

Hawk Happenings

Volume XXVIII Issue 25 April 23, 2025

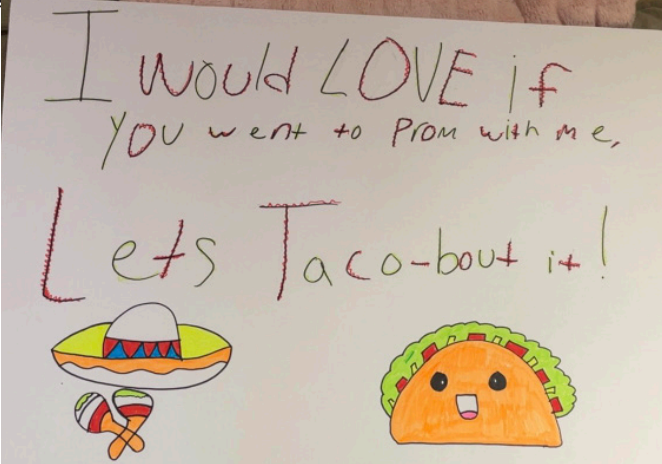
a Publication of Hamburg Area High School, Hamburg, PA



HAHS students prompose

Koa Binder - 10

As prom season is coming up, many people are starting to think about who to bring with them. Some people even like to do something called "promposing". Promposing is a play on proposing, but for prom. Normally people will make a cute sign with a saying that is similar to what the person likes. Although it is not too popular among Hamburg students, Skylynn Binder did end up getting one from Tyler James. "I thought that it was so cute and since he's my boyfriend, of course I said yes," she says. The sign had a taco on it and written on it, it said, "I would love if you went to prom with me, Lets Taco-bout it!" Skylynn was very touched and appreciated the gesture very much. More people should participate in this heartwarming way of asking somebody to prom because it is very cute and unexpected.



Students plan to enjoy spring break

Elizabeth Carroll - 10

Spring break is slowly approaching for the students here at HAHS. This provides an opportunity for students to participate in family events, travel to enjoy the lack of school days, or just relaxing at home. There are three extra days and one half day that students have during this break. The half day is on April 16 and the days students are off are April 17 to April 21.

Many students like to take this time to travel. Sophomore Arianna Naranjo plans on traveling to Boston, Massachusetts as a getaway with her sister. "I don't usually travel during spring break. This is the first year being away from my family on this break," Arianna says. When she does travel, it is more common for her to go to Mexico. She goes here especially over Christmas break earlier in the year rather than during spring break.

Another Sophomore, Molly Fox, is going to be traveling to Florida this spring break. "This will be my first time visiting my uncle and cousins since they moved there," she explains as the reason for going. Molly also does not usually travel throughout spring break, which is due to the fact it is shorter and is even shorter by a day because of the students needing to make up a snow day from earlier on in the year.

Everyone at HAHS has many different plans on how they expect to spend their spring break this year or something they do annually. Traveling away from home can be just as entertaining and relaxing as staying home on the given days they do not have to come into school. That being said, everyone should enjoy their break how they see fit.



Cell phones and mental health

Kristianna Cunkle - 10

Cell phones have become a big thing within the past couple of years. Everyone can be seen with one in their hand and most people are always on them. Mental health has also become a bigger thing within the past years. The more someone is on their phone, the more they are likely to be in the loop of new and popular things. Notifications fill people with a sense of happiness to be getting action, but also with a sense of urgency to pick up the phone and be kept in the loop. Social media, although very easy to get onto, has proven to be not so good, because people tend to compare themselves with influencers they see online. Platforms from all across the world can be addictive to teenagers, and they are forced to rely on these platforms and their phones more often. It makes connecting with people more difficult in person since people make more friends online, but it doesn't solve the issue of loneliness within people. People need real connection with others, and that issue is not simply solved over a screen. We now have more technology and ways to test people accurately to check their state of wellbeing. The impact with the amount of screen time people have could be positive, negative, or even neutral. Both have recently become a part of everyone's everyday lives, so could they have an impact?

Sophomore Lilly Gibson said she believes that it has a positive impact on her. "I believe that it is mostly positive, but the way that social media depicts some things definitely takes a toll." Social media is known for making things look better than they are, making peoples bars higher and more difficult to fit into.

Kaitlyn Gallagher said that she believes she is on her phone an average amount of time. "Being on it less affects me in a positive way because my eyes aren't always locked onto a screen. I have time to do stuff, like schoolwork, and I'm not always stressing about the new biggest trend."

In conclusion, the amount of time on someone's phone doesn't always have to be negative. It depends on the person and how they spend their time, and what they perceive as good or bad. For more information, go to <https://www.columbiapsychiatry.org/research/research-areas/child-and-adolescent-psychiatry/sultan-lab-mental-health-informatics/research-areas/smart-phones-social-media-and-their-impact-mental-health>.

Facts about Earth Day

Ana Smith - 9

Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22, and although it is not an official holiday, it is still recognized in many ways. Earth Day is typically celebrated just within the United States, but other countries know about it and can take action by trying to make the world a better and cleaner place.

Every year there is a designated theme or motto that is used to encourage people to step up and help the planet. Last year's theme was Planet vs Plastics, and the point of it was to try to eliminate the use of plastic and reduce the amount that was being used. This year the Earth Day theme is Our Power, Our Planet. The main goal for 2025 is to get most people to use renewable energy and try to triple the amount of clean electricity in 2030. Some of the goals seem harder to reach than others but it is always doable.

In schools around the world, including ones in the US, I think that Earth Day should be brought to attention or at least have kids be aware of it. At the Hamburg Area Middle School, Earth Day is celebrated and students take action to try and clean up our town. Even if it is small, like picking up tiny pieces of trash or using less plastic, anything helps.

Although there are many problems in the world today, like wars between other countries and a lot of violence, there are also big environmental struggles that can impact not only humans, but also animals. When people do not care about the environment, they can cause multiple issues. For example, pollution, deforestation, light pollution, and so much more. Humans have a huge impact on the planet and they can even sometimes decide the fate of an animal species.

species.

It is important that people start to care and do little things to help out. Especially on Earth Day, helping to clean up around the ocean, a person's city or town, or even doing something as simple as cutting up plastic packages so animals are not impacted by them when it reaches nature. Ninth grade student, Rylee Strunk says, "One way I can help the world become a cleaner place is by recycling." People should do their part to make a difference in the world and overall make it a better and cleaner place to live.

Earth Day 2025

Our Power, Our Planet



Dancers prepare for competition

Rylee Strunk - 9

With less than five weeks til Dance Pointe Studios dancers are getting prepared for their first competition of the year. Dance Pointe is one of two dance studios in Hamburg. The dance season started in September and will end soon after school lets out for the year. Dance Pointe offers Jazz, Lyrical, Modern, Hip Hop, Ballet, Acro, and Tap. Most dances go to competition, however, some do not. Many students from Hamburg go here, including myself, Ava Thorne, Charlotte Fiscus, Nodin Miller, Thomas Johnson, Emma Moylan, Maile Bentz, Lily Parr, and Maddie Adams. All have been dancing for many years.

During the fall students focus a lot on technique and stretching, so that after Christmas break, they are ready to start all of the dances that go to competition. Learning the dances is very fun, but remembering them can be a bit of a challenge, especially if in so many dances like most.

Dance Pointe will be going to two competitions this year. The first one is at the end of April and it is called True Talent, located in Harrisburg, PA. The second one is over Mother's Day weekend and it is called Dance Xplosion, located in King of Prussia, PA. Competitions are always so fun to go to because of being with friends and getting to see other studios perform and see cool dances.

Competition is not just for group dances, there are also solos, duos, and trios that perform. Many dancers at the studio are doing either a solo or duo this year including myself, Charlotte, Thomas, Ava, and Lily. There are two dancers that are going for Triple Threat this year, meaning that they have three solos that they are performing at competition. Those dancers are Charlotte and Ava, who are very talented dancers.

"My favorite dance this year is either lyrical or my modern solo," said Ava. Charlotte also agrees that her favorite dance this year is lyrical. Some other favorites among the group are jazz and hip hop. "My favorite dance this year is Acro," said Maddi. Everyone at the studio likes some dances better than others.

Some things that make our dance group different from others are the friendships and trust we have in each other. We do a lot of tricks in our dances and a key part to that is trusting the partner(s). "I think that our studio is very positive and sympathetic to fellow dancers who may need some help," said Nodin. Another key factor to this is that we all mostly hang out outside of the studio. We also do many bonding activities with the group. Overall, Dance Pointe is mostly prepared for competition and everyone has a positive attitude on how we are going to do.



Students share their studying techniques

Tia Adam - 11

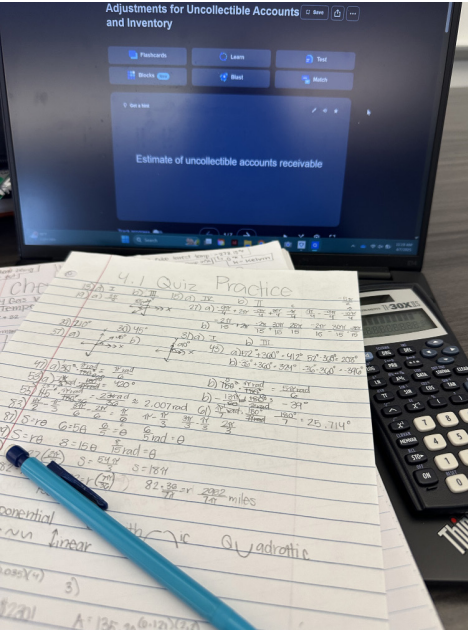
With the third quarter ending and the end of the school year coming close to an end, many students have time to reflect on their current year. For students they either have a hard time doing good on tests and quizzes, or they have an easy time. Every student has a different way on studying and, for some it can really make a difference.

Multiple students take the easy, but lazy route of not studying. For some they are simply able to remember the information on the top of their head due to their memory. For others they just have no want or need to study depending on how much they undersand the course.

Other students have simple to large studying plans. Junior Bethany Stuffle uses the source of study guides and Quizlets to help her study. Study guides help give her the summed up information which takes some pressure off of studying by already giving her a plan. Quizlet's help her make quick flashcards in order to study fast. After she understands the basics of her material, she just wishes herself the best when it comes time to the quiz or test.

Another student Morgan Riegel also uses Quizlet as a way to make flashcards as an easy resource. Study guides are another one of her go to studying techniques, but not all of her classes give them to her so it makes a struggle at times. When it comes to a class that does not have flashcard material like math or science, she goes over previous practice problems to help get the material to stick in her head. Along with her time of studying, she likes to take productive breaks for an hour or so, such as walking, that help keep her mind clear. Morgan, unlike msot of her other classmates, does not have many free times during a school day which limits her studying time to only at home. Overall she feels that her current studying techniques have been successful.

My studying technique also uses flash cards on Quizlet for simple vocabulary and formulas, but I also like to memorize orders of material, and I like to make practice problems, especially in math and science. Usually anytime I have to study I make a plan either before I study, or mid studying. After a while I get too tired studying, and I will either take a break or go to bed and decide to wake up early to study. I use Quizlet for most of my classes as I can make flashcards very easily, but I also use the learning feature which helps me understand new material. Overall my studying techniques have been successful currently, but depending on the effort that I put in it makes a difference on my exams.



Andrew Koval searches for knowledge

Riley Mohn - 11

Andrew Koval, a Junior at HAHS, enjoys studying and learning new information. Out of all the classes Andrew is taking this year, his favorites are Anatomy, AP US History, and Chemistry because of his “amazing teachers and my overall fascination with the classes.” Along with enjoying the classes he is taking, he is involved with his class, especially since he used to be the Secretary for the student officers in the class of 2026 last year and the year prior. Andrew plans to go to college for a PhD in Pharmacology and then get a Masters in Neurology after high school, though he says that “those are extremely tough plans and things could change.”

His friends and his family are his inspiration and his support every day and he supports them in all their goals, too. A piece of advice he has is, “Even if times are tough, always look at what you have, take a deep breath, and then take another step forward.” If he could have dinner with any historical figure, he would choose to have dinner with Theodore Roosevelt, just because he wants to know how that man thought through all his decisions. Andrew's friends

describe him as “focused, hardworking, persevered, and kind.” His favorite song is Novia by Jake Daniels. Andrew's favorite artists are Rembrandt van Rijn as well as Casper David Friedrich. If Andrew could travel anywhere in the world, he would travel to Norway. His favorite time period to study history is the Meiji Restoration in Japan in 1868 to 1889. He chooses this time period because “it is a significant turning point in the distant history of Japan to opening up to the entire world.” Another history event he enjoys hearing about is when a single dog saved an Antarctic Explorer in the South Pole, which was named Togo. He believes that history does repeat itself because “everything seems to revolve in a circle. Whenever something occurs similar to something in the past, everything else that occured seems to fol-

low nearly identically.” His favorite fun fact is that the hashtag or pound sign was originally called the Octothorpe.

Andrew loves to read and play games outside of school, especially playing video games or board games with his friends. Andrew says his favorite video game is Bloodborne because “the world building, the story, the characters, the theme and setting are all perfection.” Though he plays both single player and multiplayer games, he says he prefers single player games because they are calming. Skills he learned from playing video games would be Time management, supply management, and organization. Andrew prefers to play on the PC out of any form of gaming platform. Andrew enjoys playing Dungeons and Dragons with his friends, especially since his character is Arco, a Kenku, which is a bird-like humanoid. If Andrew could live in a video game world, he would live in Ace Combat 7. He chooses that world because “it is very similar to Earth, but it is much larger and has many other resources.” His advice to anyone trying to get better at Video Games is “Practice and take breaks, no point in trying to brute force something you are stuck on or are unable to do, take a deep breath and pause. You do much better after an hour or two of rest compared to getting annoyed at losing for hours on end.”

Miss Keen joins Mrs. Palerino in the classroom

Hailey Quinn - 12

On March 24, Miss Keen joined Mrs. Palerino in the classroom as a student teacher. She will remain at Hamburg until May 16. Miss Keen is originally from Scranton, Pennsylvania and attended Scranton High School. While in high school, she participated in Show Choir and Spirit Club.

Miss Keen is currently studying at Kutztown University and majoring in secondary English education with a dual certification in Special Education and a minor in Literature. She has known that she has wanted to be a teacher since she was five years old. She notes, “My kindergarten teacher picked me to lead our morning routine one day, and I’ve known I wanted to teach ever since.” It was not until further on in her K-12 education that she decided on English, as her English teachers were always her biggest advocates. As for Special Education, it was included with her program at Kutztown, which she was not aware of initially. She was hesitant at first and even considered dropping that part of the program, but decided that it would not impact her negatively to have the credentials and continued the program. Miss Keen comments, “I fell in love with Special Education as I moved through the program to the point that it does not matter to me if I end up in English or Special Ed for the rest of my career. I enjoy them both equally!”

During her time at Hamburg, Miss Keen is required to do anything that Mrs. Palerino is responsible for in the classroom, aside from her AP Literature and Composition course. Her responsibilities include taking attendance, teaching the classes, planning and developing lessons, and grading. So far, Miss Keen really loves it here at Hamburg, noting, “I wake up excited to come here everyday. People are starting to warm up to me a little bit more, which is really nice and exciting!” Hamburg is her first official English placement as a student teacher. Her last placement was for Special Education, so she is looking forward to working with Mrs. Palerino and her English classes.

Mrs. Palerino is also experiencing a first, as she has not had a student teacher before. She is looking forward to working with Miss Keen and watching her develop as an educator. Mrs. Palerino comments, “Having people who truly want to work in education is not as prevalent anymore, so I am looking forward to helping her be just as amazing as she can be. I am excited for her to see the good sides of the job and the positives that come with it and that can come out of it.” As Miss Keen spends more time in the classroom, Mrs. Palerino looks forward to learning from her and seeing how students react differently to different teachers and teaching styles. She notes, “I am excited to learn from her, as I believe that you do not ever stop learning. She has already come up with some really creative ideas, and I am looking forward to seeing if they will work out and how the students will react to that.”

In the future, Miss Keen hopes to meet as many students as possible and grow into a teacher that is worthy of great students. As for now, she notes, “I am happy to be a resource to anybody who needs anything. The best teachers are the ones who are there for their students and that's what I'm trying to be. If anyone has any questions please feel free to reach out!”

Adviser: Mrs. Terri McCarthy-Wright; Editor in Chief: Hannah Kristiniak; Issue Layout Editor: Kaylea Detweiler; Writers: Tia Adam, Koa Binder, Chase Brodhead, Alaena Cox, Kristianna Cunkle, Elizabeth Carroll, Kaylea Detweiler, Lydia Fultz, Kaitlyn Gallagher, Lilly Gibson, Madeline Handwerk, Hannah Kristiniak, Riley Mohn, Hailey Quinn, Brooklyn Scheffler, Anastasia Smith, Victoria Snyder, Zachary Spatz, Rylee Strunk, Bethany Stuffle; Hawk Happenings is a weekly publication created by the students in the Publications class at Hamburg Area High School. It is distributed free of charge throughout the Hamburg Area High School community. A PDF is available at <https://www.hasdhawks.org/domain/181> and an online version at www.hawkhappenings.org. The opinions in this newspaper represent those of the student writers and do not represent the opinions of the faculty, staff, administration, or school board of the Hamburg Area School District. HH is a member of the Pennsylvania School Press Association (PSPA), the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA), and Quill and Scroll. If you have any questions or comments regarding anything that appears in its pages, or if you would like to sponsor our paper with a donation, please contact Terri McCarthy, Hawk Happenings, Hamburg Area High School, Windsor Street, Hamburg, PA, 19526. Our email address is termcc@hasdhawks.org and our phone number is 610-562-3861, x2327.

The History of April Fools

Kaitlyn Gallagher - 10

April Fools' is a holiday celebrated by those who love a good prank. Most people either initiate these pranks, or watch pranks happen on social media of others getting fooled on April 1st every year with an elaborate, yet harmless and funny prank which makes everyone laugh. It is important to know how this holiday became a holiday in the first place, how these traditions began, and who really began April Fools' Day.

It is commonly believed that the origins of April Fools' began all the way back in the 1500s with France. France had decided to replace their Julian calendar, created by Julius Caesar, with the Gregorian Calendar introduced by Pope Gregory XIII. In the Julian Calendar, the new year was to begin on April 1. Although with the Gregorian calendars the new year starts January 1, meaning that if people did not update their calendars, they lead themselves to believe the new year starts on April 1 still, since news did not travel fast.

The people who kept celebrating the New Year on April 1 were treated like fools, hence the name. If they failed to recognize that the new year moved to January 1, they were treated like complete jokes and hoaxes. The group of people who joked about those who did not update their calendars decided to call them “April Fools”, because they were fools who still believed the new year began in April instead of keeping up with the times and actually knowing the new year now began on January 1. One of their most special pranks is placing a paper fish on a person's back, calling them a “Poisson d'avril”, which translates to an April Fish. Their reasoning for calling them an April Fish is because they were easily caught believing lies and were gullible.

Soon, other countries started to catch on and decided to have April Fools pranks of their own. Countries like Scotland started traditions where they sent people on phony errands and called this “hunting the gowk”. Gowk is a synonym for the cuckoo bird, which is a symbol used for a fool. This was followed by a day called Tailie Day, where people would have fake tails pinned on them or “kick me” signs attached to their back.

April Fools is widespread and celebrated in almost every country. While it can be a controversial holiday, it brings out people's creativity by having them try to pull the best prank of the year they possibly can and using their imagination alongside it. To learn more about this foolish holiday, read here: <https://www.rutgers.edu/news/how-did-april-fools-day-get-started> <https://www.history.com/articles/april-fools-day>

Students recall interesting pet stories

Joshua Castro - 11

Pets are lovable creatures that give people company and a loyal friend outside of school. Their carefree nature helps students through good and rough patches, and their dependence on humans helps give people a sense of routine. Despite their innocence, they often get into trouble in unexpected and amusing ways.

Dogs are usually the first pet people think of when considering the potential to make a mess or cause chaos. Noah Thebeau is a junior whose dog created drama when he went into a hard-to-reach area in his house. His dog Franklin was an energetic pitbull who never got into much trouble. However, one day, he went into a closet and accidentally went into the ventilation system. He proceeded to walk through the vents around the house while whining for almost two hours out of fear. Franklin got out when Noah's dad pulled a crank to release the stairs that led to the attic, allowing him to get out. The dog was not hurt, but he was scared, which caused panic in Noah's home.

Parakeets are smaller than dogs and look harmless, but their intelligence can create chaos in the face of boredom. Junior Joshua Castro has a parakeet named Boo-boo who created a mess when she made a habit of nibbling on the plastic curtain in his house. She is a social but passive-aggressive bird known for causing chaos when left unattended. When Josh's family let her out, she would often go behind a curtain and start removing plastic pieces from it, creating holes and bite marks that decreased the privacy of the curtain. Eventually, the curtain got so damaged that his parents had to replace it with a new one. Everyone knew what was happening, but Boo-boo was subtle because the curtains hid her from view. The situation shows how pets can cause chaos, no matter their size.

