alive has helped countless couples become parents and John and Brittney now have 2 amazing children. John also raised money for a fellow TC graduate, Ashley, who lost her son to a debilitating disease this past year. It is extremely heartwarming to see his kindness continue throughout his life. John deserves to be in the Alumni Spotlight.”

~Mrs. Jennifer Pavelik

1. AA: Upon graduation, what post-secondary path did you take and why?

John: I chose to take advantage of the NJ STARS Scholarship I was offered and attended Camden County College and finished my undergrad with a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance at Rowan University. I chose Finance because math was always my strongest subject in High School and I was one of the few whom actually enjoyed working with numbers and solving problems.

2. Looking back, would you have done anything differently and why?

John: The one thing I would have done differently is begin working toward my MBA immediately after my undergrad. There are a million and one excuses to not go back to school after only 1 or 2 years off so I wish I would have continued immediately.

3. AA: Describe your career/profession today?

John: Today I am a Branch Manager and District Manager Trainee for the largest consumer finance company in the United States. I currently have a staff of 3 Team Members in my branch. I moved up within the company thanks to my ability to be mobile and move around within the tri-state area before ultimately settling at an office in my hometown. I am also the cofounder of a non-profit organization, Keeping Hope Alive, Inc. The organization began 5 years ago and is close to my heart because it assists couple emotionally and financially with the struggles of infertility.

4. AA: What impact did your BHP high school have on your career path/profession?

John: Timber Creek helped lay the foundation for my career path because in addition to typical math courses, it offered me courses such as personal finance and accounting, which really helped me choose where I wanted to put my focus in college.

5. AA: Were there specific teacher(s), coach(es), counselor(s), administrator(s), secretary(ies), or other professionals that had a major impact on you while in school, and if so, who were those professionals and describe how they helped you along your HS journey.

*John: **Mrs. Pavelik** was my math teacher for 3 out of the 4 years I attended Timber Creek High School. Her teaching style and my learning style really meshed since I am a visual and a learn-by-doing type. Over 13 years later and I still remember her "See it, try it, do it" motto. She also always had high expectations for me and never failed to tell me when I wasn't living up to those expectations so she could push me to stay focused and be better. She also always knew when she needed to give me a little more of a challenge to keep me engaged. But I can't leave out **Mrs. Breier** (Ms. Andrews) just because I only had her 1 out of the 4 years doesn't mean she didn't have an impact as well. I have a great amount of gratitude for both of these outstanding teachers.*

- 6. AA: Which school clubs, sports, activities, etc., if any, did you participate in when you attended your BHP high school? If so, were there any moments or experiences that you can recall that helped you become the person you are today?**

John: I was an Assistant captain for the Hockey Team, which at the time was just Timber Creek not the now Black Horse team and I was also starting wide receiver on the football team. These two sports overlap seasons so one thing I learn by playing both was time management. I needed to balance school work, games, practices and a social life. Being a captain on the hockey team and a senior on the football team also taught me leadership skills that I use every day in my professional life managing employees.

- 7. AA: Please share any other favorite memories of the Black Horse Pike Regional School District, your HS in particular, that would inspire today's youth?**

John: I don't know if it's necessarily my FAVORITE memory, but more of a memory I look back on and laugh and I recognize I learned a valuable life lesson from it. My senior year was the only time in my life that I played organized football. It was coach Hinson and his staff's first year so I figured everyone on the team was at the same starting point and had to prove themselves just as much as I did. I ended up starting at wide receiver, so I thought I could walk on water. A few games into the season we had our game Saturday morning against Winslow and I didn't have the best week of practice and stayed up too late Friday night. The following Monday my friend and I found ourselves on the sideline watching the first-team offense practice. We were standing next to each other complaining when Coach Hinson came up to us and said, "Are you two done pouting?" In which we responded, "yes." And he said "good now get in there." Now, I know it may be a typical sports metaphor, but what it taught me was nothing is ever handed to you, nothing is ever owed to you, and you are entitled to nothing. If you want something you need to work hard for it and when you achieve whatever that may be, that's not the end, you need to continue that same work ethic. Hard work, dedication and self-discipline are the keys to achieving success always.

- 8. What advice would you give to our current student body? What would you have done differently in high school if you could turn back time?**

John: My advice to the current student body would be to treat the rest of your student body with the same kindness and respect you would want. Rather than try and put somebody else down, try lifting them up. Don't treat someone poorly because they dress differently, speak differently, are into things you're not, etc. You never know what

someone else is going through in their personal life. In high school, it's easy to be self-centered and not think of others feelings. When I was in high school, I would have never imagined myself as the cofounder of a non-profit that helps complete strangers, but bringing someone happiness is one of the greatest feelings there is. Therefore, if I could turn back time I would make it my daily mission to bring a smile to that one classmate's face that may need it.