

# Hawk Happenings

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## Athletic Spotlight - Izzabella Gonzales

Elaina Hess - 10

Izzabella Gonzales has participated in multiple sports in HAHS and previous schools. She is a sophomore at Hamburg and currently plays soccer. She enjoys other sports such as winter track and softball. At her previous school, she participated in volleyball and track. She was voted MVP for soccer and volleyball at her school in California, Monson-Sultana. Many teammates describe Izzie as a great athlete and friend.

Sadie Haines, a sophomore at HAHS, played softball with Izzie and describes her as very nice and helpful to those around her. She says she is very motivated and determined to do what she does. She is also very motivational to others and is kind and respectful to everybody. Sadie is a good friend of Izzie's and is excited to continue her athletic journey with her.

Izzabella says she is very dedicated to sports and it is what she enjoys most. She loves playing many different sports and getting involved at school. Mostly, she loves to play sports for the impact she has on others. "I don't play for myself. I play for my teammates and mom," says Izzie. She plays for her mom who got her into sports and her teammates who encourage her every day. Even though these activities are very enjoyable for her it does have some physical downsides and demands to be an athlete, like balancing school and sports. It's tiring to have to go to practice whilst also worrying about completing homework and assignments. This is why it's important to her that she manages her time well by doing work in study hall or flex. She says that school is very important to her so she always does her best to manage both.

Overall, Izzabella is a great student and teammate who makes a big impact on those around her. She loves doing what she does and loves to help others. Without her teammates sports would not be the same to her so she is always kind to them. Izzie plans on continuing her athletic journey for the rest of her high school career and is excited to see how far she gets.



## Athletic Spotlight - Sasha Lopez

Koa Binder - 9

Many people play sports at Hamburg Area High School. Among those many talented athletes is Sasha Lopez, who has been in the school district her whole life, and has been playing sports ever since she was five years old. Although she originally did cheer, she now plays soccer, basketball, and track. Her favorite sport to play is basketball. "That's where I met almost everyone, and they have good coaches."

Sasha explains her love of sports by saying, "It helps me with my mental health, and I can focus on other things instead of being on my phone all of the time." She then said, "They make me a better person since I learn to have good sportsmanship and react to different situations differently." Sports help her as a student in many ways, "In order to play a sport representing the school, I have to keep my grades up."

Some of Sasha's accomplishments include her getting player of the game during a soccer game. Sasha says that she would consider doing sports in her future if it gets to that point.

Student and fellow athlete, Caleb Kramer, shares how he feels about Sasha as an athlete. He said, "I think she's a very hardworking and determined athlete. She works hard and tries her best. He described how she is as a person, saying, "She's nice to everyone. She respects her peers and is almost always calm. She listens to her coaches and is a very respectful athlete." Overall, Sasha Lopez is a very dedicated athlete who loves what she does.

## 9th grade academy taught skills

Lilly Gibson - 9

9th grade academy is a two year old unit in the HAHS. 9th grade academy is a four day set of lessons that teach skills and responsibilities to all new freshmen. Some of these lessons include skills for success, personal accountability, positive community, and responsible citizenship. The freshmen are taught these skills to help adjust to high school life better and make it an easier shift. The lessons are created and designed to be fun but also informative. Some of these lessons include the dress code, code of conduct, agenda, and computer uses.

"The easiest part of 9th grade academy for me was keeping up with and understanding the tasks," said Faithmarie Eisenhard. All the lessons did not require that much work, it required the student to listen to what the teacher was saying. If there was any work required, it was simple and easy to understand. One favorite lesson was a scavenger hunt around the school in Mr. Meyer's class. It taught the freshmen where some of the classrooms and resources were in the building. "It was my favorite because it made navigating the school easier," said Faithmarie. There were also other fun lessons similar to that, one including going to a resource in the building and taking a selfie, in Mrs. Herman's class. This lesson was a way for students to learn about the people in the building who can help them. Several of the resource stops included the library, nurse's office, tech room, and the guidance counselor's office. This was also a student favorite because they got to walk around the school and explore.

All of these lessons are valuable and very helpful. Many of the freshmen have adjusted easier thanks to these lessons. "The whole idea of going into a whole new school with new people scared me, but the lessons made it all a lot easier and more manageable," said Faithmarie. Students hope that these lessons will continue as a way to help incoming freshmen adjust and like high school life a whole lot more.



## Socktoberfest inspired Hamburg

Alaena Cox - 9

Socktoberfest started in 2011 to raise awareness of the homeless. A guy named Brad Montagure took notice of the vast amount of homeless people living in his town. He is a very kind-hearted man so he took action to help. Socks are the least donated items to homeless shelters so that is how Socktoberfest was created.

This year Hamburg Area High School is taking part in Socktoberfest. On September 22 Students wore their crazy socks and sandals to participate in Socktoberfest. Socktoberfest is during the whole month of October, and all people have to do is donate socks. The socks will be donated to the New Roads homeless shelter youth program. Frau Stevens hopes to see a bunch of socks and sandals, along with socks donated.

If students donate a pair of unused socks to Frau Stevens, they are then allowed to attend the Alex Meixner concert. Alex Meixner is a German musician who has performed in the Hormel pepperoni commercial back in 2016, and is in a band. The concert will be held on September 28. "I think it's neat for the students to come together to help people out, especially when it's something funny, like socks," Frau Stevens said.

## Hamburg celebrates 2nd Armed Forces and First Responders night

Deja Wagner-Wakefield - 11

This year Hamburg Area High School hosted its second First Responders and Armed Forces night on September 15. This night honors everyone in the community who is a First Responder or in the Armed Forces. There were many people from the community who joined together and made this possible: the local police, military personnel, and Hamburg, Shoemakersville, Shartlesville, Virginville, and Strausstown fire companies. There were many fire trucks, police cars, and military vehicles to take pictures with along with a helicopter that was in the multipurpose field. The helicopter then flew over the field as the HAHS band played the national anthem and fireworks blasted in the background. This night was also youth football and cheerleading night. Many of the youth participants were at the game on Friday and got to cheer the high school football team onto the fields.

This night is one of the biggest games of the year and thanks to the careful planning of cheerleading coach Brad Valentino and others this night is possible. Planning for this night started back in April about five months ago. "This year we were able to recognize about 150 service members and first responders at halftime," Brad stated. This did not include the first responders and military members that did not come out on the field during halftime. "In all there were probably close to 250-300 service members and first responders in attendance." This year there were even more first responders and service members than last year and next year there will hopefully be even more. Next year "the goal is to continue to have the event evolve and grow. There will be some stuff tweaked from this year and there will be new additions to next year's event."

Peyton Snyder, a high school cheerleader, says her favorite part of the night was "seeing the Black Hawk fly over the field." She also says "There were a lot more people there than last year; there were also more vehicles to see. Overall I feel the night went well but it was very busy." Brad reflects on the evening and states, "I feel that overall it went very well, but I am a perfectionist, and I know that there are many things that we can improve on next year's event." He added, "All I hope is that our military members and first responders appreciate everything that we put together for them."

I personally feel the night went very well. There were lots of people who got recognized and lots of support for the football team. I feel the night was very busy, especially for cheerleaders, because we had to be at the school around four and then we had to take pictures with all the fire trucks and military vehicles. Overall it was a very successful night and I can not wait to see how next year's first responders and Armed Forces night grows next year.

## HAHS homecoming plans

Harley Davis - 11

Student council has been planning Homecoming for the week of October 2 to the 6. We will have a spirit week this year and the dates are from October 2 to October 6. On Monday there will be Rhyme without reason. This means students would dress up as a banana and the friend dresses up as Hannah Montana. They rhyme but have nothing to do with each other. Tuesday will be Country vs Country Club. Wednesday will be wearing everything pink as a pink out. Thursday will be hawk gear. Sadly there will be no shirts selling this year.

The pep rally will be Thursday October 5, during period 7 and going into flex.

We are having powderpuff this year and this will be held on October 25. The football game will be on Friday October 6 at 7pm.

Homecoming is all about the students and having fun. King and queen crowning will be at halftime of the football game on October 6. Mr. Gaul and Mr. Kline and other student council students are planning for homecoming. Even though it is very stressful, they are excited to see the students having fun with their friends.





# Find out more about the field hockey team

Brielle Cox - 9

The field hockey season has started and the girls already have so much to share, whether it is past experiences or new ones. One of the hockey players decided to try out for the very first time her senior year; Cadence Jalbert plays defense and sometimes midfield. She is already a huge help to her team whether it is stopping the opponents from getting too close to the goal with her amazing speed or assisting Brianna Weidenhammer on a goal against Wyomissing. Cadence is a very busy bee. During doubles week she had to miss out on team dinners and team bonding activities due to band. She says she wishes she could have attended them because she missed out on building stronger bonds with her teammates. Cadence is not just a good teammate, she is also a good person after every game win or loss, she always gives her teammates a nice message to boost their confidence. Look for jersey number 5 with a sky blue stick to see the fireball Cadence Jalbert in action.

Imagine the other team is coming down the field toward the goal, a little too close for comfort. They are getting into the circle about to shoot on the Hawks’ goalie, Ash Stump, when all of a sudden it is like the ball disappeared. The opponents are looking around confused until they finally see what happened. Kaitlyn Mengel stole the ball and passed it up to midfield. Kaitlyn Mengel is a force to be reckoned with; nothing gets by her. She has beautiful drives that she hits perfectly every time. She scans the area and when she sees her opening she hits the ball so hard and fast that it gets to our offense every single time. She likes being a defender because then she can see all ends of the field without being the goalie she would rather be out in the action then being the very last line of defense. Even when it gets past our goalie, there is no promise the ball will go in. Kaitlyn Mengel saved a few balls from going in the goal during her hockey career. She is constantly talking to her teammates on the field telling them the things she sees that they can not. Without Kaitlyn Mengel as center defense the team would not have an indestructible wall that no offender can get through. That is why Kaitlyn Mengel is the JV representative and captain. Number 32 with the black and orange stick with pink tape is the iron wall, captain Kaitlyn Mengel.

On the field hockey team we have two sisters starting varsity. One is a junior, the other is just a freshman. The older sister, Kaeli Cox, is starting varsity as a junior. Kaeli has started varsity all three years of high school so far. She plays center defense, always ready to back her other defenders up. She is not the only one backing them up; they will always do it for her too. Kaeli said she trusts her other teammates on the defensive line like Rowen Epting, Kayla Kehl, and Kaitlyn Mengel. She used to play soccer but lost interest in it around 4th or 5th grade so she switched sports. Kaeli loved playing in her field hockey game against Exeter. She said she maintained good body positioning and stepped to the ball her aggression and defensive skills in that game were very beneficial for the team. Look for number 44 with a black and gray stick with red and blue stripes to see the defensive Cox sister play.

There is still another Cox sister to be mentioned. Alaena Cox is a freshman starting varsity. She played JV in the beginning of the season then got bumped up to varsity. She used to play left wing, but now she plays more left midfield. Alaena says she works well with her sister Kaeli Cox and Marcianna Dellamonica on the field. I would have expected the two sisters to battle each other on the field rather than work together. She started playing in 1st grade because her mom forced her to play a sport. I would say that her mom made the right choice. Alaena’s least favorite drill to run is corners because not everyone gets to participate at once or at all. She wants to improve on her drives and reverse chips. She will have a huge collection of shooting styles to choose from before getting a goal. Alaena has three more years after this season to improve on everything and anything she wants to. Look for number 40 with the black and orange stick to see the offensive Cox sister score.

Another defender, but this time she is a left back. Starting varsity helping out Kaeli Cox and Kayla Kehl is Rowan Epting. Rowan Epting has been playing field hockey since 8th grade when Ella Troxell’s mom convinced her to play. Rowan Epting likes to do reverse spins and lifts over the opposing teams sticks. Rowan and Kaeli have good communication skills on the field and back each other up the best they can. Rowan’s least favorite part of doubles week was the conditioning. It was too hot and there was a lot of running for the first week of mandatory hockey practices. Now that doubles are over, she is in full practice mode. She enjoys the drills but her least favorite would be flats and throughs. She does not like them because she says that they are tiring and repetitive. Number 10 with the black, red, and blue stick is the lifting queen Rowan Epting. I personally would not want to miss one of her games.

A sophomore by the name of Molly Krick has been playing field hockey since third grade. She was inspired by her older sister who also played. She thought it was cool to watch all the girls fight over a ball with just sticks and mouth guards. Molly plays low midfield and enjoys it because she gets to play offense and defense in a varsity game. She wants to improve on stick skills which come in handy when you get close to a goal. She loves being with her team and doing shooting drills during practices. Molly has one insane drive. It is so fast and powerful it could leave a bruise. She works well the most with Kylah Reading since Molly is right behind her on the field. Molly says that she is there for her if a pass from the other team gets by her. Number 17 with a black hockey stick is the monster Molly Krick.

The final hockey player is senior Kaylee Hoshauer. Kaylee Hoshauer has insane stick skills and is always trying her best on the field. She has gotten a lot of practice because she started in 4th grade because her mom, both her aunts, and her grandma all played up until college. Kaylee is a flexible hockey player. She can and has played every position on the field. She likes offensive positions like forward and midfield the most though. So far she believes her best game was against Northern Lebanon when they went into overtime. She thinks this because her and all her teammates put 110% effort into trying to win the game. Kaylee believes her mom, being a former hockey player, is her number one supporter. Her mom comes to all the games and cheers not only her daughter on but the whole team. She works well with everyone on the field but Kylah Reading and Kayla Kehl, two players she has played with the longest, are just easier to see on the field than others. Despite already being amazing with her stick skills, Kaylee still wants to improve on them. Number 24 with a black and white stick is the dribbling goddess Kaylee Hoshauer.

The season has just started and I am looking forward to seeing how well the girls improve. Some girls have already made amazing progress while others are working towards a goal. These girls act as a family on and off the field constantly checking in on each other. They have built many bonds and they will continue to build many more. The girls have many more games in the seasons to try to watch one. I wouldn’t miss an amazing opportunity to watch the lady hawks win.

# Students prepare for AP English exam

Kaeli Cox - 11

AP classes are a great way to introduce students to a more college level setting and prepare them for other future endeavors. While the work may be difficult and the tests might be tricky, it all helps students construct an idea of the major milestone that comes with an AP class, AP exams. Mrs. Texter’s AP Language and Composition class is no different. In only the first month of school, she has already begun to introduce the expectations and essays that come with the AP English exam.

The AP exams can be very beneficial to students and allow them to broaden their horizons academically. Mrs Texter stated, “The AP Exam is only one measure of a student’s work, but it isn’t necessarily the best. For students who are comfortable test takers, the exam offers college credit while you are still in high school, and that can benefit students in the longer term.” College credits can support student’s academic abilities and boost their chances of future schooling. While the tests sound difficult, the preparation and practice before the testing helps in the long run. Mrs Texter shared, “I like students to know exactly what to expect and then practice so they feel comfortable when they have to face the exam.” To give students a better understanding of what to expect, Mrs. Texter gives her students examples of prompts and helps them discover how to properly write detailed essays that will hopefully help students receive good scores.

Some students shared their opinions on the exam. Shelby Dougherty, junior, is a student in the AP Language and Composition class. She shared, “I would like to take the exam in order to fully take advantage of the opportunity to obtain college credits while in high school.” The results of the exam could allow students to gain college credits and have the ability to show future colleges their capabilities and strengths. With the students confidence comes some worry.

Amelia Gassert, junior, is also a student in the AP Language and Composition class. She stated, “I think the most challenging part would be having to write each essay in only 40 minutes. Not even the content is that difficult, it is being able to handwritten everything you want to talk about in a timely manner.” Students are only given 2 hours to complete the 3 essays on the exam, testing their quick thinking abilities.

The test will be held on May 14 at 8 am. While the exam might not be for everyone, it is a very good opportunity for those hoping to advance in the English field and continue academics after high school.

# Band marches forward

Riley Mohn - 10

The marching band spends a couple weeks before the start of school to prepare for basics and for the ability to build stamina, in which they call band camp. They usually meet the Friday before marching band camp to prepare for the schedule and to gather necessary items like music and paperwork, as well as the uniform. The dates that the marching band camp runs usually occurs a week and a half before the first day of school, and anytime after that they meet on Wednesdays and Thursdays for rehearsals in preparation for football games and parades. They usually meet from 3-8 pm with dinner and water breaks included, as well as time to learn the basics and practice on the field and in the band room. It usually takes place in the band room in the music wing right near Exit 9, as well as in the parking lot near that area and both the main stadium and the auxiliary field. If any student wants to join after band camp ends, they can let Mrs. Kline know and the marching band will gladly welcome them.

Students who participate also do not need to know an instrument to join. They can join the color guard and learn how to toss different sizes of flags or rifles. Usually, the color guard also has a week where they specifically learn the basics of being a color guard, including the proper stance and way to toss and spin what they use, which is much more complicated than some people realize.

There is a big thing the marching band does during band camp to show what they learned, and that is called the ‘march-off’. The march-off is where everyone shows off their different learned marching band skills like turning right in place and marching backwards, but the speed gradually grows.

Mrs. Kline is the marching band director here at Hamburg area high school, and she joined in on the idea of marching band camp from other schools because the group wouldn’t be prepared for the football games if the camp didn’t exist. To choose the music the marching band plays, Mrs. Kline and several other staff members pick a theme for the show tunes, like the current one called ‘Favorite flashbacks.’ The original theme for this year was Micheal Jackson’s top hits like Dirty Diana, Thriller, and Beat it, but Dirty Diana was out of availability and the group already does Thriller for parades. This is Mrs. Kline’s eleventh year doing band camp at Hamburg, and she loves to watch the group’s growth over the week and a half they spend together, as well as the bonds they have created. The only small hurdles to marching band are the ability to not be able to control the weather, and the need to adapt to everyone’s schedules, since most students are in several other extracurricular activities as well. In her words, “marching band is an immersion of Music and drill, as well as the team building and bonding experiences.” She says that marching band “50% music and dill, and 50% friendship building and teamwork, and overall, learning to be good humans.” The marching band is welcome to any student from eighth grade through twelfth.



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