

Hawk Happenings

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HAHS music department performs winter concert

Hailey Quinn - 11

On December 19, the HAHS music department performed their annual winter concert. There was a fantastic turnout, and the students and staff put forth great effort to perform a wonderful show.

The concert opened with the Concert Choir, conducted by Mrs. Jackson, performing songs including, "Light" and "O Holy Night." In addition to the classic performance, the Concert Choir also performed "Christmas on Broadway," a piece in which students acted out festive parts. There was even a section of the piece in which Mrs. Jackson joined in singing with the students and handed over the conducting to senior Clayton Lash. This was an entertaining touch to the winter concert that many viewers enjoyed.

The Concert Choir was followed by the Concert Orchestra. Ms. Godek made her Hamburg debut while performing and conducting the Concert Orchestra. The Concert Orchestra performed several pieces including, "Over the Rainbow" and "Troika." Mrs. Dowd also made an appearance to conduct "Poor Wayfaring Stranger." Seniors Cadence Jalbert and Smantha Gruber had a cello solo performance during "Poor Wayfaring Stranger." The Concert Orchestra provided a rich and warm performance, which left the audience with a homey and welcomed feeling.

Following the Concert Orchestra was Aerial Boundaries, the audition choir, conducted by Mrs. Jackson. They performed songs including, "December Child," "All is Well," and "A Bach Merry Christmas." It was clear that the students had worked hard leading up to the concert, and they provided a beautiful performance.

After Aerial Boundaries came the Concert Band, conducted by Mrs. Kline. They performed pieces including, "Celebration," "Where the Heavens Meet Earth," and "Yuletide Tapestry." Makaylah Ammon and Caleb Cramer performed saxophone solos in "Celebration." The Concert Band gave a great performance that left the audience in a festive and wintery mood.

Following the Concert Band was Chamber Strings. The smaller group of orchestral students, accompanied by Ms. Godek performed pieces including, "And So It Goes" and "Hark the Herald Angel Sings." This performance provided a beautiful arrangement that radiated a calm and festive atmosphere.

The final performance of the night was the Hawkton Jazz Ensemble, directed by Mrs. Kline. The jazz group performed pieces including, "Comfort and Joy" and "Birdland." The performance was lively and fun, which was a lovely way to end the 2023 winter concert.

Overall, the winter concert was a wonderful display of the talent and hardwork of Hamburg Area High School's music department students and staff. Be sure to visit the spring concert on May 7 for another great performance.



Mrs. Dommel teaches art

Bella Kenyel - 9

Some of the many electives at HAHS are the art electives, all taught by the HS's only art teacher, Mrs. Dommel. She teaches: Ceramics, Advanced Ceramics, 3-D Design, Advanced 3-D Design, Drawing, Advanced Drawing, Painting, Advanced Painting, and Studio Art. All advanced classes and Studio Art are for 10-12 grades while the other classes listed are for all grades to attend. The supplies that the students need for Drawing are erasers, pencils, and a kneadable eraser.

When Mrs. Dommel was growing up, her outlet was art and it was a part of her identity. As a child she would sit at the kitchen table and paint, and at the age of 3 she knew that she was destined to do a job that involved art. She had art lessons from 3rd grade and on, and she made it her main focus (along with her academics). Mrs. Dommel attended Moravian College and Kutztown University for her master's degree, then other institutions that were above her master's degree.

Mrs. Dommel started to teach at HAHS in August 2003. Before coming to HAHS she worked at a Crayola factory, Moravian University's art department in the painting gallery, and taught at three catholic schools: two St. Michael Archangel Schools and St. Ann School. Mrs. Dommel wanted to teach art because art is her passion, she loves kids, the versatility of the subject, and the many different things she can do with the art program that HAHS provides.

One of Mrs. Dommel's student's, Michael Long who is a freshman, attends her class for drawing. Michael joined Drawing because he likes to draw, sculpt, paint, and showcase his creativity and skill. The characteristic that Michael enjoys about Mrs. Dommel's class is that she lets her students show their creativity and does not restrict their freedom on how they choose to draw or what they draw. His most favorite art project this year was the self-directed sketch, and for this project he decided to sketch a realistic dragon. For next year, Michael is thinking about signing up for 3-D Design due to the fact that she lets her students do whatever they want as long as they get their work done, she is patient with them, and he likes to do art.

Another one of Mrs. Dommel's students, Carice Hoppes who is a freshman, also attends her class for drawing. She picked this elective because she wanted to improve her drawing skills by practicing. The characteristic that Carice likes about Mrs. Dommel is how she lets her students relax and sketch instead of making them do straight-up work. Her favorite project so far this year was a close-up of something that related to nature, and for that project Carice chose to draw a jaguar. Next year, Carice will definitely be signing up for Mrs. Dommel's class again due to the fact that it helps to calm down her anxiety, and she still wants to practice on improving her art.

Currently in Mrs. Dommel's class, Michael, Carice, and the rest of the students are drawing realistic portraits of people.

A message that Mrs. Dommel would like to say to young aspiring artists: "Follow your heart."



Students predict 2024 snow days

Tia Adam - 10

With a cold start to the new year, a lot of speculation of snow days have gone around Hamburg. The whole school was prepared by teachers on what to do in the case where there was a virtual day. For most classes, students would have a light workload for virtual days. Besides virtual days that started in 2020 due to COVID-19, there were normal snow days. Snow days were simply a day off school with no classes, just a day to hang out in the snow. Many kids miss snow days due to how rare they are now, but other kids are more fond of virtual days.

Sophomore Bethany Stuffle predicts that for the rest of the 2023-2024 school year, there might be one snow day, particularly soon due to the cold weather. Besides snow days she thinks that there is a chance for there to be about one or two morning delays. Bethany tends to like virtual days more due to still being able to do work.

Another sophomore, Maddie Handwerk, guesses that there will be two to three snow days this year. She does not think that this school year will have too many delays. She also prefers virtual days over snow days as they do not take away days towards summer break in order to make up days.

One other sophomore, John Sharp, thinks that there will be one snow day in February. For delays, he thinks that there will be approximately three. John's opinion on snow days is that he would rather have normal snow days due to him having to help clean snow.

More students seem to rather have virtual days due to there being less work to catch up on when students go back, or because they do not take off more time from break. Other students who do not care about school work, or have to help clean off snow, tend to like normal snow days more.



Out with the old, in with the new

Isabella Forte - 11

As people are receiving new gifts and trading them out for the old, in the spirit of giving, donate unwanted items instead of throwing them away or locking them up in a box.

There are many places that would be grateful for unwanted items. Places such as Mary's Shelter and Safe Berks, who help women and children that are in need. Items that they accept are gently used clothing, toys, bedding, and new hygiene products. Another great place to donate is Hope Rescue Mission. They accept men's and women's clothing and gently used furniture. If donating old bedding and towels is on the list, Berks Animal Rescue League is always in need. If looking for somewhere close to home to donate, The Hamburg Salvation Army is accepting gently used clothing, jewelry, shoes, and handbags. During the summer they accept small household items; such as toys and books during the summer for their sidewalk sale. A place my family loves to donate to is Seventh Day Adventist church on Hex Highway in Tilden Township. They accept clothing, toys, furniture, household items, and unopened and unexpired food. The church has a building where those who are in need are welcome to come and take what they need. Anyone who needs certain products is welcomed to take what they need. Such as canned food, childrens toys and clothes, hygienic products, and toiletries. Hours are listed on their website. Shelters are welcome to those who are preferably homeless, struggling with teen pregnancy, addiction, and family conflict.

There are many different places that someone can donate to. Items that a person feels are unwanted to them are things that may be special and needed for another. If people would like to help but do not have items to donate, time is always needed as well.

For more information on these places please visit their websites. Mary's Shelter: <https://marysshelter.org/> SafeBerks: <https://www.safeberks.org/> Hope Rescue Mission: <https://www.hopeforreading.org/> BerksAnimalRescueLeague: <https://www.berksarl.org/> HamburgSeventhDayAdventistChurch: <https://hamburgsda.org/community-outreach/>



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