

# Hawk Happenings

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## HAHS juniors get inducted into the National Honor Society

Hannah Kristiniak - 11

On April 17, 2024, Hamburg Area High School welcomed its new chapter of National Honor Society members. An induction ceremony was held where these 17 students took a pledge, signed the book, and had a family member pin their NHS pin on them. After the ceremony was over, the new inductees and their families were invited to have refreshments in Cafe 1 provided by senior NHS members.

National Honor Society is an organization that was founded in 1921, and serves to recognize high school students who excel in the areas of scholarship, leadership, character, and service. Students in NHS participate in service projects to help their community and other organizations. NHS will also raise money to help various causes. National Honor Society members are exposed to different service and leadership opportunities that give them more experience in these areas.

Hailey Quinn, a junior inducted into NHS, thought the ceremony was very nice. There were times when it felt awkward since everyone had to wait and sit in silence while other members accepted their certificates and received their pins. Some of Hailey's family decided to attend and show her support including her mom, dad, and aunt. Hailey's favorite part was when her dad came up on stage and pinned her with her NHS pin. She says it was a very special moment for both of them which is why it is her favorite. Being in the National Honor Society is a great honor and Hailey is proud of herself for this achievement. The National Honor Society can help aid students in their future and give back to the community. Hailey is looking forward to helping others with service projects done through NHS.

This is also a great way to help students and their futures because being an NHS member means that someone has great characteristics that can help them get into college. The group that was inducted into NHS this year was on the smaller side, but Hailey says she is excited to start our first service project and feels a smaller group will help them work closer together.

Another junior inductee of NHS, Erica Gerner, enjoyed the induction ceremony. She had heard a lot about the ceremony since she was friends with people who were inducted last year. The ceremony was how she expected it to be, and she regards it as very organized and did well in honoring students. Erica's mom, dad, and grandmother watched her get inducted and showed their support. Her favorite part of the night was when her mom pinned her with the NHS pin, and she hoped this achievement made her family proud. Since being in the National Honor Society is the highest level of honor students can receive at the high school Erica is very proud of her character and personality that allowed her to get in. As a junior, Erica has already started her college-looking process and she knows that being in NHS will help her get into college. She is looking forward to working with the classmates she has grown up with in giving back to their community and other people.

## Teacher Spotlight : Mrs. Dommel

Chloee Stitzel - 10

Mrs. Dommel, HAHS art teacher, became an art teacher to share her artistic gifts with young people and to try and bring beauty to the world. She studied art for her whole life and for years in college and well beyond to a PHD equivalency.

Mrs. Dommel started with her undergraduate degree in Art Education at Moravian University and then went to Kutztown University for her master's degree in Art Education. She also pursued credits beyond the masters degree in art and related technology.

She loves the diversity of the subject of art and the ability to create and design new projects for students. Mrs. Dommel likes to be on the cutting edge of art and technology. She is excited to be able to offer a variety of interesting art topics that may spark passion for students.

Mrs. Dommel hopes that her work and her class leads others to follow their passions and to embrace the opportunity to experience the world of art and creativity. She has been working in Hamburg for 20 years. Mrs. Dommel states, "There are very memorable moments at Hamburg, including take your child to work day, fun times on field trips, and just normal days in the art studio."

She loves all forms of art, she enjoys digital and traditional art processes. Mrs. Dommel is most interested in heat pressing and digital art, ceramics and glass fusing.

When she isn't at school, she enjoys spending time outside in nature with her kids.



## Elizabethtown College hosts an open house

Grace Cromyak - 11

A college open house is an exciting event that offers prospective students and their families a unique opportunity to explore a college campus and learn more about the institution. Typically held annually, open houses provide a great experience where attendees can take guided tours of the campus, visit academic departments, and, most importantly, meet faculty and staff and interact with current students. These events are designed to give potential students a glimpse of college life, showcasing the academic programs, extracurricular activities, and support services offered. An open house is not just an event; it's a crucial step in the decision-making process for students, providing them with the necessary information to determine whether college is the right fit for them.

On Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 8:45, Elizabethtown College, located northwest of the Lancaster County area, will host its annual open house for students, giving them a broad and available opportunity to tour the campus. On this campus, there are lots of small shops and chain stores, restaurants and cafes, and peaceful parks that surround Elizabethtown, making it a quiet and cozy area. Sign-up is required beforehand, and students will have to sign up for the event on the Elizabethtown website. Elizabethtown offers a plethora of over 100 different minors and majors combined, providing a wide range of academic possibilities. For those who are interested in health sciences and want to progress in this occupation, this is the right college for them. Elizabethtown provides a variety of health science opportunities, as well as engineering and technology interests and criminal justice interests.

For more information about Elizabethtown College, go to: [www.etown.edu/](http://www.etown.edu/).



## Students discuss summer plans

Isabella Forte - 11

As high school students, summer is a time where students can relax, have fun, and make the most of a break before heading back to school in the fall. With the long days and warm weather, there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy the summer and make lasting memories. One option for summer plans is to take advantage of the freedom to explore new hobbies and interests. Whether it is learning a new sport, taking up a musical instrument, or trying out a new craft, summer is the perfect time to delve into something that has always been of interest. Developing new skills can lead to discovering a passion that was unknown. Junior Ashley Moyer also does similar things, "I go on several vacations with my family. Although I love staying at home, I think I love going out with my friends and family more."

If looking to make the most of the summer in a more structured way, consider signing up for a summer program or camp. There are numerous options available, from academic programs, outdoor adventures, to volunteer opportunities. These programs can help in gaining new experiences, making new friends, and even earning college credit. For those who are more academically minded, the summer is a great time to get ahead on coursework or prepare for standardized tests. Taking a few classes or studying for the SAT or ACT can help in staying sharp for the upcoming school year and providing an advantage in the college admissions process.

Biology Teacher, Mrs. Sinopoli shares her summer plans, "I mainly do three things over the summer. One is taking care of and hanging out with my children, second is taking my children to my parents' campground in southern Jersey, and finally spending time at the dance studio. Over the summer I mainly teach technique classes and private lessons."

Of course, summer is also a time to relax and have fun. Whether spending time with friends, going to the beach, or traveling to new places, make sure to take some time to unwind and recharge. It is important to balance work and play, so remember to schedule in some downtime to enjoy the summer to its fullest.

Overall, there are endless possibilities for summer plans as a high school student. Whether choosing to explore new interests, participate in a program, study, or simply relax, make sure to make the most of the break and create memories that will last a lifetime.





# Student teacher Miss Meyers

Tia Adam - 10

During the 2023-2024 school year there have been multiple full time and part time student teachers. A full time one is Miss Meyers. She is a student teacher for Mrs. Benvenuto who teaches Civics, Honors World Cultures, and Geography. That gives Miss Meyers the chance to teach civics and geography as a way to get the jist of teaching.

Miss Meyers has been student teaching at Hamburg High School since the end of January. She is currently attending college at Kutztown University since her junior year. During her sophomore and freshman year she attended RACC. When she started college, her idea was to become an English teacher, but she later realized that she was no longer interested in that but rather interested in becoming a social studies teacher. Her major is currently Secondary Education in Social Studies.

She decided to go to school to become a teacher because she wants to “Make a difference to someone.” Along with that she made a student teaching goal to make a difference in at least one student’s life before she has to go back to school, which she thinks she has already accomplished. Student teaching has also been a huge way for Miss Meyers to understand teaching as she has only learned content at college rather than how to teach. Being a student teacher also really opens her up to a classroom dynamic and how to adjust. Overall her favorite part of being a student teacher is being able to teach students and connect with them but also because of Mrs. Benvenuto and all of the help and tips she has given her.

Mrs. Benvenuto has been given this opportunity to have a student teacher due to having finished her masters degree and by upgrading it due to having already taught ten years. Before Mrs. Benvenuto became a teacher she was also a student teacher, at Hamburg under the guidance of Mr. Zimmerman. Mrs. Benvenuto was a student teacher in 2014 and ended up having the students that she student taught in their graduating year of 2018. She has been able to use many of the different teaching techniques she learned from Mr. Zimmerman to help get a basis of how to teach.

Overall student teaching is a very eye opening experience for students going to be a teacher as it gives them a hands on understading of what to expect when teaching. Some of the tips from Mrs. Benvenuto and Miss Meyers for students who want to go to school to be a teacher are to “Give it your all, focus on education, be flexible, find a way to balance school and work, and to have room for growth.”



# AP Biology travels to Philadelphia Zoo

Hailey Quinn - 11

On 23 April, Mrs. Farina’s AP Biology class took a field trip to the Philadelphia Zoo. While there they conducted an animal behavior lab on an animal of their choice. Prior to visiting the zoo, students were to pick an animal to observe and do research on the typical behaviors of that animal.

Once at the zoo, students did an initial observation of the animal they had chosen. During this time, they wrote down behavioral observations to be tallied during the data collection period of the lab. This was a 40 minute time period in which students observed their animal and recorded the amount of time each behavior occurred.

Shelby Dougherty observed a golden lion tamarin for her animal behavior lab. She enjoyed observing the behavior of the animal, as they were very active and cute. Shelby states, “I liked watching them jump from branch to branch. They were also very cute and small.” She also explained that she got many stares, adding, “I felt like I was an exhibit, because so many people stared at me while I was recording my observations.”

After the observation period, the students were allowed to walk around the zoo, get lunch, and spend time in the gift shop. This was the favorite part of all the students. They got to see many animals and the weather was beautiful for walking around. Some students even got to feed the giraffes. Overall, the AP Biology students thoroughly enjoyed the field trip to the Philadelphia Zoo.



# HAHS seniors share their favorite class

Hannah Kristiniak - 11

As graduation is quickly approaching, seniors have been spending quite a bit of time reflecting on their high school years. High school is filled with many memories and monumental moments in a person’s life. There are a lot of influences and factors that can change a person’s life in high school. During this bittersweet time, some HAHS seniors have been asked which class they have ever taken at Hamburg is their favorite.

Sara Fitzgerald, a graduating senior, chose publications as her favorite class at HAHS. Publications, taught by Mrs. McCarthy, is a class where students write for the school newspaper and help design the Pinnacle. Sara has taken publications every year she has attended Hamburg, which includes grades 10, 11, and 12. This class is her favorite because it gives her the freedom and creativity to do things she likes. She enjoys that she can choose the topics for her articles as long as she can relate them to Hamburg.

Sara’s favorite part about the class was coming up with the theme for the Pinnacle and watching it come to life. When asked what her favorite memory was in this class, a few moments came to mind for each year that Sara took publications. During her first year taking the class, she met Lonasia Tolbert who graduated last year. It was just she and Lonasia and they would always have the best time in class. In her Junior year, Sara would talk with Hailey and Deja, other publications students, and was able to relax and collaborate with them. Her favorite memory from her senior year has to be the funny comments and moments with freshman Landon Poullos. Sara finishes off by saying, “There have been so many good times and laughs in this one library.”

She decided to take publications when she transferred schools because of her sister, Lyndsay. When Sara’s sister was in high school, she was involved in the Pinnacle and Sara always found it interesting. Sara encourages students to take publications. Even though there are some learning curves, the longer someone takes it the easier it gets and leaves more room for creative writing.

Cadence Jalbert, another senior at HAHS, picked Music Major as her favorite class. Music Major or Music Theory is taught by Mrs. Kline, who is one of Cadence’s favorite teachers. She took this class every other day during her junior year. This class was her favorite since it was taught by Mrs. Kline, but also because it is unlike any other class at Hamburg. The things taught in this class are specific to Cadence’s interests and are not something that everyone can learn easily.

One of her favorite parts about the class was that there were only three students total: Cadence, Ian Fink, and Clayton Lash. This made the class more personal and enjoyable since the class could be set to the level of theory they already had. Cadence has a bunch of favorite memories from Music Theory, but she enjoyed it when the boys were absent since it was like a one-on-one music session with Mrs. Kline. Sometimes they would also get snacks and drinks since it was before lunch and they were hungry. Cadence recalls one time when Mr. Kline came in and went on a rant about Dua Lipa and Taylor Swift which made them all laugh.

The top reason Cadence chose to take this elective was because she was highly considering majoring in music in college. Taking this class would help her see more into that. Plus, Cadence enjoys anything to do with music so she knew this would be an enjoyable class. To take Music Theory, students must be taking another music course and they should have a decent understanding of music, notes, and scales. Cadence says this class is an amazing class for students who are really into music and considering majoring in music in college.



# Histories and cultures change over time with influence

Bella Kenyel - 9

Different countries have their history and cultures (myths, legends, foods, language) intertwined with each other, which makes change. An example for the historical aspect would be Germany and Russia and an example for the cultural aspect would be Japan borrowing some aspects of China’s culture. The island of Yap, which is located in Micronesia, has historical ties with Spain, Germany, Japan, and America. The island of Yap also borrowed many words and clothing choices from the countries that once ruled over them.

Both of Bella Kenyel’s parents are from the island of Yap and they have different views on the matter of how Yap has changed. Bella’s mother views these changes that have happened to Yap to be mostly good, for example cars. The only thing that was bad in her mother’s opinion was television, due to the fact that young Yapese people are becoming “gangster.” The technology that Bella’s mother knows were introduced were cars, television, phones and modern day clothing. In Yap, they used to wear grass skirts, but they now only wear them during ceremonies. Bella’s mother believes that change on Yap is already happening due to the fact that most people have cars now. She also believes that the language will stay the same, despite the younger generations understanding English more than the older generations.

Bella’s father, on the other hand, believes that these changes that have happened to Yap to be bad. His reasonings are the fact that young Yapese people are losing their culture, customs, and language due to American influence. The technology that Bella’s father knows were introduced to Yap were cars, phones, television, a governmental system, police, and an economic system due to America taking over. Bella’s father says that when the technology advanced in Yap, the young people started to lose their culture, customs, language, and stories. Bella’s father believes that in the future, Yap’s cultures, customs, and language will be erased entirely due to the older generations being dead and the influence of government and money.

To find more about Yap go to [visityap.com](http://visityap.com), <https://ehrafworldcultures.yale.edu/cultures/or22/summary>, or ask Kenyel.



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