

# Hawk Happenings

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## HAHS teachers share why they became teachers

LeeAnn Mills - 11

Every person reaches points in their life where they must choose. One of the most important life-altering decisions a person will ever make is graduating high school and deciding on a career path. All the teachers here at HAHS have decided to become teachers at one point or another, and I decided to ask them about their journey.

Mrs. Herman comes from a family of teachers and claims that “teaching is in [her] blood.” All six of her siblings are either teachers or in a math-oriented field. Her favorite part about teaching is interacting with the students, however, her least favorite part is the feeling of always having more to complete and never being done. Hamburg has employed Mrs. Herman for 27 years out of her 31 teaching years. She remarks that she still has a long way to go and that “this is a challenging job and along the way, there are enough high points that keep me wanting to meet the challenge.”

One door down from Mrs. Herman, Mr. Gaul has been teaching for 13 years and enjoys all the student’s “aha moments.” The reason Mr. Gaul wanted to become a teacher was his goal to “effect change in the next generation” coupled with his college counselor telling him to pursue it and not to give up. Both Mr. Kline and Mr. Gaul dislike the hefty amount of paperwork that comes with the job but love it nonetheless. Coming into the career Mr. Gaul did not expect how much of an emotional toll it would take on him, although he says, “teaching is one of the most rewarding professions in the world it is also one of the toughest. I would not change anything for the world.”

Also in the math hallway, Mrs. Geske remembers joining the Hamburg crew in August of 2015. She was inspired to become a teacher because of her fourth-grade teacher at Wilson. She remembers him as “a bit of a weirdo,” but he made class engaging and enjoyable. This teacher is the reason why Mrs. Geske actively tries to engage in fun projects and crafts in the classroom. Some personal teaching goals of hers are to get better every year, create better lesson plans, and try a more hands-off approach to learning and let kids discover the material.

In the gym, Ms. Kelly has been teaching for 28 years and initially was interested in the career because she always loved working with kids and wanted to be home with her family as much as possible. The teaching career has allowed her to synch up her schedule with her children. COVID, however, has added a lot of stress in extra emails, meetings, and evaluations on top of the curriculum that already needs to be rewritten and reworked. Nonetheless, Ms. Kelly remains steadfast in her love of teaching.

Astronomy, physics, and computer science teacher Mr. Brown has been teaching at Hamburg for ten years. He was inspired to teach by seeing how his teachers helped people. Once he fell in love with his Major in Physics and Astronomy, he was even more excited to spread that to teens. One thing that surprised Mr. Brown was how receptive and friendly the students at Hamburg are especially when it comes to the upper sciences. Although he does not particularly prefer to wake up so “insanely early.” He enjoys all the projects he and the students get to partake in. His goal as a teacher is to “inspir[e] the passion for students to continue sciences outside of high school.”

All people have influences on others, and it seems that teachers create future teachers. No doubt the teachers here at Hamburg have changed the student body’s lives, and we will forever be grateful for our amazing teachers.

## Students opinion of snow or virtual days

Alaena Cox - 9

The first snow of the year has finally arrived and more is yet to come. With snow on the way that means potential snow days or used to be snow days. Since Covid has struck, schools have resorted to virtual learning so the students do not miss school for Covid, but it has now affected the snow days. Instead of having a day off because of snow school’s have had virtual school days. There has been a lot of debate whether students found virtual days beneficial or not.

Virtual days start at 8:10 and last until 1:10, but flex is till 2:25 for any kids who need help, which means students get to sleep longer in the morning. Although they get to sleep longer, there are still restrictions on clothes and actions. The first rule is that the dress code still applies. The students must be fully clothed and cannot be on their bed during Zoom calls. They cannot be eating during class and must follow all classroom rules. Most of the teachers require their camera to be on and that they say they are present. Some teachers have even said to not show any pets or allow the students’ pets to distract their learning process. They would like to optimize the time they have to give them the best learning possible. Whether they follow the rules or not is up to the student, but it will affect their grade, attendance, and overall learning experience.

The majority of students’ opinion on virtual learning is that they would prefer a normal snow day. Brielle, a freshman at Hamburg Area High School said “Virtual learning is hard for me to stay focused, and it would be better to just miss a day and return back in person for a better understanding of the lesson,” A lot of students said that with wifi cutting out and the glitchy voices and screens it is hard to learn anything from it. Although it would make their summer shorter they would rather enjoy their snow day then be stuck inside staring at a screen. Depending on what day the snow day falls on can affect a teacher’s schedule. So instead of having teachers change their schedule just push the day back instead of cramming it in.

## Kaylee manages multiple commitments

Kaeli Cox - 11

Kaylee Dissinger is a junior at Hamburg Area High school. Kaylee manages to keep up with regular academics, BCTC, a job at the Kwik Shoppe, and in the fall, field hockey.

“I use time management and with my strong dedication it makes me more successful,” is Kaylee’s advice to maintain success in all of her endeavors. “Having a positive attitude and showing I care about my commitments to school, BCTC, and my job are extremely important.” Kaylee shows pride in all of the academic and extracurricular efforts.

“My favorite thing about BCTC is getting to learn more about the field I want to continue my future in.” She shares the benefits of attending BCTC and advises others to see if it is beneficial to them. Kaylee enjoys her time at BCTC learning how to be a dental hygienist.

“Another thing I like is getting to connect with others and creating new friendships.” BCTC is a great way to introduce students from other schools to each other and expand relationships.

“Learning to care and having a strong passion for being successful in life and keeping your dedication is important. Finding motivation and keeping positivity is also important.” Kaylee’s advice is helpful to try new things and push your limits on what you can manage.

## HAHS students perform at Senior County Chorus

Hannah Kristiniak - 11



On Saturday, January 20, 2024, a select group of HAHS students performed at Conrad Weiser High School for Senior County Chorus. Ian Fink, Noah Kramer, Clayton Lash, Kirra Goetz, and Ella Lytle were the students selected to perform at this event.

Senior County is a concert that has three ensembles including orchestra, band, and chorus. The entire event lasts close to three hours. Due to inclement weather, this event got pushed back and students had to go to Conrad Weiser at noon on Saturday. Dedicated and putting in hard work, these students sang until six in the evening.

Kirra Goetz, a junior who attended, signed up to go to this event. After she auditioned, Kirra found out she was one of the 25 students picked to perform. To prepare for her audition, Kirra practiced by herself. Mrs. Jackson, the choir director, helped Kirra and the other students prepare for the performance. Next year Kirra plans on auditioning for county’s again and districts.

Senior County Chorus is a reoccurring event that is held every year. The music performed is more difficult than average choir music. If someone gets accepted into county’s, then they are eligible to audition for districts. From districts, someone could audition for regionals, states, and then nationals. These auditions are skill-based and accept a limited number of students.

One of Kirra’s favorite parts of this experience was singing the song “Let the River Run.” Some drums went along with the song and it was a very fun experience. The whole thing was tiring at times, but very exciting and rewarding. Kirra also says she learned more about music than she knew before this.

Ian Fink, a senior who performed at Senior County Chorus this year, has attended and performed every year since he was a sophomore. Students are only eligible to perform at senior County Chorus grades 10, 11, and 12, so Ian took advantage of all of those opportunities. This year, Ian had friends like Noah Kramer and Clayton Lash come along with him to the event. His girlfriend, Kirra Goetz, also attended and Ian really liked that he had these people to talk to and experience this with. This year, Ian says the concert was consolidated making it go faster and he overall enjoyed all the music pieces he got to perform. The songs were a lot of fun and the concert went great.

## Support the charity basketball game on February 23



# Elective Spotlight: Spanish

Lilly Gibson - 9

There are many electives offered at the Hamburg Area High School, one that is offered is Spanish. There are four levels of Spanish offered at HAHS. The first level is Spanish 1, a class that focuses on learning the origin of the language, as well as the basic construction of sentences. In Spanish 1, a student will learn the pronunciation of the tildes and accents, as well as what each letter will sound like. They will also learn describing words like pretty and quiet. They will also learn some places and materials, most surrounding a school setting. An example of one of these words is carpetas, which means folders in Spanish. These basic words will get used more and more as the year progresses.

One of the Spanish teachers, Mrs. King, loves teaching Spanish. Her favorite part of teaching Spanish is getting to know the students and their personalities. Each student has their own, making teaching them an experience. Another part of teaching that she likes is watching them accomplish something as amazing as learning a new language.

Learning a new language can open many new gateways for students. Many students take vacation during the summer, some to foreign countries. If they go to a Spanish speaking country, they get to use their knowledge of the language. It is also a good way for students to show off what they have learned in class.

Whether a student is going to a foreign country or just wants to learn something new, Spanish might be for that student. “The Spanish language is fun to learn,” said Sheila Kern, a freshman taking Spanish 1. From the wide diversity of words to the grammar, Spanish is anything but a boring language.

## HAHS student Allie Houck hosts a German exchange student in March

Bethany Stufflet - 10

In March, Hamburg Area High School students taking German will be hosting German exchange students for ten days in order for German students to see what life is like for American students. One student, sophomore Allie Houck, will be hosting a student named Viktoria. Allie said, “I’m doing it because I think it’s a cool experience and it is nice to have contact with other people.” Viktoria, also known as Viki, is 16 and really excited but also nervous to come to America for the first time. She can not wait to see what it is like, and she also is very appreciative of Allie and Morgan Reigel. She also said, “I’m happy that I have the chance to visit another continent.”

During Viki’s stay here in America, she will be staying with Allie, but going to Morgan Riegel’s classes. The exchange students will arrive on St. Patrick’s day and ultimately stay for ten days. There may also be a trip to New York City in which the HAHS students will go with their exchange students to see one of America’s greatest cities.

## Student Spotlight: Chloe Burkert

Sara Fitzgerald - 12

Chloe Burkert-Seaman is a current senior at Hamburg Area High School who has been involved in football cheerleading her entire high school career. She also has been dancing at Culture Shock for several years doing polynesian. The dancers are cultural that she participates in and she loves the people she dances with, but she dislikes all the conditioning.

The biggest inspiration for Chloe is her mother as she is a strong, independent woman, and she does anything she sets her mind to.

After HAHS graduation, the Reading School of Health Sciences is the program Chloe plans on attending because of the intense program of medical imaging and the knowledge she will receive with training. Her biggest goals are to be successful in her career field and to live her life to the fullest while still having fun. Her favorite memories of high school include all of the fun lunch conversations she has had over the years. Chloe’s biggest advice for all the underclassman is that, “drama is stupid, try not to get involved in it.”

## Opinions on styrofoam pollution

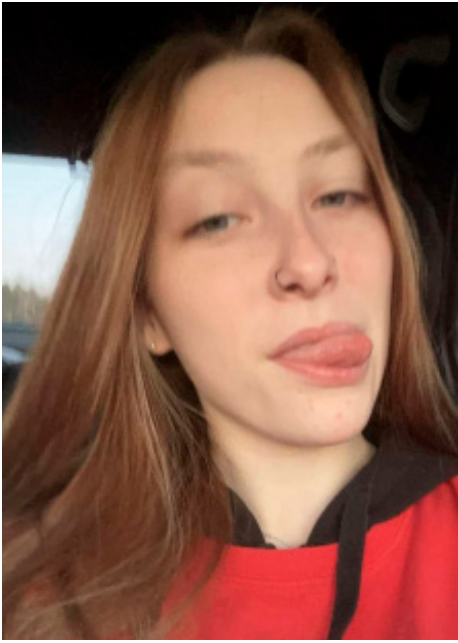
Riley Mohn - 10

Polystyrene foam, commonly known as styrofoam, is an easily-polluting object only banned in very few towns in the US. It takes a while to dispose of properly and can pollute foods and drinks, especially those hotter in temperature. For being so polluting and bad for being near hot food, they are very commonly used as take-out containers for hot food. Even burning styrofoam is bad for the environment.

Bethany Stufflet, a sophomore at Hamburg came up with a few objects that add to the styrofoam pollution. Packaging peanuts are typically made from styrofoam, along with party dishes like styrofoam cups. These items are typically not disposed of properly, and some even being littered and polluting the air. Another sophomore at Hamburg, Oliver Pursely, says they see styrofoam quite frequently, especially since their family gets a lot of packages.

Ava Green, a junior at Hamburg knows about how this pollution can be never ending. Once a road cleaner cleans up any pollution, a piece of styrofoam can come by and start the whole pollution process over again. Polystyrene foam can break down easily in alcohol, but it takes a lot of alcohol to do so.

For more about styrofoam pollution, visit: <https://cehn.org/our-work/eco-healthy-child-care>



# Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Krause

Chloe Stitzel - 10

Mrs. Krause, resource room/room 11, has been a teacher aide for 10 years at HAHS so far. Mrs. Krause sees many students on the daily basis and she loves seeing a different variety of students. One thing she enjoys most about teaching is seeing the transformation of the students from one year to the next. Mrs. Krause is proud of the way the students mature and become more independent throughout the year. She states, “Everyday is different with many challenges that the students could need from academics to just being a listening ear and someone that will be honest with them even if they don’t want honesty.”

Mrs. Krause’s teaching style is very unique. She is available and willing to help in any way that she can, however she is strict. Mrs. Krause pushes the students to want to be better for themselves. She tries to listen to students and give any type of guidance that she can to help them through their day here at school.

Mrs. Krause enjoys being an aide. She chose this career path to help kids with anything they need help with.

## Music students get inducted into Tri-M

Hailey Quinn - 11

The music department held this year’s Tri-M induction ceremony on January 9. Tri-M stands for Modern Music Masters and is an international music honor society that is meant to recognize students for their academic and musical achievements, reward them for their accomplishments and service activities, and to inspire other students to excel at music and leadership.

The Tri-M induction ceremony is held every year to welcome new candidates and induct them into the society. The ceremony starts with an introduction from the president of Tri-M, Clayton Lash. The introduction is followed by the Chapter Officer Ceremony in which the current officers speak. Clayton Lash, senior, is President; Cadence Jalbert, senior, is Vice-President; Julia Bucheit, senior, is Secretary; Samatha Gruber, senior is Treasurer; Mackenzie Hoover, sophomore, is Historian; and Isha Kaur, senior, is Coffee Shop Manager. After the officers speak, the Traditional Induction Ceremony is performed by the music department staff. Then, the President recites the Tri-M Pledge that is repeated by the candidates. After that is the presentation of the Tri-M pin emblems and membership cards. Each candidate walks on stage and receives their pin and membership card, becoming officially inducted into Tri-M Music Honor Society.

This year’s newly inducted members are, senior Brennan Wagner, junior Alicia Gilbert, junior Kirra Goetz, sophomore Emalee Burkholder, sophomore Zach Gougler, sophomore Ella Lytle, sophomore Marlena Narducci, freshman Bricen Foreman, and freshman Aidan Litschi.

The Tri-M family is always looking for new members. Candidates must participate in a school music ensemble or class for at least one semester; maintain an A average grade in music, as well as at least a B average grade in all other classes; participate in community service activities; and demonstrate respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Grab an application from the music department and fill it out to join Tri-M next year!

## Bethany Stufflet starts her first day at the SMART program

Tia Adam - 10

On January 23, 2024, Sophomore Bethany Stufflet started helping at the SMART program. She initially signed up in November of 2023, and was later interviewed at the beginning of December.

Bethany started off at SMART on a good note. She got to hang out and meet some of the littles while they played a game of Apples to Apples. She was not able to get a little yet to help with homework due to there only being three littles, but starting in a couple of weeks, there will be new littles which means everybody will get a little. Depending on the rest of the year, Bethany will know whether she will want to continue or not for next year.

In the future Bethany plans to work in some way in a medical field. Even though she has a future in the medical career, she also enjoys helping kids. Besides that aspect Bethany also wanted to be able to participate in some extracurricular activity, which this worked well for. So besides this program helping with her future, it also gives her something that helps pass her time.

I had a fun time on Tuesday with Bethany being in SMART. I finally had someone to walk to the Middle School with and someone to talk to in SMART when my little one was not there. I hope that Bethnay will want to stay in SMART next year as there will be even more new students next year.

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