

HAPPENINGS

Volume XXVII
May 4, 2022
Issue 19

A PUBLICATION OF HAMBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL



NHS welcomes new members

Mia Kalbach - 11

The National Honor Society, founded in 1921, is an academic honors organization and community service group present in schools all across America. NHS draws in its members on the basis of scholarship, character, leadership, and service—being a well rounded individual overall is just as, if not, even more important than getting good grades. Because of this, admission into NHS is the highest honor the faculty can bestow upon a student, and recently on April 20 the latest chapter of students from the current junior class have been inducted.

Mrs. Bucheit is the advisor of NHS. According to her, the HAHS chapter of NHS dates all the way back to 1936, and the membership log contains the signatures of every student to be inducted. Additionally, her favorite part of running NHS is “participating in the service projects with the NHS members. I really do enjoy doing things that help to help the members of our community and NHS gives me the opportunity to do that.” An example of one of these projects she particularly enjoyed was this year’s Valentine’s Cards and Ribbons of hope, which were given to patients undergoing chemotherapy in the cancer center at Reading Hospital. “We received some very touching thank you notes from a few of the patients. It made me feel like we were really making a difference in the lives of those patients.”

Jacob Engel, one of the inductees, is not new to community service. “I’m a Boy Scout. I’m doing service at Blue Marsh next weekend. It’s very broad - I’ve had to cut down 2-3 feet tall grass with ye olde scythe, build firm gravel support for park benches, food drives, planting things, and soon I’ll be helping out at 6th-grade camp.” When asked what he is looking forward to in the coming year, he said, “Honestly I enjoy getting matched with random people doing random things, so I’m looking forward to chaperoning 6th graders or making blankets with someone random.” Mrs. Bucheit is looking forward to the coming year as well and states “I am hopeful that next year we will be able to get out and volunteer more in the community.”

Mrs. Dowd’s student-conductor:

Miss Brink

Anna DeAngelo - 11

Miss Brink is Mrs. Dowd’s first student-conductor in several years, so we welcome her to Hamburg Area High School!

Miss Brink says, “I enjoy teaching students about music, and I specifically enjoy teaching students how to play string instruments. I want to encourage more students to be engaged in music if their selected instruments are stringed instruments,” which is interesting because it shows her true, undying passion for music and teaching others about this art form.

One of the reasons that Miss Brink chose to come to Hamburg and shadow Mrs. Dowd, our orchestra conductor, is because, “My previous student teaching experience included middle school and high school with string orchestras, but I did not have experience with elementary school string orchestras. At Hamburg, I am able to learn how to teach most, if not all grade levels that are able to learn music, specifically with stringed instruments. I also believe that I will learn a lot from Mrs. Dowd on how to approach different grade levels,” Miss Brink says. This is important for a student conductor because being able to teach any age and any grade is necessary for the profession of music.

Miss Brink’s plans following her apprenticeship here at Hamburg Area High School include, “I plan to apply for music teaching positions for public schools, specifically for strings. In the short term, I also plan to work as a substitute teacher to gain more experience and eventually obtain a Master’s degree when I have secured a teaching position. Ideally, I would like to teach in the state of Pennsylvania, but I could also teach in another state such as New Jersey.”

Miss Brink is enrolled in Kutztown University with a major in Music Education and a concentration in violin. Her biggest influences were her high school orchestra and choral teachers who always encouraged her to go above and beyond, as well as to apply her listening, communication, and creativity skills to other aspects of her life. Miss Brink is a wonderful teacher and addition to our Hamburg High School music family.

Welcome to Hamburg, Miss Brink! We are happy to have you!



Athletes speak on tennis season

Kaitlyn Barry - 12

As the spring sports season treks on, there has been tons of buzz about the boys tennis team. The tennis team’s record is 3-1, and the season is going great according to some of the players. Michael McNally, a senior, is playing his first year of tennis and thoroughly enjoying it. He decided to try out tennis this year as many of his friends have enjoyed it in years past. He noted that his favorite part of the season so far has been playing with his teammates, who have all formed a strong bond. He also mentioned that they have been playing great together, and can only improve from where they are at. One of their most difficult teams to beat in years past has been Wilson, but he is confident that the team can pull through this year.

Colton Werley is also enjoying the tennis season, and explained that it is a majorly positive influence in his life. He enjoys spending time with his teammates and the bond that they have all formed over the progression of the season. Colton also mentioned that he enjoys practicing with the coach, Mr. Bucheit. Be sure to support the boys at their future matches as they keep their record up.



Cinderella’s closet dress fundraiser

Anna DeAngelo - 11

Hamburg Area High School had planned to perform Romeo O’Dell and Juliette Mae as a spring play in 2021, but COVID-19 destroyed that possibility. Due to the HAHS losing a lot of money on this play, and many dresses being donated to the school to be used in performances, Mr. Barry Driesbach and Mrs. Sara Jackson decided to sell the dresses in a prom fundraiser.

With prom coming up on May 13, 2022, many juniors and seniors are looking for dresses for the dance. However, prom dresses are getting more and more expensive, so Mr. Barry and Mrs. Jackson decided to sell these donated dresses for significantly smaller prices in order to make up some money for the drama department and give some people beautiful dresses.

The dresses that were donated to the drama department were from all over: there were many from a closing dress shop in Hamburg that COVID-19 hit very hard, several staff members donated their old prom dresses, and others were donated by students or parents. Some of these dresses still had original price tags on them ranging from \$120-\$400. Mr. Barry and Mrs. Jackson decided that ranging the prices from \$20-\$50 was appropriate.

The sale was extremely successful and many people bought prom dresses for an affordable price. Other students who were not attending prom purchased dresses for Sweet Sixteen parties, formals, graduation, etc. Senior Kristen Martinez purchased a teal dress to wear underneath her graduation cap and gown, as pictured here. The drama department raised over \$500 from this fundraiser alone, so this was a huge success!



HAHS holds first Java Jam

Hannah Kristiniak - 9

Hamburg Area High School’s Acoustic Guitar Club held its first ever Java Jam on Thursday, April 28 in the library. The Leo Club sold coffee, hot chocolate, snacks, and desserts for sale. Approximately 60 people attended the event and there were 14 performers.

Mr. Laughlin, who runs the Acoustic Guitar Club, says it went better than he expected. He was not sure how many people were going to come, but he was pleasantly surprised with how many people came. Mr. Laughlin says that the Java Jam will happen again and he can not wait. He would love to see it grow and hopefully include artwork, poetry readings, and a chance for kids to play video games from the video game design class.

Kirra Goetz, a 9th grader at HAHS, attended the first ever Java Jam and says that she had a great time. The Java Jam exceeded her expectations and she would definitely go again. She is not sure when the next one will be, but she hopes they will happen frequently. Before she came to the event, she expected it to be people talking and friends hanging out with background music, but there were performances which she felt was better.

A 10th grader at HAHS, Ian Fink, performed at the Java Jam and played the trombone. He said he had a good time performing, and he enjoyed watching his friends perform. He thought the set up was interesting and well put together with how the chairs were arranged in the library. When Ian first started playing music in 4th grade, he said he felt an instant spark and playing music made him happy. He tries to perform whenever he gets the opportunity to, so when he heard about the Java Jam it was no question that he would want to play. The Java Jam was like he expected, but he thought there would be more time to talk to friends. Instead there were performances to watch which were very enjoyable. Ian said he would 100% go again and he would always want to play something different at every event. In the future Ian hopes that there will be a way to get more people to attend the Java Jam and that it will get bigger and more popular.



Student Spotlight: Ryan Daly

Scottie Dunleavy - 9

HAHS's junior Ryan Daly has been accepted into the NHS (National Honor Society) as a recognition of his character, good academics, and his continuing to develop as a student and a citizen in the community.

He has not yet been inducted yet but will be on April 20th. "To me, being in the NHS is the affirmation that I'm on the right path, that I'm sticking to my ideas of right and wrong, and of course with the help of friends, was able to ascent to places I didn't even know I could reach both physically and mentally," says Daly.

As one in the NHS, Daly is going to set an example for the younger students and represent his character out in the community with countless hours of service work and finding ways to make other people's lives easier. "I did what I thought was right, followed my path, and capitalized on the skills I gather from my life. I put others before myself, forged bonds, and worked hard every opportunity I got," stated Daly.

NHS students are even serving in other classrooms helping out the younger students by tutoring and helping them in the classroom. "As for what I'll do, I'll be doing as many service hours as is allowed by my schedule, as well as hopefully guiding those in grades below me to their success, for what they stand for in their ideals," says Daly.

Many HAHS students are making a difference every day. Ryan's induction along with others is on April 20th at 6 pm in the High school auditorium.

Skylar Shuman interns at Phoenix Rehab

Hannah Kristiniak - 9

Skylar Shuman is a senior at Hamburg Area High School and is currently interning at Phoenix Physical Therapy in Hamburg right off of route 61. Skylar wants to be a physical therapist for a career so getting this experience as an intern will help her do that. After she graduates she plans to go to college at Cabrini University.



Skylar leaves school early 7th period to go to Phoenix Physical Therapy on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and if there is a day where she does not have school, she goes in early.

Some of the things that Skylar can do while she is there are cleaning, learning different stretches, and talking to the patients. When she is there she shadows Missy, David or Lindsay who are all physical therapists and help explain things. She also shadows Brenda and Jenn. Skylar can also help give them different exercise tools.

Skylar recommends interning and shadowing a career that a student might be interested in because it can really be beneficial for their future. Skylar is interning at Phoenix Physical Therapy so that her boss can write recommendation letters and is a good person to reach out to in the future for potential job opportunities.

If any other student wants to do this Skylar said, "If someone would like to participate in this or any other program I suggest that they reach out to Mrs. Benz. They should also reach out to their guidance counselor before picking classes so that their schedules can accommodate any needs that might happen throughout the year."



Java Jam

Student Council prepares for May Day

Emily Smith - 11

A Hamburg Area High School end of school year tradition will be revived this year after two years of complications due to Covid-19. This tradition, May Day, brings lots of excitement to staff and students as the conclusion of the school year is fastly approaching. Games, a talent show, petting zoo and great food all hosted by the school's clubs accompany this special day, which will be held on May 26. This year's theme will be a luau, filled with extra tropical activities hosted by Student Council. With all of this fun comes lots of preparation from Student Council members who help to organize this event. Anticipation of these events is high because it will be the first May Day since 2019, therefore Hamburg's Student Council has been working hard to make this one more memorable than ever before.

Senior Aubrey Hinkle is looking forward to her first May Day in three years. "I haven't had one since freshman year," says Hinkle. "We've been planning it all out, and making sure each club has a stand." Hinkle and other Student Council members have been prioritizing organization. "The organization is a big part of it, and you can't have May Day without organization."

Junior Arianna Barata is involved in Student Council and is looking forward to May Day because it will be her first. "I'm excited to see all of the different booths," says Barata. "I am also excited for the Talent Show because I decided to do it." The Talent Show will begin at 7:45 as a live stream for each homeroom to watch. Although this is not the same as years prior, students are fortunate to at least be able to participate.

"I am looking forward to the freedom during the day," says Gabriella Valentino, 10. This will also be her first May Day as a Hamburg student. Students will have approximately three hours to play games and have free time with friends. In addition to freedom during the day, students are also excited for the food. The menu for May Day includes macaroni and cheese, pizza, fries, hot dogs, and hamburgers.

Student Council advisor Mrs. McCarthy-Wright also shares the excitement with her students. "I am looking forward to seeing everyone have a good time, like a celebration of our last two and a quarter years of frustrations."

Student Council hopes that each student has a great time relaxing and having fun with friends after a long, successful school year.

Drama at the Oscars

Sara Fitzgerald - 10

Recently the events of the Oscars took over every social media platform. The 94th Academy Awards ceremony was presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, honoring the best films released between March 1 and December 31, 2021. This took place at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles on March 27, 2022, hosted by Amy Schumer, Regina Hall, and Wanda Sykes. The nominations were announced on February 8, 2022. The biggest, most shock-filled moment of the Oscars would be when Will Smith walked onto stage and slapped Chris Rock.



Lonasia Tolbert commented that this was extremely surprising and caused many different reactions in her household. Madison Starr replied that she was appalled by the actions of Smith.

After telling a joke about the close-cropped hair of Jada Pinkett Smith, who has alopecia, a skin condition that can result in hair loss, Smith walked onto stage and confronted Rock. He then returned to his seat and made crude comments about keeping Smith's wife out of Rock's mouth. The Academy has noted that Will refused to leave the ceremony after striking Chris, but rumors have pointed towards that he wanted to depart before his award ceremony was called. Smith has been banned from the Oscars for the next ten years and has publicly apologized for his actions. Rock has not made any comments and replies that he is still processing what happened. The Los Angeles Police Department was ready to arrest Will Smith at the awards ceremony, but Chris Rock has declined to press charges. Minutes later Smith walked onto the stage to claim the Academy Award for best actor. Will Smith will forever be regretting his actions at this year's Oscars.

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May Day Stands:

- Petting zoo
- Escape room
- Hula hoop Competition
- Cotton Candy
- Jewelry Stand
- Lemonade
- Hay Bale Toss
- Cotton Candy
- Bake Sale
- Guess \$ in Jar
- Root beer floats



Clubs prepare for May Day

Kaitlyn Barry - 12

Spring is finally here which means all of the end of the year activities are quickly approaching. May day is one of the main events of the year but no students in the high school, except the seniors, have ever been able to experience the excitement of May day due to COVID restrictions. This year, it is finally back on and the theme is Luau. It will take place mainly in the courtyard on May 26, where all of the clubs will have the chance to set up their own stands with tons of activities to take part in. May Day is on a half day, and will begin with a live stream of the talent show. Mr. Kline will then follow with the history tournament, and stands will be open. Students will have until 11:30 to check out all of the stands. In past years, there has been cotton candy, a petting zoo, waffles and ice cream, and much more.

Aaliyah Stump, senior and student council vice-president, has been waiting for another May Day since her first one, freshman year. She mentioned that we have been waiting to use the Luau theme and set up another event since sophomore year. Since seniors have only had one May Day during their high school career, everyone is excited to get to experience the festivities a second time before graduating. If you are in any clubs, be sure to talk to other members about what kind of stand you would like to have for May day, and be sure to report back to either Mrs. McCarthy or the Student Council presidents, Tatiana Short and Kaitlyn Barry, so everything can be organized and prepared for May day.