

Hawk Happenings

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Tri-M welcomes new inductees

Hailey Quinn - 12

On 7 January 2025, the Tri-M Music Honor Society held their induction ceremony of new members. 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 as members. After a brief introduction, the chapter officers speak about the history of the honor society and the meaning behind being a member. The officers are Mackenzie Hoover, junior, President; Hailey Quinn, senior, Vice President; Elaina Hess, junior, Secretary; Kirra Goetz, senior, Treasurer; and Bricen Foreman, sophomore, Historian. After the officers speak, the chapter advisors, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Kline, and Ms. Godek, speak briefly about the qualities of a member. After that, the President recites the Tri-M Pledge, which is repeated by the new inductees. Lastly is the presentation of Tri-M pins and membership cards, during which the candidates walk on stage to receive their items, and are officially recognized as the newest members of Tri-M Music Honor Society.

This year's newly inducted members are, junior Ava Bailey, junior Michael Clancey, sophomore Elizabeth Grim, sophomore Evangeline Kern, sophomore Donovan Merrick, sophomore Landon Poulios, freshman Greta Fink, freshman Sophia Garretson, and freshman Celeste Mummolo.

Tri-M is always willing to accept applications 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!

Anatomy & Physiology students dissect a sheep brain

Bethany Sturfler - 11

On January 15, Mrs. Sinopoli's Anatomy & Physiology students participated in a hands-on lab where they dissected and studied a sheep brain. The purpose of the dissection was for the students to visually and physically see what a brain looks like. It was a great way to put what they have been learning into practice while learning about the nervous system. Students were instructed to separate the hemispheres of the brain and then look at all of the different parts of the brain. The reasoning behind using a sheep brain specifically is that anatomically speaking they are the closest animal brain to a human brain.

Sophomore, Koa Binder was very excited for this lab as she has always found dissections interesting and she had been looking forward to it since the beginning of the year. She explained, "The only thing I did not like was the smell of the fluids it was being kept in." However, she said it did not affect her too much since it was not strong. She explains that she would do it again and is excited about the other dissection opportunities provided in Anatomy & Physiology. Because she was able to physically see the parts of the brain we were learning about, she found it was a great learning experience and allowed her to feel involved and grasp a better understanding of the subject. Other students, who unfortunately missed the dissection, such as Junior Allie Houck, were very disappointed as they were extremely excited about the dissection and the entire learning experience.

Anatomy and Physiology classes visit Penn State College of Medicine

Koa Binder - 10

Field trips are normal throughout elementary and middle school, however they are less common in high school. If a field trip takes place in high school, it is normally planned for one specific class, is more of a learning experience, and is taken more seriously. On December 12, the Anatomy and Physiology classes took a field trip to Penn State College of Medicine to take a short tour of the labs and various areas studied there.

The students were split up into three groups, led by Mrs. Farina, one led by Mrs. Sinopoli, and one led by senior Shelby Dougherty. Some of the things students enjoyed were learning how zebrafish can be used to understand the melanin in human skin, seeing how to virtually study various parts of the body, and viewing MRI machines and how to understand the images. Junior Mason Gruber's favorite part of the field trip was viewing the MRI and other imaging machines. "I found it interesting how such large microscopes and imaging machines were made to take pictures of the smallest particles."

Sophomore Brooklyn Foote really enjoyed the whole experience. "It was a nice break from school, and I appreciated going to see part of a college even though I am only in tenth grade." Brooklyn enjoyed visiting Penn State because she is already in the process of deciding what colleges to apply to.

High school field trips are a great way to get students out in the world and see what they could potentially do with their lives. The difference between the goals of a high school field trip and a lower school level field trip is evident however they are all very good learning and enjoyable experiences.



HAHS reflects on Science Olympiad Invitational

Hannah Kristiniak - 12

Hamburg was one of 16 schools that attended the Berks County Science Olympiad Invitational at Kutztown University on January 8. Here, HAHS students competed in a series of team events. This opportunity allows students to practice and gain an understanding of the event before regionals happen on March 20.

The head coach of the Hamburg team, Mr. Lowe, felt that the invitational went extremely well. In the end, HAHS placed 12 out of 23 teams. Considering this was Mr. Lowe's and most of Hamburg students' first time competing in the Olympiad, they were all satisfied with that outcome. There was only one other new team besides Hamburg, so it was intimidating going against experienced teams. This experience reassured the team that they were properly preparing, and it encouraged them to do even better at regionals. Now, students can reflect on what they can do better to keep practicing and perform their best at the real event. Mr. Lowe's favorite part was watching HAHS students come together and build a strong team. Although some events are individual or teams of two, the whole group supported each other. This was ultimately what got him involved in the Science Olympiad. It took over a year of convincing Mr. Lowe to join, and he eventually did so that he could support student interests. Mr. Lowe wants every Hamburg student to know that their team is always looking for new members. They have already picked up two new members since the invitational. For the event, each school is only allowed a team of 15. But they can have a larger team that includes alternates. If any student joins before regionals, they will still be able to attend that event. As the years pass, he looks forward to the team growing.

Riley Mohn is a junior who is a part of the Materials Science and Experimental Design for Hamburg's Science Olympiad team. She participated as an individual in both events, placing eighth for Materials Science and 13 for Experimental Design. If Riley had studied better materials beforehand, she feels she would have performed better. Thankfully, the invitational allows members to learn these things and practice more before March 20. The invitational had more tests that were graded afterward rather than competitive games like she was expecting. For the final event, Riley will be paired with another member. To better prepare herself, she is practicing labs and tests with Mr. Laughlin, another coach, during study halls. Riley's favorite part was figuring out an entire lab procedure by herself. She also enjoyed exploring Kutztown's campus with other students her age and getting to know the other teams. Each event had a time block for roughly one hour which left students with plenty of free time before and after their events. Riley joined Hamburg's Science Olympiad team last year when Mr. Lowe and Mr. Laughlin started gathering a team. She likes science and the subject is relatively easy for her which is why she was interested in joining.

Student Artwork showcase interview - Olivia Bogardus

Brooklyn Scheffler - 9

Sophomore Olivia Bogardus is an artist whose favorite hobbies are reading, drawing and writing. Olivia won a contest in her art class for the January BCIU student artwork showcase. She painted a beautiful picture of a tree and says that her inspiration for her painting was to draw a landscape. She researched landscapes and mostly trees and scenery came up so she went from there. The easiest part about doing this painting was the sky because she had a softer brush so it was easier to paint and was smoother than the other majority of the painting. She did not expect it to be picked because the painting was very basic compared to the other paintings, and she thought the other person in the class was going to win. Her parents were very proud and did not expect her to be picked for her artwork to be hung up. Art teacher Mrs. Dommel said it looked really nice and complemented Olivia.

Students describe popular types of cars

Zachary Spatz - 11

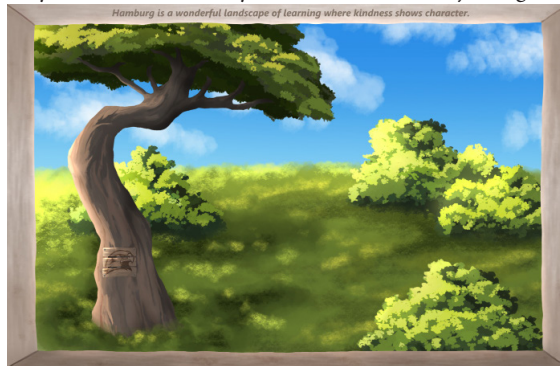
High school students are at the age of getting cars and driving to and from school and sports events. Some parents buy them cars, or the students buy them themselves. Some people purchase reliable and some buy them for what they are or the looks. Some people will buy a Honda or Toyota for their outstanding reliability and some will buy a Ford for the looks, not the reliability.

Out of 117 HAHS students, the most popular car brand is Ford, like the f-350, f-250, f-150s, gassers, and Diesel which is a type of fuel. There is a mix of vehicles in the parking lot, from all brands and body styles.

According to Kelly Blue Book the most popular cars for teen drivers are Honda Civics and Accords, Nissan Sentras and Versas, Chevy Cruzes and Cavaliers, Ford Focus and Fusions, and lastly Toyota Carola's and Toyota Camrys. This shows most cars are reliable and it all depends on preference and budget.

Zach Spatz shares, "I bought my cars off Facebook Marketplace, or family members bought my truck off my dad for \$3,000 and my Subaru off the marketplace for \$5,500. I do not regret either of them. The Subaru has more mechanical problems than my truck, but my truck has a rust problem."

Gracie Zettlemoyer states, "I bought my Jeep Compass from my mom's friend for \$3500. I don't mind it so far; there have been no problems. It has nice leather seats and also has a 4x4."



Student spotlight: Lillian Petrie

Victoria Snyder - 9

Lillian Petrie is a 9th grade student at HAHS. Lillian has been described as both visibly and internally bright and spirited. She, however, describes herself as outgoing, fun, smart and witty. Lilly is on the winter Girls Basketball along with Track and fall Girls Soccer. She has played soccer since she was in preschool, basketball for four years, and track for two. Other than sports her hobbies are baking and cooking. Lillian has expressed that her favorite color to see is light purple. She spends a lot of her freetime listening to the country music genre. Her favorite creator is Tyler Childers. Lilly has attended schools in the HASD since she was in kindergarten. She attended Perry Elementary from kindergarten to the fifth grade which she then transitioned to Hamburg Area Middle School and now is at Hamburg Area High School. Lillian excels in school although she finds it uninteresting at times. She especially enjoys her English Language Arts class.

The January 19th TikTok Ban

Kaitlyn Gallagher - 10

TikTok, previously known as Musically before it was revamped in August of 2018, has been a hit for the past couple of years and has been a beloved app to many. TikTok is a platform where people from all over the world share videos on a public platform to share their days and to gain likes from their social media posts. Although, TikTok was on the rocks as of late, and had a short time of existence on app stores nationwide, as Joe Biden on April 24, 2024 signed the bill that would ban TikTok from every app store across the United States. On January 19, if TikTok did not sell it or the Supreme Court officiated the ban, TikTok would have been inaccessible through the app store, and due to lack of updates, will be unusable on every United States citizen's phone. TikTok was a concern for the United States government way longer than that, though. Donald Trump back in 2020 had tried to ban TikTok, saying that it was a huge threat because of China's "poor handling" of the Coronavirus going rampant at the time and decided to make an executive order to Bytedance, the company who owns TikTok, to divest interests or be banned in the United States. Although nothing had really gone through as the elections came around and Joe Biden had been inaugurated, and the TikTok ban issue had riled down until recently. Today in 2025, the government under President Biden claimed that TikTok is causing "national security risks" and that due to it being owned by China, it is tracking American Citizen's data on their phones. They also said it was a safety violation and must be banned in order to protect the United States. The requirements for TikTok to still be in the U.S. this time around though, is that Tiktok had to be sold from its parent company and bought by the U.S. or face a nationwide ban. Some students at Hamburg Area High School had both positive and negative outlooks on this nationwide ban. Lilly Gibson, sophomore and avid TikTok user, believed that the ban was a terrible decision and that TikTok is a popular app within the United States, especially with younger generations. "TikTok is a popular social media app, where lots of information about the world is spread. Even though people could get this same information from news apps, most news apps do not go into detail about the travesties going on in the world, like the war between Israel and Palestine." Lilly believes that TikTok is a way to share culture and that deleting the app removes communications from people across the world. "TikTok has also become a career choice for a lot of people. Taking TikTok away leaves people without jobs." Lilly also believes that America banning TikTok means other countries might too. "America is like a role model for other countries in a way. If TikTok is banned in America, it creates a pattern for other countries to follow suit." Another student, Kaylum Riegel, thought banning TikTok would be an improvement to the United States. "I think the ban would help increase people's attention spans as the short video time on TikTok has really decreased that." Kaylum also believes that due to TikTok being banned, the spread of fake news will also decrease due to the fact that some people get all their information from TikTok instead of news websites. "TikTok will always have a replacement, like Instagram or Twitter, so I believe everyone freaking out about it and acting like it is the end of the world are being dramatic. It will improve people's lives more than they might know." The government trying to ban the TikTok app for a short period of time affected Lilly, who uses TikTok as a way to learn. For others like Kaylum, they learned elsewhere about the world. One thing about the ban that stands, though, is that many citizens were affected by its ban, and they are happy that TikTok is back and running. For more information about the TikTok ban on January 19, 2025, read here: <https://www.nytimes.com/article/tiktok-ban.html>

NFL playoffs

Ana Smith - 9

The NFL playoffs started on January 11, with 14 teams competing to win Super Bowl LIX (59). In the playoffs, there are four rounds that teams must go through if they want a shot at the big game. First there is the Wildcard, where the three teams with the best overall record of all remaining teams in each conference qualify. After the wild card games were played six teams were eliminated. That left the Houston Texans, Baltimore Ravens, Buffalo Bills, Philadelphia Eagles, Washington Commanders, and LA Rams to move on to the next round. Next, is the Divisional round where eight teams play. The four teams that won and moved on to the conference championship were the Chiefs, Commanders, Eagles, and Bills. Then, on January 26, the third round of playoffs occurred. The four remaining teams played to see who will move on to face each other in Super Bowl 59. The Eagles and Commanders will played each other in Philly and the Bills took on the Chiefs in Kansas City, at Arrowhead Stadium. The last step in the playoff process will finally be the 2025 Super Bowl. Before we got deep into the playoffs, I asked some of my classmates who they thought would win Super Bowl 59. Rylee Strunk predicted that the Super Bowl matchup will be between the Buffalo Bills and Philadelphia Eagles. Ninth grader, Samantha Gartner agreed with her. Although the Bills and their quarterback, Josh Allen have had a great season, I thought that there would be a rematch between the two teams who were in the 2023 Super Bowl. And it seems that I was right as the Eagles blew away the Commanders, taking the win and the Bills had a tough fight but just were not able to beat the Chiefs. I believed that the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles would go head to head for the victory, and I was right, but I'm hoping that this time Philly will bring home the win.

Students reflect on their second quarter

Students reflect on their second quarter

Tia Adam - 11

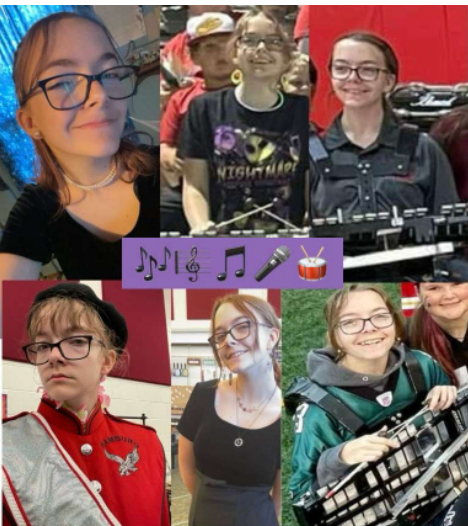
Since the second quarter ended on Friday, January 17, many students have had time to reflect on how it went. Each quarter brings ups and downs to every student, some which can be really good or really bad. Junior Morgan Riegel reflected on her second quarter as better than the first quarter. Her biggest struggle was trying to schedule hours at work on top of her honors and AP classes. Besides the negative, she was able to go to the Science Olympiad competition at Kutztown recently and participate in Mr. Kline's cup competition. Her favorite class overall this quarter was German Three with Fraus Stevens, who is also the teacher who helped her the most. For next quarter she would like to try and work more on Honors Precalc, stay focused, and balance her schedule. Sophomore Kaylum Riegel had a fine second quarter. He did not have any favorite events, but the worst part of the quarter was his Chemistry mid-term grade. His favorite class was art history, taught by Mr. Kline. Bethany Stuffle, a junior, helped him the most. For the third quarter, he is going to try to work on improving his grades. Overall these students had decent second quarters that went well in different areas and had their issues in other areas, but it gave them both an idea of what to change and what to learn from.



Music student spotlight - Riley Mohn

Madeline Handwerk - 11

Riley Mohn is a junior at Hamburg Area High School who is very involved with music. She is a part of the school's concert band, caroling band, jazz band, marching band, graduation band, percussion ensemble, and concert choir. Trebles is something she is involved in, which is a girls' choir ensemble. She has been a part of a concert band since fourth grade. Riley started singing sophomore year and loves it. In band, she plays mallet percussion. Sometimes she also plays auxiliary percussion, such as the cowbell, tambourine, and triangle. Riley emphasizes, "I wanted to play the saxophone or flute, but I could not make a noise out of either. I'm only just learning snare and bass drum now." Riley explains that Mrs. Kline, the school's band director, started a percussion ensemble that she has joined, in which she will play more drums. In choir, she is an alto singer, which means she has a lower voice. Riley says, "I wanted to try singing early on, but I didn't because I did not want to add one more thing to my schedule until after getting adjusted to high school." Riley also sang at the Java Jam the high school held in December. It is a free event in the library where kids can just sing and have a good time while eating delicious baked goods. Listening to music is a big part of her life. She listens to a lot of different genres, such as rock and grunge. Riley says her parents are her biggest inspiration when it comes to her music career because they were both music kids growing up and they are really supportive. They are her transportation to every music event. Riley is an extremely dedicated student who has a passion for music. Riley's advice to anyone who is thinking about joining any music ensemble is to do it. She says do not be afraid to try something new, and there are classes students can take that they do not need to perform in front of an audience for. She also states, "Plus, colleges love seeing that someone joined so many music ensembles. It shows responsibility, coordination, teamwork, and willingness to learn."



Reviewing SZA's Grammy Award winning album after its two year anniversary

Chase Brodhead - 10

Back in 2022, Solana Imani Rowe, better known as SZA, released her highly anticipated sophomore album, SOS. This was her first album in five years, following the release of Ctrl in 2017, so fans were thrilled to finally get new music. SOS has since become her most well known work, turning her into a more mainstream artist. Following the album and its success, SZA went on her first ever arena tour and is now performing in stadiums where major artists like Taylor Swift and Beyoncé have held concerts. This December marked the two year anniversary of SOS, which inspired me to sit down and revisit the album. The album starts off with the title track, which is the first song on SOS. SZA chose the perfect song to open with because it is short, but it still gets her point across and sets the album off on a strong, confident note. Like many artists, she likes to use samples from other songs. In this track, she sampled Until I Found the Lord by The Gabriel Hardeman Delegation and Listen by Beyoncé. Right after the intro comes one of her most popular songs from the album, Kill Bill. The song is named after the famous 2000s movie Kill Bill starring Uma Thurman. SZA even took inspiration from the movie when she made the music video for the song. In Kill Bill, SZA talks about how, after breaking up with her ex, nothing helps her move on. She says if she can not have him, no one will. The line "I did all of this sober, I did it all for us" shows that she did not need any help, she knew what had to be done, and she did it. In the end, she finally reaches him and kills him, but her feelings are still complicated. This is found when she says, "I just killed my ex, I still love him though." After listening to my personal favorite, Seek & Destroy, and the two tracks following that, next is the sixth song titled Blind. Blind is a mainly acoustic song that she teased on Saturday Night Live before the album came out. It is a very emotional song where she feels as if she is blind and lost when it comes to love, as if she does not even understand the definition of love anymore. It is probably one of my favorites because it is easy to relate to because feeling lost or blind can happen in all types of situations, not just love, and it overall is a very pretty song with her vocals and the instrumental. Once Blind is finished, Used, featuring R&B singer and rapper Don Toliver is next. After that comes the second most popular song on the album, "Snooze." Snooze is a love song about how, when she truly cares for someone, she will do anything for them because the love they share is all that matters. SZA also released a music video for this song featuring a special guest, Justin Bieber. Shortly after the video dropped, SZA and Bieber put out an acoustic remix of the song where Justin is featured. Skip ahead to the second to last song on the album, Good Days, which was actually the first single released back in 2020. Good Days stands out with its calming instrumental that perfectly connects with the song's lyrics. The track is all about letting go of the weight and stress of life and finding freedom and peace. Whenever I am feeling stressed or overwhelmed, I like to listen to this song because it is almost like a reminder to calm down and just be present in the moment. It helps me get back to the idea that everything does not have to be perfect, and sometimes it is okay to just take a step back. I think Good Days was the perfect song to release first because, in many ways, it sets the tone for the rest of the album. The whole project feels like SZA unloading her emotions and struggles, finally able to express everything she has been holding onto. It is as if the entire album is her journey to feel normal again, and Good Days is the perfect introduction to that process of healing. I also think it was a great idea of hers to put it second to last on the album because it feels like after all the trouble she has gone through throughout the album, it is finally over and in the end everything will be ok. Overall, SOS is an emotional album that takes listeners through SZA's experiences with heart-break, self discovery, and healing. The album mixes different styles and themes, with songs that are both bold and confident as well as vulnerable and reflective. From the powerful energy of "Kill Bill" to the calming feel of "Good Days," SZA uses her voice and lyrics to share her personal struggles and growth. SOS not only helped her become a mainstream artist but also showed that she is not afraid to be open and real in her music.



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