

# HAPPENINGS

Volume XXVI  
September 28, 2020  
Issue 1

## A PUBLICATION OF HAMBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL

### Student Spotlight: Wyatt Holl

Justin Hoy - 11



Wyatt Holl is an active in multiple school related extracurricular activities, an active club participant, and an avid student in school.

Wyatt, throughout most of his schooling, has been consistently involved with the Hamburg sports program, continuously participating in his favorite sport of football. Although football being quite a physical game, Wyatt does not mind getting “beaten up” a little for compensation for playing something that he enjoys. While playing football, Holl also participates in two other sports: including track and field and wrestling.

He also has constantly been playing track & field in high school, mainly throwing shot-put and discus. Wyatt has been very good in shot-put for the Hamburg track team over the past four years, being consistent and an influential part of the team. He also is participating in wrestling this year for the first time, stating that he wants to try a new and interesting sport, challenging his physical ability.

Holl is also part of the Military History Club, having an active role of organization and presentation of information. He consistently takes a huge leadership role in the distribution of information and continuous inspiration and accomplishing of certain projects/ activities in the club period. His enjoyment of history also transitions into his overall love and motivation to learn. Holl's avid and consistent interest in learning new material, especially topics that peak his interests like history, influencing his other work.

Although speaking about topics that do not connect to the Coronavirus, Wyatt, throughout the quarantine, has had a change in his own perspective of certain events, mainly affecting his own life. After the almost six month quarantine, his motivation for the school year and anticipation to return to a set schedule of normalcy during these specific periods of time has altered, feeling relieved to continue to experience and his learning in school.

Wyatt states, “Overall, I’m glad to be back in class, participating in fun extracurricular activities. Overall, the school year is going well.”

Most people throughout this quarantine, including myself, have questioned the goals and direction of one's life/ interest. Wyatt, has, for the most part, had a consistent idea of his goals, even having a more confident opinion of his future career field, still not completely deciding on a specific future job ambition but will, most likely, choose a career in business. He has, mainly, short term goals, including getting good grades and having a great experience in high school. Another aspect of normal life that has changed due to the Coronavirus is the relation/ interactions with other people. Wyatt has stayed in touch with his friends, continuing long relationships and friendships with people, mainly through social media which helps connect certain people. Out of all of the events that occur, which has not affected Wyatt in a negative way, Holl describes his work ethic, change in lifestyle, and motivation of new activities three positive effects of Covid-19. He has also started working at Arby's in Hamburg in order to have learned certain cooperation skills in life as well as dealing with social issues, helping him in the future.

Wyatt states, “I’ve been able to learn piano and become interested in other activities like becoming invested in work to make my time more fulfilling.”

Although having a different start to the school schedule and altering teaching styles, Wyatt stays optimistic, as most people do, that this social school experiment continues to succeed. Most people can agree that through the current situation of the coronavirus, we must continue to persist and strive for a return of social normalcy and the accomplishing of one's goals through education.



### National Honor Society inducts new members

Alison Gassert - 12

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the National Honor Society was never able to organize an in-person induction ceremony where friends and family could attend, for new members of the club. This was not ideal since the induction ceremony is essential to becoming an official member of the club. All members are required to say a pledge and sign the NHS chapter book which has been used for members since the 1960's. Not only were members missing the pledge and the signing of the NHS chapter book, but they had not yet received their pin for graduation or the official certificate for joining the National Honor Society.

Instead of having an in-person induction ceremony with friends and family attending, the National Honor Society took initiative and had their own ceremony in the auditorium during flex period on Wednesday, September 2. This ceremony, although brief, fulfilled all of the NHS induction requirements. Mrs. Bucheit, the NHS advisor, and the officers: Alex Baum - President, Alison Gassert - Vice President, Sarah Kramer - Secretary, Evan Grim - Treasurer, and Cail Schrack - Historian, worked hard to make sure that the ceremony was as close to normal as possible. The attendance was as good as could be expected, with only three people not able to attend out of 27.

Even though a good portion of the usual service projects the NHS would normally complete are no longer an option because of the coronavirus pandemic, they have worked hard to find new ways to serve the community in a safe way, such as, going on hikes to pick up trash and exterminate lanternflies, and donating essential and comfort items to nursing homes who have not been able to visit their families or leave the nursing home since March. The NHS looks forward to an exciting year full of opportunities to serve the community in various ways.

### Junior HAVA Student Spotlight: Conley Yellets

Wyatt Holl - 11

Local high school junior, Conley Yellets, decided to take HAVA classes due to the recent and still occurring pandemic that is spreading across and threatening the country. Conley is a perfect student that ensures grades come first above all else. He enjoys hanging out with friends and playing video games in his free time. Conley is also an able musician. He has been playing the piano since he was a child and still loves it to this day. But despite Hamburg's attempts to maintain social distance protocol, the bold course of action to take online classes was made. Conley believes that by taking courses online, it will improve our chances of ending the pandemic once and for all. Not everyone understands what HAVA is, many believe that HAVA is too easy and others believe it may not allow students to learn as well as they would in person. Understanding what these students are actually going through is vital in order to relate with their experience,

HAVA is a tech program meant for students who cannot participate in real school to take part of. All classes that would normally be taken are still taught to HAVA students. Many teachers teach on a video program called Zoom that allows teachers to control and teach a class virtually. Enrolling in online school “has been difficult”, says Conley. Online classes have been “boring” and “overall more difficult.” Conley's main issue is that he “just can't focus” as well as he could in real class. Homework and assignments have been rather difficult for Conley to complete and understand. The pandemic is “taking a toll” and affecting his life negatively. Since quarantine, “I have been very bored at home which makes me want to make up for lost time.” “I miss out on social interactions, so I try to make up for it by being as talkative as possible.” However, Conley also describes how quarantine may have improved his life as well.

Until now Conley had been unemployed because of school activities taking up most of his time. But during and even after quarantine, he found inspiration and the time to seek

employment. “I was able to finally get a job and start saving”. HAVA works very well with Conley's new job due to the online class setup. Conley is now working at Burger King and even though working may seem to contradict quarantine policy, Conley makes sure to upkeep great cleanliness and mask wearing. Quarantine also gave Conley more free time to spend focusing on himself. Conley explains, “I really did enjoy all the time I could spend relaxing, practicing piano, and playing games. I know I'm not the only one is going through this right now, so that gives me motivation”. Hopefully online classes will turn out well for not only this young adult but also others in his endeavour to create a solid education online.



Early Dismissal Friday, October 9th  
No School for Students  
Monday, October 12th



# Charli XCX revolutionizes the “quarantine album”

Gigi Doklan - 12

Coming only eight months after her critically acclaimed studio album titled Charli, Charli XCX released *How I'm Feeling Now* on May 15, 2020. The album takes on a tone of introspection and tackles Charli's innermost feelings, hence the title. One of the songs, *I Finally Understand*, features an audio clip of a conversation between Charli and her therapist. The album also capitalizes on the current trend of “glitch pop” featuring production by Dylan Brady of 100 Gecs fame.

The lead single titled *Forever* was teased on social media prior to its release. On April 9, 2020; the track was unveiled and announced to be the lead single of an upcoming album. *Forever* is about Charli's long time boyfriend, who helped her shoot the promotional photos and videos for the album. The music video is sitting at just under two million views on YouTube as of September 2020. Charli also called on fans to edit photos of her to feature as the art for the song on streaming platforms.



*Claws* was the second single from the album and a fan favorite, released under a week later on April 14, 2020. The song heavily featured production by Brady, giving it a fresh sound. The music video, directed by Charli's boyfriend, currently has 2.2 million views on YouTube.

Ayla Dimalanta is a new fan of Charli XCX's music. She reacted positively to *How I'm Feeling Now* and even hails it as one of her favorite albums of this year. She says her favorite tracks include *Claws* and *Enemy* because of their “cool sound.”

To watch the *Claws* music video, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAo8X-rlt8k>

# Netflix's *Work It* will have viewers dancing in their seat

Emily Smith - 10

The American Jukebox Dance Comedy Film's *Work It* was released on August 7 and instantly was a success, with it being the top watched film on its debut weekend and receiving an 85% from Rotten Tomatoes. Major roles were filled by none other than Sabrina Carpenter as Quinn Ackerman, Liza Koshy as Jasmine Hale, and Jordan Fisher as Jake Taylor. The film was directed by Laura Terruso and was filmed in Toronto, Canada and Los Angeles, California.

*Work It* is about a Duke University obsessed senior, Quinn Ackerman, who thinks acceptance at her dream college is set in stone. She has done just about everything to ensure her place in the fall - volunteering at a senior citizen's home, playing instruments, even working the sound booth for her school's world renowned dance team, The Thunderbirds. After a coffee induced accident with the sound equipment, however, Quinn is banned from anything to do with the team. Although it may seem that her connection to the dance team is ancient history, clumsy Quinn has to try out for a spot on the team because she lied to the college admission acceptant at Duke that she was a member. After an unskillful audition that left Quinn without a silver tracksuit, she decides to form her own dance team, filled with people whose dance experience is little to none, much like Quinn's. Will Quinn be able to get this uncoordinated team to the *Work It* competition, impress the college admission acceptant, beat the Thunderbirds, and keep her relationship with the choreographer afloat? Watch the movie to find out!

*Work It* is a movie that every viewer, whether they are a dancer or not, will inevitably end up adoring. The casting for the movie hit the nail on the head, with Sabrina Carpenter's quirky personality and Liza Koshy's comical disposition, this movie was sure to be a delight even before shooting began. The highlight of the film is when Quinn discovers that there is more to life than being perfect at everything, and that sometimes it is easy to get caught up in thinking about the future, but it is important to live in the moment. I think this movie deserves a 5 star rating for creativity, humor, and simply being a wholesome movie for the whole family to enjoy.

For more information on the *Work It* movie, please visit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Work\\_It\\_\(film\)#Production](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Work_It_(film)#Production)



# Alumni Spotlight: Quinn Holl

Orion Holl - 9

As of this past spring of 2020 Quinn Holl graduated from Hamburg Area High School, however, the last few months of this 2020 school year were unpredictable. Everything went downhill when the Coronavirus hit. Graduating was unusual, as the last few months of school were online and used for extra points to increase their grade. It was upsetting to find that the graduation ceremony had to schedule times for each student so they could walk across the stage. The seniors could not even say goodbye to their teachers and friends for the last time in person. Holl longed for the day when she would walk across the stage as her friends, family and teachers could watch her graduate. This was the most upsetting thing for Holl, but she made the best of it. She is still upset by the fact they could not say goodbye to friends, and teachers in person. “My senior year is a year I will never forget,” said Holl.

Holl now attends Susquehanna University hoping to explore the realm of literature. Holl never thought twice about the fact that she could be taking online college. As the Coronavirus is still happening and wielding power, Holl had no other choice than to recognize this is happening. For the sake of her health, she decided to go online instead of in person. Holl would have much rather to be in person to grasp a better idea of her professor's ideas. When asked if she is enjoying online college she simply said, “It's nice waking up and not having to go anywhere. I haven't had any technical difficulties and my professors are very helpful.” It is a relief that Holl is not experiencing any trouble with online classes and that she seems to enjoy them.

In college Holl is pursuing publishing and editing English literature double major. In the future Holl hopes to become a publishing author of novels. She also would not mind being an editor or copy editor “I knew I wanted to be a writer in 8th grade. I had been writing stories since elementary school but it was 8th grade when I discovered my passion for writing.” said Holl. She's had this idea of writing professionally for 1-10 years. The teacher who really inspired Holl to start taking this seriously was Mrs. Scicchitano. As she really inspired her to keep trying. Alongside studying English, she is also taking French to further her language, as she already knows German. Holl can not wait to go to college in person hopefully by next year. If Holl would have attended college this year, she would have opted to stay in a dorm. As such she could make new friends and further her education. Something she has taken from high school to college is her work ethic as she is a really good worker. It really is a pleasure to have Holl safe at home.



Adviser: Mrs. Terri McCarthy-Wright; Editor in Chief: Emily Smith; Issue Layout Editor: Emily Smith; Writers: Gi Doklan, Alison Gassert, Wyatt Holl, Orion Holl, Justin Hoy, Ashley Perlaki, Emily Smith; *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.

Your Blood. Their Hope.  
**MILLER-KEYSTONE**  
BLOOD CENTER

The Miller-Keystone Blood Drive date has been moved to November 13, 2020.