

HAPPENINGS

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Meet Student Teacher Ms. Hackman

Scottie Dunleavy - 9

HAHS welcomes a new set of student teachers. \ This is Ms. Hackman, who is a senior at Kutztown University majoring in Secondary social studies and special education. She will be teaching some of our students here until May 12th within Ms. Stauffer's classes and working with Mrs. Herber. "I try to stay involved the best I can at school so I am involved in the social studies club, Theta Phi Alpha (History honor society) and Bearfest (a Kutztown tradition that you should totally look up because it is super awesome!). I am also part of residence life

on campus," says Ms. Hackman. Student teachers do not get to choose where they student teach and are assigned different schools.

Kutztown University has been brought up as one of the top schools to go for learning to be a teacher in the state of Pennsylvania. Ms. Hackman will be graduating from Kutztown on May 14th with a Bachelor's degree in secondary social studies and special education. She is a fourth generation teacher. Who loves animals, especially dogs. "My biggest inspiration is my Pop Pop," says Hackman. Her hometown is Marlton, New Jersey and she attended Cherokee High School. She has a long history in her family of teachers and she is more than prepared to become a real teacher on her own. Being in a family with generations of teachers like her Pop Pop who also went to Kutztown for Secondary Social Studies, Ms. Hackman definitely got a head start in the teaching profession as she grew up around it.

Ms. Hackman also participates in local government and her mom was a part of the local town board at home. Ms. Hackman has attended many board meetings within the local government and she is familiar with how being involved within a government system works, so when she goes to teach about government she will be able to really embrace the students in how government works.

"I love my school and I can't wait to graduate and start teaching kids on my own. When I graduate I would love to teach in New Jersey (which is where I was born) but, I also love the environment and the feeling in Pennsylvania so I will be happy if I get a job here too. To be honest if I get offered a job on the other side of the country I would take it," says Hackman. That goes to show how much she loves what she is doing and how dedicated and how willing she is when it comes to teaching. This shows she will be very dedicated to her future students and will thrive in helping her students succeed academically.

There are many opportunities in the world of teaching. Every subject can be taught by anyone; it just takes how much the individual wants to teach that subject and how much they love it.

If any students are interested in looking into teaching after college or just want to learn more about it please visit <https://www.kutztown.edu/academics/program-finder.html>.

Girls basketball team speaks on winter season

Kaitlyn Barry - 12

During the COVID pandemic, one main thing keeping the Hawks spirit alive is our school sports. Arguably, one of the most popular sports for the Hawks is basketball, and this season has been great for both the boys and the girls.

Maddison Riegel and Lauren Sterner both noted that they have had a good season. They are also in agreement that their "record does not show how well [they] work as a team." Lauren stated that there have been games they lost, but played together extremely well in. Meaning that although the girls may have lost the game, the team was still able to work together and play strong. The girls record so far is 5-8, with still more time left in the season. Jordyn Crespo noted that the team felt like a family, and they made her, as a freshman, feel very comfortable and welcome. The girls always have a positive attitude during practices and games, and make sure to make everyone, especially new players, feel comfortable by being sure to encourage and include them as much as possible.

Overall the team has high hopes for the rest of the season as they have already proved their ability to succeed and will continue to work hard. Be sure to come out to support the girls at one of their games in the near future and see them demonstrate their amazing teamwork.



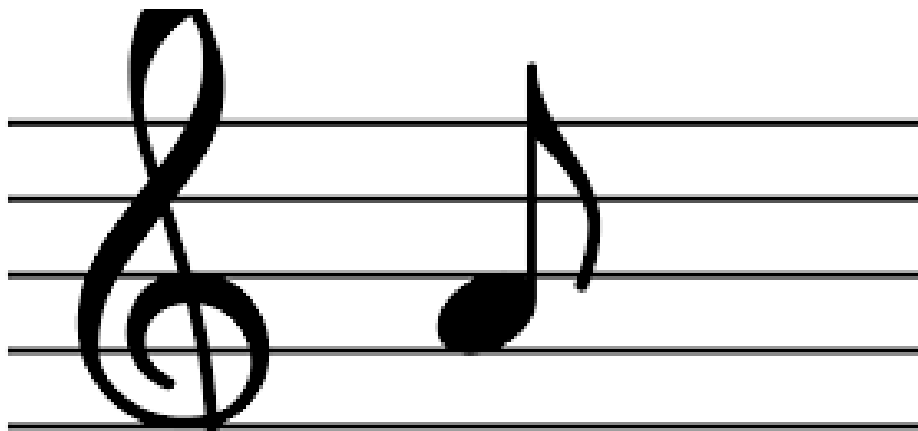
Senior County musicians represent HAHS

Anna DeAngelo - 11

For non-musical students, there is a festival for students all across the district to audition for called Senior Counties. Sophomore Ian Fink auditioned virtually during late January with his trombone and was accepted into the Senior Counties band. These festivals are high-caliber so they require audition scores of a 50/100 or above. That score then determines which seat the musician gets in their section. Ian is ninth chair trombone out of 12 trombone seats. The materials needed for the audition are certain scales to be memorized and played for the judges as well as a solo piece that Ian was given ahead of time. He rehearsed the entire piece and then the judges picked a part in the piece for him to play for evaluation.

The way these auditions work for band or orchestra is that the musician prepares the memorized scales and the rehearsed solo piece. They originally went to a host school to await being called back for evaluation. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the students recorded their audition requirements and then their respective ensemble director sent their audition video to the judges of the Senior County festival. The musician has one or two solo pieces that they rehearse and practice to near-perfection. They then play the specific sections indicated by the judges prior to the audition video deadline. The musicians also play major scales that they have to have memorized. Finally, they play a new piece of music that they have never seen before to test their abilities to interpret music quickly. That is the entirety of the audition. The musician's performance is scored and then returned to the student's musical director.

Similar to Ian Fink, junior Collin Reppert recorded a video of his solo pieces, scales, and site-reading to audition for the Senior County Orchestra. The band and orchestra play together in rehearsals but have separate auditions. Collin had the same requirements as Ian: memorized scales, a rehearsed solo piece, and a new piece of music to be read on the spot. Both of these extremely talented musicians received a wonderful score and were admitted to the Senior County Band and Orchestra festival as of late January. The festival was held at Kutztown College during late January, as well. Collin and Ian were dismissed directly from homeroom to the bus that took them straight to the music event. Then they returned to the school for pick-up from parents close to 5:00 pm that evening after the concert. Congratulations Collin Reppert and Ian Fink!



Bring a friend to choir day

Anna DeAngelo - 11

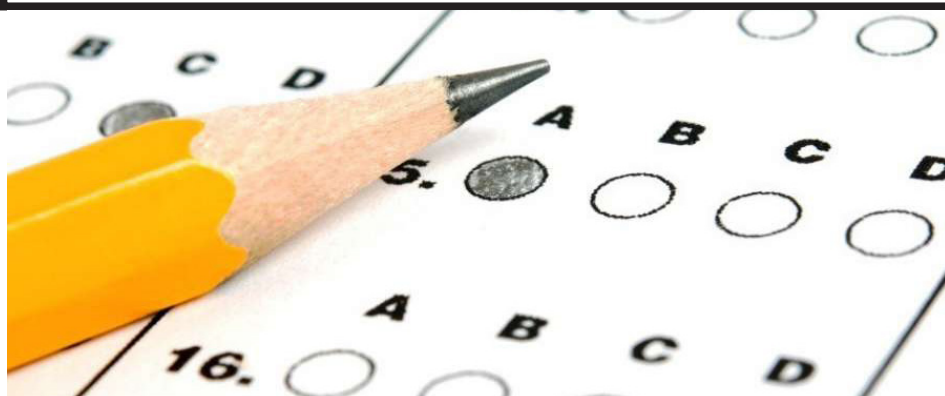
Our concert choir has a day called "Bring a friend to choir" day where students who are interested in joining the ensemble can get a sample day of what it is like and then make their decision. This is quite helpful for those who do not want to commit to signing up without knowing what they are getting into.

What happens during "bring a friend to choir" day is the director, Mrs. Jackson, plays icebreaker games with everyone who is not a part of the ensemble already. Then there are whole group activities with both the choir and non-choir kids. These activities help new students to get a feel for the environment of the concert choir ensemble.

The choir rehearses on days 2, 4, and 6 during the flex period and performs in the winter and spring concerts for the high school. Concert choir is a tight-knit group that is a family and takes care of each other. It is a really fun environment and experience.

The choir director, Mrs. Jackson organized this event and I do not know how many new people showed up, in total, but I do know that there were four new people who joined the choir after this day. The event was very well organized and welcoming which was a very cozy feeling. So, Bring a friend to choir day is a wonderful experience for those who are interested in a concert ensemble without having the knowledge of an instrument.





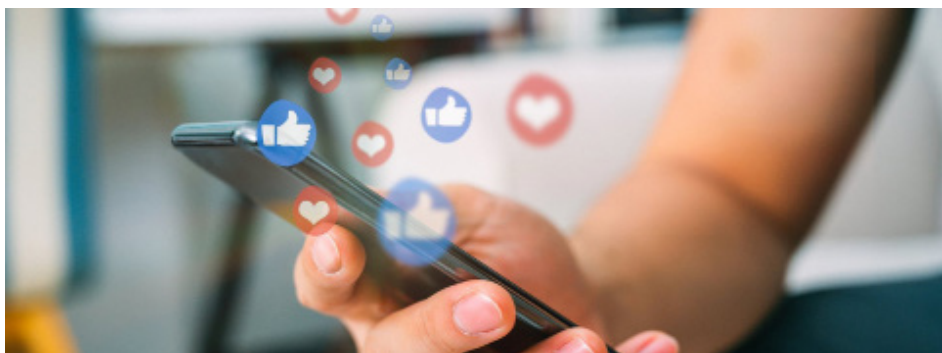
How important is the SAT/ACT in 2022?

Mia Kalbach - 11

For a long time it was common high school knowledge that a good SAT/ACT score is part of the gateway to college. However, after the education system took the brunt of the Covid-19 tidal wave in 2020, major changes have been made since then to the typical path towards post-secondary education. In the first year of the pandemic, many testing sessions were canceled due to health concerns. This forced colleges to excuse the absence of a test score. Now in 2022, two-thirds of America's four year universities have become test optional for the upcoming fall semester. This is great news for those who want to save time, money, and stress. Still though, what are the benefits of taking the SAT/ACT regardless?

The biggest benefit to taking the test is to make an imprint within the competition. Now that the SAT/ACT is optional, college application numbers are going to inevitably skyrocket, meaning that students have to find a way to make their applications stand out against the rest. A good test score is a great way to do that, especially since the stakes are now lower and a high score can show off academic proficiency in a certain subject. For example, a 700 in math can do wonders when applying to a competitive STEM college. A good test score can also be rewarded with scholarships. In the end, the SAT/ACT may be optional, but it would be safest to take it if possible. If anyone is looking to sign up for the test, make sure to sign up on the College Board website as soon as possible.

For more information, visit: <https://thecollegepost.com/colleges-test-option->



Social media use

Emily Smith - 11

Social media was originally used as a source of entertainment and communication between people on an online platform. It was meant to be a place where people could connect even more, especially when peers, friends, and family could not see each other in person. However, social media has aroused as a place of negativity, causing many mental health issues and less socialization in in-person interactions. It has become a method to replace talking or spending time with others outside of a communication between screens. For these reasons, it is important to limit social media use so that it does not consume too much of everyday life.

Isolation can come as a result of spending too much time on social media. Humans must have real world social encounters and interactions with other people in order to form healthy hormones that ease stress, anxiety, and depression. Social media can also cause one to compare their own lives to those they see on Instagram, Facebook, or any other social platform. Instead of being confident in who they are, many people often use social media to see what they should look like, believe in, or even what they should buy. Another common problem with social media is cyberbullying. According to helpguide.org, nearly 10 percent of teens claim they have been bullied online. Social media is fueling depressive episodes in teenagers instead of offering them a different option to develop communication skills.

So, if social media has become such a negative force, how can it be controlled or stopped? One method to limiting daily social media use is to enable time limits on one's phone. Allowing for a timer to be placed on each platform can let one know when they have spent enough time on the app for the day and that they should do something else. Another alternative method would be to spend more time with friends and family in person versus online. For example, for every time one spends a few hours on the phone they should also spend a few hours talking to a person at school or at home. Keeping the balance between online and offline communication is key to preventing mental health issues that arise from too much social media consumption.

For more information on the dangers of social media, please visit: <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/mental-health/social-media-and-mental-health.htm>

The media desensitizes us to violence

Skylynn Binder - 9

Violence is no stranger to the online world. There is plenty of gore in tv shows in the media as well as video games and other aggressive content. Plenty of studies have been done on how consuming these types of media can have an effect on one's behavior and aggression. Although this theory has been proven as true multiple times, not much is known about the extent of its effect on the human mind.

So far, studies have shown that prolonged exposure to media violence can possibly reduce anxiety in response to said violence. Bartholomew et al found in a study that the more someone plays a violent video game, the less brain activity they show in response to violence and behaves more aggressively. In multiple studies done by Funk and colleagues, they found that children ages 5 to 12 experience a reduced amount of empathy for those requiring help due to violent games.

When asked if she has noticed any of these effects, Ashley Moyer said; "I don't play violent video games or anything like that, but my brother does and everytime we see something with gore, I cringe a little whereas he says it's not even that bad and I am being overdramatic." These effects can be found in anyone



Teachers' take on virtual snow days

Kaitlyn Barry - 12

As the winter season gets colder and the weather begins to get more and more dreary, virtual snow days are once again making their appearance at Hamburg Area High. Many students enjoy the idea of virtual snow days, being that those days are then no longer taken from the few we have in the spring, or worse, added onto the end of June. Many teachers do not assign new work and refrain from keeping students on Zoom to account for any problems with power outages and even general lack of motivation. Despite this, teachers do not express their views on these days often.

Mr. McBreen has made his dislike for virtual days known to his students. He believes that learning and interacting over Zoom is not nearly as effective and prefers an interactive classroom setting. Mrs. Palerino, on the other hand, enjoys her virtual snow days as they give her and her students a much needed break, as well as a chance to get caught up on any upcoming work, which they may not usually have a chance to complete in class. Travel also is much less of a problem for some teachers who live farther out and have to take roads that do not receive adequate attention. The teachers are divided on their feelings as some enjoy the idea of a break and not having to make up the days, while others would much rather have an extra day in class with their students. It is no secret that a Zoom classroom is much less lively and students prove to be much less motivated to work, which does not mix well with some teachers.

Overall, virtual snow days have several positive and negative effects on both students and teachers, and hopefully there are not too many more that pop up during this cold winter.



Hamburg High-School's Pen Preference

Anna DeAngelo - 11

Writing and doodling with pens is very common nowadays and there are many different types of pens. Everyone has a different opinion on the different types of pens, which are gel pens, felt-tip pens, rollerball pens, and ballpoint pens. Upon interviewing juniors Arianna Barata, Chevelle Pinter, David Behm, senior Travis Noecker, and sophomore Aster (Jessie) West about which type of pen is their favorite based on writing ability and ink consistency, they concluded that it was a tie between three of the four choices. The options were felt-tip pens, ballpoint pens, gel pens, and rollerball pens.

All of the pens that are tied are similar in how they write and how long they last. Gel pens, the only pen that has not been voted for at all, have an inconsistent ink distribution and therefore are not the best pen to use for writing and taking notes. Ballpoint pens are the most commonly used, but felt-tip pens and rollerball pens have also been highly reviewed and discussed with good critiques. So, to conclude, the best pen to write with is either a ballpoint pen, a felt-tip pen, or a rollerball pen.

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Twin Day Twosday!