

Hawk Happenings



Volume XXVIII Issue 18 February 20, 2025

a Publication of Hamburg Area High School, Hamburg, PA

Students prepare to select their classes

Elizabeth Carroll - 10

Students at HAHS get to choose their desired classes every year around February. This ensures that they end up with a schedule and the classes that align with their future and their interests. This is a time where students should focus on what could benefit them and not just choose the same classes that their friends are choosing, since this could determine what prepares them for what eventually awaits them past high school.

The classes that are available range from full year to only one semester, and this depends on the credits given. Students should keep in mind the amount of credits they earn every year, since they need 24 total credits to graduate. There are also AP classes which can award students with college credits if they so desire to take them for that reason. These classes also come with a higher weighting on their overall grade that they obtain, although PS classes, post secondary, and honors classes will also give a weighting, just in a smaller percentage.

Sophomore, Arianna Naranjo, decided that after taking honors classes in her freshman year, she would take AP Environmental Science and honors Chemistry concurrently. "I chose to take an AP class this year, because I wanted to experience a more challenging class than honors," Arianna explains. She also thought that taking Biology with Mrs. Bucheit meant that the transition would be easier, because she was more familiar with the teacher and how she taught her classes. Arianna recommends this class for upcoming sophomores because it is an enjoyable class, and "it helps you get used to AP work, and helps you build your work ethic."

Although it is a decision for students to take these classes early on, not everyone decides on that. On the other side, Sophomore, Lydia Fultz, decided to just stick with honors classes, because she did not want to make her sophomore year overwhelming. "I have planned on making my junior year my hardest in high school," Lydia states. She plans on taking AP classes in her junior year, but she is still not completely sure.

No matter what decisions someone were to make for their classes, it is all valid. Some classes work better for others, and it all depends on a student's particular skill sets and learning style, along with if they wanted to do extra work for their career or not. There is also the option of being career ready with signing up for BCTC, so not everything can be accomplished in just the high school alone.

For more information about credits and the classes offered visit : <https://www.hasdhawks.org>

HAMBURG AREA
HIGH SCHOOL

"TO PREPARE
LEARNERS TO LIVE
LIVES OF
SIGNIFICANCE AND
MEANING"



PROGRAM OF STUDIES
2025 – 2026

ASVAB guides military careers

Madeline Handwerk - 11

The ASVAB, short for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, is a test administered yearly. It is also known as the military test since most people who take it want to join the military, whether that is the Air Force, the Army, or the Navy. This test helps people joining the military find what jobs are best fitted for them, based on their academic scores.

A passing score for every branch of the military is 31, and the test consists of math, science, and English. There are many different resources, such as books and online videos, that can help one study for the test. With studying, most test takers can pass.

There is also a PiCat test, which is a version of the ASVAB one can take online, without some-one monitoring. This test is recommended for people who have not yet taken the ASVAB.

Vincent Heckman, a senior at Hamburg Area High School, took the ASVAB in October when the school hosted it. He says the test was fairly easy for him. "The hardest part about the test was



the idea that it is timed, but I got it done before the time ended," says Vinny. Vinny took the test for the US Marine Corps.

Zachary Spatz also took the ASVAB. Zach states, "I took the ASVAB last year, and the hardest part was math since it is not my strongest subject." He took the test for school purposes.

For more information about the ASVAB test, visit www.officalasvab.com

Student Spotlight: Landon Poullos

Alaena Cox - 10

Landon Poullos is a sophomore at Hamburg Area High School who participates in many activities. Two of these activities include Drama Club, and he was featured in Hamburg Area High School's musical The Wizard of Oz. Landon landed the role of the Tin Man and played the character perfectly. Performing is one of Landon's favorite things to do because it takes time and skill to portray a character and not just act as himself on the stage. He has made many friends through the musicals because the crew and performers work really well together to make sure the show is ready for the audience.

He has a bubbly personality that makes it easy to talk to him and become friends with many.

Landon Poullos recently had an internet post go viral and gain many views which is a great thing for him. He is glad others found him humorous and he noted, "I plan on posting similar content without faking it." His video gained a large audience because it was funny and something new. When he said he would not fake it, he meant he would not falsely make a similar encounter just to gain views again. He said that he wants to be "completely transparent" with his viewers and not put out false advertisements.

At home Landon has a younger brother Hunter who he loves greatly. Landon reported that they both like playing video games together and they both learn from each other. Landon said he learned how to be more patient as his brother grew up and Hunter learned how to mature.



Berks North Bocce League Playoffs

Hamburg 1 takes FIRST PLACE! And will be rolling into the Regional Playoffs on March 11th!

Way to go, Hawks!!!



LEO Club sells roses for Valentine’s Day

Bethany Stuffle - 11

On January 29, the Hamburg Area High School's LEO Club began selling silk roses for the low price of \$1. This fundraising idea has been around for many years and is more so to spread kindness throughout the school and allow students to purchase a cute present for their friends that will last forever. The roses are always sold during lunches to allow every student to get a chance to buy one. The essential idea is for a student to fill out a slip of paper that will then be attached to the roses and delivered to the person of their choosing. The reason for selling silk roses is that they will last forever along with the memory of receiving them. Because they will not die, they make for a great keepsake to allow students to reflect on their high school years.

Sophomore Molly Fox was excited about this fundraiser as she thinks “the silk roses are a cute way to show someone special how much you appreciate them.” She hopes we continue this tradition as she has also bought some roses for her friends and she plans to buy more.

Junior, and President of LEO Club, Tia Adam says she loves selling the roses because she likes to advertise for our club and she enjoys selling things with her friends. She also thinks that the club should continue this tradition as “It’s a nice gift for Valentine’s Day,” and they are affordable. She likes the silk roses because they always last, and she believes that it is a nice keepsake for everyone.



How the Speak movie compares to the book



Koa Binder - 10

There have been many disagreements and arguments when it comes to movie adaptations of books. Many believe that the movies could never surpass the books while others disagree and say that it is easier to understand and even like books with a movie. One popular movie adaptation taken from a book is the movie Speak. The movie Speak came out in 2004 and was directed by Jessica Sharzar. The book Speak came out in 1999 and was written by Laurie Halse Anderson.

The book and movie, which are realistic fiction, both follow the main female character, Melinda Sordino who is a freshman in high school who lost all of her friends due to what happened at a party celebrating the end of summer. The book and the movie have a similar tone which I personally enjoyed and they both nicely represented what it is like to be in a teenage girl's mind. One thing the book better represented was the relationship Melinda has between both of her parents and how their relationship changes throughout the different things she is experiencing and how it unknowingly affects those around

her. This was harder to portray in the movie, most likely because it is only able to be known if the viewer knows Melinda's exact thoughts, and even though the viewer does get to hear her thoughts in the movie, her parents are not a main focus in the movie.

There are not many differences between the movie and the book, which I find enjoyable. The only differences are small interactions between characters and places the characters are in, which makes sense since it would be difficult for them to be exactly the same.

Overall, the Speak book and movie are both great in their own ways and are highly recommended for anyone trying to get into reading or anybody finding a nice quick movie they want to watch.

HAHS girls say goodbye to 2024-2025 basketball season

Kaylea Detweiler

As another season of girls basketball comes to an end, our fellow players, especially seniors, come to be emotional. Being a part of this year's team grew a very strong bond, not only with me but in my opinion everybody around me. I talked to seniors I never predicted to, and came to find out I would be emotional on senior night as well. Not only did I grow a bond with the upperclassmen but also my freshmen that have come up to the high school found their place in my heart. My coaches and I also came to have a bestfriend like bond, because I know I can always turn to them when needed. One thing that I have taken out of this season were wise words my coach said all season. Coach Rentschler says, “I rather you lose as a team, then not play like one.” This year my main coach was Rentschler and not only did she help me with basketball but she formed me into a completely different person. She showed me that no matter what everyone deserves kindness even if it's not what they give. Although she made me better at basketball, she made me an even better human.

As our last game of the season resulted in a big win, our head coach Mrs. McBreen says, “It was a pleasure coaching every single one of you, and you guys really laid it all out on that court tonight.” As I am sure the whole team is dwelling over the season being over, we feel the most for our seniors who are off to bigger and better things in their upcoming future. I know I will miss every senior, but I am sure we will all keep in touch. Some of my other teammates have mentioned they're gonna miss the seniors as well. But what I am hearing the most is, what are we going to do tomorrow? Now we have no practice or games to look forward to. I know for sure I will still be playing as much basketball as I can, and I will most definitely keep in touch with my teammates who want to tag along.

Overall I will seriously miss my team and season. I wish all my seniors the best of luck. And for the girls I am seeing next year, be ready because we will have another amazing season next year!



NFL’s Super Bowl

Rylee Strunk - 9

The NFL's Super Bowl happened on February 9, 2025, at the Caesars Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana, between the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles. Many people from all over the world either went or watched the game play out. The halftime show was Kendrick Lamar, with special guests including SZA, Samuel L. Jackson, and tennis legend Serena Williams.

The Eagles came out of this game victorious with a huge win against the Chiefs. The Eagles led the game 24-0 at halftime, but then dominated in the second half winning the game 40-22. The Chiefs had a few touchdowns to get them on the board, but ultimately it just was not not enough.

The Eagles defense was very explosive with six total sacks all throughout the game. The guys who led the sack were Josh Sweat and Milton Williams. The Eagles also had a few interceptions as well. Rookie Cooper Dejean had a 38 yard pick six on his birthday. This was a first for NFL history since he did this on his birthday. The Eagles offense also played a major role in their winning on Sunday night. Offensive MVP and quarterback, Jalen Hurts had an amazing game having two touchdowns during the game.

As for the Chiefs, they came out and looked like they did not want to win. They had many mistakes throughout the whole game causing them to lose against the Eagles. The Chiefs were not able to have their “three-peat” like they had hoped.



Many Hamburg students wanted to have the Eagles win or are big fans. Those students include Brady Breininger, Ana Smith, and Thomas Johnson. “The Eagles won because they were amazing all throughout the game, especially on defense,” said Brady Breininger. Thomas also agrees that the defense was the key component for their win. Eagles Fan Ana, believes the team won because of their great communication and effort among each other. “I also think that the bond they have with each other also helped them pull out this amazing win,” said Ana.

Students Watch New Movie One of Them Days starring KeKe Palmer and SZA

Chase Brodhead - 10

On January 27, the highly anticipated movie One of Them Days, starring the talented KeKe Palmer and award winning singer SZA, was released in theaters. While Palmer is experienced in TV and film, this is SZA's first lead acting role. In the film, Palmer and SZA play two young women struggling to pay their rent. Palmer's character, Dreux, trusts Alyssa, played by SZA, to handle the payment, but Alyssa mistakenly gives the money to her boyfriend, who selfishly spends it on himself. Now out of rent money, the two must find a way to come up with the cash by the end of the day or face eviction. As they go through a series of obstacles and arguments, they work together to secure the money and pay their landlord.

Sophomore Kaylea Detweiler also saw the movie and shared her thoughts on it. She said the film had a strong feminist vibe, which she really appreciated. She also pointed out that the movie highlights how life can create challenges, but those struggles can never break a true friendship. One of Kaylea's favorite moments in the movie was when Dreux and Alyssa were at a drive-thru, and a burglar suddenly ran by and stole their food. “I actually almost laughed out loud in the theater because that was literally so uncalled for, like their day could not get any worse,” she said. She also mentioned that she could not imagine anyone else playing the roles and that, in her mind, this movie will always be a comedy classic.

In all I believe this is an amazing and comical movie and I highly encourage others to watch.



Drama Club Fundraiser

See your email to sign up for a time to shop in the library!

Cinderella's Closet

Turning Dresses into Dreams...

Daylight Savings is March 9th, Make sure to change your clocks!



Adviser: Mrs. Terri McCarthy-Wright; Editor in Chief: Hannah Kristiniak; Issue Layout Editor: Koa Binder; Writers: Tia Adam, Koa Binder, Chase Brodhead, Alaena Cox, Kristianna Cunkle, Elizabeth Carroll, Kaylea Detweiler, Lydia Fultz, Kaitlyn Gallagher, Lilly Gibson, Madeline Handwerk, Hannah Kristiniak, Riley Mohn, Hailey Quinn, Brooklyn Scheffler, Anastasia Smith, Victoria Snyder, Zachary Spatz, Rylee Strunk, Bethany Stuffle; 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. 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 and our phone number is 610-562-3861, x2327.