

# HAWK HAPPENINGS

Volume XXVI  
March 8, 2021  
Issue 8

## A PUBLICATION OF HAMBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL

### Student Spotlight: Conley Yellets

Justin Hoy - 11

For this article of Hawk Happenings, we will be reviewing a very persistent and motivated person who should be recognized for his experiences this year, being Conley Yellets.

Conley Yellets, before a district plan was put into place for the Coronavirus, decided to sign up for on-line school. He did this with concern of what the high school's undecided or organized plans were at the time, making a good decision on how he would get consistent education without disorganized plans on-line. For the first quarter that he was on virtual, he did well online but began to dread staying in his house every day. While getting a decent, yet exhausting, education and amount of work while completing online school, he wanted to be social with his peers once more.

After reviewing the Hamburg School District organized plans, guidelines, and protocols for certain situations (although being a bit concerned for other people and his own families safety), he decided to go back to school at the beginning of the second quarter. Conley stated that "having a set schedule motivated me to even get out of bed in the morning" unlike what virtual had been for the frustrating two months that he had taken the course. Conley also commended the schools handling of certain outbreaks in November, December, and January, stating that he still learned the same amount, if not more information easily while doing Hamburg's virtual classes compared to the strange transitioning of virtual learning with another education organization.

Although dealing with the pandemic, Conley has stated that his experiences have been somewhat difficult, especially with the continued coverage of negative events occurring in the nation, but he still has a positive outlook on the events that he is receiving at Hamburg. He continues to have a positive outlook despite the personal issues and situations that he worries about, the main concern being spreading the Coronavirus not just to his family but also to other people in the community (feeling guilty of the potential negative consequence of spreading the disease). Hamburg has continued to forefront, through their Coronavirus guidelines, Conley's opinion of safely learning in-person in the district (with a multitude of better educational benefits compared to virtual learning).

So far, Conley's experiences have been positive while returning to in-person learning, being more motivated, social with his friends (which he hasn't seen in months before school), and receiving a better education than he would with the difficult, stressful, and frustrating virtual learning transition. His opinion of Hamburg has also increased since he has returned to the district in-person from not contracting the Coronavirus from their quick, efficient, and safe virtual planning or announcements. He has regained his motivation for school, continues to get good grades, and is enjoying his most stress-free time of life while being a junior. With a very optimistic outlook, Conley commends Hamburg for the organized plans and responses to Coronavirus outbreaks, attempting to protect the entire community, while at the same time providing above average education, motivating, preparing, and encouraging young adults to better their lives in the future through Hamburg's given opportunities of education.



### Student Spotlight: Alison Gassert

Wyatt Holl - 11

Alison Gassert, a Hamburg Area High School student athlete excelling in all aspects of academia, Vice President of the National Honor Society, and a pursuer of her dream to receive a collegiate level Publishing and Editing degree.

Alison has created a great character here in Hamburg, unfolding the potential every student has to the fullest. Currently being enrolled and succeeding in high level classes such as Calculus, AP Literature, and AP Chemistry, she is determined to show what she is capable of. Alison loves to challenge herself and taking these classes is just one way of doing so. However, Alison's favorite class is not an AP class, or even a core class, it is one many may not have heard of, or are even willing to consider, which is publications. In publications, Alison is able to show her true creative colors and pour the soul she has into every assignment. Assignments in publications typically revolve around constructing the school yearbook and building jaw dropping articles for the local area. When asked about publications, Alison said, "I love the creative freedom of designing yearbook pages and I just can't wait for everyone to see what our class has worked so hard to create." Clearly Alison has a knack for these types of things and a true talent within this field. Regarding her academic future, Alison is stuck between choosing one of two colleges, Susquehanna, University, and Hofstra. However, no matter which school she decides to submit in, Alison will surely be successful, not only in her career, but also in life.



Alison is known primarily for being a tenacious worker in class, however, something that is often overlooked by colleges and employers is what she is able to accomplish outside of the text books. Currently, Alison participates in three extracurricular sporting events, tennis, softball, and basketball. Due to COVID-19, the tennis season was mostly normal, with the occasional hiccup with the new safety protocols. However, basketball season did not pan out as well, as many practices were canceled and the difficulty of wearing a mask was troubling. Despite this, however, Alison said she and her team "are working really hard to play every game like it's our last".

Besides sports, Alison also has a plethora of interesting hobbies and outside of school interests. Alison is a self proclaimed, "book nerd" who absolutely loves tackling book after book. This may relate back to why she is so creative, being able to comprehend many different stories and ideas from different authors. Alison is also a talented musician as well, for she recently picked up and learned to play the ukulele thanks to Hamburg's fantastic music teacher, Mrs. Jackson. Every facet of her outside of school activities only increases her chances of successfully obtaining the goals she desires.

Miss Gassert has a life of experience a fulfillment ahead of her, like all students at Hamburg. Life can be tough, and many fall to its tricks, but even more, like Alison rise to the occasion and get back up when knocked down.

### PFE Spotlight: Evan Grim

Alison Gassert - 12



Evan Grim is a senior at Hamburg Area High School who has had the opportunity to intern at Brenntag Northeast. After sitting down with Evan and talking to him about his internship, it became clear all of the advantages of doing an internship in your high school career.

*Where do you intern at and how did you get this internship?*

"I intern at Brenntag Northeast. It's a chemical distributor that has a focus on solvents and food-grade products. I got this internship through Mrs. Benz's help in contacting the PR department."

*What sort of responsibilities do you have?*

"My responsibilities are wide-ranging and include having my time split between the lab and the quality assurance department. I have also had the privilege of working closely with an employee who has become my mentor."

*What have you learned so far?*

"I have learned a lot about not only chemistry,

but also about warehousing and how to run a successful business."

*Do you think that this could be a career you would pursue in the future?*

"It is entirely possible that I will be doing something analogous to this within the next 10 years or so. This internship has really opened my eyes to what a career in this field is really like."

*Would you recommend an experience like this?*

"I would recommend an experience like this for anyone interested in chemistry. If someone isn't strongly inclined to like chemistry, they might find the experience unfulfilling."

*Have you enjoyed this experience?*

"I have enjoyed the experience thoroughly. It has given me such a great opportunity, and I am grateful to the entire Brenntag team as well as Mrs. Benz for allowing me to take advantage of this opportunity."

Overall, if you are interested in pursuing an internship and are a senior, then Mrs. Benz is the person to talk to. She works with several students to set them up with internships that coincide with their interests and she could do the same for you. Evan is just one of the few students who took advantage of this opportunity and has benefited immensely from doing so. Contact Mrs. Benz with any questions!

### Club Spotlight: Student Council

Emily Smith - 10



Hamburg Area High School's Student Council is the perfect club for any student who enjoys using their creative skills to plan spirited events that support the school. Whether it be spirit weeks, the Christmas dance, or pep rallies, Student Council always finds ways to celebrate

Hamburg. While COVID-19 has put many events on hold, the student council representatives are always trying to keep spirits up during these unprecedented times.

Student Council meets every club day A, is open to students of every grade level, and is led by the HAHS librarian, Mrs. McCarthy-Wright. The club features activities such as poster designing, fundraising, and creating new themes for different events being held throughout the year. Ever wonder who advertises for spirit weeks or creates those posters hanging in the hallways? There is a good chance that it is a Student Council representative.

If creative thinking is not exactly one's preferred area of interest, there are other aspects of Student Council that may peak their interest. Decision making and money management are also important skills that are featured in this club. Decision making plays a role in deciding fundraisers and what themes of events will be, and money-management comes into play when collecting funds. Each year, certain representatives are elected to help run the club, these being the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. These roles are filled by students who show exemplary leadership qualities and whose skills fit each role best. This year's positions are filled by co-presidents Tatiana Short and Kaitlyn Barry, vice president Aaliyah Stump, secretary Emily Smith, and treasurer Carlee Leutze.

Treasurer Carlee Leutze, 12, likes Student Council because "It's a good range of students of all grade levels and we all can make events and plans for the students in the school." While she admits that COVID-19 has made planning rather difficult, she agrees that Student Council is still trying hard. "COVID has limited us, but we're still trying!" COVID may have put many things on hold, but Student Council will continue to do its best at keeping school spirit up.

For more information on Student Council, talk to Mrs. McCarthy-Wright in the HAHS library.



# Read Across America Week inspires youth

Emily Smith - 10

Read Across America Week has been celebrated each year since 1998 and is always on the same week as the infamous children's book writer, Dr. Seuss's, birthday. Across the country, students and teachers read classic tales like One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish and The Lorax in order to share their love of reading. This year, Read Across America Week kicked off on March 2.

The NEA (National Education Association) launched this nostalgic week of reading in order to support their initiative of bettering public education, especially for elementary-age students. This organization has helped plan events such as school book clubs in order to promote reading at a young age. In addition to teachers, celebrities from across the nation have teamed up with the NEA to ensure a brighter future for America's youth. In 2010, first lady Michelle Obama read at the Library of Congress, and in 2011 Uma Thurman, Mark Ruffalo, and Keri Russell helped launch a Read Across America program at the New York Public Library.

Dr. Seuss is one of the most popular children's book authors in the United States. In total, Seuss wrote and illustrated 45 books, which sold over 650 million copies. In addition to his widespread popularity, he won many awards, including the Pulitzer Prize Special Citation Award and the Caldecott Medal. Surprisingly, though, his most popular works are those published prior to 1970, these being The Cat in the Hat, Green Eggs and Ham, and How the Grinch Stole Christmas! His pen name, however, dates back even further. The name Dr. Seuss, created in 1927, was actually a joking reference to his father who wanted him to become a doctor. Seuss's real name is Theodor Seuss Geisel.

While it may seem as though high schoolers have grown out of Seuss's wondrous stories, many still think of them as their favorite childhood books. "I read them to my brothers when they were little." Angelina Carsto, 10, states. "I liked the rhymes in them, even though they did not always make sense."

Aislynn Ney, 11, liked Dr. Seuss as a child because it brought her joy of reading to life. "They always bring a smile to a child," says the Hamburg junior. While Seuss passed away almost 20 years ago, his memory still lives on inside his creative works of art.

For more information on Read Across America Week and Dr. Seuss, please visit: <https://nationaltoday.com/national-read-across-america-day/> <https://priceonomics.com/the-statistical-dominance-of-dr-seuss/>



# Divergent Review

Orion Holl - 9

The 2014 film *Divergent* directed by Neil Burger keeps the action humming along with especially exciting sequences around the "war games" between teams of Dauntless and Tris' high-speed solo flight from the top of the deserted Hancock building through the city to the ground on a zip line. The performances by Shailene Woodley as Tris and Theo James as Four are so relaxed and open that we can empathize with both of them as they draw closer together. This is a 3 movie series and impactful single movies that leave you wanting to keep watching the series progressions. The first movie called Divergent, the second movie called Insurgent, and the last movie called Allegiant. As you keep reading below you will find a short preview of the film itself.

Beatrice Prior was born into the Abnegation faction. This faction has been given the reins of government and her father Andrew is an Abnegation official. Her mother Natalie and brother Caleb are both natural-born who get great satisfaction in serving others and helping those in need. When they are 16, the teenagers are given an aptitude test to show which faction they best fit in before being given the opportunity to choose their permanent faction. To her shock, Beatrice learns that her test results are inconclusive. They show she is "Divergent," a kind of multi-talented and rebellious individual who poses a threat to society. On Choosing Day, Caleb aligns himself with the Erudite clan, and Beatrice decides to become a member of the warrior class, Dauntless. Beatrice, who changes her name to Tris, is part of a small group of faction transfers given special training before they are initiated into Dauntless. Those who don't make the cut will be forced to leave and wander the streets as a "factionless". Desperate to prove herself and avoid that fate, Tris is the first to volunteer for the skyscraper trust fall. She does make some new friends, Christina, Will, and Al. When Four discovers that Tris can manipulate the simulations where she is forced to confront her fears, he realizes that she is Divergent and in grave danger. Meanwhile, the Erudite faction's leader, Jeanine Matthews is determined to destroy anybody who does not conform and exercises free will.



# The importance of choosing a music elective

Alison Gassert - 12

Although Hamburg Area High School is not a huge school, they have not let this affect their elective options - from anatomy and physiology to business fundamentals to AP Environmental to beginners ukulele. Teachers have worked hard to include aspects from all spectrums of education and there are a lot! Students are introduced to all of the electives at the end of each year, giving them a chance to pick one that interests them and unfortunately, it is usually the music electives that are overlooked.

These electives are beginning ukulele, beginning guitar, music major, piano 1-3, or music in our lives. Many people go all four years of high school without taking one music class, and this is a mistake made way too frequently. Of course it is important to take STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) classes, but one could argue that music classes are just as important.

Music classes have been shown to improve language skills by helping to develop the left side of the brain which deals with language and also increases a student's ability to learn a second language. Through further research, it has also been discovered that students who take music classes perform better on tests than students who do not by scoring 22% higher in English classes and 20% higher in math classes as well as standardized tests. On top of all of this, learning music or how to play an instrument has several mental health benefits. Students who do this statistically have more confidence and self-esteem which are key for future success and happiness. Playing music also helps to relieve stress, which in today's world is extremely important considering the Covid-19 pandemic. Also, creativity levels are boosted which will give students a better chance for success in the workforce because many companies look for employees who are creative and think outside of the box. If any of that was not persuasive enough, research has also shown that high school music classes increase graduation and attendance rates, which is a direct result of the benefit music classes provide students.

One of our own, Kacey La, who is a student at Hamburg Area High School said, "I took piano and it was one of those classes where I was able to relax and I love Mrs. Jackson so that was really cool." Kacey has taken piano classes at the high school with Mrs. Jackson and immensely enjoys the relaxing atmosphere her class creates. He is also a member of the National Honor Society and ranked in the top twenty of the senior class, which is sure to be very stressful, but taking a music class relieves this stress and helps him to stay successful.

High school is the place where students should get to try and experience all the different aspects of education teachers have to offer and music classes should never be overlooked. Music electives provide students with the tools for success and happiness that a typical STEM class cannot and I encourage every student who has the opportunity, to try their hand at ukulele, guitar, or piano because you will not regret it!



# Nickelodeon star Jojo Siwa comes out as gay

Gigi Doklan - 12

Joelle Joanie Siwa, better known by her nickname Jojo, is a famous dancer and performer who got her start on *Dance Moms*. Siwa was known for having a loud personality on the show, which caused tension between her and co-stars. However, it seems to have worked in her favor, as she currently has a contract with Nickelodeon for her multi-billion dollar brand, according to Siwa herself. She is mostly known as a mogul for her products, which are marketed toward younger children and include brightly colored accessories, toys, school supplies and more. Siwa also has a music career, where she holds concerts dancing to original songs. Because of her highly censored, kid friendly lifestyle, it was a shock when she told the world last week that she is a gay woman.

On January 21, 2021, Siwa posted a TikTok in which she lip syncs the lyrics to Lady Gaga's *Born This Way* with flashing rainbow lights around her. The video has now amassed almost 40 million views and 6 million likes. Many popular LGBT creators immediately showed their support for Siwa, commenting praise under her post. Others were unsure of the message, as Siwa does not explicitly comment on her sexuality in the video. In a follow up post, Siwa clarified that the original video was her coming out as gay, and she thanked fans for their support, stating "love is universal." Siwa's sent a strong message of acceptance to her young audience who may be struggling with their identities, using her platform for good.

Archer Thomas is not a fan of Jojo Siwa, but he is familiar with her. Archer remembers seeing Siwa's video and being happy that she was comfortable enough to share her identity with her audience. Archer comments, "It's great because the little kids that watch her will get the message that it's okay to be who you are." In conclusion, Siwa's coming out will positively impact the acceptance of kids coming out as LGBT.

To read another article about Jojo Siwa, click here <https://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/ct-life-jojo-siwa-comes-out-tt-soc-01252021-20210125-lzyb33bqm5getpmdpvsbpjz3a-story.html>



**211**  
 Pennsylvania  
 Get Connected. Get Help.™

United Way  
 of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania 211 is a great place to start. From help with a utilities bill, to housing assistance, after-school programs for kids, and more. **Dial 211** or **text your zip code to 898-211** to talk with a resource specialist for free.

Visit the **211 website** to explore programs available in our community.

### How NOT to wear a mask



## Is social media a positive outlet for teens anymore?

Emily Smith - 10

Swipe, Click, Like, Friend, Search; These are just some of the things that the human race does daily, especially when it involves younger generations on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. Technology in general has become increasingly prominent in the lives of young people more and more each year, whether it is introducing laptops into elementary school classrooms or even adapting certain apps into kid-friendly platforms, such as Messenger Kids created by Facebook. The thought of social media is a pleasant one at first; as who would not want a place to communicate with friends from a distance or see what their favorite Kardashian is up to? However, many have turned away from the trending apps because negativity has them feeling the technology blues.



Founded in 2004, Facebook was the original place to keep up with friends and family from across the nation. After all, the original mission statement from creator Mark Zuckerberg was, "To give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected." However, over the years, many have turned to the site to express their opinions on politics, religion, health, or any other topic that may create controversy, rather than simply liking a photo of their aunt's new puppy. 2.7 billion users later, and Facebook is dominating the social media competition. While this sounds pretty positive, it has allowed even more room for altercations to arrive because the easier it is to contact a person with a different view, the easier it is to create an argument. Adding children to sites like this now exposes them to cyberbullying, self-absorption, and the idea that arguing over the phone is an effective way to express an opinion, each of which are not necessarily a healthy influence on younger people.

In the following years, similar apps developed, like Twitter in 2006 and Instagram in 2010, each of which have offered the same source of disputes, and are even more popular among teenagers. According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 51% of teenagers visit social media sites daily. This means that over half of teens are being exposed to hate comments, photos that diminish the character of others, and videos that can be inappropriate, every single day. Is this the proper way of teaching children how to behave?

The majority of Hamburg Area High School students use social media sites and the opinions of these sites tend to be similar. "I don't like how easy it is to cyberbully," says Kamryn Smith, 11, "and also how it creates tons of insecurities because people only post when they look good or feel happy, making others feel like they or their life isn't good enough."

Emily Geib, 10, sees some positive uses of social media but does understand that there are some downsides. "I like that you can use it to communicate with a bunch of other people, but I dislike it because of all the cyberbullying." In an increasingly negative world, social media may not be the appropriate outlet as it was just a few years ago.

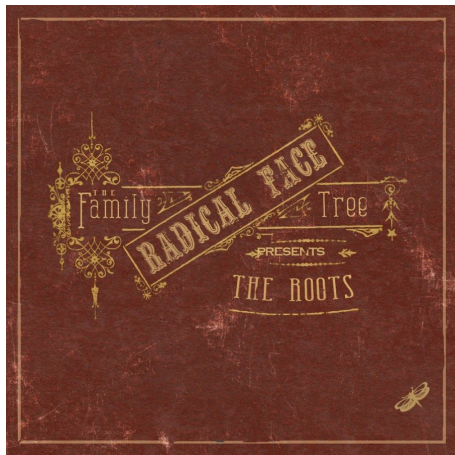
For more information, please visit:

<http://bit.ly/2NvhVkv>

<http://bit.ly/2MpgMdQ>

## Music Review: Radical Face

Orion Holl - 9



Hamburg Area High School should be introduced to more bands and more heart-felt music like the band *Radical Face*. Hamburg would do well with having music that tells stories, with intriguing music. This would be a great band to have an English class decipher what the true meaning of the song is. The class would be able to listen to great music and be able to find out the true meaning of this great piece of work.

The lead singer, Ben Cooper, produces his own thought out music. He gives music to people who play other instruments, but for the most part he is a one person band. In fact, Ben Cooper used to be an actor but later turned to singing and creating albums. The majority of his

music is based on his own life and his experiences, along with a few of his own stories, but with more fantasy. He even created a family tree of people created with songs for each one of the family members. Hamburg students should definitely try out these songs, even though these songs may not reach out to many students hopefully some find this music great. Having ever heard a song by him most people would have probably heard, *Welcome Home*. The most popular song he has written. To find more of his songs just go on to Youtube and search up *Radical Face*, and many songs will show up.

The type of music he produces is folk. Most music created in present day may seem like it has so much meaning and effort put into it. But once people have listened to one of these songs there was a drastic change. Listening to music and most songs of this age a chorus repeating itself is really often. Well, when listening to *Radical Face's* music the chorus appears once, if not at all because he may not even add a chorus.

A particular song that really stuck out was the song called *Severus and Stone*. Though his words are simple he puts them into a way unlike any other. This song for example is telling you about a ghost brother so called. Talking about his boney hands and his breathing like the wind along the night.

Many words could describe how this song makes him/her feel, and nothing bad comes from trying out new music.



## Album/CD re-view: *Your City Gave Me Asthma*

Wyatt Holl - 11

What many think of when they hear the word album, is a series of songs placed with in a playlist created by a band. The band may have up to, or more than four members, excluding producers, managers, publicists, and booking agents. However, rarely do we see an album such as, *Your City Gave Me Asthma*, be so successful and get released by just one single person making their own music without any help.

Will Gold, a 24 year old British musician, better known as Wilbur Soot on YouTube, is the individual responsible for developing such a success. Will started out his musical career only four years ago when he was 20 years old, picking up the guitar for the first time. Through perseverance and determination, he was able to gain the musical talents necessary to appeal to a broad audience. Just six months into learning guitar he released a video of his first ever song on YouTube. Though not an initial hit, it paved the way for many of his future videos and songs that would be successful. Many of Will's songs in this album are based on his real life experiences, from lost crushes in high school, to the city he lived in for many years, London. The style of music is best considered as homemade indie that is based around unique acoustic/vocal elements that brings the music to life. Every lyric evokes emotion and every verse is beautifully sung with meaning.

*Your City Gave Me Asthma*, starts off with the song, *Jubilee Line*, that slowly increases in power throughout. The song consists of Will's vocals along with a custom acoustic guitar pattern. By the end of the song, the intensity increases dramatically into a punk rock like chorus. Lyrically, it can be speculated that it is in the first person perspective of the singer where he explains the relationship between himself and his home London. The vocalist is clearly desperate, and yearns to escape the dreadful feeling of being locked in the city. He uses London's underground railway system, the jubilee line, as a metaphor to an invisible barrier surrounding him as seen from the lyrics, "*There's a reason London puts barriers on the tube line.*"

Another song in the album, *Since I Saw Vienna*, is a song that maintains a sad, soft, and mellow toned vibe from start to finish. Will sings about how he is nothing compared to the one he loves. The lyrics, "*The cute bomber jacket you've had since sixth form, Adorned with patches of places you've been,*" is Will explaining what the girl he loved used to wear and how he is attracted to her. Also in the lyrics, "*I'm not a man of substance, and so I'll pretend,*" is Will explaining how he does not have the substances needed to appeal to her standards so he will instead pretend to be someone he is not.

Lastly, the song, *Your Sister Was right*, also holds a deeper meaning than what may be initially inferred. Will sings about how he can no longer love anymore, perhaps after a failed relationship from over obsessive behavior. The lyrics, "*I can't find the perfect match, Abuse those I love, While I ostracize the ones who love me,*" represent how he cannot maintain a healthy relationship and the struggles his mind faces when he is in one. The character being portrayed ignores those who truly love him and persists to impress those who do not. *Your Sister Was Right*, musically starts off quite soft, but after a short period of time, very quickly becomes aggressive and drops straight into a long chorus. Often, Will's songs relate heavily to problems the youth of today face such as abusive relationships, feeling trapped, and in some cases, dangerous online activity.

To listen to Will's/Wilbur's music and sample his talent please visit [www.YouTube.com/WilburSoot](http://www.YouTube.com/WilburSoot), for not only his songs but also the other various content he posts to the public.



Academic Challenge team is now 2 and 0. These young men beat Antietam on February 25, in a nail-biting close match, with a final score of 14-12

Please congratulate these individuals when you next see them:

Matthew Frantz

Evan Grim

Kacey La

Cail Schrack

Austin Swartley (who served as Captain)





# New technology advances due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Alison Gassert - 12

Along with the beginning of a new year, one can expect several new technological advances to arise and with the world still suffering the effects of a pandemic, these advances are expected to aid the fight against Covid-19. Among other things, the drug industry has had a massive shakeup which promoted further research and development within the industry. This allowed for more efficient drug trials and provided speedy Covid-19 test kit developments all over the world, as well as the development of mRNA vaccines (Covid-19 vaccines), which are the first in human history and huge technological advancements.



Another technological advancement related to the pandemic is continued expansion of remote working and video conferencing. New companies such as Bluescape, Eloops, Figma, Slab, and Tandem are joining the bandwagon and have also created visual collaboration platforms. Also resulting from the pandemic, contactless delivery and shipping is predicted to remain as the new normal for 2021, which will greatly benefit companies, such as DoorDash, Postmates, Instacart, GrubHub, and Uber Eats. On top of this, some parts of the world like China are implementing contactless delivery through the use of autonomous vehicles to help fulfill grocery orders to customers. There are a few U.S. based companies that are working on doing the same thing using robotics and artificial intelligence-based applications.

With institutions related to health care pushing to lower the exposure of Covid-19 to patients and workers, many private and public practices telehealth offerings such as doctor-patient video chats. There has also been development of A.I. avatar-based diagnostics and no-contact based medication delivery. This has caused a 50% rise in telehealth visits in comparison to pre-pandemic statistics, which can be linked to public companies such as Teladoc Health, Amwell, Livongo Health, One Medical, and Humana. All of these companies continue to expand to meet the growing needs of today's society.

As for the youth of the current generation, Covid-19 has fast-tracked the e-learning and online learning industry. Because of the pandemic, 190 countries had to enforce nationwide school closures at some point, which affected nearly 1.6 billion people around the world. This promoted conducting classes via videoconferencing using various methods for schools, colleges, and even some coaching centers. This has made online learning much more popular because it allows for kids to stay home if they need to for safety reasons without compromising their education.

Hamburg Area High School has been taking full advantage of this new technology by implementing virtual learning on days that it is not safe for the students to be in school. Teachers are able to hold zoom meetings for their students and teach virtually, which would not be possible without the technological advancements due to the pandemic. Emily Martin, a student at Hamburg, gives her opinion on virtual learning, "It allows me to work independently and at my own pace. And the teachers are very flexible, which enhances my virtual learning experience." Another student from the Hamburg high school, Evan Grim, states, "Although nothing replaces in-person learning, virtual is a great compromise in dealing with the new restrictions we find ourselves needing to abide by. The school faculty and administrators have done an excellent job in not only making sure everyone has access to the internet, but that their students are not left behind in the new online setting." Lastly, Sarah Kramer, another student of Hamburg High, says, "Virtual learning allows me to work from the comfort of my home! I can work at my own pace which helps me stay on top of my assignments. The teachers have also been very understanding if something happens to go wrong with the internet at our homes."

The pandemic was unforeseen and in many cases, the world was not prepared for the effect it would have on today's society, but these technological advancements are a big step in the right direction for the economy to rebuild by creating the tools that will help keep people safe while also providing them with everything they need.

# RuPaul's Drag Race enters its 13th season

Gigi Doklan - 12

The 13th season of reality television competition series *RuPaul's Drag Race* has just begun. The first episode aired on the first of January 2021, and is currently on its sixth competitive episode. Fans of the show know that it is full of twists and turns, and this season is no exception. The season kicked off by sorting the queens into a winning and losing group, depending on the outcome of six lip sync battles. In the following two episodes, each group performed on the main stage separately before being brought together. Kahmora Hall was the first eliminated queen of the season, leaving on episode four.



In the following two episodes, performers Joey Jay and Tamisha Iman were eliminated from the competition after being voted off by the judges. One notable queen is Kandy Muse, whose loud personality stirs up drama on the show. This is mostly shown off in the "behind the scenes" spinoff *Untucked*, which airs directly after the main show. *RuPaul's Drag Race* airs every Friday at 9pm EST on VH1, with a weekly viewership of nearly 1 million people.

A few queens have already made their mark on the competition as frontrunners. Symone and Olivia Lux have both earned two wins on the show so far, proving their prowess in acting challenges. These queens' runway looks are also notable because they celebrate elements of black culture. Particularly Symone's look in episode six, which is made entirely of hair beads. Another queen to watch is Gottmik, who is the first trans man to be featured on the show.

For more information on *RuPaul's Drag Race*, go to <http://www.vh1.com/shows/rupauls-drag-race>

# Don't Miss Medici

Justin Hoy - 11



*Medici* is a TV Show which displays captivating political intrigue or situations, political and economic corruption, and interesting sculpted art within a historical time period. This historical drama describes semi-historical events that occurred during this time in that region to the family. The family continues to gain power and influence over the city and region through its successful banking system, assisted by the influence of supportive factitious Popes in the Catholic faith (Rome), an increased respect by the people through economic success, and increased infrastructure and artistic architecture (which assists with their own reputation and people's opinion of them in the region) which is funded by their influential banking system as well.

The series was created by Frantz Sponitz in 2016, financially supported by *Netflix*. The show's production budget, for the first season, was around 24.2 million dollars (average estimates) and included eight episodes (which is the same amount of episodes for each season). The series was, mainly, filmed in the central Italian region of the historical setting and uses present-day Florence (with the exceptions of CGI exempting certain modern buildings). Although somewhat accurate with its setting with historical events that occur, there were a few buildings that were built after the setting of the story. Other than certain buildings not necessarily being historically in the story at that specific time period, the political situations and actions by the Medici family members is somewhat accurate, although dramatized for television.

The first season of the entire series is named *Medici: Masters of Florence*, depicting the first notable and recognizable historical person within the family named Cosimo de' Medici (or also called Cosimo the Elder). The season explains, within the first 2-3 episodes, the setting of the story, the family's situation in Florence, and the description of the characters like Cosimo. This person, considered the most influential Medicine for political and economic effects of the region during his life, is explained to love and enjoy the arts of a reinvigoration of Roman and Greek culture including music, literature, art, etc. After his fathers suspicious and sudden death, Cosimo becomes the leading member of his family's bank, gaining political influence in the council of Florence and becoming a prominent political figure in the city of Florence and the entire region of central Italy through his increase of trade in the region. Although corruptly benefiting his own bank through increased trade and financial investments, he invests some of his wealth into benefiting the people of Florence through artistic funding, literacy improvements, and a cultural revitalization, which is all fun died due to his continued interests in the arts and his generosity). The story then explains familial issues with marriages and other political situations within the city due to competing families wanting to gain political influence over the Medici from resentment of their economic gain and the lessening of their economic prosperity (wanting and motivated by economic gain). Although very immoral with his political gain, and his reaction towards certain political and economic competitors that threaten his political influence in Florence, Cosimo is considered one of the most influential people in that region at that time due to his increased interests of trade with foreign regions or nations, interests in the arts, and generosity towards funding certain projects within the city which benefits the people living their, all affecting the continuation and increase of the Renaissance through his funding of interests.

The second and third seasons of the series describe the life of Lorenzo de' Medici (Cosimo's grandson), becoming a prominent and influential person within Italian politics at the time and continuing the Medici tradition of banking and interests in trade (for personal economic gain). The second season mainly describes Lorenzo attempting to get out of his father's awful agreements with certain people, banks, businesses, nations, and art projects which has almost bankrupted their treasury and saved money. After his father's death, he attempts to save the bank through getting out of those agreements, politically and sometimes through threatening people physically. After stabilizing the bank's financial situation and gaining more wealth and political influence in the city, he then competes with rival family factions in the city for political influence. The rest of the season explains the rivalry between the two families for control over Florence and want of political, economic, and reputational gain (their own legacy). During the Pazzi Conspiracy, the rival family attempts to kill Lorenzo and the Medici family although only killing his brother. The plot is discovered and the accused are killed by a brutal hanging. This action shows the continued decrease of morality and personal motivation of Medici economic gain, political supremacy, and a personal legacy (potentially better than his predecessors). The third season then explains the political issues within the region, ending with Lorenzo dying which is the end of the entire series.

For more information visit: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5057130/>



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, 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.