

Hawk Happenings

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Students celebrate St. Patrick's Day

Kaylea Detweiler - 10

St. Patrick's Day is to be celebrated on March 17. To honor St. Patrick's life and missionary work in Ireland, to celebrate Irish culture, and to honor Irish immigrants who helped settle cities like Chicago. These are all celebrated through parades with Irish dancers and musicians, eating traditional Irish food like corned beef and cabbage, wearing green, and dyeing rivers green (Chicago River).

Adults use this time to plan reservations and go out. Mr. Buggy is celebrating his birthday in Lancaster. His student teacher, Mr. Tuite, has to take praxis tests to finish off his classes.

Students are also making plans. Sophomore Landon Poulis is going out for a get together, and he says he will be getting shamrock shakes. Another sophomore, Adam Epting, says he is planning to learn an Irish dance for fun. And finally sophomore Chase Brodhead is going to wear all green and get a free shamrock shake hopefully. He also says he wants to try and start a scrapbook. Although St. Patrick's day is seen as an occasion to party, HAHS students see it as an opportunity

to start something new in their downtime.

Jordan reflects on birthday weekend

Lilly Gibson - 10

Over this past long weekend, a student at HAHS celebrated her birthday. Jordan, a sophomore turned 16 on February 14, also Valentine's day. Hello Kitty is Jordan's favorite thing in the entire world, she said. The theme of the party was Hello Kitty with karaoke, Twister, and tons of amazing food. "My favorite part was the karaoke because I like singing, especially my favorite songs with my friends," said Jordan. All of their friends came to the party, which was split into two sections. The first part was very formal, having people dress up and wear nice clothing while the either half was in comfy clothes for the giant Twister game. While playing Twister, a lot of their friends fell, they said. "It was really funny watching my friends twist and bend in ways they didn't think that they could," Jordan said.

The other half of the weekend was spent at a large sleepover hosted by her grandparents. There were seven girls there, including herself. All of the girls ate tons of pizza and cheese fries. They stayed up all night, talking and giggling amongst each other, trying to be quiet. Some of the girls even dyed their hair and got their nails done at the sleepover, which was fun. "Now, my bathroom is dyed pink and red, but it was so worth it," said Jordan after the hair dyeing process. Jordan said that they had a lot of fun, especially at the sleepover and getting to spend time with their closest friends.

HAHS seniors find college roommates

Hannah Kristiniak - 12

It is that time of year when seniors are accepting offers to colleges and preparing for the next chapter of their lives. Part of this process includes thinking about a living situation while furthering their education. Most colleges have dormitories with roommates and some offer multiple suite options. Multiple state universities in Pennsylvania have options from a traditional dorm room to a personal suite. Students have the option to choose suites with one to four roommates and rooms with a living area and kitchenette.

Erica Gerner has committed to Millersville University for early childhood education. She will be staying in a traditional dorm where she shares a room with a roommate. Most universities have upgraded their housing where each room gets its own bathroom which Erica will share with her roommate. On Instagram, there is a Millersville Class of 2029 page where Erica found her roommate. She saw that they both are attending with the same major and reached out. It was easy to start a conversation because all Erica had to do was mention their mutual major and mention that she was looking for a roommate. The process of finding a roommate was stressful, especially when the people she reached out to already had roommates. Erica said, "After reaching out to a few people who already had roommates, it made me feel behind and that I wasn't going to find a roommate." While she was looking, she tried to keep an open mind and was not looking for any specific characteristics. Erica wanted to find a roommate on her own if possible to avoid a random placement. She has plans to meet her roommate in person on Admitted Students Day on March 22 and is very excited.

My experience finding a roommate was very different from Erica's. I will be attending Shippensburg University with an English Secondary Education major. I knew that I wanted a particular suite, and once I selected a room, a roommate who also wanted that suite was placed there. We both chose a suite where we got individual bedrooms and a shared bathroom. Although this increases the price slightly, I believe it will be beneficial for me since I prefer an individual space. Since we have become roommates, we have reached out over email and text. There has not been much communication yet, but I hope to get to know her more and meet her at the new student orientation on June 13.

With the advancements of social media and room options, there are so many ways to find a roommate. It is important to not stress out over this process as everyone goes at their own pace. This is a huge transition for most students and there are multiple avenues to take when in search of a roommate. Most colleges and universities offer random placement which can alleviate the stress of finding a roommate.



Spring training begins

Rylee Strunk - 9

Spring training has officially begun and is in full swing. All the baseball teams in the US and Canada are currently doing their pre-season training. All of the eastern teams go to the many Florida facilities to play in the Grapefruit league. All of the western teams go to Arizona for the Cactus League. Spring training is meant for the teams to get ready for the upcoming season, but to also allow some of the Triple and Double A players a chance as well. These players take this opportunity to show their coaches what they have to offer for the upcoming season. These players will try out different positions to see what they are capable and comfortable with doing. Spring training is a great way for these players to show what they can do, in hopes of making the 26 man roster.

The team that looks the best as of now is the Los Angeles Dodgers. They have a very talented team that can play an amazing game. The Dodgers won the 2024 World Series with an amazing



roster, and look to be a possible contender for this upcoming season. They keep getting better with gaining players that have great playing experience. Another team that has looked good since the off season is the Boston Red Socks. "I really like their momentum during the off season and I think they will carry it with them," said Brady Brieninger. Other teams to also look out for this season are the New York Yankees, Philadelphia Phillies, New York Mets, and the Atlanta Braves.

Looking into the home team, the Phillies, have made some adjustments as well adding good players. They added a pitcher, Jesús Luzardo, who looks to have a great impact on the team. "The Phillies bullpen will be the decider

on how they do this season," said Brady. The Phillies lineup may look different this year as coach Thompson is expected to switch things up a bit. A Phillies prospect that has looked good and has potential to have an impact later this year or next year is Aidan Miller. It will be interesting to see how these many teams start the season.

For more information go to mlb.com.

Student spotlight: Sophia Cruz Garcia

Victoria Snyder - 9

Sophia is a 9th grader at HAHS. Sophia is 15 years old with a great chic sense of style along with humor. Sophia has been described as a lighthearted, bubbly, social, talkative person. She is known for putting a smile on everybody's face whenever she comes across them.

Sophia first came to Hamburg in 5th grade when she was 11. She moved here because at her last home she got evicted for having a pet squirrel. She has stated that it was very nerve racking coming to a new school especially so young without anybody that she knew. Sophia had no trouble making friends, however, because of her magnetic personality.

Sophia enjoys reading, painting, and talking to her friends. She typically only enjoys reading the horror genre. When it comes to anything artsy such as, drawing, painting, and coloring, Sophia is extremely gifted and can make beautiful pieces of art. In 8th grade she painted a portrait of Edgar Allan Poe which eventually ended up getting hung up for everyone to see.

She has a very wide range when it comes to music, however, Sophia is a big fan of Jeff Buckley and a lot of older songs as well as singers. Her favorite food is Puerto Rican food such as empanadillas, specifically when she gets to eat it with her favorite people such as her friends and family.



Congratulations to Hamburgs Unified Bocce team for making fourth in the regionals!

Student Spotlight: Sheila Kern

Kaitlyn Gallagher - 10

Sheila Kern is a sophomore at Hamburg Area High School and Sheila is sixteen years old. Her birthday is December 31st. Sheila’s extracurricular activities involve being a part of Student council, Leo club, and she used to participate in Wrestling as a winter sport, but had to quit to help her mother babysit her little sister. Sheila, in her free time, often goes on walks down the Hamburg Trail, reads novels and also online fan stories. Her favorite author is Edgar Allan Poe because she liked going over his poems in 8th grade, and recently started to write poetry about love. She also likes to play video games with her friends and calls them after school. One of Sheila’s responsibilities is that she must babysit her two year sister, Twyla, every other weekend.

After high school, Sheila plans to do a lot of things, but has not set on one dream. “I’m thinking about joining the Airforce, but I also would like to go to college for psychology and possibly business.” She also had dreams of being a carpenter, but does not think it was for her. If she could do anything, she would want to live on a homestead and be a farmer and live with all of her friends on the farm.

Sheila’s favorite classes at Hamburg are honors English and Chemistry. “Texter and Trubilla are both very nice teachers, and their classes are informative and also fun.” She also loved woodworking class and this year she loves Piano 1. Sheila is also a HEP student, “and my favorite part about HEP is completing the personal projects!”

Some important advice Sheila recommends younger students to know is this, “Schoolwork and grades are not the end of the world. You should do what makes you happy, and you should make sure to prioritize your happiness and your mental health.”



When it Happens book review

Koa Binder - 10

The book When it Happens written by Susane Colasanti is a realistic fiction novel that takes place in New Jersey and follows two seniors through both of their perspectives as they try to navigate their feelings towards those around them and eventually each other. The main characters are Toby and Sara who have not interacted much with each other but eventually do both have an interest in each other. The characters are fun and their lives are easily relatable to teenagers and young adults. The writing style is enjoyable, however at some points it can sound forced while Susane tries to express the way teenagers talk.

Although the book is a bit underwhelming and there is not a major conflict taking place, it is interesting and realistic to the life of an actual teenager during the transformation to being a young adult. The book is an easy read and would be a good start for somebody who wants to begin reading but does not know where or how.

Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Reppert

Victoria Snyder - 9

Ms. Reppert has been a Spanish teacher at HAHS since 1998. She teaches Spanish 1 all the way up to Spanish 4. Her students have described Ms. Reppert to be fair and fun while also keeping everybody on task and sticking to her word. She creates an open and safe environment in the classroom that allows students to joke around while also getting work done.

As a homeroom teacher Mrs. Reppert cares deeply about the students’ success while they attend HAHS and tries to prepare them for the future. Whenever a student is put into her room for flex, she will talk to them and ask them what is wrong and try to help find solutions to fix the issue.

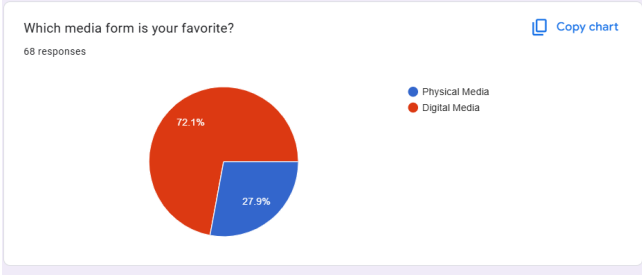
One of Ms. Reppert’s favorite things to talk about is sports, specifically Penn State. She started working as a Spanish teacher because she loves the culture and working with kids.

In order to better her knowledge of Spanish and expand her horizons she went to Spain and learned abroad after attending college. Ms. Reppert has also said that one of her favorite memories from teaching is when she used to be able to take students to Spanish speaking countries.

As a graduate from HAHS she said it is a very nostalgic experience to work where she graduated. Ms. Reppert is a lot of students’ favorite teachers because she is tough but fair and she shows that she cares deeply for every student that walks through her door.

Student talk about their media preferences

Joshua Castro - 11



Media consumption strongly influences school culture as people share common interests through movies, shows, and video games. Students can obtain the newest media through various sources and formats. Yet, even though two students can watch the same media, there can be differences in the format they use to access it.

Ethan Clary, a junior at HAHS, prefers digital media, like digital games and movies from streaming services and e-shops. He finds they are easier to access from anywhere at any time. Ethan favors digital media but sees the value of physical media in fostering human interaction. For example, he prefers playing his physical card game collection because of the social aspect of handling cards. Also, Ethan cited how Magic the Gathering had more cards in the physical version, showing how different formats can offer more or less content.

Riley Mohn, another junior, favors physical media, like paperback books and game cartridges. Most of her CD and video game collection is physical, and she likes how there is less concern about them getting banned or unlisted from a digital storefront. Riley also likes the tactile feel of physical media but finds digital media allows her to watch newer things faster. She balances the different formats by reading physical books and using game cartridges while watching TV and movies on a streaming service like Netflix.

Trends at the high school point towards digital media as the preferred media format. A survey of 68 students at HAHS found that 72.1% prefer digital media compared to 27.9% for physical media. The results do not ask for specifics like type or frequency, but it is clear that digital is the preferred way of consuming content for students.

Modern life is trending toward digital media, but there are still specialty items that people like physically. However, the convenience of digital is attractive for people with busy lives, especially students. Overall, it does not necessarily matter how one consumes media, but identifying a person’s preferred format can help them choose what best suits their needs.

For more information about the student survey, visit <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Wo-nXfPg62WRp8WEJRm3wQX1Bg8YN3jEKkUBMoXFk/edit?usp=sharing>.



Students shine to new possibilities through Kettles

Riley Mohn - 11

Last year and many years prior, Mrs. Jackson ran an audition choir called Aerial Boundaries, which met after school and took on challenging music. This year, she ran two audition-based choir groups, one being an all female-voices group called trebles, and the other being a show choir group called Kettles. A show choir not only sings but they perform to an audience. Show choir has to remember music, dance moves, and smile and shine with pure joy to an audience.

To join the show choir, students had to learn the song and the dance routine on February 13, then they truly auditioned on February 20. Students then had to sing with piano accompaniment while showing that they can express themselves while singing. Then, students had to

perform the brief section of the dance they learned so they could show they were at least making an effort to remember the steps and the moves. Mrs. Bucheit, who was the choreographer, and Mrs. Jackson accepted the students who showed excitement and joy while they tried to sing and dance. The list of who was accepted into Kettles was sent out a day after Auditions on February 21.

Students had to perform on stage with a speaker for the dancing portion of the audition, and then they sang while standing around the piano in the auditorium.

Students thrilled for spring track

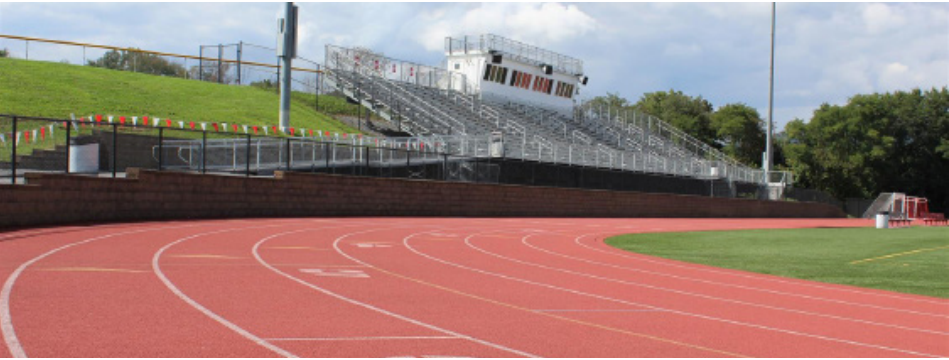
Alaena Cox - 10

On March 3 spring track officially started for the students at Hamburg Area High School. There were mixed opinions and goals set for the year.

Many of the students could not wait for spring track and were excited to participate in their events again. Many of the runners reported, “they love the thrill of racing at a meet.” They feel they move faster and get better times at away meets since the track seems smaller and it confuses their heads.

The throwers are very excited for training. They cannot wait to get into the weight room and gain strength. There has been reported a ton of new participants joining the throwing. Hamburg Area High School offers three throwing events: shot put, discus, and javelin.

Every student and coach are thrilled for the season and hope to beat more records than last year.



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