

HAPPENINGS

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Students prepare for prom

Kaitlyn Barry - 12

The end of the year is quickly approaching with less than three months until June. This means that all of the end-of-year activities are approaching, specifically Prom. Last year's prom was a bit different due to COVID restrictions, so this will be the first normal prom for students in the high school. For seniors, it is their last and everyone is getting excited for the big night.



Prom will be held on Friday, May 13, at the Stokesay Castle, which gives students just two short months to plan outfits and find a date. The junior class plans for it, and they are buzzing with excitement as their plans are finally becoming a reality. The class officer's advisors, Ms. Reppert, and Mrs. Trubilla are also excited for this year's prom. The theme is a masquerade ball with a color scheme of red, black, and gold.

Many are already getting their dresses and suits and everyone is excitedly showing off their outfits for the big night. Right now, Windsor is a popular place to buy prom dresses, and many are simply renting their suits from a variety of places. If students plan on bringing a guest that does not attend Hamburg, they should be sure to check their email for the guest form or pick up a physical copy from one of the advisors. Tickets will be on sale starting March 28, for a total of \$65 per ticket.

Technology disrupts tactile learning

Lonasia Tolbert - 11

Is more technology in the classroom doing more harm than good? The short answer is yes for tactile learners. Technology in the classroom can be beneficial in a multitude of ways. On the other hand, educators should still be held responsible for ensuring that tactile learners are still processing the given information. In the United States, 98% of schools have computers available for students, according to John Cradler with ets.org. A number this large and usually there are no programs in place to oversee that tactile learners are at the place they should be.

Sara Fitzgerald, a sophomore at Hamburg Area High School, took the style of learning test on educationplanner.org in 8th grade. Her results were Tactile 67%, Visual 20%, and Auditory 14%. Sara reported that after she saw her scores, it opened her eyes to how heavily she relied on writing down notes, charts, symbols, and doing hands-on projects to help her learn and maintain the information she receives. Sara shared that as she went through each grade, technology expanded in classrooms. She noted that taking notes online is hard because of the lack of thought that goes into it. "I can type 100 words a minute and not retain a word of it because I have the keyboard memorized," she said. "While writing it down forces me to think and articulate what I am writing". This is the case for many students that learn in this style.

Spanish teacher Mrs. King shared that she thinks tactile learners are being affected negatively and positively. "Having computers in the classroom can be effective because there are things like design programs, graphic design, puzzles, are all things available," she said. Counter to this, Mrs. King shared that learning over the computer can be impersonal for this style of learning. Math teacher, Mrs. Geske, also shared that the multiple apps and activities on a computer can still be effective for tactile learners.

Ways teachers can help students' anxiety

Anna DeAngelo - 11

A common feeling among high school students is anxiety, which is restlessness, an inability to focus, a sensation of not being able to breathe fully, fidgeting, and feelings of insecurity and instability. These feelings are completely normal and everyone experiences them, so going to the teacher if these feelings arise in class can help to calm them.

Mrs. Palerino says that she can notice anxious students by restless fidgeting or a student appears withdrawn and/or nervous. When she notices these things, she says that the best way for teachers to help is to speak to the students calmly and try to identify an issue that is worrying them. If this overwhelms them more, a distraction can help to ground the student and allow them to regain their breathing.

A large majority of students affected by anxiety remain quiet in class, despite feeling panicked inside. This is a natural response, but going to the teacher and telling them what is going on, as well as what helps the person's needs, will help in feeling grounded and secure.

A reminder for all students and staff battling anxiety is that everybody goes through these feelings, and no one is ever alone in them. Reach out to trusted peers or family members for help, guidance, and support. Fighting it alone will only make the feelings worsen, so talk to the teachers about how help can be administered.



Congratulations to the new 2022 National Honor Society members

Katie Behler
Emma Christman
Ryan Daly
Isabella Denatala
Clarissa Dimovitz
Mckenna Ecker
Jacob Engel
Lola Folk
John Gilberg
Hannah Gravish
Connor Gruber

Mia Kalbach
Kevin McFarland
Alexander Menapace
Collin Reppert
Cora Rodriguez
Hadrien Schiffert
Aaron Smith
Emily Smith
Taylor Swartley
Lance Zima

Taking the PSAT

Sara Fitzgerald - 10

PSAT stands for Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test and is a way of understanding what to expect for the SAT, Scholastic Aptitude Test. The SAT scores are used by colleges for admissions and merit-based scholarships. The PSAT is almost exactly the same as the SAT and can help students understand what to study. While some people take the tests just for these reasons, to not be surprised by the SAT, some do not want to take that big of a test more than once.

The PSAT will be held at Hamburg on March 16, 2022 and cost \$18.00 for sophomores who plan on taking the SAT next year. The PSAT is two hours and 45 minutes long. An email is sent out to all sophomores in January with an interest form. There is not a time limit to sign up but the school only orders a certain number of tests and the seats are limited. It is made up of mostly multiple choice questions that test two different subjects, math and evidence-based reading and writing. The latter is split into two sections, a reading test and a writing- language test. The PSAT can not hurt, the test is just a trial run for the SAT and sometimes ACT. It is occasionally looked at for National Merit Scholars and award merit scholarships.

AP Language and Composition challenges skilled writers

Emily Smith - 11

AP Language and Composition is a class offered to juniors who excel at writing and English Language Arts applications. Prerequisites for this class include teacher recommendation, a writing sample, and at least a 94 percent or higher in Honors English 10. This class is a full year course, counts for one credit, and is weighted at 20 percent. Students who enroll in this class are offered Dual Enrollment credits through the Reading Area Community College and have the chance to take the AP Test at the conclusion of the year. Juniors who are currently enrolled in this class enjoy the challenges that it has offered as well as how much it has prepared them for upper-level writing requirements for college classes in the future.

Arianna Barata, 11, took this course because of her love of writing. "I took AP Lang because I love writing and I wanted a challenge because my 10th grade English class was easy," says the HAHS junior. While the class is filled with talented writers, it certainly is still challenging. Types of writing assignments include rhetorical analysis essays, synthesis essays, reflections, and journals. The main idea of the class focuses on American culture and what it means to live the "American Dream". Students read a variety of different classic American novels and novellas such as The Great Gatsby, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, or even The Old Man and the Sea.

Mia Kalbach, 11, recognizes the biggest challenge of the class is the work level. "It isn't hard, it's just time consuming and tedious. The hardest part is finding the will to sit down and do something that will take hours of my time," says Kalbach. Working hard outside of the classroom is essential to excelling in this class. Whether it is extra proofreading of assignments or even getting ahead on work, it is crucial to have a strong work ethic. Additionally, Kalbach adds that students planning on taking this class should already have proficient writing skills and should have the will to improve. "Only do it if you're a strong writer and can force yourself to be fine with whatever is thrown at you," adds Kalbach.

For more information on this course, visit the Program of Studies on the Hamburg Area School District homepage or Mrs. Texter in the English wing.



How can the war in Ukraine affect U.S. lives?

Scottie Dunleavy - 9

The Russian and Ukrainian war has been going on since February 24th. U.S. citizens' lives are already being affected by it; rising gas prices and overall inflation on pretty much everything someone can buy. It has slowed freight shipments and has even stopped some due to the gas prices. There are protests being held all over the country and people are speaking their minds about it.



Just because the war is happening in Ukraine does not mean it is not going to affect U.S. citizens emotionally. Many people in the United States identify as Ukrainian as they may have moved here or have relatives in Ukraine. There are even Ukrainian churches in the United States, there are thousands of Ukrainian-Americans meeting at these churches mourning the losses of their loved ones. Schuylkill County is ranked as the 4th community with the most Ukrainian roots in the United States. "It is truly heartbreaking, even though I do not know any of those people. It just hurts me to see their lives being wrecked or even taken from them. I can not even watch the news anymore because it makes me so emotional," says Mrs. Ottaviani. "It is scary to think about what could happen. This could shake up the whole world in many ways if it escalates even further and it's just scary that it could all be around the corner," shared sophomore Alex Leck. Many lives have been hurt and affected by the ongoing situations. Prayers and thoughts go out to them.

For more information on this topic please visit: [5 Ways the Ukrainian War could push up prices & Schuylkill Country Ukrainian History](#)

Meet Ms. Stanish

Hannah Kristiniak - 9

Ms. Stanish is a support staff member at Hamburg Area High School and has been working for the district for 18 years. She works with the teachers and the students to help the students be the most successful they can be. Ms. Stanish really likes helping the kids in TLP (Temporary learning Placement) and ISS (In School Suspension). TLP is an assigned placement for students who deserve extra help and a resource to succeed.

Ms. Stanish has been in many different positions at HASD. She started off by working in Tilden Elementary School's kitchen. From there she went on to work in the kitchen at the high school. Then she started supervising kids in the study hall. Ms. Stanish also worked some of the summer employment jobs here at Hamburg like helping prepare and clean rooms for the next school year and manage incoming and outgoing technology in the IT department. She has also worked as a teacher assistant. Finally in 2020 TLP and ISS students went to Ms. Stanish and since it has worked very well students have started to be assigned to TLP by the Counseling office.

Ms. Stanish started at Hamburg because it was convenient for her to work when her kids were in school and to be with them when they were home. Currently some of Ms. Stanish's hobbies include that she really enjoys painting and redoing items in her home and she has a fact checking group where she checks to see if popular political ideas are true or false.

Nationalistic bias in history textbooks across the world

Mia Kalbach - 11

History is a subject often skewed by bias and interpretations, which can often be reflected in school textbooks. This bias can be strongly affected by country of origin, which can beg the question of how different countries can teach the same history in their schools.

Before covering America's textbook bias, there are other countries that suffer from the same problems. Japan, a country notorious for its atrocities in WWII, has a track record of failing to educate its own students on these events, embellishing its history while deemphasizing Korean history, a country they colonized, attempted to destroy, as well as used for their practice of "comfort women", girls forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese military. Japan's actions against the Chinese during WWII, an example being the Nanjing Massacre where the Japanese killed 200,000 Chinese and committed 20,000 cases of sexual assault, are also relatively brushed over to help promote a better image of the country. This lack of awareness of history is detrimental because it can lead to extreme ignorance. So how are problems like this apparent in U.S textbooks?

Off the topic of WWII, American textbooks have for a long time carried a consistent flaw of failing to represent minority groups and skewing aspects of their history. In recent years, there has been a push towards change in this regard and covering a wider range of topics. However, that does not change the fact that for a long time the history of women, African Americans, Native Americans, and other minority groups were often pushed to the background or wrongly explained. This can be speculated to be because properly highlighting the history of these groups in America would bring to light the wrongdoings of white American society. A classic example of this would be the existence of the slavery vs. states rights debate in regards to the cause of the Civil War (spoiler alert, it was slavery). In fact, in the 1920's, Florida and other Southern states passed laws pushing for a "correct" history of the Confederacy, requiring textbooks to refer to the Civil War as "the War Between the States." Much like Japan's downplaying of their actions in war, America's downplaying of its own treatment of minorities is used to promote a better national image. This is not by any means meant to be persuasion to "hate America" or "hate Japan", but it is important to properly educate students on history from all angles in order to create a well informed public.

For more information visit <https://journals.openedition.org/cjs/968> and <https://soeonline.american.edu/blog/bias-in-history-textbooks>

Early dismissal April 13th
No school April 14-18th



Rita's comes to Hamburg?

Grace Cromyak - 9

A possible Rita's coming to Hamburg? Is it a rumor? Or is this actually happening?? Rita's Italian Ice is officially coming to Hamburg! The location of this incoming Rita's is down the hill from the Hamburg Area High School in the 400 South Fourth building. The whole building will consist of Rita's. Rita's is not typically a place to

dine-in at so this will be the first-ever Rita's that has indoor dining. At a normal Rita's customers wait outside in a line while benches are outside to wait at and or enjoy their tasty treat.

Rita's Italian Ice was founded on May 7, 1984, in Philadelphia PA by a man named Bob Tumolo. Bob Tumolo named Rita's after his mother who passed away. In the year of 2005, he sold Rita's to a company "McKnight Capital" and then in 2011 that same company sold Rita's for 30 million dollars to Falconhead. Currently, Argosy Investment Partners LP owns Rita's Italian Ice.

Ritas sells italian ice, frozen custard, gelati, which is a recipe with both italian ice and frozen custard. The custard sits on top of the Italian ice. They also sell different types of milkshakes.

The Italian Ice is the most popular treat at Ritas, there are all sorts of flavors such as: apple berry blue, banana, blood orange, blue raspberry, blueberry, cantaloupe, cherry lemonade, carnival, cherry limeade, cherry, chocolate chocolate chip, chocolate peanut butter, chocolate, cotton candy, dr. pepper, florida orange, georgia peach, green apple, hawaiian punch, island fusion, unicorn, wild black cherry, juicy pear, key lime, kiwi strawberry, lemon, mango orange, mango peach, mango pineapple, mango strawberry, mango, margarita, mojito, passion fruit, ocean splash, peanut butter & jelly, pina colada, pineapple, raspberry lemonade, raspberry, root beer, sour patch kids (red), strawberry colada, strawberry lemonade, strawberry margarita, strawberry watermelon, strawberry, swedish fish, tropical daiquiri, vanilla, watermelon, and wild berry.

Personally to me, if Ritas did not exist neither would my childhood. I have been going to Rita's since I was about 5 or 6 years old and I have loved it ever since. Where my Grammy lives, I could practically walk down to Rita's and I always go to my Grammy's in the summer, sometimes just for the nice treat. Their Italian ice is probably my favorite because it is good in the summertime for a refresher, Mango-Strawberry, Cotton candy, and Rootbeer are my favorites. Also to add to this, I would also really want to work there.

Freshman, Makenzie Diaz stated, "I think that the new Rita's will make a good business being right near the schools because more kids can hang out there and I like Rita's. But I wouldn't work there because too many kids at our school would go there after school, and I don't like people, it would be socially awkward."

Freshman Gavin Dougherty said, "I personally like the idea of Rita's coming to Hamburg. I like Rita's. I like the number of flavors that they have to offer. I wouldn't want to work there because I don't like having to do interactions all day at a job, I would rather work somewhere stocking shelves."

For more information about Rita's, go to: [Ritas.com](https://www.ritas.com)

Get thrilled about Doctor Strange

Sara Fitzgerald - 10

Doctor Strange is a part of the Marvel universe and the second movie starring Doctor Strange, Benedict Cumberbatch. Doctor Strange Multiverse of Madness will be released on May 5. The director of the new movie is Scott Derrickson. The movie is not going

to rely heavily on special effects but will be using CGI. The Marvel Cinematic Universe has released several shows and movies that need to be watched before enjoying Doctor Strange. Including all the movies before and including Endgame, Spiderman No Way Home, WandaVision, Falcon and the Winter Soldier, Hawkeye, Loki, and What If. The movie also includes a fan favorite Wanda or Elizabeth Olsen. The movie will follow Doctor Strange as he continues to research the time stone, then an old friend turned enemy

shows up causing him to unleash an unspeakable evil. The theme of the movie is sometimes people don't succeed at first. The movie is already getting lots of attention and is said to be once again, another big hit from Disney.



Blood drive April 22
Sign up in the library
Times available 8:50 - 2:20

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