

# HAPPENINGS

**Volume XXVII**  
**Feburary 9, 2022**  
**Issue 11**

## A PUBLICATION OF HAMBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL

### Which core subject is the most important?

Mia Kalbach - 11

If there is anything extremely easy to scrutinize, it is the methods of the public school system. A common criticism many kids rehash when referring to their classes is “when am I ever gonna need to know this?”, which, when argued intelligently can be a fair point. When it comes to the four core subjects, English, math, history, and science, what is truly necessary? How is importance defined by students? Is an area of study important because of its foundational effects on how the world functions as a whole, or is it important because of its applicability in their individual everyday life and preferred career?

From a survey sent to the juniors with 30 responses, the most important subject has English prevailing at 43%, followed by math at 37%, history at 13%, and science at 7%. On the contrary, when asked to vote for the least important subject, science comes in at 30%, history at 27%, English at 23%, and math at 20%. Based on the data as a whole, the juniors generally define importance as anything pertaining to succeeding financially and in the workforce. Some students who favored math wrote, “Math is not my absolute favorite but I think it is very necessary to have a background in mathematics to understand things like taxes, buying a home, buying a car, etc.” Others said “Many more careers involve knowing basic and/or advanced math skills than other core subjects.” There is more of a focus on how these subjects benefit them individually than how they shape the world unlike the rare science enjoyers who said “Everything is science!”

Those who chose English had similar ideas to those who chose math. “English is used in every career path, whether you use it in the career or to get in,” but unlike math, English people also placed emphasis on gaining respect and being socially competent. “English is the most important because if you cannot convey your idea properly, you lose the respect of the person who is listening/reading anything you say or write.” I cannot argue back with the English points because I also agree that it is one of the most important subjects to success, but when it comes to math, I would argue that only basic math is necessary to be fine financially, and it can all be done on a calculator (which are built into our phones, so we always have calculators with us). Still, I can see the argument for math, which cannot be said about the arguments denoting the other two subjects as least important.

So what about the other two subjects that got the shorter end of the stick? Science was voted least important, largely due to its perceived specificity and lack of practical use. “The only need for science is when you want to go into a science field,” but I would argue that in the midst of a two year long pandemic that does not seem to be slowing down, lack of scientific awareness (especially in our country) has only been stunting our progress.

Additionally, history seems to be low on many kids’ priority lists which I personally disagree the most with. A student said, “Most careers you do not need to know anything that happened in the past.” Many kids hear “those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it,” which, while having some weight, loses them right off the bat because it does not provide the whole picture as to why history is important. Being a contributing citizen does not boil down to just one’s performance in their job, but through their vote as well! As Americans we live in a democracy, which is a system that is only as strong as its people are educated. Take away that education on our history and government and what forms is a disastrous political wasteland of people who have no idea what they are talking about. “Either we make the voting regulations more strict to prevent stupid decisions or we educate the masses better to make the public choice more meaningful and wise” said another student. History is also largely based on interpretations and forming logical arguments, which can definitely help the current generation of upcoming voters who have been inhibited by family or internet echo chambers. That tangent aside, it is important to be aware of what you think you will need most in the future in order to appropriately divide your time and effort while you are still a student.



### Should schools allow open campus?

Sara Fitzgerald - 10

An open campus school is a school that allows students to leave the premises for lunch and/or for free periods. Most schools only allow students in grade 10,11, and 12 to participate in this. Most schools consider an open campus a privilege and can be taken away as fast as it was given. An open campus school would have many rules and regulations so that no accidents occur and become the schools fault. Hamburg Area High School allows second semester juniors and seniors to leave campus during flex period.

The pros of an open campus being that the school is more college-like, and that the students are trusted with more freedoms. Another advantage would be that the students would have more social interaction outside of the classroom. The school would be trusting their students. The cons of an open campus being that the students who wish to participate would take less classes and focus more on achieving that freedom. Another disadvantage would be that the students would use this privilege to ditch school since they already have permission to leave campus.



Grace Gilberg, will be representing Hamburg at PMEA Region V Band Festival

**District 10 Band:**  
**Grace Gilberg**

**District 10 Chorus:**  
**Ian Fink**

**CONGRATULATIONS to**  
**our MUSIC STUDENTS**  
**and TEACHERS**

**County Band:**  
**Ian Fink, Grace Gilberg,**  
**Clayton Lash, and**  
**Noah Kramer**

**County Orchestra:**  
**Samantha Gruber and**  
**Collin Reppert**

**County Chorus:**  
**Shannon Carvin, Jarepsy**  
**Cabello, Jonathan**  
**Cabello, and Ian Fink**

**Lebanon Valley College**  
**Honors Choir Festival:**  
**Chevelle Pinter,**  
**Jarepsy Cabello, and**  
**Brody Baez**



### Students practice self care through the winter

Ashley Moyer - 9

Through the course of the winter, it is particularly common for students to get seasonal depression or may just fall behind in their classes. Even though this happens, students should try and take care of themselves. If they feel this way, they can still achieve goals for themselves. One way is by practicing self care. In general, self care is the process of being healthy by taking the time to care for one’s self. Self care is very important to every individual because it is clinically proven that it reduces anxiety, depression, and much more. If a student is falling behind in classes, not participating as much, or just is not feeling themselves, this may be a side effect of them not taking the time for themselves. There are also some major benefits by practicing self-care such as improving one’s happiness, concentration, energy, and much more.

If a student needs help building a self-care plan, here are some things the Southern New Hampshire University suggests. One way to practice self care is by creating a plan for yourself based on eight different elements. These different elements are known as one’s emotional, environmental, financial, occupational, physical, social, and spiritual health. Although some of these are easier to complete, every person should try to have a tiny or small improvement to better themselves. Some ways to practice self care is by journaling or talking to someone. By doing this, it will help a person’s emotional health because they are talking about their feelings instead of keeping them inside. By doing this, it can help release some stress off the person.

Student, Isabella Forte, practices self care by taking extra time to herself and listening to some of her favorite music. This is another way to improve one’s emotional health. Overall, by practicing different methods of self care, to improve one’s mental health, is very important to every single person because it genuinely has a positive impact on a student or teacher’s life.

To find out more information about self care,visit <https://www.snhu.edu>.





## How students become academically successful

Grace Cromyak - 9

To become academically successful is so important for others’ futures. When becoming academically successful, students get to attend their dream college, get their dream job, dream home etc. When applying for colleges, colleges mostly look for: leadership, a sense of social responsibility, extracurricular activities, and grades. Grades are one of the most important parts of a college application.

By getting good grades, students want to try their hardest. I will even admit it, getting good grades can be difficult. Staying on top of assignments and deadlines can be tricky, especially having like 20 different assignments to complete. Taking notes in all classes can really help students out because not only will they do well on their tests and assignments, but also their grades will improve a lot.

When it comes to myself getting good grades, I slack off a lot. I really want to improve my grades, and to do that, I need to stay on top of my work. How can I do that? Well, taking notes is a huge thing, and luckily I love taking notes since notes provide me with all of the information that I need and key terms that I can write down. Another thing I can do to improve my grades is looking over my notes and making flash cards so then I can think of terms with a snap. Another huge thing is organization, the more students have themselves put together, the better. Also don’t procrastinate with assignments, try to get ahead so then there is more time to maybe work on other things.

Freshman Olivia Kocher stated, “Mostly I try to get my work turned in on time, keeping up with quizzes and tests. Always being prepared for tests and quizzes such as studying for them. Coming to class prepared is also very important too.”

Freshman Vincent Heckman said, “I always try to come to class prepared and have myself put together before the period starts. I pay attention in class very well. Normally I don’t technically need to study for any sort of test or quiz since I can remember things vividly from a few days before when a class lesson was taught.”

## Viral TikTok trends gone wrong

Grace Cromyak - 9

TikTok is an application (app) that allows citizens of any age to post videos of others choosing containing appropriate content. These videos that others can post are for example: cooking recipes, different tutorials on makeup, dancing trends, varieties of styling others can learn from things like how to dress nicely and such, house projects, videos about games, families doing crazy things, singing, animal videos, exploring abandoned buildings. Videos that users create can be the matter of 15 seconds, 30 seconds, 1 minute, or 3 minutes it does not matter. TikTok can be everyone’s escape place, their happy place. It is almost like a comfort thing for some people where they can be themselves without anyone criticizing them for doing what makes them happy.

Some users may take things to the extreme. Now some of these people may just be bored or they are just psychotic. On December 17, 2021 there was a trend going around that first began in Arizona and then reached all over in the U.S. The trend was quite bone-chilling, what was it exactly? Well, students from across the country were talking about sending school shooting threats, bomb threats, and other harmful threats. Another nationwide trend was students doing the “devious lick challenge.” This trend was not harmful to students, unless they had a severe lavatory problem then yes. The Devious Lick challenge was where students took appliances from the bathrooms and removed them themselves such as mirrors, paper towel and soap dispensers, doors, and toilet seats. For more information on these trends, go to: <https://www.deseret.com/u-s-world/2021/12/17/22841167/tiktok-challenge-school-shootings-threats> and <https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/18/health/devious-licks-tiktok-challenge-wellness/index.html>

TikTok, for me, is an escape place. I can watch videos that people create all day. I love seeing people’s creativity, and what they can do such as users going scuba diving. It is utterly amazing, but I may spend just a little too much time just scrolling through videos which is a little unhealthy? I have learned a lot from TikTok, it has completely changed my life. I have learned different trends on style and just how to act around people. Users can be inspirational and they can give others a confidence boost, just like me. The dangerous TikTok trends on the other hand, are oblivious. These people have no clue what they are in for and they could get seriously hurt or in great danger. This is not how our society should be.

Junior, Anna DeAngelo stated, “I think that the devious licks trend, while funny, is more destructive. As well as a lot of pranks on people and all that. I also think that the school shooting “trend” from December 17, 2021 was absolutely terrifying.”

Jackie Cromyak, my mom, quoted, “While some trends are fun to watch such as dancing and singing duets, others are more dangerous and violent. As a parent, I believe it is my responsibility to ensure my child’s safety when viewing or posting on internet sites.”

## Show Review: You

Sara Fitzgerald - 10

The popular Netflix show You released a third season on October 15 and will be renewed for a fourth season. The show is based off of the books by Caroline Kepnes. In this show many plot twists and exciting surprises are shown. The show follows the story of Joe Goldberg, a bookstore manager in New York, who meets Guinevere Beck, an aspiring writer, becomes obsessed with her. He feeds the toxic obsession by stalking her on social media and removing obstacles that would prevent their love. The show takes place during the present time period. The show continues to impress many different types of people. The main characters are played by Penn Badgely, Victoria Pedretti, Tati Gabrielle, Dylan Arnold, Shalita Grant, Elizabeth Lail, and that’s just a few. The director is Lee Toland Krieger.

The show is enjoyable and succeeds in being a social warning. The show is binge worthy, and an impressive take on modern thrillers, where all the characters have grey areas. Students said that the show met their expectations and that there was a plot twist by the end of every season. The students believed that the plot followed one point mostly throughout the show.

## College application process

Kaitlyn Barry - 12

The college application process is grueling and can be stressful for many high school seniors. Thankfully, with a little help from teachers and even other students, the process can be made much more simple.

Aaliyah Stump had the opportunity to apply for early action to Georgetown in Washington D.C., meaning she already knows the ins and outs of the process and was quick to share her experience. For her application she needed two teacher recommendations and one from her guidance counselor, Mrs. Machamer, as well. She submitted her SAT and AP scores, but many colleges are still test optional this year due to COVID-19. She wrote a few essays and submitted all of her materials through the common application online.

Aaliyah noted that she felt scared before going into it, but with the help of teachers such as Mrs. Trubilla and Mr. Kline, she was able to feel much more comfortable. She noted that once she finally she submitted her application she felt good about it. Early application is a good decision to show a certain school that they are ones top choice, making you look even better on applications. Results come out in December, which can also give one a peace of mind knowing they got into their top choice so early. Early applications were due on November 1, but the regular decision deadline is on January 1, so everyone still has plenty of time to get their applications together and submitted in time for the 2022 fall semester. Good luck to all seniors and juniors who are ready to get a jump on their process as well.

## Breakfast at HAHS HOT BREAKFAST

Wayne Wolfe - 9

Hamburg Area High School and other schools around the world serve breakfast for students. Students are allowed to go to the cafeteria in the morning and get milk, fruit, and the main meal. It is the students’ choice if they would like to get breakfast or not.

The school serves different types of main meals; they usually try to mix it up a bit with french toast sticks, ham or steak and cheese sandwiches, different kinds of muffins, cereal, and granola bars. Students can also get a beverage to go along with their breakfast meal which would be plain whole milk and chocolate milk. There are also beverages that students can pay for like frozen coffee, hot coffee, water, and hot chocolate. The beverages that students would have to pay for are only one dollar. Students can also get their hot chocolate and hot coffee in a large or a small cup, a large would be ninety-five cents and the small would be sixty-five cents.

The reason that schools serve breakfast is because it decreases behavioral and psychological problems. It also increases the sugar level in students’ brains, meaning that it makes the student focus and pay attention a lot more and a lot better. It is a good way of saying that it is a good wake up call for the students to start their school day.

At HAHS our cafeteria workers staff always make sure that there is enough food for every student for breakfast and lunch. If it were not for the cafeteria workers making and putting out the food, we would not be able to even eat breakfast. So it is always important to say “Thank you” to them when students are up in line and getting their food.

## Reign Review

Genevieve Arena - 9

If readers are bored, or stuck indoors with the cold and recent snows as winter sets in and looking for an exciting new streamable show recommendation, popular historical drama Netflix series Reign has recently been becoming quite popular again. The show centers around Adalaide Kane, who became popular for her leading role in The Purge, as Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, so it also has a kind of historical truth to it, even though it is greatly dramatized. At least the timeline lines up throughout the show and history. The first season starts off as Mary travels to France for a politically arranged marriage to Prince Francis, the King’s son. They seem to get along well, and though Francis has some doubts about the alliance the marriage would cause between Scotland and France they move forward with their courtship. However Sebastian (Bash), Francis’s illegitimate half brother complicates things between Mary and Francis when he confesses that he has feelings for Mary also, causing a love triangle, not to mention the current queen of France, Catherine, is extremely unkind to Mary, due to a prophecy shown by the court seer that states that she would be the cause of Francis’s death.

In conclusion the show is very entertaining with lots of plot twists and excitement. Though it is dramatized, it is generally mostly historically accurate, and overall very enjoyable.



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