

Hawk Happenings

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Cadence Jalbert follows her music journey

Hailey Quinn - 11

Cadence Jalbert is a senior at Hamburg Area High School who has been involved in the Orchestra since 4th grade, Choir since elementary school, and Band since 11th grade. She has also been a part of Chamber Strings, Aerial Boundaries, Jazz Band, Marching Band, and Caroling Band since high school.

Her musical ability extends to a variety of instruments. She has been playing the cello since fourth grade, the piano since ninth grade, and the guitar since middle school. She also plays the clarinet, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, alto saxophone, and has recently picked up the oboe. She dabbled with the viola this year and has been playing the ukulele since middle school.

Cadence expressed a particular fondness for the Marching Band, making it her favorite ensemble to play in. She noted the fun of learning the field show, the excitement of band camp, the joy of participating in parades, and the thrill of playing at football games. Her favorite instrument is the clarinet, because it is the instrument that sparked her passion for music and propelled her musical journey. She states, "I sort of just really fell in love with music and my passion for playing really took off."

Cadence's favorite part of being involved in music is that it allows her to make new friends. She appreciates how music brings together people from different backgrounds and skill levels, creating a harmonious blend of personalities and talents. She mentions, "Everyone is on so many different levels, we all come from different friend groups, but at the end of the day when we all play together is when the music really comes to life, despite everyone being different."

However, she also acknowledged the challenges of her musical involvement. The commitment required often takes away a lot of her free time. She admits that the most stressful part of being involved in music is the time commitment, with school days often extending from 7 am to 5 pm, and the pressure to master various pieces for different ensembles. However, Cadence believes that the rewards outweigh the challenges.

Music has significantly impacted Cadence's life, providing her with a diverse group of friends and a place where she can feel included. Participating in music has also taught Cadence valuable life skills such as responsibility and understanding and lessons about who is really important to her. She notes, "If I was not in music I don't really know where I would be." The music department has so many different friend groups that one will never find themselves without someone to talk to.

She was initially inspired to participate in music because she "just thought the cello was a cool large instrument." Since then, her motivation to move forward in music comes from the people she has met and an internal drive to learn and improve. Cadence also notes the significance of Mrs. Dowd and Mrs. Kline throughout her musical career, stating, "These two wonderful teachers have really taught me everything I know and they still help me to learn and push me to learn more."

Cadence believes that it is important to be a part of music. It is not only a fun activity but also a stress reliever. It also provides a sense of community and the freedom to create music in one's free time. She encourages others to join music ensembles, stating, "People should really think about starting an instrument or even just joining the choir, because music can take you places you never thought you would go to. Plus it's fun." She advises students who are just starting their musical journey to never give up, adding, "It will sound ugly at first, it does for everyone, however, you have to be willing to put in the time to practice or else you won't get anywhere."

As for her future, Cadence plans to continue her musical journey at Shippensburg University, where she intends to join the marching band. She is committed to continually pushing her boundaries, practicing regularly, and expanding her musical knowledge.

Cadence provides a wonderful example of how transformative music can be in one's life. Music changed her life, offered her friends and a creative outlet. It taught her valuable lessons and gave her the opportunity to grow as an individual and as a musician. Consider joining a Hamburg music ensemble, and remember to never give up!



Student spotlight: Kaitlyn Gallagher

Lilly Gibson - 9

Among all the students at Hamburg Area High School, there is one that sticks out far beyond the rest. Freshman Kaitlyn Gallagher, who is not only an amazing student but a role model to many of her peers.

Kaitlyn is an honor roll student taking two honors classes. The honors classes are honors civics with Mr. Zimmerman and honors English with Mrs. Trubilla. In both of these classes Kaitlyn excels at not only the academic part but the creativity aspect as well. Her English class is one of the most difficult and fun classes for her. Mrs. Trubilla has many great memories of Kaitlyn but one of her favorites is seeing her outside after school. According to Mrs. Trubilla, "Her dynamic in class versus her dynamic outside of class are two very different things," said Mrs. Trubilla. When she first met Kaitlyn, she was very quiet. She would not speak much in class, but as she got more comfortable with the class, she became louder, according to Mrs. Trubilla. One word that her teacher would use to describe Kaitlyn would be thoughtful. In several of Kaitlyn's writing pieces, a person can see the creativity and depth behind them. Even something as small as a sentence can hold so much meaning behind it. Not only is she creative but she is also very in depth. That makes her one great writer.

According to Kaitlyn, one of the best things a person can do is go into the day with a hopeful and positive attitude, "When you make the choice to go through the day sad and negative like, you are setting yourself up for failure," says Kaitlyn. She also said, "The reason I can do my best and the reason I've accomplished all I have is because of my positive outlook. When you look back at my mindset in 7th grade you can see the difference. I became better and stronger because of my own efforts and not one else's."

Not only is Kaitlyn an academically gifted student, but she is also a very active student. She is a part of the Student Council, an athlete, and also a stage crew member. "I never really saw myself being involved in anything regarding the school, but when the presidents of the high school's student council came down last year, I knew it was something I wanted to be involved in," said Kaitlyn. So far, it has been a great and worthwhile experience for Kaitlyn. She joined the stage crew this year because one of her friends, Landon Poullos, asked if she would be interested. Two of her other friends also joined so she decided to join as well. It was a fun and memorable experience for Kaitlyn, not only because of the thrill of being a part of a production but also because of the people she met and became close with. Kaitlyn had a part in moving a piano on and off stage with one of her close friends. Some of her friends from the stage crew also partake in bowling as well. Kaitlyn participated in Tilden's bowling program when she was a student there and when she saw that the high school had a bowling team, she knew it was her calling. Recently, Kaitlyn reached her all time high of 151. She has also made several new friends in bowling.

When it comes to academics, positive attitudes, and activity, Kaitlyn is one of the best students at it. Her hard work and perseverance have helped her reach her goals and ambitions as a student and a person. "Being a smart kid is awesome in itself but being a smart and ambitious kid is what makes the experience 10x more fun," said Kaitlyn.

Juniors earn early leave

Kaeli Cox - 11

It was recently the end of the first semester, officially marking the halfway point of the school year. This indicator reminds some that the year is almost over, others are becoming eager for the warm weather of summer, but for juniors, it marks the beginning of early leave. Early leave is something juniors with the required grades are granted at the beginning of their junior year second semester. For seniors this privilege was long awarded, but for the juniors this introduction brings excitement.

There are many benefits to early leave: going home early, beating the buses, and getting to skip flex. There is also a sense of responsibility that comes with this privilege, maintaining good grades. Students with a 70% or lower in any class have their early leave revoked. This can motivate students to put more effort into their academics.

Summer Bonser, junior, shared, "I don't have to be bored sitting in flex." For students who may not have any homework or due assignments, flex is a wasted period and serves no purpose. Summer also shared, "The only negative is if I needed help on homework there are no teachers to assist me at home." This is an issue students can face commonly, but the introduction of early leave can make it more difficult for students to receive the help needed. Finally, she said, "Early leave doesn't necessarily motivate me to maintain good grades, I've always been self-motivated."

Camden Folk, junior, said, "I like early leave because I can go home and get started on my school work earlier." Without the distractions of friends or noise at school, students can work on their work in an environment they may be more comfortable and focused in. Camden also shared, "Early leave motivates me to keep good grades." Proving once again that the grade requirement can lift students' motivation to maintain an acceptable grade.

Early leave seems to have more positives than negatives, and students enjoy the freedom of leaving early. Underclassmen can be encouraged to stay within the requirements and earn early leave for themselves.



Our Hawktones Jazz Ensemble performed at the Oley Jazz in the Valley Super Jazz Fest on Saturday. They received an OUTSTANDING rating along with some nice comments from the adjudicators/judges. If you see any of these students, please congratulate them on a job well done!

Winter cheerleading's competition season begins

Deja Wagner-Wakefield - 11

After yet another amazing season cheering on the girls and boys basketball team, the varsity cheer team continues to work hard going into their competition season. The team cheers for football and soccer in the fall and basketball in the winter. During the winter season the team prepares for competition season. Preparation takes many weeks to achieve the amazing skills we accomplish and to create and learn new dances, stunts, cheers, and tumbling routines. The team competes three times this year. The first competition took place at the SV Panther Invitational at Schuylkill Valley High School where we took third place and first place in last lib standing. When not at a game, the team works on new skills to add into game days to excite the crowd. Our second competition is scheduled for February 18, in South Columbia. Our third competition is February 24, at the State College Cheer Championship.

Peyton Snyder, a junior cheerleader, is excited for yet another competition season and looks forward to working on new skills and routines. “I’m excited for competition season but I know it means it’s just closer for the seniors to graduate and for us to be seniors.” Peyton is an excellent cheerleader who has cheered for 12 years and would not consider doing any other sport because she has fallen in love with cheer at such a young age. While there is a lot to look forward to in senior year, “I will miss all my senior friends who I got close with this year.” Next year holds so many new opportunities and experiences but while “it’s exciting it’s scary too because that means I too will be done cheering for Hamburg.”

Catrina Feltenberger, a senior cheerleader, is excited to be graduating but will miss her friends from cheer. After she graduates she plans to stay in touch with them after she graduates and try to attend games and competitions when she can. She loves being a part of the squad because she has been cheering since she was in the youth program. She says “I can’t believe it’s my last year cheering for the team I grew up with, I swear just yesterday I was a freshman just starting out.” She will miss the team but she knows that the team will forever be a second family to her.

Nicole Valentino, head cheer coach, is excited for another competition season and looking forward to creating memories with the team. “I’m excited to see my seniors who have cheered with me since middle school have one last amazing season and while this is their last competition season we still have the rest of the competition season with them.” The team, of 14, has five phenomenal seniors this year who have led the team and helped correct and better the team as a whole. “The team this year is an amazing group who is always ready to help one another and lend a hand when needed.” The team works so hard preparing for competitions and loves being together and when a group hits a new stunt it is not only exciting for the groups but the whole team. “Even though this may be the seniors last year we still have them for a couple more months, and there is no reason to be sad because we will still see them around even after they graduate.

Mrs. Keck’s shocking gender reveal

Brielle Cox - 9

On February 2, Mrs. Keck, who was subbing for Mr. Zimmerman, announced the gender of her baby to her classes. She told them to wear blue if they thought it was going to be a boy and pink if they thought it was going to be a girl. Marcianna Dellamonica wore pink leggings in hopes it would be a girl. Mrs. Keck did the gender reveal by handing each student a black bag with candy inside that was either pink or blue. The students opened the bags all together and revealed that Mrs. Keck’s baby is in fact a boy.

Some of the students believed that the gender was going to be a girl. Lydia Fultz saw Mrs. Keck as a girl mom rather than a boy mom so she was rooting for a girl. Elizabeth Carroll saw it in a different way and thought Mrs. Keck was more like a boy mom saying she does not look like she would have a girl. One student was lucky enough to learn the gender ahead of time. Before everyone else, Chase Brodhead already knew the gender. He was keeping it a big secret from all his friends just waiting for the gender reveal.

All the students believe that Mrs. Keck will be an amazing mother toward her little boy. But because she is a teacher Chase Brodhead believes that she might be a little strict.

Students sing for Valentines Day

Elaina Hess - 10

Aerial Boundaries is a singing group at HAHS that performs for many different events and occasions. On Valentine’s Day they will offer Singing Grams. Singing Grams were available for purchase outside of the various lunches and students bought a singing gram for a friend or special someone for them to get sung to in the library and that person also received a candy. The person who receives one will be taken out of their class momentarily and be sung a short song from half of the Aerial Boundaries members. They split half of them up and put them on different times to sing for groups of periods. This is the second year that Aerial Boundaries has done this for Valentine’s and it was very fun last year for many people so hopefully it will be again. This is a fundraiser for Aerial Boundaries that was very successful and raised a lot of money.

Skylynn Binder, a junior at HAHS, says she is excited for another year of singing grams. She helped to sell them and was telling many people to buy them. She is very enthusiastic about this experience and says buying a singing gram for someone is “A great way to embarrass a friend.” Skylynn also encourages many to buy one for someone special and that it makes a cute and sweet gift.



Sophomores at HAHS consider AP Lang

Bethany Stuffle - 10

AP Language and Composition is a course offered for 11-12 grade students who excel in English. The course mainly focuses on students’ analysis of nonfiction text and the development of well-reasoned, evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing. Throughout the course there will be many writings, such as critical essays, in-class timed essays, personal pieces, journals, and several research papers. In addition to all of the in class work, there are also summer reading assignments required. It is a college level course that allows students to receive college credits and can participate in dual enrollment at RACC. The prerequisites for this course is teacher permission, a writing sample, and a 94% or higher in Honors English 10. For more information about AP Lang, students can refer to the Program of Studies on the high school website.

With the end of the school year getting closer, students are beginning to think about classes for next year. Sophomores Tia Adam, Jaden Ryan, and I are great candidates for AP Lang next year. When asked if they were considering taking AP Language and Composition next year and why, Tia Adam said, “I am, so I can have some college credits and so I can improve on my writing skills.” Jaden Ryan was asked the same question and replied with, “Possibly because I accelerate in writing and I accelerate in certain English topics.” I am also considering taking this course but I am still deciding.

Drama club prepares for the annual showcase

Koa Binder - 9

Hamburg Area High School is holding its annual showcase at the Strand on March 20 at 7:00 pm, which the Strand generously lets them use the space for free. Just about every drama club student participates, whether it is performing in front of everyone or just ushering and helping around. The showcase is organized by Mr. Dreisbach and music and visuals are done by Mr. Laughlin. The entry fee is by donation which goes towards the drama club.

Many students sing but they can show off any of their talents, whether that is singing, dancing, or comedy. Two students, sophomore Elaina Hess and freshman Landon Poullos, plan on doing a duet to the popular Frozen song, “Love is an Open Door.” Elaina will sing the character “Anna’s” part, and Landon will sing the character “Hans” part, “We are planning on doing some choreography while we perform. I’m so excited,” Landon shared. He has been in choir and done the musical for several years. “I knew right away that this was the song I wanted to sing.” Landon says. Though he knew he wanted to do a duet with someone, it took a little bit to find a willing partner. Eventually he asked Elaina and she agreed. They rehearse together before official practice will start with the entire club.

The showcase is a great way to allow kids to show their amazing talents. Everyone is encouraged to attend and cheer on their peers.

Prom Dresses

Isabella Forte - 11

As Spring nears, the excitement of prom night becomes a focus point for many students. The search for the perfect prom dress is an essential part of the preparation process, and it is crucial to find a style that not only complements one’s personality but also makes her feel confident and beautiful.

The theme this year for prom is Old Hollywood and it is held May 17th at 6pm. The variety of prom dress styles can be overwhelming, ranging from classic ball gowns to sleek and modern designs. Some may opt for traditional elegance with flowing chiffon skirts, intricate lace details, or sparkling embellishments, while others may prefer form-fitting mermaid dresses or trendy two-pieces. When choosing a prom dress, it is important to consider personal preferences, body type, and comfort. A well-fitted dress that accentuates features can make all the difference in how one feels throughout the evening. Additionally, paying attention to color choice is crucial, as it plays a significant role in setting the tone and mood of the attire. Accessorizing the prom dress with the right shoes, jewelry, and a hairstyle completes the overall look. Choosing whites, blacks and reds with longer cuts will even match the dress to the theme more. Paired with gloves and a statement necklace.

Sophomore Kaylee Fornwalt states, “This is my first year going to prom, and I am super excited. I have already started looking for dresses at the mall. Windsor is so far the only shop that I have been looking at for dresses because they have such a wide range of selections for a great price.”

It is advisable to start the search for the perfect dress early to allow enough time for alterations and to ensure that one stands out on this special night.

Ultimately, the quest for the ideal prom dress should be an enjoyable experience. Whether it is a long-standing tradition, finding the perfect prom dress can mark the beginning of a memorable evening.



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