



Hazleton Area High School
1601 W. 23rd Street
Hazle Township, PA 18201

April 2016

Cougar Chit-Chat

Red Is the New Black

by Vicky Neira

Ouch! You're looking at the red tube coming out of your arm, is this really worth the pain? Yes! Geisinger came to our very own gymnasium for a blood drive. Many students from the high school and the career center came to donate blood, but why did they?

The process is quite complex, actually. There are many steps to take before the needle goes in the arm. First, donors must register and give their information. Then the next step is to perform a mini physical, checking blood pressure, iron levels, weight, pulse, temperature, etc. If all goes well, the donor may proceed to the phlebotomy section, to draw blood.

Students were interviewed about the concept of donating blood. The first student interviewed was William Bennett, he felt that donating blood was the right thing to do. When asked how he felt after, emotionally, he said "I just feel like I'm helping others, and it reminds me that I'm fortunate enough to be able to donate." This was his first time donating and he will do it again.

Another student interviewed was Hope Kinney. She stated "I mean there is nothing better than saving lives, and knowing you're giving back to your community." Hope, like the average person, gets a little queasy at the needle going into her arm, "It freaks me out"

she claims. After the process of donating, Hope says "I feel great about myself after, knowing someone who really needs it is going to get use out of it" She will be definitely be donating again.

Katie Gregasavitch was also interviewed. She had a bad experience at the last blood drive, which made her very nervous for this one. "I almost fainted last time, but I made sure to eat a lot before I went." Katie had an interesting response, "My blood type gives to all different blood types, that was my blood benefits anybody." This was her second time and she states "of course I will be donating again!"

The last interviewee was the director of Geisinger, Mike Quint. He had so much great to say about the organization. "Geisinger started collecting blood July 24th, 2012. We are a local organization and supply all the blood to health centers in the area." He also gave a statistic that 39% of the population is eligible to donate blood, but only 5% do. Mike feels very strongly about donating blood, and after the procedure, he compares the act "it is like going to church, you feel good about yourself after. Finally he quoted "a little blood goes a long way, just donate today!"

So maybe the needle is not as bad as you think. After all, blood drives are a wonderful thing. They show that the community can unite as one to help others who can benefit from blood.



Photo picstitch by Vicky Neira

Enthusiastic HAHS students participate in the Geisinger Blood Drive.

Cougar Players Go "Into the Woods"

by Anastacia Krone

Kendall Sosar is a senior student who has been in the drama club since she was a freshman. She may be recognized from "The Crucible," "High School Musical," "West Side

Story," and "Grease" along with eleven others! She is playing the role of the first evil stepsister, "Lucinda" in "Into the Woods." When asked about her favorite part of the play, she says, "Can't give too much away, but the end of the show is incredible." Kendall is feeling confident about her upcoming role.

Josh Plesce is an eleventh grade student.

He has been in the drama club for two years, and has been in multiple productions; "Much Ado About Nothing," "West Side Story," and "High School Musical" to name a few. As "Jack" in "Into the Woods", he is most excited about his coming of age song, "Giants in the Sky." Josh feels very confident in his upcoming role.

Brenna Fulk has been in the drama club for two years, and is a senior student. She is playing the second evil stepsister, "Florina" in "Into the Woods." She has been in many high school productions, such as "Peter Pan," "The Crucible," "Much Ado About Nothing," "West Side Story," "A Christmas Carol," and "Cinderella." Brenna's favorite part about the upcoming musical is the finale, and she is feeling good about her upcoming role.

Ron Miller is a senior and has been in the

drama club for four years. He is playing "the Baker" in "Into the Woods." He has been in multiple other plays, such as "Sweeny Todd," "Hello Dolly," "Carrie the Musical," "42nd Street," "The Addams Family," and "West Side Story." His favorite part about the upcoming play is Cinderella's prince! Ron is feeling confident about his upcoming role.

As the result of the curse cast by a once-beautiful witch, a baker and his wife cannot have children. Three days before the magic blue moon, they venture into the woods to find ingredients that will reverse the spell and restore the witch's beauty: hair as yellow as corn, a pure-white cow, a golden slipper, and a cape as red as blood. During their journey, they meet Little Red Riding Hood, Jack, Rapunzel, and Cinderella, each one on a quest of their own. Will they all fulfill their wishes in time?

HAHS' Top Priority: Safety

by Tracy Vasquez

HAHS is a normal high school similar to others locally. Day in and day out, time is devoted to academics, health/wellness, life skills, teamwork, morale, and school safety. Yet, recently, some changes have been questioned concerning the implementation of new safety measures.

Fortunately, actual fights and bullying is not as common in the halls. Additional cameras, a fresh approach to school safety, and positive leadership have all contributed to making this school safer and more secure.

Upon entering, you must pass

security; it doesn't matter who you are. You may or may not be required to walk through the metal detectors and have any personal items screened.

Aside from the metal detectors, security guards, district police officers, and student resource officers join together with administrators, teachers, and other school staff to ensure student safety. Leading the way, newly-appointed Hazleton Area School District Chief-of-Police, Mr. Ed Harry, comes with innovative ideas to fulfill his duties. After a successful career in community law enforcement, he will be responsible for all district schools.

A 10th grader said, "Students should feel confident enough to approach a security guard with an issue or concern;

after all, it's their [security guard's] job."

So, clearly establishing a rapport with students is integral to a preventative approach to school safety. If security staff are aware and "in the loop" concerning crowded sections of hallways, groups congregating in specific areas, and conflicting cliques and groups, it will be easier to take a proactive approach should something occur.

While interviewing Mathew Powell, he said "I do feel safe. There is more security around the school and in the cafeteria. Fewer fights are happening. I believe the high school is secure enough, and security is doing their job keeping this school safe."

HAHS

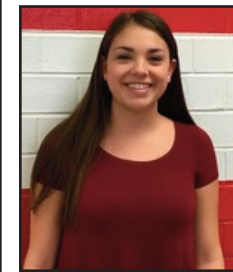
Alma Mater

Stand together one and all
Pride & Honor Heed our Call
Silver Crimson Colors raise our
Alma Mater Praise
Loyal Friendships can be found
Rich traditions will abound
Raise our voices loud & clear
for Alma Mater Dear

Meet The Teachers!

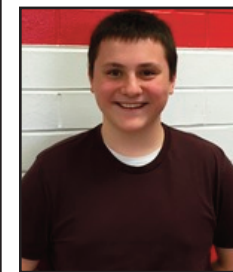
Meet The Students!

by Thomas A. Holoidick
 Students were asked the following questions, in which their responses follow.
 Birthday-
 What grade are you in? -
 What is your favorite subject? -
 What are your interests outside of school? -
 What is something we should know about you?



Angela LaRose

I was born on Oct. 26, 1997. I am a senior at HAHS. My favorite subject is English. I enjoy theater, dance, and piano. Everyone should know that "I'm the real Sandra Dee."



Ryan Williams

I was born on Jul. 11, 2000. I am a sophomore at HAHS. My favorite subject is English. I enjoy the theater, dance, and ice skating. Everyone should know that my nickname is "Baby J."



Taylor Prehotsky

I was born on Jul. 30, 1998. I am a senior at HAHS. My favorite subject is English. I enjoy key club, Netflix, Dunkin, and half priced appetizers. Everyone should know that I love my job.



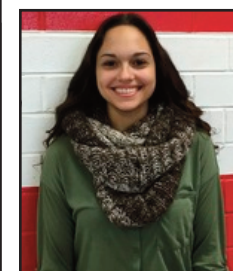
Joey Bayzick

I was born on Sept. 19, 1997. I am a senior at HAHS. My favorite subject is calculus. I enjoy baseball and football. Everyone should know that "I can't remember my own birthday."



Caitlin Ward

I was born on Dec. 8, 1997. I am a senior at HAHS. My favorite subject is physics. I enjoy field hockey and snowboarding. Everyone should know that my favorite color is green.



Nicole Berezna

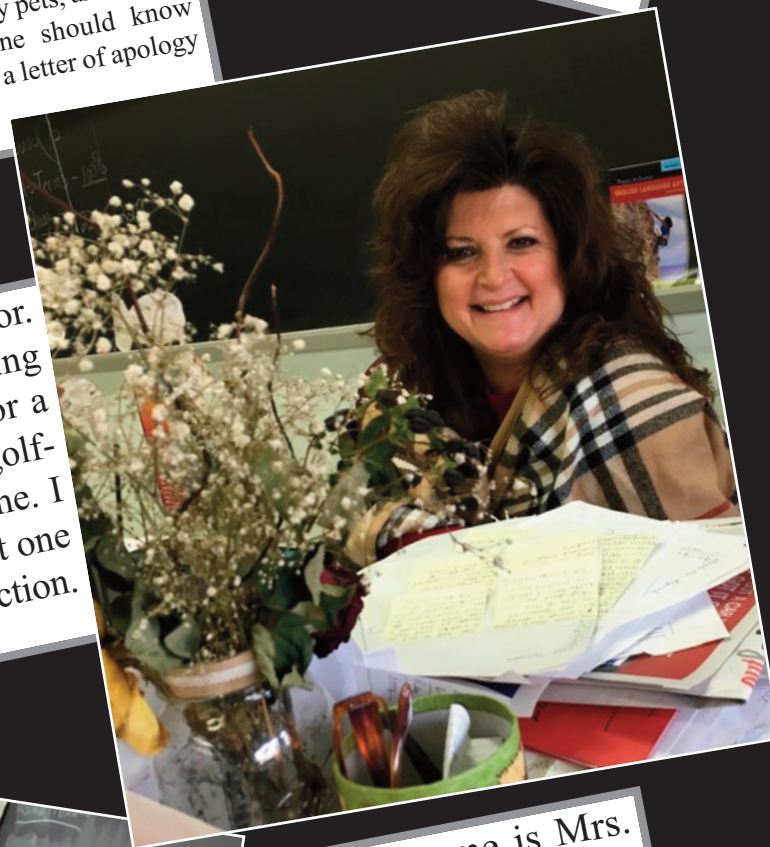
I was born on Apr. 3, 1998. I am a senior at HAHS. My favorite subject is lunch. I enjoy dance and shopping. Everyone should know that I watch Spongebob at least once a night.



Teachers were asked the following questions, in which their responses follow.
 Birthday
 What subjects do you teach?
 How many years have you been teaching?
 What are your interests outside of school?
 What is something we should know about you?



My name is Mrs. Janet Gasser. I was born on Aug. 23. I teach history. I have been teaching for a total of 22 years. I enjoy spending time with my family, my pets, and scrapbooking. Everyone should know that I had to write a letter of apology to Madam Sadat.



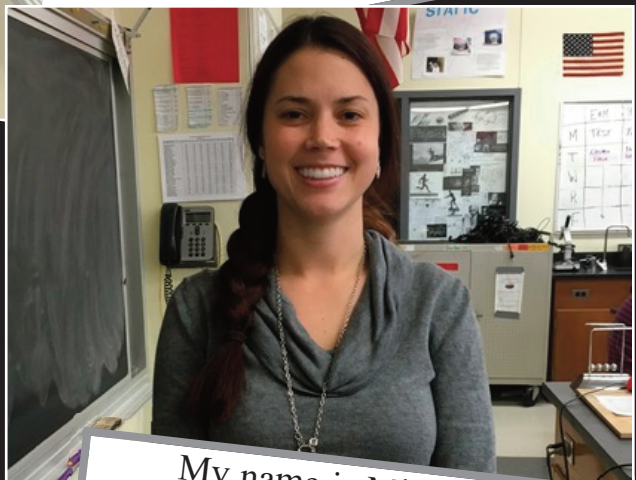
My name is Mrs. Deborah Victor. I was born on Jul. 7. I teach reading strategies. I have been teaching for a total of 32 years. I enjoy reading, golfing, and cooking in my spare time. I feel everyone should have at least one Led Zeppelin album in their collection.



My name is Mrs. Robin Frask. I was born on Apr. 27. I teach biology. I have been teaching for way too long (about 20 years)! I love reading, painting, and watching TV. Everyone should know that I love turtles.



My name is Mrs. Karen Olin. I was born on Jul. 14. I teach chemistry and occasionally math. I have been teaching for a total of fourteen and a half years. I enjoy spending time with my grandchildren and dancing. Everyone should know that I love my job.

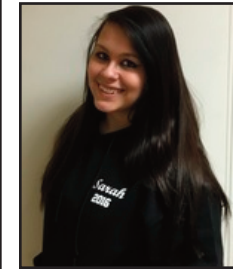


My name is Miss Ashley Denison. I was born on Aug. 14. I teach biology. I have been teaching for a total of three years. I enjoy volleyball, bowling, and sports. Everyone should know that I used to be an exterminator.

Meet The Teachers!

Meet The Students!

by Thomas A. Holoidick
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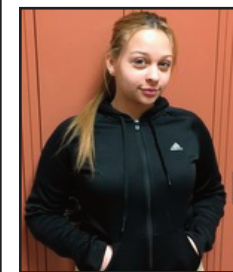
Sarah Scintilla

I was born on Jul. 6, 1998. I am a senior at the HACC. My favorite subject is math. I enjoy taking road trips and applying makeup. Everyone should know that I laugh a lot.



Ashley Harris

I was born on Mar. 26, 1998. I am a senior at the HACC. My favorite subject is environmental biology. I love spending time with my boyfriend, Aaron, cheerleading and going on adventures. Everyone should know that I am a very friendly and enthusiastic person.



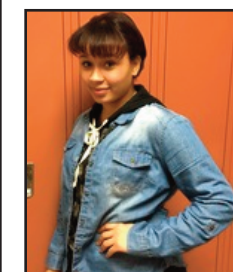
Michell Rojas

I was born on Aug. 2, 1999. I am a junior at the HACC. My favorite subject is English. I love working, dancing, and being on my phone. Everyone should know that I am a shy person but, once you get to know me I am friendly, funny, and outgoing.



Dakota Near

I was born on Apr. 21, 1999. I am a junior at the HACC. My favorite subject is physiology. I enjoy music, writing, and my cell phone. Everyone should know that I am a very outgoing and friendly person.



Brianna Perez

I was born on Sept. 27, 1998. I am a senior at the HACC. My favorite subject is science. I love spending time at the gym. Everyone should know that I am an outspoken person and obsess over elephants.



Angel Alvarez

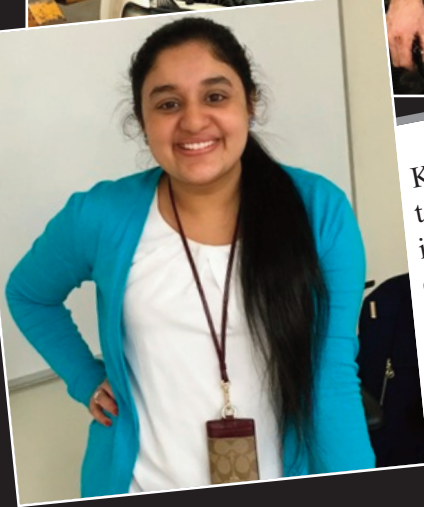
I was born on Jan. 3, 1998. I am a senior at the HACC. My favorite subject is history. I enjoy running and basketball. Everyone should know that I love Spanish food.

Teachers were asked the following questions, in which their responses follow.
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 What subjects do you teach?
 How many years have you been teaching?
 What are your interests outside of school?
 What is something we should know about you?

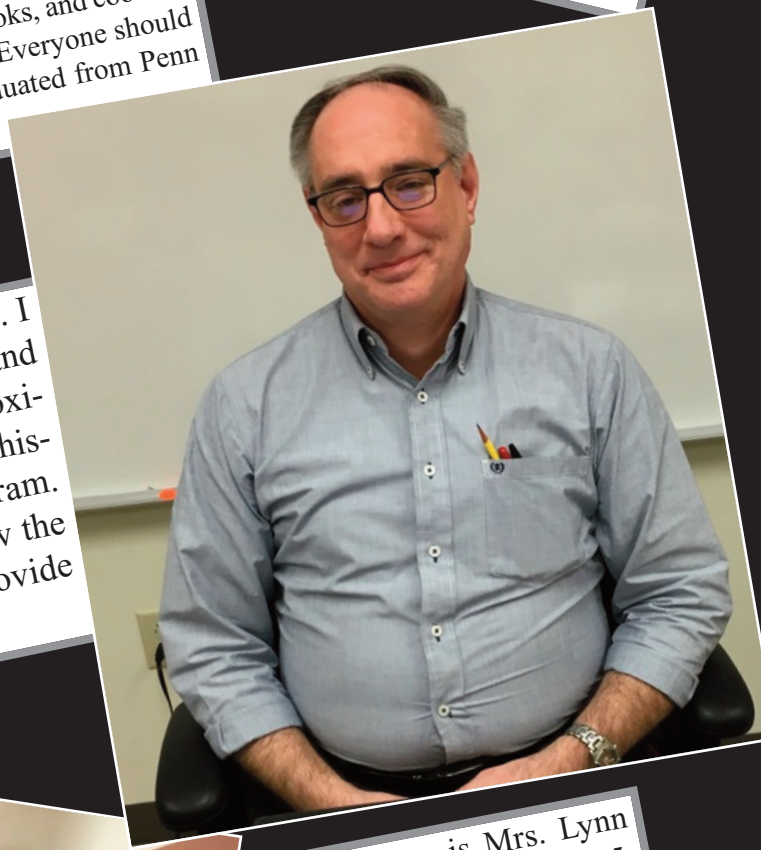
My name is Mr. Larry DeBello. My birthday is Oct. 7. I teach automotive technology. I have been teaching for a total of 34 years. I enjoy riding my harley, hunting, and traveling. Everyone should know that I have been happily married for 20 years "to my lovely wife."



My name is Miss Hurpreet Kaur. I was born on Dec. 3. I teach algebra. I have been teaching for a total of two years. I enjoy movies, books, and cooking in my free time. Everyone should know that I graduated from Penn State.



My name is Mr. Christopher Zahay. I was born on Aug. 22. I teach history and civics. I have been teaching for approximately 20 years. I enjoy presidential history, politics and the space program. Everyone should know that I follow the rules and am strict in class but provide an enjoyable time.



My name is Mrs. Lynn Frumkin. I was born on Jul. 25. I teach childcare. I have been teaching for a total of 14 years. I enjoy walking, traveling, and reading. Everyone should know that I have the two "cutest dogs," Buddy is a yellow lab and oliver is a rescue dog with a mixed breed of lapsso apso and maltese.



My name is Mr. Chris Peiser. My birthday is Mar. 9. I teach broadcasting. I have been teaching for a total of 6 years (too long). I enjoy music and filming. Everyone should know that "Information is on a need to know basis...don't worry about it."



My name is Mr. Brooks Boettger. I was born on Jan. 29. I teach health and physical education. I have been teaching for a total of eight years. I enjoy golfing, hiking, and hanging out with my family. Everyone should know that I am an avid University of Michigan fan. Go blue!

Keystones

by Isabelle Ruggiero
and Sarah Wech

By now, all students at Hazleton Area High School are familiar with the high-stakes tests from the state called the Keystone Exams. Keystone testing came into effect in 2012 requiring the class of 2017 and on to pass in order to graduate.

With this new change, only the graduating classes of 2016 and forward were required to do a graduation project. In the past 4 years, the number of Pennsylvania Students who scored "proficient" or "advanced" has decreased. The Pennsylvania Department of Education confirms the drop but will not provide specifics information on the material.

In a letter sent to superintendents, Education Secretary Pedro Rivera anticipated backlash at the community level.

"We understand there are secondary impacts of these scores, and we're committed to helping you the state's educators, school administrators, and stakeholders in improving student achievement and communicating the

new assessments and the results in your communities."

Although students and teachers from HAHS had a different idea and approach on Keystone testing. Junior David McCarthy was asked how he felt about not having to pass the keystones in order to graduate. He responded that he was happy about the changes even though he passed them, although it's not fair to past seniors who had to do something in order to graduate. When asked whether he would prefer a graduation project or keystones he said a graduation project because it benefits the community.

"It seems as if my class was stuck in a buffer zone between graduation projects and Keystones, and we got off easy," according to McCarthy.

David's classmate Silvio Reyes agrees that the changes were good although it's unfair to past seniors. He would prefer keystones but thinks a

"If the trend is doing away with standardized tests, then yes, do away with it. It's not representative of the student's ability."

- Mrs. Caccese and Miss DePierro

graduation project is good for the community.

Shamel Ellis and Erik Lindsey both like the idea of not having to pass Keystones. They think a graduation project is less stressful.

To receive a different outlook on the topic, teachers from HAHS were interviewed.

Mr. Turri thinks that in their current form, Keystone Exams are far from ideal. He thinks all classes should have to do a graduation project. Although Keystones may help academical-

ly, community service is a good idea. For more information, Mr. Petrone added his input. He believes there is a good side to counting Keystones as a requirement because it gives more of a reason for students to try harder and do better. The negative side is that he doesn't want any added pressure on the students at Hazleton Area High School. Because he likes

the idea of both Keystones and a graduation project, he thinks students should know ahead of time, so they have time to meet and complete the requirements.

English teachers Mrs. Caccese and Miss DePierro agree that, "If the trend is doing away with standardized tests, then yes, do away with it. Plus, these tests are not necessarily representative of the student's ability."

Miss DePierro thinks community service is important and would much rather a graduation project.

Mrs. Caccese thinks students should focus on academics, and so many kids already work part-time jobs so they may not have the time for their community service. She also stated that if Keystones are going to be a requirement, the student should only have to show improvement in their scores.

William Bennett, Kimberly Brito, and Eli Echavarria, would like to see the underclassmen participate in some kind of activity whether it may community service or some kind of standardized testing.

Passing Keystones Postponed by PA Legislators

by Alex Flynn

The Keystone Exams have been a source of criticism and stress for thousands of students in the Hazleton Area School District alone, but one bill just passed by the Pennsylvania Legislature provides relief for two years. Senate Bill 880 kills the Project Based Assessments.

This bill also has ended the graduation requirement of the Keystone Exam that has threatened the graduation of many students for even a narrow failure of half of one Keystone Exam.

The relief is welcome for the many critics of these high-stakes exams, including State Senator Andy Dinniman, who helped craft the bill with Senate Education Committee Chairman Lloyd Smucker. After eight months of constant committee referrals and delays, Senate Bill 880 received its final vote of concurrence to a House committee amendment in the Pennsylvania Senate on January 20th, 2016.



One question that might come to mind would be "Was it close?" or "Was it a controversial vote?" The answer is no. Debate on the measure took less than 40 minutes, with only three Senators speaking, all slamming the practice of the Keystones on the Senate floor.

Senator Dinniman exclaimed, "It was a bad policy... yet it continued!" referring to the implementation of the Keystones.

This was followed by passage by a unanimous vote of 49-0. As the new and often confusing process of administration of the Keystone

Exams is further studied, the requirement for passing the Keystone Exams in order to graduate is no longer in effect for the classes of 2017 and 2018, and the use of Project Based Assessments is also placed on hold for the same classes.

HAHS Guidance

Mrs. Turse: STEM



I advise schedules, scholarships, special education, parent teacher conferences, social and emotional needs. Experiencing and watching students grow as people becoming adults. Plus, I am obsessed with Madonna.

Mr. Teter: 11th grade



I help students succeed. I get the opportunity to know and learn about the junior class. I scored the 1st run for the cougars on the Joe Madden Field and recorded the first out defensively. I help students overcome personal issues, plan and prepare for SATs and their future, and I help students prepare for their life after education.

Mrs. Stetz: 10th grade



I help students with academic issues, peer relations, family issues, scheduling, college applications, and anything else. The biggest benefit of my job is the lifelong relationships I have developed with my students. It is fulfilling to share their successes and to watch them grow. I am an artist who loves to dance!

Mrs. Hopkins: STEM



Assists students with academic and personal career issues, scheduling, future planning, events to help students prepare for college, meet with parents and help students stay on track to graduate. It is rewarding to see students succeed...make connections with them. Loves to sneeze (feels good) and loves elephants.

Get to Know Your Guidance Counselors

Learn more About the Counselors who Help Throughout the HAHS School District

by Amber Spahn

School counselors help guide students by providing academic, career, and college readiness. They play a vital role in maximizing the success of students. The work of Guidance counselors often goes unnoticed; they not only guide each individual, but they also help students plan for their future endeavors. They plan and prepare students for SATs, Financial Aid, applying for college, organize scholarships, and other post-graduation like the military or job opportunities. What many students in this school take for granted is that the guidance counselors at Hazleton Area High School go above and beyond for their students. There are few high school guidance counselors that take the time out of their

Mr. Samoyedny: Guidance Department Chair

by Amber Spahn

I'm a support person. I coordinate the department and keep them up to date with current school district and guidance information and strategies to help the secondary counselors do their jobs the best they can. I also help out with student caseloads, mostly in ninth and twelfth grades.

The absolute most beneficial thing about my job is that I get to know lots of great kids personally and see them develop into fantastic young adults over the four years that I am privileged to work with and help them. And I get to do that every day!

I'll give you two. When students ask me what college I attended, I always tell them, "Iona College." Then they look at me oddly. Sometimes I try to keep the humor

going for (sometimes) too long. (It's a liberal arts school in New York.) Also, my last name is derived from Siberian people. They were reindeer herders and miners. They also used the white dogs for work help and companionship.

I have a great job. I get to meet many interesting people in the world of college readiness -- admissions representatives, financial aid people -- and student emotional health experts. I also get to work with administrators in the school district to help create helpful programs for our students. I'm also the coordinator for different kinds of testing that students usually have to take



Photo by Amber Spahn

Mr. Sam is all smiles as he conducts scheduling presentations in the HAHS Library!



Photo by Sarah Wech

Buzzing with activity! Pictured left to right: Anthony Palaggi, Isaiah Santiago, and Mrs. Ustonofski.

work day to help high school seniors with the confusing college application process. They make phone calls, e-mails, and fax over student information. At other schools, the student themselves have to do this. The students here at Hazleton Area High School greatly appreciate the constant hard work that

the counselors do for our student body on a day-to-day basis. Each Guidance Counselor at HAHS was asked the following questions. What are your jobs as Guidance Counselor? What is most beneficial about your job? What is an interesting fact about you? What do you do uniquely for your grade level?

HAHS Guidance

Mrs. Papa: 12th Grade

Support students, academics, social issues, emotional, and career. Help all students with after high school plans, organize scholarships, send out transcripts, sending college applications, writing letters of recommendation, enter grades for new students, track failing students, truancy, behavioral issues, help with graduation. Being able to help and hope it makes a difference in someone's life. The students keep me on my toes and teach me new things all the time. I love being around them, their energy is contagious. I am 100% Nicaraguan and grew up in Hell's Kitchen in NYC and taught kickboxing and step aerobics for many years. Plan the college/career fair and help the awards ceremony, organize scholarships, and plan financial aid programs.



Mrs. Davis: 9th Grade

Mrs. Davis loves her job helping students with academic, social, and emotional needs. The most beneficial aspect of her job is the satisfaction she gets from helping others. A unique aspect of her job as 9th grade counselor is that she helps set up student visits to the Career Center. One thing to know about Mrs. Davis is that she is very involved in her kids' activities and says, "My kids are my life."



Secretaries Mrs. Latella and Mrs. Ustonofski

The secretaries maintain student records and have the opportunity to help students reach their goals such as college acceptance. Mrs. Latella brings therapy dogs into the classrooms throughout the district to help students who are struggling with their schoolwork to lower their inhibitions and excel in school. Mrs. Ustonofski likes cats, and Christmas is her favorite holiday! Both Mrs. Latella and Mrs. Ustonofski have a strong desire to help others.



THE BIG FIVE, 2016



Mr. Tony Conston

"Don't just think about yourself. Think about those around you and try to be both a well-rounded and respectful individual."

12th Grade Vice Principal

"Tony Baloney Macaroni"
"A.C. and T.C."

Born in Philadelphia, PA, Mr. Conston was nicknamed Tony Baloney Macaroni in 1st and 2nd grade, and A.C./T.C. during high school and college.

According to Mr. Conston, his father had the most influence to him as a child, "He worked for the U.S. Government at the Naval Aviation Office, and I watched him leave every morning wearing a suit, and I wanted to do the same thing."

He studied English at Mansfield University, and then went for Administration at Wilkes University. He left college at the age of 20 in order to work full time, but was unfortunately fired later after losing his temper on numerous occasions; this prompted his return to col-

lege.

"I tell this story to my students who end up in my office for displaying poor judgement," he says. "It is never too late to turn your life around," he added.

Before becoming a vice principal, he was a secondary English teacher for 12 years. Making a difference in a number of students' lives and continuing to do so are important to Mr. Conston.

In this case, he would not have taken a different academic path. He says that the most challenging part of his day and/or job is when students choose to not make good decisions, "I love when students are able to come and tell me what they have done right as opposed to what they have done wrong."

When asked what his greatest accomplishment was, he says, "My two daughters, Gabriella and Gia. They are the two greatest things to ever happen in my life."



Mrs. Laura Barletta

"Respect everyone, starting with yourself. Take school seriously - make the most of your high school experience because it goes by fast. You can get a great education and have fun at the same time, however the decisions or choices you make along the way will determine the overall outcome of your personal high school experience."

10th Grade Vice Principal

"Mouth"

Born in Hazleton, PA, Mrs. Barletta was inspired by her father, Mr. Joseph Gavio, to teach business and also to become a coach - she coached cheerleading at the high school for 7 years.

According to Mrs. Barletta, her father's enthusiasm for working with kids was contagious and without the influence of her father, she could have possibly become an accountant.

She attended Bloomsburg University where she obtained her Bachelor's of Science degree in Business Education, and then Wilkes University where she obtained both her Master's of Science degree in Classroom Technology, and Master's of Science degree in Educational Leadership.

Before becoming a vice principal, she was a secondary busi-

ness teacher for 12 years here at the high school, the career center as well as Pleasant Valley High School.

According to Mrs. Barletta, "I am most proud of all my former students' accomplishments. As the former FBLA adviser, I get feedback regularly on how much impact I had on my students and what great things they're doing because of FBLA. One member/student has even met the President of the United States, Barack Obama."

She added, "My career as a teacher was extremely rewarding because so many of my students became very successful in the field of business. As an administrator, any time I can help a student, teacher, etc. and any area of need, I feel that my career is fulfilling."

Mrs. Barletta says that "Getting to everything" is the most challenging part of her day, and that she tries to see every student and teacher that requests to see her immediately.

"Unfortunately, time does not permit that, and I wish I had more hours in the day!"



Mr. Rocco Petrone HAHS Principal

"If you know the rules... then follow the rules!"

Born in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, Mr. Petrone goes by many nicknames. Both his mother and father were influential to him as a child because, according to Mr. Petrone, "They instilled many important values."

He added, "Also they had 7 children. However, they gave the same attention and were very supportive of all 7."

Mr. Petrone attended Penn State University where he obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Education, and then proceeded to Temple University where he obtained his Master's Degree in Administration. As many have witnessed since he took office, Mr. Petrone is truly passionate about his career, "Education is the most important career in this country. Influencing and teaching young minds are very important."

Prior to becoming the principal of HAHS, Mr. Petrone taught algebra, was an assistant principal, and was also the coordinator of alternative education. He likes to spend time with the student body.

Mr. Petrone is also proud of the fact that he can work with the current teaching staff, and, "Observe change in our students' lives in a positive manner."

However, the most challenging part of his job is the fact that there is a tremendous amount of students and this makes it a little difficult to reach out to every one. As a principal, he wants students to succeed academically and socially. Despite the odds, Mr. Petrone still believes that we have outstanding students with limitless future.

"TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOURSELVES. UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A ROLE MODEL FOR OTHER STUDENTS AND MAKING GOOD DECISIONS TO HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT ON YOUR FUTURE!"



Mrs. Susan Salvaterra

"Just to pursue their dreams and to believe in themselves as we believe in them."

11th Grade Vice Principal

Born in Hazleton, PA, Mrs. Salvaterra cites both of her parents as influential. "My mom and dad were important, but I had my mom the longest. She recently passed away, and I have been doing a lot of reflective importance in my life. She was also very supportive."

She attended college in Penn State University (main) where she obtained her Bachelor's of Science degree in Education as well as her music teaching certificate K-12. She then attended Wilkes University where she obtained her Master's of Science degree in Educational Leadership and her administrative certificate -- principal K-12.

If she could do it again, she would not take a different academic path, "I've always believed

that teaching is a calling. I always knew that I wanted to be within the arts, a teacher." As a matter of fact, she remembers playing as a teacher when she was young.

Before becoming a vice principal, she was a secondary music teacher. Between being a sub, public and private teaching, she taught for a total of 15 years.

"I have always had passion for teaching; I have always had it since I was young."

Her greatest accomplishments that she is very proud of, aside from her career, is her daughter who is now 22 years old. She graduated high school as a distinguished graduate from HAHS. She now studies in Penn State University.

Mrs. Salvaterra is also involved with creating another opportunity for students at the Hazleton Area Arts and Humanities Academy.

According to Mrs. Salvaterra, the most challenging part of her day and job, "is making sure that decisions are being made, and are of the best interest of the students."



Mr. Robert Ritz

"Work hard at everything without stressing out, and someday, the 'path' will be revealed."

9th Grade Vice Principal

"Elska"

Born in Fort Eustis, VA, Mr. Ritz was nicknamed "Elska" because every kid in his neighborhood had a nickname, and Elska was his.

He says that his mother had the most influence to him as a child because she was very supportive.

He attended numerous schools including Penn State University, and Bloomsburg University for his undergraduate. Although his favorite subjects in high school were history and English, he went to college for mathematics because he was very good at it. He ob-

tained his Master's degree in School Administration at King's College, the University of Scranton, as well as Wilkes University.

Before becoming a vice principal, he was a secondary mathematics teacher for 17 years.

"Both teaching and school administration have afforded me the opportunity to learn, to see, and to find the best in all people."

His greatest accomplishment that he is proud of would be working with students, especially those students who need to find a connection. However, the most challenging part of his day and job, according to Mr. Ritz, is finding enough time to get to know students better.

by Vennee Elaine David

Teacher/Staff Retirees All Good Things Come to an End

by Gloria Bueno

MRS. MCBRIDE

Mrs. Ellen McBride had been pursuing a career in nursing for 42 years. She has been working as a school nurse for 33 years and has been a community health nurse for 9 years. When asked why she had decided to take up nursing, Mrs. McBride stated she wanted to help others and later on became interested in pediatrics and adolescents as well as the challenges that came with school nursing. She believes for the past 42 years, nursing has been her passion. Mrs. McBride would consider receiving the PEARL Award, an award presented to women who work in different programs in the area. Mrs. McBride plans on spending her retirement with her three grandchildren and traveling.

"My passion would be becoming involved in students' lives to give them a chance at a successful, productive life."

- Mrs. Babczack

decided to become a teacher. Through her work at the recreational center, Mrs. Wallace gained a love for teaching. Mrs. Wallace says she cannot choose one particular moment to be the highlight of the career, instead she responded by saying there are many moments she won't forget such as teaching a student how to swim, helping students learn new sports, and assisting them in living a healthier lifestyle. Mrs. Wallace plans on spending her retirement traveling and embarking on the next phase of her life with her husband. She is also hoping grandchildren are in her near future.

MRS. CAPUTO

Mrs. Caputo, one of HAHS's current health and physical education teachers, has been teaching for 35 years. Mrs. Caputo decided she wanted to take up teaching during her senior year of high school as a result of the health courses she took and ultimately loved. Caputo also stated that her overall love of sports had a large impact on her career choice. Mrs. Caputo says she would consider teaching to be one of her passions in

life as well as horseback riding. Throughout her career she has taught subjects such as Fitness for Life, life guarding, physical education, and health. Mrs. Caputo has also spent time as a volleyball coach. When asked what she would consider the highlight of her career to be, Mrs. Caputo said her Fitness for Life and life guarding classes were two moments that stood out to her. Mrs. Caputo plans on spending her retirement horseback riding and taking winter vacations in Florida.

MRS. BABCZACK

Mrs. Babczack has been working as a social worker for 25 years. She is currently employed as HAHS's home and school visitor, meaning she is the head of the attendance office. Mrs. Babczack believes "becoming involved in students' lives to give them a chance at a successful, productive life" is her passion. She is social worker through education and credits her career choice to her deep interest in psychology and counseling. She would consider students thanking her for her guidance as the highlight of her career. Mrs. Babczack plans on spending her retirement traveling, spending time with her grandchildren, pursuing other hobbies such as golf and ballroom dancing, and would like to work in a flower shop.

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MRS. HUDOCK

Mrs. Hudock has been teaching for 35 years. She is currently working as a French teacher at HAHS and has taught subjects such as English and reading in the past. Mrs. Hudock says she never intended on becoming a teacher but changed her major while tutoring her peers in college. Mrs. Hudock considers the highlight of her career to be the moments in which she hears from former students who provide her with insight on how she may have affected their lives in a positive way. When asked if teaching was her passion, she responds by saying for the past 35 years it has but now she looks forward to finding a new passion. Mrs. Hudock plans on spending her retirement working part-time, traveling, and being with her family.

MRS. WALLACE

Mrs. Wallace is one of HAHS's current physical education teachers and has been teaching for "a long time." Mrs. Wallace says she started her "P.E career" when she was 12 years old and worked as a junior counselor at her local YM-YWCA. Mrs. Wallace also credits her love of teaching swimming classes, gymnastics, and a variety of sports as one of the many reasons she



Gloria Chats...



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Thank You for...

Tracy Vasquez, 10th grade



Annie Stetz, 10th grade



Jacob Diaz, 12th grade



Amber Spahn, 12th grade

Students responded about the impact this year's retirees had on them.

Sophomore Tracy Vasquez says she believes Mrs. Caputo's ability to explain instructions carefully would be her best attribute. Vasquez says Mrs. Caputo, "doesn't fool around," and would like to thank Mrs. Caputo for helping her learn how to play lacrosse.

Senior Amber Spahn says she believes Mrs. Wallace's best trait would be her satire. Spahn would like to thank Mrs. Wallace for her constant motivation. Amber says Mrs. Wallace is always, "motivating her students to work diligently."

Senior Jacob Diaz states Mrs. McBride's organization and punctuality is her best attribute.

Diaz would like to thank Mrs. McBride for teaching him how to be more responsible.

Sophomore Annie Stetz believes Mrs. Hudock's best attribute would be how understanding she is. Annie would like to thank Mrs. Hudock for helping her develop an appreciation for French language and culture.

French language and culture.

Community Contributions

by Gloria Bueno

Volunteer work and community service has earned itself a rather negative reputation throughout the years. Whether it is because most individuals see it as a waste of their time or too much work, this current generation of teenagers has been known to brush off the importance of helping their community and the people around them.

“Cougar Chit-Chat” conducted an interview and discovered multiple HAHS students are contributing to their community. Matthew Powell, a junior, participated in a canned food drive and freshman Izzy Erickson, participated in the cleanup of a local middle school, junior Emily Alimecco, donated toys throughout the holiday season.

Volunteer work can be immensely beneficial to not only your community but you as well. Want to step a bit out of your com-

fort zone and meet new people? Volunteering at places such as your local recreational center, like freshmen Amy Castellanos did, is one of the many ways you can improve your communication skills. Castellanos donated her time to babysit at her local YMCA. Still unsure about what career path you would be interested in taking? Volunteering can give students new insights to which path they are considering.

The HAHS student body had a great deal of positive comments towards volunteer work and community service. HAHS freshmen, Amy Castellanos believes community service is an effective way to help your community and “stay out of trouble” in the process. Jenna Rapach, a sophomore who volunteered at her local church during the holiday season urges the importance of helping your community when she states “it’s important to help those who are less fortunate” than you.



Photos taken by Gloria Bueno and Tracy Vasquez

HAHS student-volunteers who participated in this article clockwise include Matthew Powell, Jenna Rapach, Amy Castellanos, and Izzy Erickson.

Ghosting: New Trend?

by Anastacia Krone

There is a new trend becoming pervasive over the last decade called “ghosting.” Ghosting, a word more commonly associated with Casper, occurs when one person ends a relationship by cutting off all communication, without any explanation.

In 2014, a Huffington Post poll of 1,000 people showed that 11% of Americans have ghosted someone. This causes the victim to retreat to their innermost insecurities, and it could lead to bigger confrontations in the future.

There are many psychological reasons why someone ghosts. Avoidance and fear of conflict could be some of them. It is shown that the people doing this cruel action have a low sense of maturity.

But here is the question; has technology made this worse? It’s pretty easy to just ignore someone’s phone calls or text messages, and the “block” button is a big help as well!

Apps like Tinder are used to give a person a chance to meet people outside of their usual circles, but it is there a chance there are too many options?

The “Cougar Chit-Chat” had a survey. When students were asked if “they had ever ghosted someone,” four out of five said “No.” When asked if “they had ever been ghosted by someone,” a different answer was given. Five out of five students said yes, they have been ghosted.

While ghosting is becoming more socially acceptable, relationships will always require a certain standard of civility. Relationships should be ended in a considerate and appropriate way.

by Gloria Bueno

“Respect your elders” is a phrase many, if not all, students are familiar with and may be one of the most controversial lessons children are taught beginning from a young age. Elders may refer to those who are not a great deal older than you, which can include your teachers and other authoritative figures.

A great deal of students would argue that they believe respect must be earned of both parts, regardless of someone’s age or occupation. Others, however, believe it is only common courtesy to show respect to those older than you such as your teachers because they are helping you prepare for your future.

“Cougar Chit Chat” con-

ducted a survey throughout the HAHS building and asked a variety of students the following questions: “Is respect earned or given?” and “Do you believe teachers should be respected because of their occupation, why or why not?”

There were mixed reviews throughout the student body. Some students believe respect should be earned such as Jenna Rapach. Rapach stated that teachers should be respected because “they are in a higher position” than students.

11th grader Fremio Delacruz response was similar to Rapach’s. He stated “each individual should respect one another” regardless of their position or occupation. Sophomore Robinson Pena’s response, however, differed than those of some of his peers. He believes respect should be given to teachers at all times as a way to repay them for “putting their time in to teach you.”

“Each individual should respect one another regardless of their position or occupation.”

Fremio Delacruz, 11th grade

Help STOP the Silence
SUNDAY MAY 1, 2016
HAHS GYM @ 1PM
(12PM CHECK IN)
THIS IS A FAMILY EVENT!!!
www.helpstopthesilence.org
(No money required to participate)

All proceeds benefit **Help STOP the Silence - Suicide Prevention & Support**, a program of Catholic Social Services, in providing local services to our community.

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This and That

Social Media Madness

by Vicky Neira

Teens love their social media. Whether it is Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or Snap Chat, social media is a big part of this generation's daily life. Social media has even affected teen relationships.

Students were interviewed about relationships with social media. Cheating has become a reoccurring problem amongst teens in this age. The "Cougar Chit-Chat" took the time to interview some students on their thoughts about cheating on social media.

Yasmina Ozari, a female student from the HACC was asked why it is so common for cheating to occur in social media, she replied with, "it's simple this way, all you have to do is like a photo and you're automatically showing interest to another person." She also said that if a couple is willing to make it work, social media shouldn't affect the relationship. Another student from the HACC, George Mellon, was asked the same questions and replied with "social media makes cheating easier. When you're behind a computer or phone, it's much easier to hide." When asked if he thinks social media causes breakups he said yes, because "it's not face to face and is easier to do than feeling awkward with another person." George ended his

interview by saying "relationships would last longer without social media because there would be better communication, and more intellectual conversations rather than just small talk."

Waldo Coo, a student from the career center says social media has a big part of cheating, and causes a lot of trust issues in relationships. "Now a days we have passwords on everything, and that's not something you share with somebody else." He also stated that "social media does cause more break ups. He liked her picture, or she commented on his, but some people can manage having each other's information and have trust in each other."

The last interviewee was Nicole Dietrich. She agrees that social media and relationships have become a huge problem. "Each partner in the relationship thinks their significant other will not find they're texting that other person, or snapchatting them. "The worst part of it all is that everything can be erased, so that the other person will never see it." She stated.

Social media does not have to be an issue as great as it is. We should be able to have trust in our relationships. Cheating is a big issue and being able to hide it behind social networks makes it so much worse.

"The worst part of it all is that everything can be erased, so that the other person will never see it."

quote by Nicole Dietrich

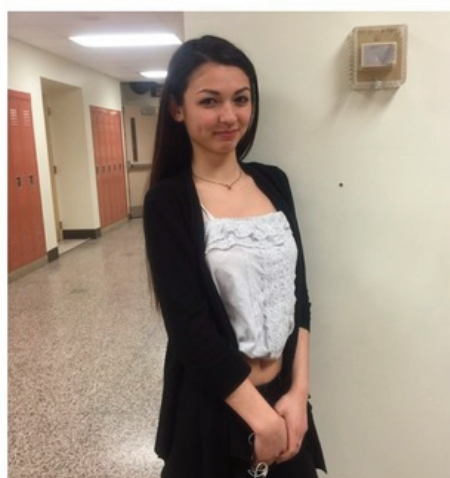
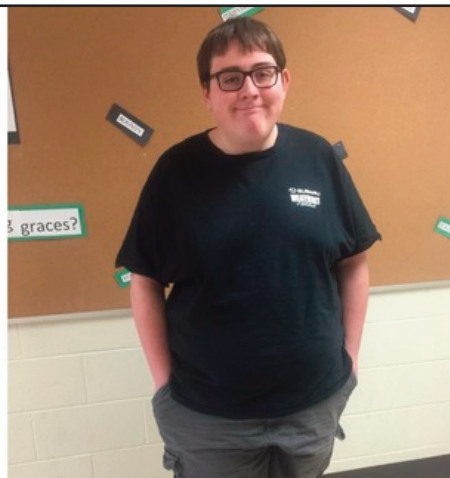


photo by Vicky Neira

Clockwise: George Mellon, Yasmina Ozari, Waldo Coo, and Nicole Dietrich

How To Survive a Break Up

by Vicky Neira

You've been crying for hours, a head ache has taken over your life, and every time you relive that moment your heart drops to your stomach; you've just been through a break up. Now it's time to step up, and get yourself back into the game.

First thing you should do is learn to love yourself. It'll give you the confidence to get yourself back in the dating realm. Another tip is to try and find new hobbies to get your mind off the break up. Maybe try to free write about your feelings, or join a gym to better yourself.

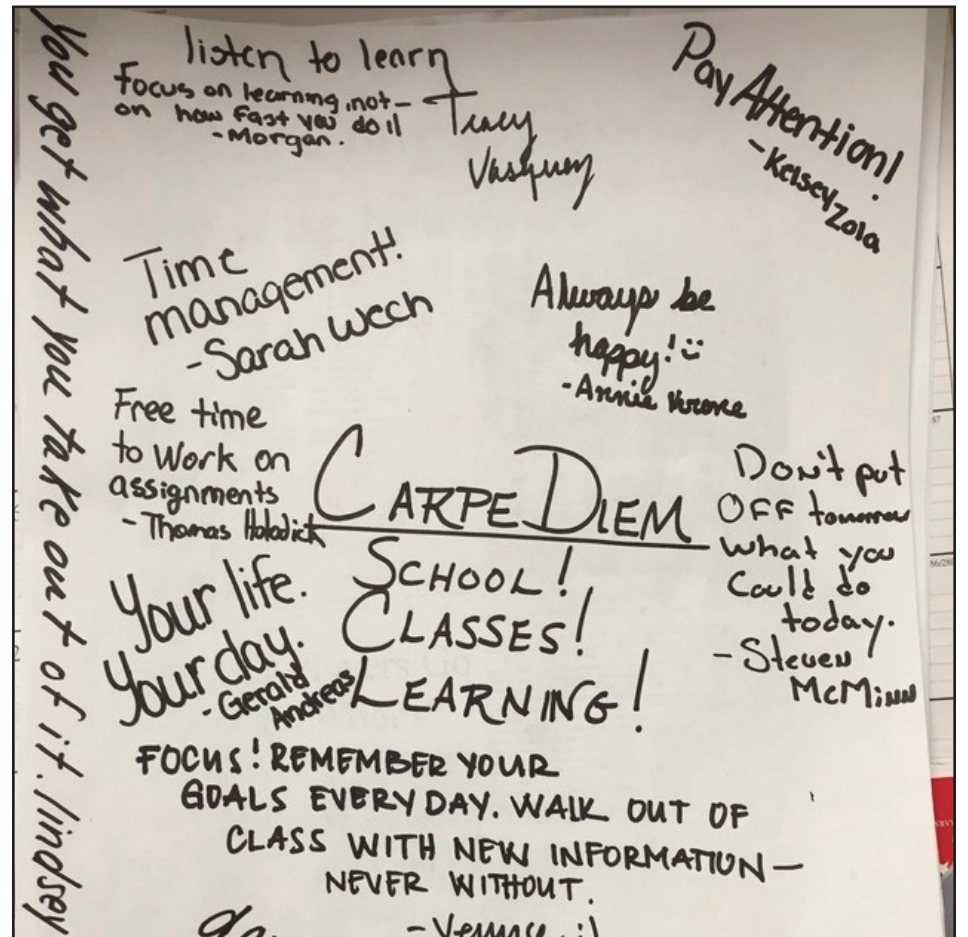
Something that's very chal-

lenging, but very effective, is going cold turkey. Get rid of everything that reminds you of your ex, clothes, pictures, etc.

Try an focus on the positive, remind yourself of all the positives of being by yourself and try to avoid thinking about all the negatives as much as possible.

Finally, you need to realize that sometimes a break up is a blessing in a disguise. Remember everything happens for a reason and it's better to just grow from it and move on. At the end of the day, a break up is not the end of the world. They are not easy to get over but they only make you stronger. Remember, you live and you learn, and when one door closes, another one opens.

90 Minutes?



by Gerald Andreas

Ninety minutes can seem like an eternity. Is that the case for class periods? That answer varies depending on different students, classes, and interests.

So HAHS students were asked if the hour and a half of class time is too long, too short, or just right. And, does the class period length impact homework.

Responses varied from, "I think it's good," and "It depends on the class," to "I think you can learn just as much as you can in less time."

The same questions were posed to teachers. Most teachers responded with, "No, it's not too long," or "It helps them in what I teach." Some even said honestly, "It depends on what you are doing."

While conducting these interviews, and truly gaining the students', and staffs' true opinions of the schedule, there was a strong curiosity to know more.

Throughout a normal school day, all of the students attend four classes, with one lunch period thrown somewhere in there.

HAHS' own, Principal Rocco Petrone was questioned. "I think there is no question that students can learn a great deal in the 90 minute block scheduling. The most important aspect is for students to be actually engaged at a rigorous level, so if the teacher is only lecturing, then the student could become bored."

There is always a good way to make use of time; it is what you do with that time that counts.

Local Fun, Local Playgrounds

There is Something for Everyone

by Gerald Andreas

Hazleton and its surrounding areas have many playgrounds for kids, teens, and even adults to enjoy. A nice walk, a trip to the lake, a good game of Frisbee; there are so many things to do, so what suits you?

There is something out there for everyone; each park offers something that each person attending can enjoy.

Community Park, located on Route 93, in Hazleton, PA, is one of the most well-known parks, free for community use in the area. It offers a full playground, swing sets, monkey bars, a ginormous lake, and running/walking and hiking trails. Pack a lunch, and make a day of it, there is certainly enough to do.

Maybe you are looking for a smaller scene; try the playground at Altmiller Park near Church Street. This park has a lot of history with some huge rocks! If you are in or around the Heights area, you should certainly check out Lham Park!

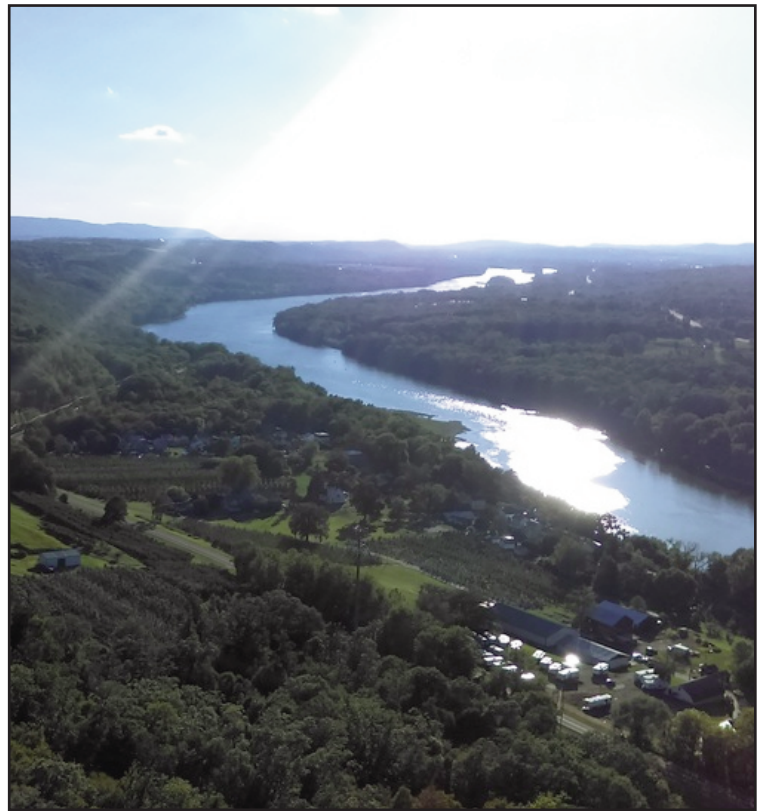


Photo by Gerald Andreas

Pictured above is a scenic shot from the overlook at Council Cup

State by State

Parks and Adventures

Rails to Trails

by Gerald Andreas

Pennsylvania has a lot to offer, with its rich history and abundance of places to explore, you have to pick what is right for you! These parks are more than worthwhile for a short trip. Visit them all, revisit the ones you have been to already, and try something new.

Seven miles right downtown at Rails to Trails! Walking, running, or biking down this trail is a very nice and quiet get-away. Along the way, you will find different exercise equipment and activities to try out. Rails to Trails is just a short drive from anywhere in Hazleton. Stay for an hour, or stay for more, just make the most of it!

Nescopeck State Park has nineteen miles of trails and



Photos by Gerald Andreas

Pictured clockwise is a waterfall, Boulder Field, and the entrances to the parks

offers fishing. Ricketts Glen State Park is well equipped with over twenty waterfalls, lots of hiking, fishing, and camping. Locust Lake State Park offers camping, hiking, and a 52-acre lake to accommodate your boating, and fishing needs.

Hickory Run State Park is a personal favorite, offering over 40 miles of hiking trails. It is best known for "Boulder Field," yet, that is not all that is available. This particular park has a generously sized

lake, with a beach setup for swimming, and spending a nice day in the sun. Attending this nice swimming spot is free for the whole family.

Although all of the State Parks Pennsylvania has to offer were not mentioned, a quick Google search can fix that! Most of the parks offer something for everyone. Make the day an adventurous one, and #ExploreTheOutdoors!

#ExploreTheOutdoors

by Gerald Andreas

Warmer weather is quickly approaching. That means more outside activities will be readily available. Whether you enjoy hiking, swimming, playing a sport, or simply hanging out with your friends, there is

something out there for you!

Outside activities do not have to be expensive, and they do not have to be planned. Just get up and go! You do not even have to go far, just walk, run, bike, or

drive to your destination.

According to Huffingtonpost.com, getting outside can make you healthier! So make your way to a better you, and get outdoors!

Teen Hangouts

by Gerald Andreas

The times have changed and so have the "go-to" places. Back in our parents' generation, it was going to different sporting events. Now, it is slightly different.

It truly has not changed that much, students have their own groups of friends, they meet at certain times, and they all hangout often. Where is the "go-to" spot of our generation? So my question to you is: What is your favorite place to hang out?

Upon asking a few students at the Hazleton Area High School, different answers were received. These same students were also asked: What is your

favorite outdoor activity? Now, you must be pondering that question in your head, so what is your answer? Here is what the HAHS students had to say!

A 9th grader, Ismauris Lluberes said: "any park, and football."

A 10th grader, Terry Presgrave said: "the bowling alley, and playing catch."

An 11th grader, David McCarthy said: "my house, and football."

Lastly, a 12th grader, Kiriam Ortiz said: "the bowling alley, and baseball." It seems that the bowling alley is a fairly popular teen hangout, have you been there lately?

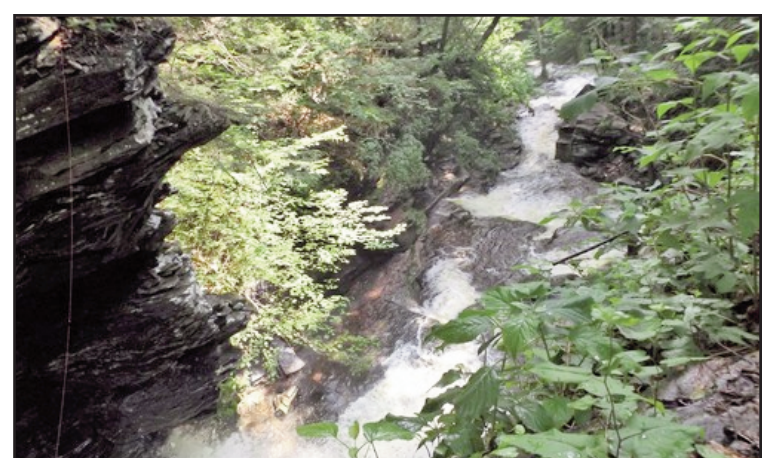


Photo by Gerald Andreas

Pictured above is a waterfall located at Ricketts Glen State Park

Movie Hopping Maniacs

You Won't Want to Skip This Article!

by Thomas A. Holodick

Many have heard of movie hopping, many have not. Movie hopping is the act of buying one ticket to a movie at a multiplex movie theater and staying for additional films for no extra charge. Movie hopping is ideal for “movie junkies” or groups of people with nothing to do on a Sunday. Although movie hopping may be entertaining and fun, technically it is illegal.

Students of the Hazleton Area High School were asked if they knew what movie hopping was and nine out of ten students knew what it was. Eight students openly admitted to occasionally movie hopping. A junior at

HAHS said, “movie hopping is fun to participate in because you get to see multiple movies for the price of one and it’s an adrenaline rush.” Johnny Pepen, a 12th grade student said, “if there was a way to legally movie hop, I would do it.”

Luckily for Johnny and everyone else there is a legal way to movie hop! RC Theatres Wilkes-Barre Movies 14 offers “Bargain Tuesdays” movie hopping passes. For just five dollars a ticket, movie lovers alike can enjoy an all-day pass to the movie theater! Vicky Sosar, a senior, said, “I had no clue a local movie theater encouraged movie hop-

ping! I plan to buy some tickets with friends this summer and go movie hopping.” Vincenzo Devita, another senior, added in saying, “I would literally sleep there and enjoy all the movies.”

When the idea of a movie hopping pass was mentioned to ten students, all ten said it would be a great idea. When the students found out it was offered locally all said they would go movie hopping. With movie hopping passes being offered locally, students have a chance to do something fun on a boring day. Grab a group of friends and enjoy a full day of movie binging at an unbeatable price!



Photo by Thomas A. Holodick

Pictured above is a ticket booth. Buy a bargain Tuesdays “movie hopping” pass today!

Scintillating Silver Screen

Best Read with Popcorn!

by Thomas A. Holodick

From the alluring aroma of buttery popcorn, to the sound of an action packed movie with huge explosions, the movie theater has it all. People of all ages spend time enjoying all a movie theater has to offer. Movie theaters feature a numerous variety of movies to entertain children, teens, and adults alike. From classics, to comedies, to children's favorites, to romance, and horror films, cinemas all across the nation have movies that simply cannot be passed up.

Everywhere you look, everywhere you go, there are movie theaters everywhere. Most of today’s movie theaters are huge multiplex complexes featuring multiple screening rooms and movies in 2D and 3D. With many screening rooms available, one has numerous movie choices to choose from at any given time. Despite the luxury of enjoying a movie in HD sound with crystal clear picture is a premium in today’s standards, the prices of a ticket may not be pleasing for some.

According to “the Hollywood Reporter,” the average cost of a movie ticket is a staggering \$8.61, the highest average price of 2015. While this may not be a burden for some, for budget friendly families this may be unpleasant, leading to fewer visits to the movie theater.

Although rising costs of a movie ticket is not something anyone looks forward to, it is not stopping people from enjoying a movie once in a while. One positive aspect to look forward to while attending a movie theater, besides the movie itself, is the variety of snacks one can enjoy and choose from at the concession stand. Guests can expect a variety of cool fizzy sodas, savory, buttery popcorn, salty soft pretzels, crunchy cheesy nachos, and satisfyingly sweet candy and gummy bears.

Although the snack selection at a theater is humongous, so are the costs. The high price of concession items stems from the percentage of ticket sales that go to the producers of the movies,



Collage by Thomas A. Holodick

The collage above depicts a traditional movie theater and concession stand.

rather than the movie theater itself. With cinemas barely making a profit on actual movie ticket sales, the concessions are a movie theater’s main money maker. One can expect to pay upwards of \$20.00 for a snack combination of a large bag of popcorn, a bag of candy, and a choice of soda.

Although the cost to take a trip to a movie theater may be pricey, it is an experience and treat everyone should indulge in every now and again. The movie theater is the perfect destination for a boring Friday, or Saturday night. Go out and treat yourself, enjoy a movie! Go to the movie theater!



Photo by Thomas A. Holodick

Pictured above are some of HAHS finest movie musketeers.

Movie Musketeers

by Thomas A. Holodick

HAHS students were asked what their favorite movie is, why they enjoy that particular movie, and what their favorite go to movie theater snack is. Their responses are as followed below:

Jacob Hunsinger- My favorite movie is “Grown Ups” and I also enjoy the sequel. I enjoy “Grown Ups” because it is extremely funny and packed full of comedy. My all favorite snack to enjoy while watching a movie is Sour Patch Kids. It has been a month since I have last been

to a movie theater.

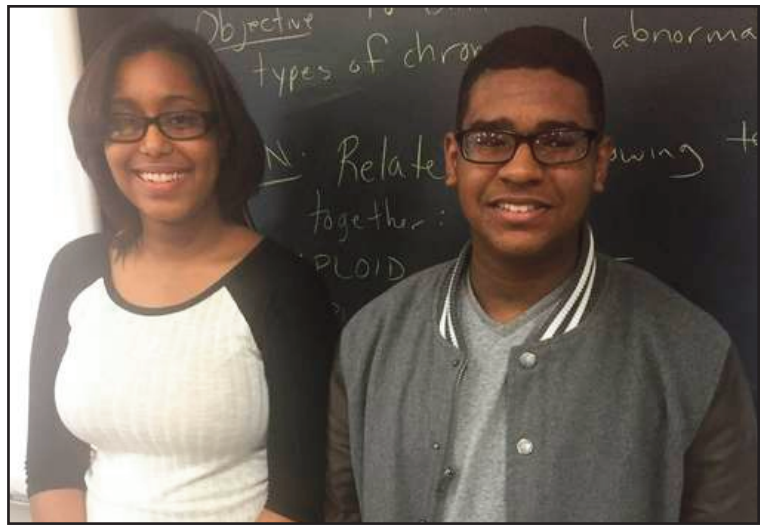
Jordan Pick- My favorite movie is “The Judge.” I enjoy “The Judge” because it is a very realistic movie. My favorite snack while watching a movie is Milk Duds. It has been about a month since I have last been to a movie theater.

Hailey Love- My favorite movie is “As Above So Below.” I enjoy this movie because it leaves viewers with a sense of questioning and suspense. My favorite snack while watching a movie is sour patch kids. It has been

about two months since I have last been to a movie theater.

Caitlyn Braskey- My favorite movie is “A League of their Own.” I enjoy this movie because it is very inspirational and it “motivates me to do well in the world.” My favorite snack while watching a movie is oranges. It has been about three months since I have last been to a movie theater.

Christopher Berron- My favorite movie is “Cinderella Man.” I enjoy this movie because it is motivational and “it motivates society to never give up.” My favorite snack while watching a movie is a Twix Bar. It has been about four or five months since I have last been to a movie theater.



“The best part about high school is learning who your real friends are,” says Kim Brito.

Chatting It Up

by Lindsay Dedics

Teachers and students were asked a series of questions including: Where did you go to high school? What was the best part about high school? What is something you have learned throughout your high school career? How do you think high school would have been different with technology? What do you think is the biggest change in school since you went?

Mr. Turri (HAHS '94) “I had few problems compared to today. Don't be afraid to take a chance and go out of your comfort zone. Students now have many more challenges, responsibilities, distractions, and temptations.”

Mrs. Burrows (HHS '78) “Wide leg pants and Farrah Fawcett hair were in fashion. Knowing Spanish is still very beneficial. Technology helps kids today to better relate to teachers.”

Miss Oster (HAHS '93) “School spirit, pep rallies, games, dances, and great groups of friends come to mind.”

Miss DePierro (WVW '07) “The value of true friendship was learned in high school. I would not have needed to spend endless hours at the library citing sources for research papers if I had today's technology.”



Carlos Castro, Class of 2016, states, “Lack of diverse curriculum plus it would have been a much slower process to learn.”

“There are a lot of people to make friends with, people do not accept each other for who they are,” states junior Jerry Gasser.



Photos by
Lindsay Dedics

Julia Tihansky, Class of 2018, simply states, “Do not stress over the little things.”

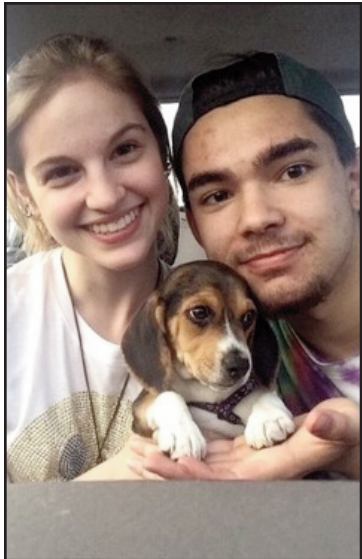


Mr. Stock's (2010) biggest problem in high school was getting up.



Mrs. Eberts, HAHS Class of 1995, reminisces, “Sports were the best part of high school. The more you put in, the more you get out. I am glad we didn't have cell phones; they're such a distraction.”

It's Raining Cats and Dogs



Lyndsay Trammell and Kevin Esteves, juniors at HAHS

Kevin and Lyndsay both adopted a dog together and when asked the following questions, these were their answers.

What is the name of your pet?

What kind of animal is it?

How long have you had your pet?

How old is your pet?

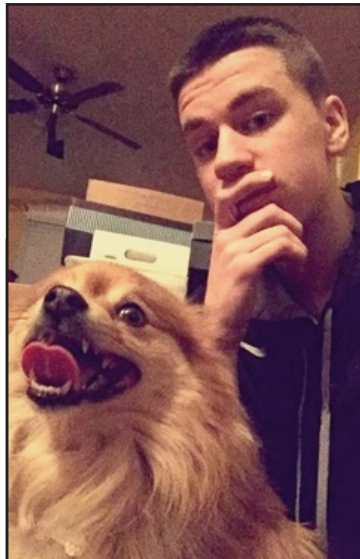
Tell us about your pet?

Lyndsay and Kevin have a beagle named Luna. She is about a year old and they've had her for nine months. Lyndsay says "Luna is an exciting little beagle who has a very picky appetite. She loves everyone and is a great snuggle puppy."



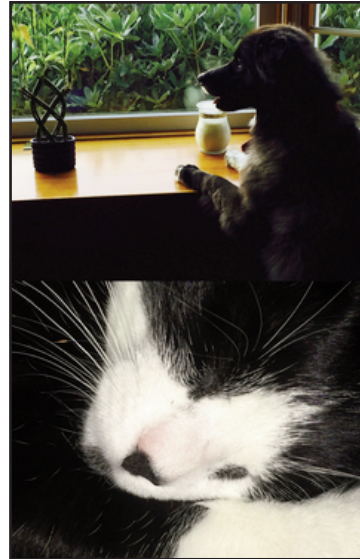
HAHS teacher Miss Knick's pets

Ms. Knick has three pets. Her first pet is Martin the cat. She has had him for four years and he is four years old. "Martin is a garbage diver." Her second pet is Louie. Louie is a two year old Lab-mix. He has been a part of her family for two years. When asked to describe Louie, Ms. Knick said "I love all my pets equally, but Louie has a special place in my heart. He was a rescue from South Carolina. When we adopted him, he was very sick so I had to nurse him back to health myself." an all-black German shepherd named Gus. "Gus is a very loyal dog. He is the most loyal pet I've ever had. Everywhere I go, he follows."



Mikey Cwalina, junior at HAHS

Mikey has a pet Pomeranian named Riley. Riley is five years old and he has had him for five years. Mikey was told to tell us about his pet and he said, "He's the cutest little guy ever. He's full of fun and energy, always smiling, and looking for someone to tail. He could be dumb as rocks, but he puts his paw out or winks when he understands something. He's not the best of cuddlers and doesn't like to be held, but he will lie around with you all the time. He gets a lion cut to get the cutest treatment ever. Whenever I get home from school, he runs up, gets on his hind legs, and puts his paws on me."



Miss Dale's dog and Miss Mason's cat

Miss Dale has a pet dog named Bear. "Bear is five years old and I've had him for five years." Miss. Dale explains Bear to be crazy, hyper, and friendly. He is a rescue dog. "He loves to cuddle, but he's always getting into the garbage."

Miss. Mason has a cat named Zoey. She is a year and three months. Miss. Mason has had Zoey for exactly a year. When asked to describe her cat, Miss. Mason said a very interesting thing; "Zoey thinks she is a dog; she growls when someone rings the doorbell and she plays fetch with pipe cleaners."



Senior Natalie Perkowski's dog

Penny is the name of Natalie's Dog. She is a golden retriever and bison mix. Natalie has had her since she was 10 year old. Penny is currently six years old. "Ever since penny was a puppy, she was always so friendly to people. You couldn't come into the house without her right by your side, greeting you." Natalie says, "Whether it's lying around and watching Netflix all day or going for walks around the neighborhood, Penny loves it all and loves spending time with people. There's no better feeling than seeing how excited she gets when I come home from school/work. She's my best friend."

Helping Hands or Helping Paws?

by Katie Gregasavitch

The relationship between animals and humans go all the way back to the Stone Age, but it was never as serious as it is now in the form of animals helping humans with all sorts of disabilities. Service pets are used for many different reasons. They are used for emotional support, psychiatric and therapy services. There are also different types of animals besides dogs that are used for service purposes; miniature horses, monkeys, ducks, ferrets, and parrots. Miniature horses are used to guide the blind, ferrets and ducks are used for anxiety, monkeys help

"We have more to learn from animals than animals have to learn from us."

-Unknown

with quadriplegia and agoraphobia, and parrots are used for psychosis.

Service animals are used for multiple reasons to help people. They help people with different types of disabilities, such as people in wheelchairs, people who are blind or deaf, people who have balance issues, epilepsy, low blood

pressure, and many more. Service animals can be trained to open doors, switch lights on and off, press buttons, alert their owner when indicating danger, reminding a person with mental illness to take their medications, calming a person while they are having an anxiety attack.

Service pets range from many different prices depending on the reason for the animal. When in need of a service pet, the family hires an agent and they fundraise for the pet. If you go to an organization such as 4Paws For Ability, the cost to train and give a service dog to a disabled child begins at \$22,000, but each family is required to help raise

at least \$15,000. But other places will only charge you from several hundred dollars to \$5,000 or \$6,000. It could be cheaper due to scholarships or local organizations.

Simply, animals help humans live fuller lives. These animals do jobs that would be nearly impossible to do by just a single human being. Even though they can be on the expensive side, they come in handy and help us humans to a high extent. Animals are not only here to help us, but they are here to make us happy and contribute to our society.

The Hazleton Animal Shelter, located on North Poplar St., is the place to go to adopt your next pet. The ani-

mals have the saddest looks on their faces, and you instantly want to take them all home.

Entering the kennels, you instantly feel heartbroken for the animals that are forced to live there. The animals do not have enough room to themselves. Although many of the reviews for this shelter are negative, it is providing a service to the community and a safe-haven for otherwise unwanted animals.

So go take a visit at the Hazleton Animal Shelter and adopt one of the adorable cats or dogs. They need love and affection just as much as people do.

Finish Out Strong

by Katie Gregasavitch and Vicky Neira

Your junior and senior year is a big deal! It is the year colleges focus most on. So what can you do to finish your second semester out strong?

Most students tend to slack off first semester because they think they still have time to get grades in, and they stop focusing as much as they should. If you are in that situation, take the opportunity to excel that during the second semester. Some tips would be to steer away from sitting by your friends in class. They tend to keep you off track and distract you from learning. Do your homework every night. Although you might see it as a waste of your free time, it gives you great practice in what you are doing in class. Always make up your missing assignments. They can make a big change to your grades. A 50 is better than a 0.

Desiree Martin, a junior at the HASH, says the second semester is more difficult than the first.

"The fact that colleges definitely look at this year when deciding if you should be accepted or not is a stressful thought."

Some helpful advice Desiree has for students who are stressing as much as she is is to start caring and focus on your work. Think about college and what they would

want to see.

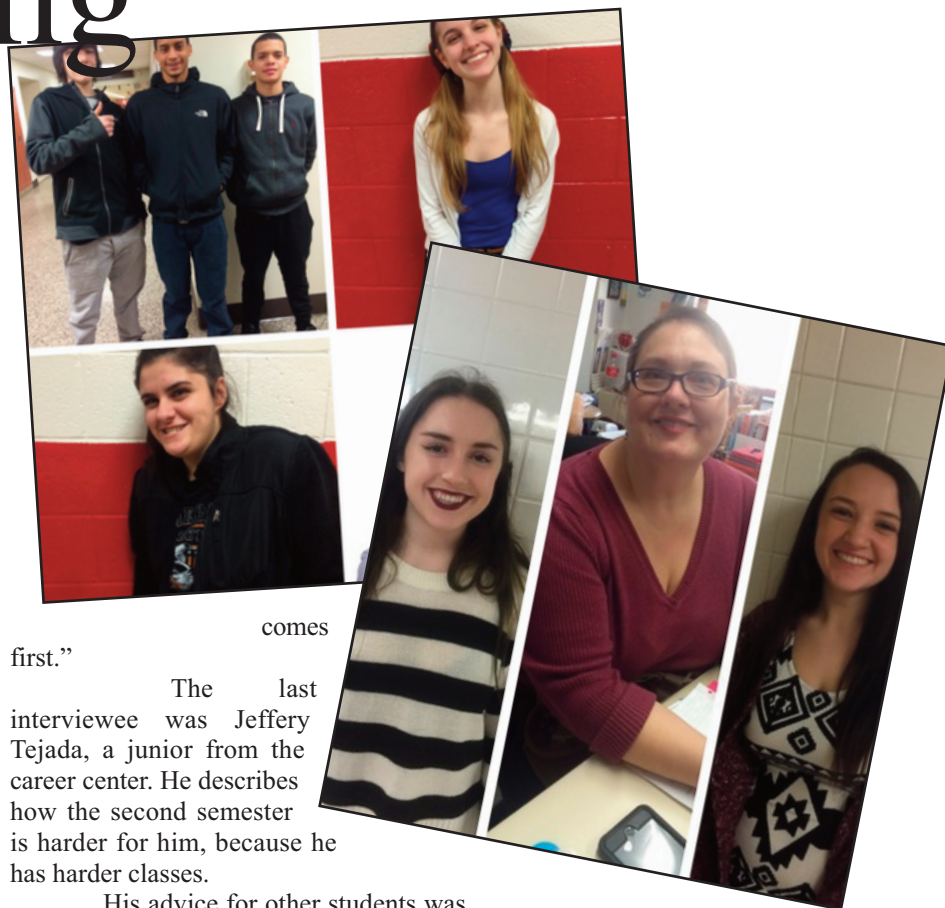
Lyndsay Trammell, also a junior at the HAHS, says she thinks the second semester is more stressful also. She expected the classes she has now to be easier so she slacked off during the first semester. But it's more difficult than she anticipated it to be. For anyone stressing out right now, Lyndsay says not to freak out over the little things, focus on the more important things and what makes you happy.

Alex Flynn says, "Depending on what classes you have right now will make the decision if it's more stressful. Some people have harder classes in first semester and easier ones in second semester or vice versa. Keep in mind that it doesn't go on forever and it will come to an end."

Jordan Urenovitch says he thinks the second semester is harder than the first because it's harder to focus knowing school will be over in a few months. His advice for anyone who is struggling is to pay attention and stay focused on your school work.

Bryan Rodriguez has a difference opinion. He is actually excited for the second semester, and does not think it is harder.

He says "I have easier classes the second semester, I get my shop twice, so I only get two academic classes." He has great advice: "try and focus on your work before other things because your education



comes first."

The last interviewee was Jeffery Tejada, a junior from the career center. He describes how the second semester is harder for him, because he has harder classes.

His advice for other students was quite humorous; he stated "Actually come to school, and try, unlike me the first semester."

If you are stressed for school and are beginning to worrying, take these tips and you will roll through the last years of your high school career!

Photos by Katie Gregasavitch

Top picture clockwise: Jordan Urenovitch, Bryan Rodriguez, Jeffery Tejada, Lyndsay Trammell, Desiree Martin. Bottom: Sabrina Miller, Mrs. Reidel, Dominique DeSpirito.

Should I Stay or Should I Go?

by Katie Gregasavitch

High school is almost over. So now what? College? Army? If not that, then what? Students from the career center and high school were interviewed and asked what their plans are for after high school. Will they stay or will they go?

Nick Keenan from the high school says he is going to the military after high school and then college later. His plan is to go into the military because they will pay for his college afterwards. He says he will be just as successful as someone going to college right after high school. By joining the military straight after high school, it will teach him to work for what he wants and his future rather than to get it handed to him.

Andrew Slay from the career center is planning on joining the Army after high school is over. He will go through basic training, then job school for his future career in computer networking. When asked if he thinks he will be just as successful without college, he said yes because the job field he plans to be in will make him just as much money as a person going through four years of college.

Crystal Castillo has planned to go into the Navy. She wants to have a career in health and be some sort of a doctor while being in the



Photos by Katie Gregasavitch

From left to right: Andrew Slay, Steven Espinoza, Crystal Castillo, Teiman Anderson, and Nick Keenan

Navy. She does not think she will be as successful going straight into the navy because she would not have the proper learning skills.

Teiman Anderson is going into the service to work as an electrician in attack helicopters. By doing this, it will help pay for his college afterwards. If he did not make this choice, he said he would probably end up being bankrupt and would not be able to afford college.

Last interviewed was Steven Espinoza from the career center. His

plan for the future is to join the marines. He made this choice because he wants to serve his country, and it will shape him out as a person and make him less lazy and teach him more skills. He says he will be just as successful in life because with all the money he plans on receiving, he can open his own hardware store and being his life.

So if college is not for you, take these students' life plans into consideration.

She Said What?

by Vicky Neira

From male-induced drama, name calling, or body shaming, young females have been putting each other down for generations. Is it jealousy? Is it just out of spite?

A few female students were asked why they think girls go against each other. One female interviewed was Sabrina Miller, who stated "girls may feel that they're pitted against each other. They constantly feel like they have to one-up another, like a competition"

Another female student interviewed was Domi Despirito, who stated she has problems with other females every day. She explains "some girls just love drama and will go to extreme lengths just to ruin someone's day."

The last interviewee was beloved female teacher, Mrs. Reidel. When asked why she thinks females go against each other rather than stick together, she had a very charismatic response.

She stated "It's always about insecurity, or jealousy of materialistic things, looks, opportunities one female has and the other doesn't. We females are not taught to be nice to each other. We are taught to be very critical of ourselves, and it is truly unfortunate"

At the end of the day, calling another female fat or ugly doesn't just add to the problem, it perpetuates the problem. Respecting another female enough to avoid these hateful blows doesn't mean you have to like her, it simply means that you are a strong enough woman to value the right every woman has, to feel beautiful, un-judged, and secure.

This is it! The final months of high school are almost over. For the class of 2016, senior year is flew by!

The "Cougar Chit-Chat" had the opportunity to sit down and chat with some prospective college bound seniors. This may be the end of one chapter, but for many it is just the beginning of another. The class of 2016 has their whole lives ahead of them and many new chapters to write.

The photo collage to the right shows all HAHS Seniors and their portraits. Photo credit is as followed: Gerald Andres- Photography by Jacy, Kendall Sosar- Memories by Maria Photography, Joell Jordan-Nardone Photography, Mackenzie Aucker- Sam Ellis Photography, Kyle Kaschak-Luchi Photography



Senior Spotlight

by Thomas A. Holodick

Gerald Andreas

I was born on Dec. 12, 1997. Next year I am attending West Chester University or Bloomsbury University. I plan to major in communications. I decided to pursue communications because of journalism class. Also, "I don't care for math and reading and writing are my strong subjects." I am excited for college because I can explore better opportunities beyond Hazleton. I am going to miss my senior year the most out of all of my high school experiences. As my final months as a senior I am looking forward to prom and memories with friends. I will not miss Hazleton and the surrounding areas because "other towns are nicer and I don't like what Hazleton has become. After I complete college, I do not plan on staying in the Hazleton area because, "I feel there is more opportunity elsewhere." I credit my family for my success because they have always support me. In five years I see myself pursuing my dream job in communications. I advise all freshman and upcoming freshman "not to slack off during freshman year because it is extremely important in the long run."

Kendall Sosar

I was born on Apr. 19, 1998. Next year I am attending Delaware Valley University. I plan to major in equine sciences (working with horses). I decided to pursue equine sciences because of my strong passion for horses and for my love of science and math. I am excited for college and am looking forward to it. Out of all of my high school experiences I am going to miss drama club the most. As my final months as a senior I am looking forward to prom, senior day, and graduation. I

will not miss Hazleton and the surrounding areas because "I want a change from this area." After I complete college, I do not plan on staying in the Hazleton Area because, "there is more job opportunity in Kentucky or Ohio." I credit my mom for my success because she is my "biggest supporter." In five years I see myself in my freshman year of vet school. I advise all freshman and upcoming freshman to "do what you love because if you don't, you'll regret not doing it."

Joel Jordan

I was born on Dec. 11, 1997. Next year I am planning to attend West Chester University. I plan on majoring in business. I decided to pursue a degree in business because "it gives me the opportunity to start my own business." I am excited for college because I "love to travel." Out of all of my high school experiences, "I am going to miss Skilee Gould and all of the friends I made." In my final months as a senior I am looking forward to "freedom" the most. I will miss Hazleton and the surrounding areas "because of all the nice people I have met over many years." I do not plan on staying in Hazleton after I complete college because "there is no opportunity for business there and the town is dying." I credit my parents for my success because "they motivate me to always do my best." In five years I see myself "in the future (just kidding)." I hope to graduate in five years and be debt free. I advise all freshman and upcoming freshman to "not be overwhelmed by the negative rumors about high school, it's not as bad as it seems."

"I credit my teachers for my successful high school career because they helped me become who I am."

Mackenzie Aucker

I was born on Aug. 12 1997. Next year I will be attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). I plan to major in fashion merchandizing. I decided to pursue a degree in fashion merchandizing because "I have a large appreciation for fashion." I am excited for college because of "all of the experiences and opportunities that await me." Out of all of my high school experiences "I am going to miss seeing my friends every day the most." As my final month as a senior I am looking forward to senior activities and prom. I will not miss Hazleton and the surrounding areas because "I don't like it here." I do not plan on staying in Hazleton after I complete college because "I plan on moving to California to pursue fashion merchandizing." I credit my parents for my successful high school career because of the "love and support they give me." In five years I see myself "working in a high end fashion store in California." I advise all freshman and upcoming freshman to "always study, be on task, and earn good grades, because it will matter once applying for college."

-Kyle Kaschak

Kyle Kaschak

I was born on Jul. 22, 1997. Next year I will be attending Pennsylvania College of Technology. I plan to major in emergency management. I decided to pursue a degree in emergency management because "I love my time spent volunteering as a firefighter." I am excited and nervous for college because "I will get to experience

something new but, I won't be familiar with my surroundings." Out of all of my high school experiences "I am going to miss my friends and teachers the most." As my final months as a senior, I am looking forward to "free time." I will miss Hazleton and the surrounding areas because of the "wonderful people that live in the area." I do not plan on staying in Hazleton after I complete college because "there are more opportunities in a big city." I credit my teachers for my successful high school career because "they helped me become who I am." In five years I see myself "in a big city with a job in my career as a firefighter." I advise all freshman and upcoming freshman to "learn as much as you can because it will only benefit you."

Victoria Wisdo

I was born on Jan. 3, 1998. Next year I plan on attending either Temple University or Philadelphia University. I plan on majoring in nursing. I decided to pursue a degree in nursing because "I like science and the medical field." I am nervous for college because "I will have to be independent" but I am also excited because "I will not be residing in Hazleton anymore." Out of all of my high school experiences I am going to miss all of my teachers the most. As my final months of a senior, I am looking forward to "making memories that will last a lifetime." I will not miss Hazleton and the surrounding areas, but "I will miss the food." I do not plan on staying in Hazleton after the completion of college because "there is no opportunity here." I credit my mother for my success because "she's a hardworking individual who has always been independent." In five years I see myself "working as a nurse in Philadelphia." I advise all freshman and upcoming freshman to "kick butt and make great memories!"

Congratulations

HAHS

by Vennce Elaine David

ZWEYLKA ABREAU
Lycoming College
King's College
Susquehanna University
Scranton University

GERALD ANDREAS
Bloomsburg University
Scranton University
Kutztown University

WILLIAM BENNET
Marshall University
Bloomsburg University

ZACHARY BERGERSEN
Rider University
Lycoming University
Gannon University
Juniata College

KASEY BIEVER
Wilkes University

MARY JOY CAMPBELL
University of Pittsburgh

ERIC CARABALLO
Indiana University of PA

VICTORIA CARRELL
Penn State University
Bloomsburg University
Lock Haven University

KAYLEE CHYKO
Penn State University

ARLENE DE LA CRUZ
Johnson University
Wales University

LINDSEY DEDICS
Indiana University of PA
Wilkes University

GABRIELLA ECHVENY
Temple University

BRENNA FULK
American Musical and
Dramatic Academy

COLLEGE

EVAN HAUZE
Bloomsburg University
Hartwick College
Indiana University of PA
Lock Haven University

EMMALEE HAZELTON
Art Institute of Pittsburgh

LIZMEIDY HERNANDEZ
Jefferson University
Albright College
Philadelphia University

KEITH HUDOCK

Temple University
Pittsburg University
Penn State University

LAUREN HUNSINGER
Wilkes University

JONATHAN KASCHAK
Penn State University

OLIVIA KAY
Temple University
Susquehanna University

AUSTIN KULSA
King's College

ANGELA LA ROSE
DeSales University
Temple University

KAYLEE MAHON
Duquesne University

LICETTE MEDINA
Indiana University of PA
Luzerne CCC

DANIEL MEYERS
Clarion University

VICTORIA MIDDLETON
Millersville University
Shippensburg University
Albright College

ACCEPT

KIRSTIE MONI
Luzerne CCC

MEGAN MORATTO
Bloomsburg University
West Chester University

JACOB MORGAN
Luzerne CCC

DULCO NAVARRO
Clarizen University
Mansfield University

ANGELICA PEREZ
Mansfield University
Bloomsburg University

SABRINA PERFIDIO
Harrisburg University
Keystone College
Hartford University

JUSTIN PODLASEK
Penn State University

TAYLOR PREHOTSKY
Bloomsburg University
Kutztown University

JOSH PROLOST
Penn State University

CAYLA REX
Drexel University

FELIPE REYES
Art Institute of Pittsburgh

MICHAELA RUBASKY
McDaniel College
Waynesburg University

ISABELLE RUGGIERO
Kutztown University

JAKE SASCHE
Bloomsburg University

CHIARA SANDOVAL
Penn State University
Temple University
Bloomsburg University

ANCES

PAMELA SANTANA
King's College

CHELSEA SCARELLA
Bloomsburg University
Philadelphia University
Wilkes University

KENDALL SOSAR
Delaware Valley University

AMBER SPAHN
Kutztown University
Bloomsburg University
Elizabethtown College
Shippensburg University

MICHELLE STOJKOV
Manhattan College
University of Central Florida

KYLE STETZ
Indiana University of PA

VANESSA TORRE
East Stroudsburg University

MCKENNA TURNBACH
Cabrini College
King's College
Susquehanna University
Elizabethtown College

SARAH WECH
Bloomsburg University

TAYLOR WILLIAMS
Duquesne University

VICTORIA WISDO
Bloomsburg University
University of Pittsburgh
Wilkes University

KIRIAM YORDAN
Wilkes University
Aurora University

WISTER YUHAS
Bloomsburg University

KELSEY ZOLA
Bloomsburg University

