

# Hawk Happenings

Volume XXVIII Issue 27 May 7, 2025

a Publication of Hamburg Area High School, Hamburg, PA



## NHS inducts new members

Hailey Quinn - 12

On April 24, National Honor Society held their annual induction ceremony to formally induct the new members. The ceremony began at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Students invited family members to help celebrate them and to help during the ceremony.

To begin the ceremony, Shelby Dougherty, President, gave greeting remarks and then the inductees were called to the stage. Once everyone was seated, the other officers spoke about the four pillars of National Honor Society. Hailey Quinn, Vice President, spoke about scholarship; Isabella Reader, Secretary, spoke about service; Gavin Dougherty, Treasurer, spoke about Leadership; and Rowan Epting, Historian, spoke about Character. Following the officer speeches, Shelby Dougherty led the members and new inductees in the Honor Society Pledge. After the pledge was the presentation of the emblems and cards. As each inductee was called forward, they signed the membership log, were presented with a certificate and pin, and a family member pinned the pin to the new member. After each member had been called forward, Mr. McGinley, Principal, and Mrs. Bucheit, Advisor, gave congratulatory remarks. Following this Shelby Dougherty made closing comments and everyone headed to the cafeteria for celebrations and refreshments provided by the current members.

The newly inducted members of National Honor Society are: Tia Adam, Daniel Barata, Maile Bentz, Joshua Castro, Kameron Dreibelbis, Dylan Gough, Madeline Handwerk, Zackary Hiegler, Mackenzie Hoover, AnnaMarie Karasek, Harrison Mast, Riley Mohn, Lily Parr, Astian Reppert, Connor Rex, Morgan Riegel, Sawyer Smith, Bethany Stufflet, Caleb Weist, and Kamryn Witman.

Congratulations to the new members of National Honor Society!

## Class officers, students, and advisors prepare for Car Show

Lydia Fultz - 10

This year the Freshman and Sophomore classes are teaming up to put together Hamburg's 3rd Annual Car Show, held on May 18 from 9 am - 1 pm with the rain date being May 25 at the same time. Both classes put a lot of work into putting this show together, and it takes months of preparation in order to ensure that it is successful. The hope in coordinating this is that it will be a great fundraiser for the classes running it, but also just a place where people can get together for a few hours and have a good time.

Class advisor, Mr. Haegele says that three years ago he brought up the idea of a car show to the school, but they said it would have to be run by one of the classes with their advisor. "Eventually the show began being run through the Sophomore class, and I have helped with it since," he also says, "The property next to Sweet Treats is now a community service center so they may not be able to have their shows anymore." He believes that the Car Show is usually for the most part



successful but that promoting and making people more publicly aware beforehand could be done a little bit better. He also does not know if the show will continue in future years because he will no longer be a class advisor, and that it is just a matter of if the next class will pick it up.

Sophomore and class treasurer, Alexander Devlin, says that he thinks the car show is a nice addition to school events and fundraisers, but that there is a good amount of work that goes into putting it together. He also mentions how his uncle is bringing a 1952 Crosley to the show and that others should also bring cool cars if they have any.

Overall, from year to year the Car Show seems to be generally successful. When putting everything together, there can be ups and downs, but in the end it usually runs pretty smoothly. The turn out success all comes down to promoting, so promote as much as possible so this year's Car Show can be just as great if not better than the rest, and come out with friends and family to see all the awesome cars, enjoy live entertainment, partake in raffle drawings, and get some food.

Car Show will be held on  
Sunday, May 18th from 9am - 1pm

## Chase Homan wins Wrestler of the Year

Bethany Stufflet - 11

On April 6, 2025, Chase Homan, a junior at Hamburg Area High School won Berks County wrestler of the year. After achieving this great accomplishment, he feels excellent and is very proud of himself. He explains that "the feeling doesn't get much better."

To win this title, wrestlers must have a great performance overall. To prepare for something like this, Chase would do two to three training sessions daily, pushing himself to his absolute limits with 100% effort. He did this, trying to catch up with everyone, with four weeks to prepare due to an injury setback. "When I was injured, I did everything that I could to stay ready. I had to endure the toughest things while no one was looking to accomplish this goal for myself," Chase explained.

Chase celebrated this big win with his family, who know how much it means to him and how much work he put in to achieve it. Looking ahead, Chase has big goals for himself. "I want to become a state champion in my senior year, and I am willing to do whatever it takes to fulfill this goal. I want to be the first wrestling state champ for our school. Then, I want to compete in college at the highest level."

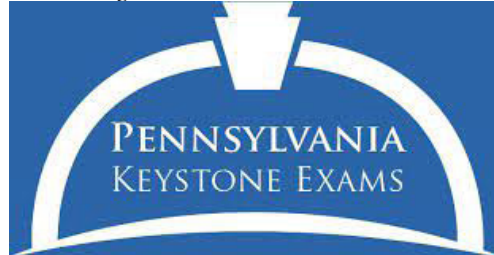


## Students prepare for Keystones and AP exams

Elizabeth Carroll - 10

Spring has begun, so that means that spring Keystones are right around the corner and the AP exams are just as close. AP exams are not required when a student takes that specific course, but in order to obtain the college credits it offers, students will need to take it and pass. Keystones, on the other hand, are a graduation requirement in Pennsylvania for students to either pass or gain a composite score. The three Keystone exams are algebra, biology, and English.

Some students may have to take both of these exams. For example, Olivia Kauffman is one of the many that decided to take an AP course, AP environmental science, and pay for the exam, along with needing to take the English Keystones. She is more focused about studying for the AP exam, though. "I decided to take the AP exam because I want to test my ability to understand



the subject, as well as it is a great learning experience," Olivia says. She has decided that in order to prepare for it, she is going to consistently study all of the content throughout the year nightly and review difficult topics to make sure she has a thorough understanding. Olivia's specific studying method that proves to be the most effective would be 30 minutes of using flashcards each night to slowly build up the knowledge and remember important information.

Olivia is not the only one taking these two exams, as Arianna Naranjo also has to prepare for these. "I decided to take the AP exam so I can get an idea of how hard the AP tests can be in general, while taking it on a topic I have been comfortable with for the past two years," Arianna explains. She wants to be able to prepare for future exams that might end up being more difficult, but then she has a little bit of experience with the process. The study method that Arianna has decided to take on for this exam would be reviewing the notes that were taken throughout the year as well as going over definitions that will help navigate through complex questions and problems.

No matter how big a test or exam is, everyone has their own way to prepare. Some students may need more or less time, and Keystones and AP exams should not be taken too lightly if the score from them will be dependent on graduation, or for gaining college credits. However, every student should try their best even if it is not their best or favorite subject.

## Juniors' thoughts on graduating next year

Zach Spatz - 11

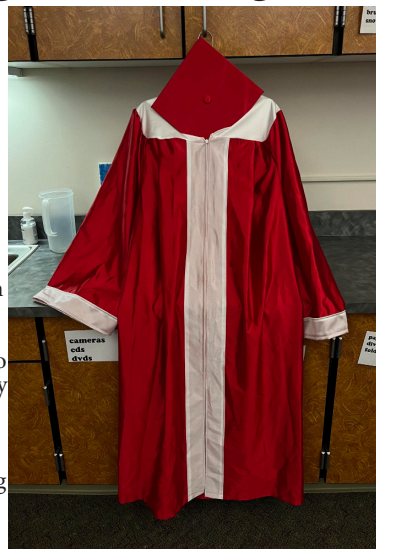
Graduation is only a little over a year away for the class of 2026. Some juniors are excited about graduating, and some are very stressed about figuring out which college they want to attend or even if they want to attend college. Some will attend college, some might go to a trade school, and some might even go into the military. Graduation is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and students get to reflect on all of their hard work throughout their high school career.

Madeline Handwerk, a junior at Hamburg Area High School, explains, "Thinking about graduation is so unreal to me. I can not believe I am almost a senior. This year went by super fast, but I am excited for senior year!" Her plans after high school are to enlist in the As and then go to college to become an occupational therapist.

Another junior, Joshua Castro, states, "I think graduating will be good for me since even though I have only been in high school for junior year, I feel like I have already gotten the high school experience." Josh plans to go to college after high school and go to medical school, as well as enlist in the Air Force or the Navy. He wants to become a neurologist.

61.4% of students chose college after high school. 6% go to the forces, and only one percent take a skip year. For Hamburg Area High School, 44% of students attend a 4-Year College, 13% of students attend a 2-Year College/Technical, 42% of students go into Employment, and only 1% of students go into the military.

For more information, visit [dwright.edu](http://dwright.edu).



# Student Spotlight: Mason Gruber

Madeline Handwerk - 11

Mason Gruber is a junior at Hamburg Area High School. When not in school, he enjoys lifting, hanging out with friends, going to the track, traveling, and being outside. Mason's favorite things differ all of the time, but at the moment, his favorite shows consist of The Pit, Chicago Med, and The Outer Banks, and he loves eating some good seafood and steak.

Mason is super involved in school activities. He participates in winter and spring track. Mason says, "I do indoor and outdoor track running 110 hurdles and 300 hurdles as well as the 4x100." Mason placed third in counties and sixth in districts. He also holds a freshman record. His favorite memories at track practice are the invites he attends and staying over at Shippensburg.

Mason excels in school and gets excellent grades. He also tries his best and gives his all. In school, his favorite classes are mainly his science ones, like anatomy and physiology. He likes Mrs. Sinopoli a lot and thinks she is a really good teacher.

After high school, Mason knows he wants to go to college to hopefully become a physician assistant. He wants to be able to run collegiate track, and his plans are to live down in North or South Carolina. He goes to South Carolina a lot, and has loved it since he can remember. He hopes to get accepted into a college down there.



# Students talk about World Health Day

Lilly Gibson - 10

Across Earth, health is a major topic that people talk and argue about constantly. For many, even if they do not suffer from poor health or serious health conditions, they worry about it. "What if I get that disease?" "What if I have to get surgery?" "What if I'm in the hospital next?" those are questions that many people ask themselves. A large number of people who worry constantly are expecting mothers or those who are trying. Childbirth and pregnancy are one of the most difficult things to go through. Complications can arise in a matter of seconds and lives can be lost or broken forever. In third world countries like Sudan, Nigeria, and Nepal, their prenatal and postnatal care is not the best. The lack of nurses that attend births, proper medication, and space put both a mother and a baby at high risk. Those reasons are why world health day exists.

World health day starts on April 7 and lasts all year to celebrate the World Health Organization and to also bring light to a topic across the country. This year's world health topic was maternal and newborn health. Newborns are one of the most fragile and weak creatures on Earth. If even one thing goes wrong, they can suffer a lifetime of disease and problems. Many of these cases where they suffer are in third world countries that do not have access to high tech ad reliable health care. In Sudan alone, 37 out of 1,000 babies do not make it past the first 28 days of life. This is not just a sad fact, but also a true one. World health day allows awareness to be brought to this issue. As of 2025, nearly 10,000 nurses from across the world traveled to Sudan and other African countries to help with birth and care for the mother after labor.

World health day is important to many, especially to those who can not afford or are able to get help themselves.

For more information about world health day, go to <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day>.

# Seniors discuss favorite school-assigned books

Hannah Kristiniak - 12

As their final year of high school comes to an end, seniors are reflecting on all the classes and experiences they had. Part of this is thinking about the books they were assigned to read for school. High school is a great opportunity to explore so many different texts that lead to essays, projects, and a lot of learning!

Hailey Quinn's favorite book was The Awakening by Kate Chopin. She read this book during her junior year in AP English Language and Composition taught by Mrs. Texter. It was Chopin's writing style that first captivated Hailey. Additionally, the characters were interesting and the plot was very compelling. It was a really beautiful book, Hailey adds, and she would definitely recommend that others read it as she would read it again. This novel was assigned to the whole class and students were expected to keep journals and participate in two Socratic seminars. Hailey believes that assigned books can be scary, especially if someone is picky about the books that they read. This can make reading feel like more of an assignment than it already is. However, Hailey concludes by saying, "I think it's important to try to find fun in the books you have to read for school, and it's even better when a book is assigned to you that you end up really enjoying."



Alyssa Brensinger, another senior, chose a book that she read during her freshman year. The whole class had to read Animal Farm by George Orwell in Mrs. Trubilla's class. Overall, Alyssa thought the book was interesting. She liked the book and especially enjoyed that it was

an allegory. Learning about the background and being able to compare it to the novel was very engaging. The class also got to watch the movie after they finished reading. Everyone had to write a large synthesis essay comparing the book and the movie, which Alyssa had a lot of fun doing.

# Music Review: Amy Winehouse

Brooklyn Scheffler - 9

Amy Winehouse was a British singer who was born in 1983 in London. She is a songwriter known for her loud voice and her interesting choice to make jazz, R&B, and soul music. She then released her first album, Frank, in 2003, which received not a lot of attention. It was her second album, Back to Black in 2006, that made her start to gain more and more attention. Some songs that received a lot of love were "Rehab," "You Know I'm No Good," and "Back to Black." The album won multiple awards, including five Grammys, and is considered one of the greatest of all time. She struggled with addiction and mental health issues, which were often spoken about on social media. Her personal struggles took over her career, and she tragically passed away from alcohol poisoning in 2011 at the age of 27. Even after her death, her music continues to inspire artists, and she remains a beautiful figure in modern music history.



Amy Whinehouse is one of the most beautiful, kindhearted people I have ever read about. One of my favorite lyrics she sang was, "I don't know why I got so attached." I relate to this so much because I get attached to people that hurt me. Her music is very upbeat and is like jazz music with an upbeat dramatic band playing. After hearing about her death, I did a lot of research on old videos and pictures and you can see the genuine struggle in her facial expressions. It is the most heart-breaking experience to watch someone struggle and especially a popular influencer/artist. Her music was upbeat and she always put effort into her songs that helped people get through things and relate to what she had to say. For more information visit one of the websites [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org), [www.biography.org](http://www.biography.org) or [www.google.org](http://www.google.org).

# Warm weather defrosts Marching Band

Riley Mohn - 11

As spring brings warmer weather, it also brings parade season, which is vital for students in the Marching Band. With parade season, the Marching Band gets their music out to as many people as possible, thus inspiring more students to join. Marching Band students have three parades every year: the King Frost parade, the Memorial Day parade, and the Children's Day parade. Sheila Kern, a sophomore at Hamburg, says "Hamburg's Marching Band is my favorite part of the parade."

With the King Frost parade typically on the last Saturday in October, the Marching Band students get to dress up in Halloween costumes and walk around the main town of Hamburg, playing music while providing candy for all the people watching. After the Marching Band performs their music and walks around the path once, then the students can go to their families and watch the rest of the parade, since the Marching Band is typically one of the first five floats.

When it comes to the Memorial Day parade, the weather decides if it is truly a parade or a performance. If it is not raining on Memorial Day, students play all the patriotic tunes while walking around town, also playing the Star Spangled Banner at each cemetery or memorial site. They then walk to St. John's Cemetery for the ceremony before heading home. If it is raining, though, these students perform their patriotic tunes in the Hamburg Armory in the ceremony. These students in the Marching Band sacrifice their day off of school to perform music as a tribute to those lost fighting for our country.

For the Children's Day parade on the first Saturday in June, students perform music before the festival in Shoeey, playing recognizable songs for people and kids of all ages. Typically, this parade is after the last week of school, so it is one last chance for all the Marching Band students getting together before summer. The seniors of previous years who performed in this parade typically said "the Children's Day parade is the last day of Senior year."



# Seniors participate in senior assassin

Koa Binder - 10

Senior assassin is an activity that has become popular over the last few years, and it is where seniors are assigned a "target" that they have to eliminate from the game. In order to eliminate their target, they need to use a water gun to hit them. In order to try and not be hit, targets need to be wearing a pair of swimming goggles on their head. An app is used to allow a person to see their target's location without them knowing so the senior can see where they are and attempt to get them out of the game.

Asceniah Pinter is one of the seniors who is already out of the game. "It's crazy because earlier that day my friends and I went to my target's girlfriend's house to try and get him out and then an hour later I got out." Asceniah got out right before going to the gym and her assassin was Cameron Kleckner. Senior assassin is still going on, however round two will begin soon and six seniors have already been eliminated.



# Sleep helps students thrive

Joshua Castro - 11

Sleep is an important process for students and teachers to recover from a long day's work. Many know it should be valued due to its apparent ability to fight sleep deprivation. However, more benefits make it useful in all areas of their school day.

One of the main benefits of getting enough sleep is its ability to support memory. Students are tasked with remembering information like new formulas, procedures, and important events. They must be able to apply their knowledge in tests and other assessments. Sleep helps students solidify what they learn to help them rely more on their memory to better succeed in school. For example, a study by MIT suggested that higher quality sleep was associated with better grades recall, according to Stanford Lifestyle Medicine. Moreover, it found that a quarter of the difference in overall academic achievement between students was caused by sleep. Another study found that not getting enough sleep could drop learning ability as much as 40%, according to News In Health. Junior Kaden Mason adds that insufficient sleep inhibits him from fully focusing, making him more prone to daydreaming and dozing off. As such, sleep deprivation is damaging to students and should be avoided by getting a full night's rest.

Sleep also helps students recover from and continue to play sports. Rest is vital for maintaining peak performance in sports. For example, SleepFoundation states that sufficient sleep improves athletic performance in accuracy, reaction time, and power, while sleep insufficiency decreases precision and response times and increases the chance of injury. Kaden has a similar experience because he often has less energy when sleep deprived. It causes him more difficulty learning new techniques, honing in, and focusing on his training. In the long run, the potential of his time training and exercising is hindered. Therefore, sleep is one of the best ways to improve exercise performance in sports.

For more information, visit <https://longevity.stanford.edu/lifestyle/2024/01/10/sleep-and-academic-excellence-a-deeper-look/>, <https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2013/04/sleep-it>, <https://www.sleepfoundation.org/physical-activity/athletic-performance-and-sleep>.

Adviser: Mrs. Terri McCarthy-Wright; Editor in Chief: Hannah Kristiniak; Issue Layout Editor: Joshua Castro; 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](http://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](mailto:termcc@hasdhawks.org) and our phone number is 610-562-3861, x2327.