



THE BEAR PRESS

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Mr. Seibel Named Maryland Assistant Principal of the Year!

By: Laura Mosier and Amanda Russell
In-Depth Editors

John Seibel, Hammond's 9th Grade Administrator, was named the Maryland Assistant Principal of the Year for the 2017-2018 school year. The Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals Executive Director Scott Pfeifer held the formal celebration in honor of Mr. Seibel. There was also a celebration at Hammond after school on October 3rd that was attended by former Hammond Principal Marcy Leonard.

Mr. Seibel has worked at Hammond for seven years, and he loves working with all the people that are a part of our Hammond community. "[The] School is awesome, [the] committee is awesome, [and there are] great kids. It's a place where kids appreciate what you do for them and you want to do more for kids." He genuinely enjoys his job and wants to help the students and staff. He works overtime to make sure everyone's needs are met, and his hard work is appreciated and rewarded.

Many students have directly benefited from the efforts of Mr. Seibel. Senior Sara Swanson, has known Mr. Seibel throughout all of her time at Hammond. She said, "He genuinely cares about each and every student in the school... He will always say hello in the hallway and ask how your day is going." Sara is not the only student that thinks Mr. Seibel is an irreplaceable part of the school.

Senior, Alexa Adams said, "Whether it's complimenting my hair, giving me a high five in the hallway or just telling me how great of a student I am, Seibel

is the energy all Hammond staff should be radiating." Students find Mr. Seibel to be an important part of their day at Hammond. Standing in the main hallway between classes gives Mr. Seibel a chance to see and interact with more students in the building. Mr. Seibel is in charge of and helps run many programs for students. His biggest task is being in charge of the freshman class.

According to Hammond's assistant Principal, Ms. Reed, "[He runs] The entire ninth grade team, all of it: all of the



From left to right: Dr. McKnight, Chief Administrator, Hammond AP Mr. Seibel,

Dr. DiPaula, Ms. Marcia Leonard freshman and the parents and the guardians and everyone." That is just one of the things that Mr. Seibel does for Hammond students. He also helps Mr. Saunders and Mr. Hawkins with Empowerment Night, a program that they run to help fresh-

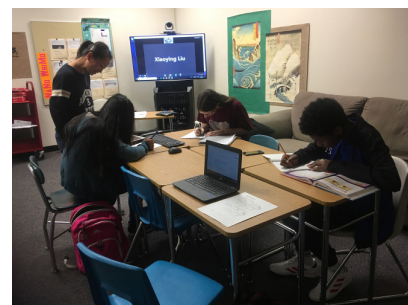
man boys improve grades and decision making skills. Mr. Seibel also helped to start a summer boot camp program for ninth and tenth graders who are looking to take their first challenging classes. Mr. Seibel cares greatly about the students and staff at the school as well as the well being of the school. Junior English teacher Ms. Speirs added that, "Mr. Seibel's consistent presence and encouragement reaffirms Hammond's motto everyday. He is truly an administrator who believes that people are what's most important."

When Dr. DiPaula first became Hammond's principal, Mr. Seibel was very involved in helping him have a smooth transition back into a high school. "Every morning when [Mr. Seibel] got here, we met as soon as he got here and he checked in, like 'What do you need? How can I support you? What's going on?' and then throughout the day, we're all working together, but at the end of the day before he left, he would always come and check in with me," emphasized Dr. DiPaula, principal of Hammond. Having Mr. Seibel as a support system helped Dr. DiPaula to understand the inner-workings of Hammond to maintain programs and norms in the building. Dr. DiPaula described Mr. Seibel as an "anchor." Seibel plays a role in helping the school and its programs run efficiently and effectively.

Mr. Seibel has become an instrumental part of the Hammond community since he joined the staff in 2012. He goes above and beyond to make sure staff and students are successful at Hammond and in their future. In the words of Dr. DiPaula, "Hammond is a better place because John Seibel is here."

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District V Athletic Director of the Year: Coach Mike Lerner

Taylor Liguori
Sports Editor

Coach Mike Lerner has won the award for District V Athletic Director for the 2018-2019 school Year, and students definitely think it was well-deserved. He cares more about his athletes and players than most people could ever hope for. His caring yet witty personality is just one of the things that makes him loved by so many. W!

Coach Lerner has impacted the lives of so many and his athletes have nothing but respect for him and his genuine caring attitude towards them, whether it be on the court, on the field, or in the classroom. Senior Jordan Davis knows how deserving Coach Lerner is of this award saying, "He truly cares about his athletes. He is one of the kindest people I have ever met and has helped me throughout my athletic career." Being a hardworking father and husband, Lerner still puts all he has into his job and it truly shows. Coach Lerner shows to his athletes that they are always the priority and he makes it known that he is always in their corner.

With his efforts within the school many students have been impacted. "It makes you feel good [knowing you've impacted lives]. It's why I got into this job. I knew since I was in 7th grade that I wanted to be a teacher or a coach

and being an athletic director, I get to work with coaches. So although I don't get as much impact with students as I



Mr. Lerner with student-athlete Taylor Liguori

The athletes are not the only ones who are aware of how deserving Coach Lerner is of this award. Mr. Sillers, history teacher and Oakland Mills varsity baseball coach, has been friends with Coach Lerner for a long time and knows him to be a great leader. "Mr. Lerner is a dedicated professional not only to his school, but to the community and wants only what's best for students

which makes him very deserving of the District V Athletic Director of the year award."

Bethany Hewitt, a freshman athlete at Salisbury University, and Alex Bolton, a freshman at CCBC Catonsville, got the opportunity to work with Coach Lerner last year in their senior years of high school. "Lerner was and continues to be one of my biggest motivators in life. He always encouraged me to go one step further and push myself to do the best I can and be the best athlete and person I could be. Lerner will always hold a special place in my heart" says Hewitt.

Bolton also stepped in with how Lerner has impacted him. "[Mr. Lerner] taught me about being a leader and sometimes having to make tough decisions when you are a leader but then also being able to lend an ear to somebody and hear them out and having a conversation."

Coach Mike Lerner has touched the lives of so many teachers, students, and athletes and will continue to have an impact on the people here at Hammond until his last day. "Because I went to school here at Hammond, it means more to me to be able to do it here then it would be any other place," says Lerner.

Coach Mike Lerner: a leader, a friend, a motivator, a life changer. Congratulations to Coach Lerner on the well deserved District V Athletic Director of the Year Award!



Level Up: 2023 Hammond Renovations

Brian Paul
Co-Sports Editor

In 2023, Hammond High School is set to be renovated for the first time since 2011. In March 2018, former Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman proposed a construction budget of approximately 165 million dollars, which included a 4 million dollar education project set towards improvements here at Hammond High School. The building of Hammond High is about 41 years old, and the mentioned improvements include an overhaul of heating and cooling systems, and a rumored second floor. This rumored new floor would look to accommodate 200 more students, as Hammond is currently designed for 1,220 students.

Superintendent Michael J. Martirano met with the County Council and the Howard County Board of Education in order to advance the target completion date from 2028 to 2023. The original completion date was proposed for 2018, but due to other educational projects in Howard County, the date was pushed back as a result of rapid population growth over the past few years.

During the February 1st meeting regarding the renovations, according to The Baltimore Sun, Allan Kittleman stated that he thought the 2022 deadline might in fact still be possible. At the moment, no students who are currently attending Hammond will be able to see the 2023 renovations in its entirety, based on when they are set to graduate. Only Freshman and other new students who come to

Hammond the 2019-2020 school year will be able to see the completed renovations. Students have expressed some disappointment over the renovations being completed so late, as many have been waiting to see the building change since their Freshman year.

Freshman Alex Heuval voiced a similar opinion on whether or not the renovations should have been completed at a different time. "I think it should have been a bit earlier because nobody in the school right now would see these renovations and be a part of these renovations. It would be the Freshman [that enter in] 2020 who would be the first to see when they're seniors. So, I think it should be earlier than 2023."

Another benefit from the renovations will be the space opened up in the hallways. Hammond has a notorious reputation for being overcrowded in certain hallways during class transitions, which can be problematic for both students and

staff who need to get to other parts of the building in a hurry. Junior Ekene Ezech believes that the future renovations will help both students and staff transition smoothly. "I think the impact the [renovations] will have on future classes will allow...kids to have more room [in the hallways] to move from class to class...it will also be able to have teachers have more classrooms, that way teachers aren't sharing rooms and moving from classroom to classroom."

Deante Woody, a sophomore at Hammond, also explained how the teachers stand to benefit from the renovations. "The [teachers] will have their own classrooms so they can have their own

things in their rooms, so that they don't have to be all cluttered up in one place."

The renovations will occur in different stages, and Hammond is currently in the very first stage, says Dr. DiPaula. "We're still in the planning phase. We've got...an overview of which classrooms are going where, and what the major changes are going to look like for the school. As soon as the plans get approved by the

Board of Education, we will put out a request for bids to get a company [that] will come and build [new areas]...once the central office determines who is going to do the construction, then we have to apply for the permits."

The renovations are a lengthy process, and it is unclear how long each stage will take. Dr. DiPaula continued, "...summer of 2020, I believe, [is when the construction company is] going to start actually...knocking down part of the building and start the building phase itself."

While these renovations are occurring, there will be additional portables placed outside the building, complete with bathrooms and a great amount of extra space. This will allow classes to still continue in certain parts of the building where construction is taking place, and offices will be relocated as well.

Though it is true that Hammond high schoolers will be in the building while the renovations are occurring, they will not be permitted to go to the exact locations of the construction, due to safety risks. Certain phases will be completed before 2023, but other construction of other areas will still be going on.

These renovations will surely usher in a new era for the school that will turn forty-six years old in 2023. As the new decade of the 2020's comes into the fold, Hammond will also have an upgraded, new building to look forward to, setting the foundation for a new generation of Hammond students and staff from 2023, and beyond.



Parents and students at Hammond renovation meeting.

Howard County Bans International Travel

Bin Lin
Staff Writer

Last year HCPSS had declared Policy 8110 to be revoked, "The Board passed a motion and voted to rescind this policy" (Student International Education Travel). Therefore, this closed the opportunity for students to travel across the oceans.

Two years ago, 65 students and nine staff members, over a period of 11 days, took a trip to Ireland, the United Kingdom, and France. Two students from the 65 students who went abroad, Seniors Alexa Adams and Leah Fasig, have given some insight on the pressing issue. They explained that being able to travel overseas has been a valuable experience and does have its unique benefits. However, Alexa Adams has stated that "I do think safety should

be the number one key thought for everyone going on a trip overseas. So, I think the benefit does not outweigh the risk." The ban on international travel was met with mixed responses not only by students, but teachers also had their own responses to this matter.

Hammond High School English teachers, Mr. Osborne and Ms. Goff, agreed that the main reason for why the School Board had decided to rescind Policy 8110 is the fear for the safety of the students and staff members. Mr. Osborne echoed a similar sentiment as the students concerning student safe-

ty abroad. "Since we got back from the trip we took two years ago in the United Kingdom and France, there have been five attacks in cities - in places - where we were standing... And that is a hard point to reconcile with the idea of traveling abroad at this time. It would potentially put safe-



From left to right: Amanda Russel, Ms. Barlow, and Tori Vander Putten

ty at risk and that really does come first." Ms. Goff particularly stated, "I think the Board at times are over-cautious and zealous...I think there are places where you can go and [still] be safe, and...you can't predict when this [terrorist attacks] is going to happen, but the tour company...wants it to be a safe trip too. They are not going to take students and staff to dangerous places."

After the news was released that HCPSS was banning any international travel, many students were quick to express their disappointment. Morgan Yeckley was one of the several students who were really disappointed by the news. She

commented, "the people who [were] going on the most recent one, the Greece trip, they [the students] missed out on the opportunities of being able to see a different country." She continued, "The trip I went to, the Europe one, it was very informative and a life-changing experience for me."

Jane Ridgell, a Senior at Hammond High school, feels that traveling is a very good experience for students at a young age. She described that the reason why HCPSS banned traveling internationally is because of safety reasons similar to how other interviewees answered. She added, "I feel like not all countries are as dangerous as HCPSS might think. For instance, I went to Ireland for vacation for the summer, over two years ago. It was my first time to travel outside the United States and I felt like it was a really good experience."

Clearly, the students of HCPSS are all very disappointed that they were unable to go to Greece. Since all of the students that went on the Europe trip are now juniors, seniors, or have already graduated from Hammond, they will most likely be unable to experience the trips overseas with their friends from high school again.

With that said, HCPSS does not seem to be opening up international travel anytime soon, but there could be a way to make up the absence of international travel by traveling to major cities in the United States.

Granted, that may seem that the chances are pretty low, as some students can go on vacation in the summer with their families. However, this may be a way for students to get to know other classmates as well as teachers.

A twitter poll made by the Bear Press featured options of which cities students would prefer to travel to. The options were New York City, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Miami. The result came out to be New Orleans being in last place, with New York City and Miami being third and second place respectfully. This left the winner of the poll to be Los Angeles. The results of that poll go to show that students would be happy to take school trips within the United States rather than internationally.

Iman Tura is a Sophomore who looks forward to traveling. She went to the Bahamas and Canada, and this year she is going Africa. Tura believes that "first hand experience is a must have" which further supports the fundamental basics of learning about a different place and culture. She was disappointed the fact that she could not have gone on the Greece as she heard plentiful benefits that came with it. However, she did like the idea of traveling in the U.S. instead of international travel. She simply replied "to set it [trip] up, since it's in the U.S., it would be easier."

Along with Tura's interview, Aria Lakeh looked forward to an interview because he wished to share his experience on traveling. He has traveled to Iran with his family and said that his trip to Iran to visit his relatives was really enjoyable even bringing back souvenirs for his friends. He described that if HCPSS allowed traveling in the U.S. in the absence of international he would very much enjoy because one, there may be a destination where he really wanted to go and two, it could possibly be less expensive than the trips to Europe. When asked about which city he would like to go to if HCPSS was willing to plan a trip to he replied with "I think everyone should have." Many hope the policy will change in the future.

Hammond Offers Online Courses

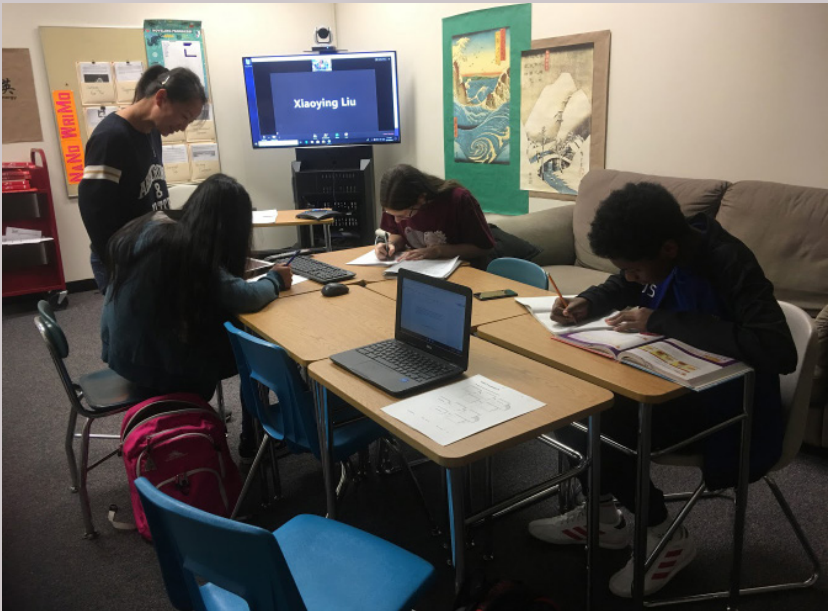
Bin Lin
Staff Writer

Not many Howard County students have realized that there have been a handful of classes taken online. At Hammond High School there are not only language classes online, but high level math classes are offered as well.

The way online classes operate is fairly simple. First both the teacher and the students create an account to access Zoom, a screen-sharing app. Then they are to bring their electronic devices (or one will be provided by the school) in order to join the Zoom app using the account they have created. Once the students have joined the session they will be greeted by their teacher and may also see other students that are learning on the program at the same time. Some classes will also have an Instructional Assistant who helps the students in an online class if they have questions related to the class curriculum.

Taking online classes may seem daunting at first, but there have been many instances where the students and their teachers have worked well in the online community moreso than in an actual classroom. Senior Akash Chauhan has expressed that online classes gives a chance for students to pace themselves, “I think it is a really good experience. You have to learn how to...keep yourself disciplined and do the assignments on time and [you have to] be able to learn by yourself.” He also strongly encourages students to take more online classes

because “...[you can] take classes that aren’t necessarily offered at Hammond.” Mrs. Tai, a Chinese teacher from Long Reach High School, is currently teaching Chinese I to students at Hammond from the Zoom app. From a teacher’s viewpoint of online classes, Mrs. Tai



Students Learn Online Chinese with help from an aid

has stated that teaching an online class is certainly challenging but also commented that “I always think the online experience will be much better if all the students are online. As a result, the teacher could answer all the questions from the online students without interference”.

With classes being online some may ask whether or not it provides the same

curriculum as a real class. To answer this, Mrs. Tai said “I can only say that the online class offers a chance for students who are really interested to learn Chinese...I still think there would be some benefits if the teacher put everything online and the students are extremely motivated to learn. It’s

just too much work for the teachers and it’s also hard to motivate students without [in-person interaction].”

While there are some very good benefits to taking online classes, there are also some major flaws with the system. Jacob Williamson, a junior taking Italian II online, stated that “At first I thought it was a cool idea but I was also a little confused, concerning about the idea of not having a real teacher... I don’t have a teacher that I can talk to face to face.” Another student named Kosta Magoulas also seemed to have the same opinion as Williamson because Magoulas has taken Chinese I and is now taking Chinese II. However, there is a different teacher teaching Chinese II.

Magoulas has made the comment “there are different teaching styles when you get a different teacher, so it is hard when you switch up the teacher.” In addition, Magoulas has stated his opinion on what he wishes to see improved for an online class, “if there are enough students in an online class they should be transferred into a class with teachers... if people are willing do this and invest their time in it, I feel that if they want to learn a new language that is not being taught [at Hammond] they will be able to take an online class.”

The students are not alone in their online school endeavors. They are still able to work in an environment with some of the same features as a usual classroom. The students taking online classes work alongside their classmates within a regular classroom, and even have the added opportunity of working in classes with a smaller number of students. This allows them to gain an understanding of the topic they are studying in a somewhat independent way as well as allows them to divulge into the material and discuss it in further detail.

However, though there is more independence in online classes, there are also Instructional Assistants who are in the classroom, helping the students with their studies.

Though there are both advantages and disadvantages to taking online classes, it is a good opportunity for Hammond Students to experience a different way of learning as well as learn a language or topic which they would not be able to normally take if there was not an online option.

Flour Babies Return to Hammond High Once Again

Alara Sheriff
Staff Writer

In the class Human Growth & Development, students were assigned a project in which they carry around a baby made out of flour or sugar to simulate life as a parent of a newborn. The students had the artistic

liberty to design the baby to appear realistic, but not all are decorated. Guidelines for this project require students to have their “baby” with them at all times for the span of a school week from January 7th to 11th, which would mean

that participants would still do their normal daily tasks while accompanied by a “child.” To the average teenager, this task may seem daunting; however, the “parents” of the flour and sugar babies did an excellent job, keeping their cool and simulating caring for the child in a calm fashion.

“This project is a simulation of a real life parenting situation where [the students] should be having a 24

hour responsibility of having and caring for a child,” Ms. Lancaster commented. Most kids seem to think that this is a challenging project because they are not used to taking one thing around at all times with them, unless it is their phone. “This project has made me real-

attention 24/7 along with the essentials, and even have to give up their sleeping schedule for the child. “I had to wake up every morning and text Ms. Lancaster every morning and tell her what exactly my baby is doing,” said Kirstin Williams, a 10th grader. Parents typically adjust their sleep schedule

to three to four hours a night to accommodate to the needs of their baby. But if you look at the daily schedule, it is a bit different and a little more relaxing.

When caring for a flour or sugar baby, the daily schedule mimics that of caring for a real life baby. The weight of the flour and sugar bags is very similar to a real baby’s weight. “My daily schedule goes as follows— I wake up and change the diaper. Then I re-swaddle the baby, and then I come to school and take it everywhere and then “feed” it. Lastly, I take it home and then it repeats,” explains Senior Lizzy Mcmillan. To make the experience even more real, they have to do an hourly check up on what the baby is doing. They could report something similar to, “the baby is napping, the baby is eating,” and other basic tasks similar to these. Though this might seem fairly simple to some, doing this project also comes with great mistakes throughout the entire week-long process.

This project is not the easiest project in the world. For starters, you have to carry around a five pound flour or sugar bag all day. Five pounds may not seem like much, but it becomes tiring and difficult after only a few hours. Some students reported that the bag got heavy and caused their forearms to hurt in the first couple hours of the project. “The flour bag [became] tiring and heavy very fast and it was a little hard carrying the baby everywhere,” Britt added. The students taking care of their flour and sugar babies not only have to carry the “child” alone, but also have their school bag and other school essentials to carry around with them. This is added weight to the entire process of the project. Additionally, some students have said that other students would try to grab or touch the bag which caused more difficulty and was a nuisance for the students. These difficulties obviously create some mistakes in the process. “During the span of a couple of days I have dropped the baby 3 times and left it with other people to take care of her,” Britt commented. But those were not the only mistakes made. Some people left them in their classrooms, while other people left them at home. Some of the flour and sugar babies even had to suffer their head falling off. Though there may have been a lot of ups and downs in the process of this project, It really changed the perspectives for the participating students on what the average parent does on a daily basis, and how hard it actually is to be a parent. “This project was a good example of what a real parent would go through, and what their daily tasks would look like,” says Kay Butterfield, 10th grade.

The flour babies project is a unique and interesting assignment, that prepares students for a life after highschool.



One of Hammond’s many Flour Babies is ready for another day at school.

ize that there is more to taking care of a baby then feeding and providing a shelter,” said Jasmine Britt, a 10th grader. Many teenagers these days think that parents do not really have a hard job, and that they just need to feed the children and change their diapers or that the baby only sleeps and cries. But early into the project, students quickly learned that parents need to give their baby

BEAR PRESS

SPORTS

Fall Sports Rewind

A Recap of Each Fall Season

Football

Boys Soccer

Bin Lin, Steven Pangburn

Staff Writers

Hammond High School's Varsity Football has a lot to offer. With a record of 2-8, beating Atholton and Centennial, Coach Frederick, and members of the team were proud to be a part of an environment where growth and commitment happens on a daily basis. "The football season was a growing experience for us, we've developed well, and we're very young. I was very pleased with the growth of the guys."

As for the team's close-knit culture, Coach Frederick added that "the guys were committed to the team more than in the past... we had more of a bond."

He was also very prideful of how well the team performed in the game against Atholton's Varsity Football team: "It was a redemption game because I felt like we should have beat them last year. We made a mistake and let them score that touchdown and we couldn't finish off the drive last year. This year it felt really



good to get that win back. We played [a] very strong first half."

The strong culture and commitment demonstrated by Hammond's Varsity Football team resulted in strong individual seasons for numerous players on the team. Quarterback Sam Mercedes is a talented up-and-coming player who had a very strong season for the varsity team. He believed that the overall depth and strength of the team was a big factor in the outcome of the season. "We had a bad

start in the beginning... after the enemy team scored we put our heads down, allowing them to keep scoring, but we have a lot of athletes, the team started working together, and we started winning."

The team finished with a record of 2-8, but one thing that the record does not show was the commitment and dedication to continue to get better and work as a team every single day. With the foundation for success built this season, the team has given themselves a platform to step up and fully compete for seasons to come.

Volleyball

Amanda Weirich

News Editor

Hammond's Varsity Volleyball team is looking to continue making big improvements for the upcoming years. The team consisting of one sophomore, seven juniors, and four seniors started with a record of 1-8 this season. Although they may not have many wins, they were determined to continue working hard.

Senior captain Trinity Addo says "This season we wanted to work on communication and keeping energy up, and I think we have definitely improved on that, and we continue to work on it." Communication was a big part of their win against Patapsco High School, and was the start to them winning more.

With Hammond's Varsity volleyball being a new team, they have made quick adjustments and have worked hard to try new things. "I knew that this would be a new group of athletes working together, so I really wanted them to gel as quickly



as possible, and to try different positions. That's something they've been doing since the very beginning of the season. No matter what I request, or [what] spot I ask them to try to find on the court, they do a really good job of listening" says Coach Corey.

Motivation is key to leading a team, and Hammond's Varsity Volleyball offers that. Senior captain Hannah Gorel says "I lead and motivate the team by trying to put my best effort forward. I try my best to stay positive and talk to teammates about what to change." With communication as a main focus, Varsity volleyball tries to do many team bonding activities. They have done an escape room and many times they like to

go out to eat on days off or before the games. Volleyball has been working hard and has come a long way with many improvements. Hammond finished the season 5-12 and are ready to make a huge comeback next season and turn some heads around the county. For the full Volleyball article, head over to hhsbearpress.com.

Alara Sheriff, Marcia Herrero

Staff Writers

The Boys Varsity Soccer season had its ups and downs, but improvement and friendship could clearly be seen throughout. The season ended for the team with a record of 3-10-2, but not before they opened eyes in the county.

In the beginning of the season it was very rough for the boys. The players barely knew each other, and were not really working as a team. "We had a shaky start, but now we're getting used to playing as a team" shares Sophomore Brandon Sindjui. One player shared that in the beginning he was shy, and felt that everyone was bigger and stronger than him.

Their first game against Marriotts Ridge resulted in a loss, but the team felt as though they achieved a small victory due to the close final score: 3-2. They knew they had things to improve upon, but overall it was a pretty good start. The boys' second game was a tough loss to Oakland Mills by a score of 1-0. However, as the boys got closer to each other, they began to pose quite a challenging match-up for their rivals in the coming games.

Another important part of the



season for the players was preparation for games. "How do we prepare for a game? Well, we first mentally prepare during the school day. Next, we make sure we have food in our systems. Also, during the day we listen to a playlist that pumps us up. When the time comes at the end of the day we come and support the JV team before we play. Lastly, for our warmup we do certain exercises on the side of the field" Eschman told HHS Bear Press.

The team even has a ritual huddle with the coach before the game to boost their motivation. During spirit week, the varsity boys soccer team performed this same ritual during the pep rally for the whole school to see. It was clear that they were as close as a family.

Since then they had their losses and their wins. A lot of them took it to heart as losing always hurts, but they continued to keep their heads up and focus on the next task at hand.

As the season went on, results seemed to get a little better for the boys. The result of their game against Liberty at Hammond on October 8th was a win by a score of 2-0, a great and well-earned victory for Hammond. For the full article and to see more wins and improvements of the boys soccer team, go to hhsbearpress.com.

Girls Soccer

Taylor Liguori

Sports Editor

With many changes occurring this year, such as a new coach and a team which included 8 freshmen and 5 sophomores, the Hammond High Girls Varsity Soccer team made sure they were prepared for this year, but they were really prepared to build the program to rock the county in the upcoming years. Senior captain Tori VanderPutten took time to reflect on the season and about how they have already seen improvements since last year. "Our endurance and our fitness [improved] because our new coach has done a lot of mile runs, push-ups, and squats. Also, our basic ball skills [improved] because we spend at least 20 minutes every practice doing ball skills and just working on those things."

With a new coach comes new adjustments, which is not always easy. Coach Mo came into Hammond High prior to the 2018 season and people knew that change



was coming. "The biggest expectation was to evaluate where they were and see what the foundation of the team was as far as skills and tactical sense. I realize that they had a tough season last year and I wanted to see where we needed to start and build on that."

The common theme between players Tori Vander Putten, Ellen Hagerty, and Layla Hamro was to beat #2 in the county, River Hill. River Hill is made up of mostly travel and club ballplayers, so being a young team beating River Hill was a goal that many of them wanted to achieve. With a record of 8-0, River Hill had a big target on their back and Hammond wanted to be the ones to knock them down. At practice and the games leading up to River Hill, the team was always preparing. "We would try really hard in practice and

work on new things to try to improve. We would work on different passing combinations and different formations," said Senior Ellen Hagerty. The game did not go as planned but the players expressed that they definitely learned a lot from that game. For the full article on Girls Soccer, head on over to hhsbearpress.com

Golf

Amanda Russell, Laura Mosier

In-Depth Editors

The Lady Bears Golf Team had their winningest season yet with an impressive record of 5-6, and they were the Iron Skillet tournament champions for the second year in a row. While the boy's strove for wins, their record does not reflect the strength and spirit of their team. Both teams have improved on their skills and increased their passion for golf.

Coach Osborne was ecstatic with how both teams played this year. "I couldn't be more proud of both teams from improving from last year. Overall Hammond has now brought home the Iron Skillet four consecutive years; two

for the boys and then the subsequent two for the girls. So I'm excited to keep that streak going and hopefully bring them both home next year," Osborne said.

Osborne, who has coached this golf team for 7 years now, is so proud of how these teams have been able to achieve certain things for the first time in Hammond history. It was a great accomplishment for the girls' golf team. The close-knit feeling of the team has contributed to these great accomplishments, considering the fact that there are only 14 players on the team. A close team is able to communicate with each other effectively. Senior Captain, Shreya Tuckley said that "it was a really good experience, golf is really a family sport so we were

really [happy] together and we celebrated." As one of the leaders on the team, Tuckley helps to bring the team together.

One of the four female players, Ashleigh Louie, noted that she "loves the sense of friendship" the team has provided. Even though the season has finished, many of the players are still friends and like to hang out with each other. The calm and supportive environment also provides the athletes with a chance to expand their skills without feeling pressured to do so. Junior Tim Stryker said "I like how relaxing it is." Osborne is most concerned with the golfers being able to learn and improve.

Senior captain Shreya Tuckley said that golf is "not super fast paced and we can take our time learning skills." A key

part of team sports is making each and every player feel welcome and safe. Osborne



and the rest of the golf team help to do that each year as new players tryout at the beginning of August. All in all, it was a great, memorable season for the Golf team.

BEAR PRESS SPORTS

Fall Sports Rewind A Recap of Each Fall Season



Field Hockey

Anna Tache
Editorials Editor

Hammond's Varsity Field Hockey team finished their season with a 3-9-1 record, becoming a more competitive team as compared to year's past. Senior Kim Taylor says that she believes that the team has bonded much more this year than they ever have before. "Last year, the upperclassmen and underclassmen were really separated, but this year we really worked together. We don't see each other as people in different grades, but more so as one large friend group," Taylor said. Senior Carina Thornton agrees with Taylor. "Since we're all in different grades, being on the same team has helped us connect." Many older members on the team believe that the younger members have adjusted well, despite the circumstances of being new to the team.

Although the team has improved when it comes to their friendship and teamwork, they have also worked hard when it comes to playing the sport itself.

Although most of the students had played together previously, there were a large number of new players that joined the team this season. However, many seniors welcomed the new players with open arms. "It definitely helped that we [seniors] made an effort to open up ourselves to the younger players. All of the new players have adapted so much

faster than we did as underclassmen," says Kim Taylor. Practically all of the girls agreed, saying that the addition of underclassmen had a positive influence on the team.

Ultimately, the Hammond Varsity Field Hockey Team has become one group of close and connected friends, who have worked together through thick and thin. Each member has improved in their own way and has brought something new and special to the team. So, if you see a Lady Bear in the hallways, don't forget to congratulate them on a competitive season going 3-9-1. To see the entire article, visit hhsbearpress.com.



Cheer



Uma Riberio, Casandra Arreola
News Editor and Staff Writer

Hammond's Cheerleading team spotted some great moves over the past couple of months at various football games. With the end of the Pep Rally, parade and Homecoming Game, the girls were more ready than ever to work together to spot some new routines and perform in two competitions at the end of November.

When the music came on and the cheer team came out at the pep rally, the crowd of Hammond students began cheering louder than the speakers booming with music. They were cheering for their friends on the squad and excitement from seeing the team perform.

The group was recognized at the pep rally, with many upperclassmen and a few freshmen on varsity, before giving an astounding performance, with several counts and stunts in which two bases threw a teammate into the air.

Right after performing, the squad of

After performing, the squad of twenty-four's energy levels were looking high despite having performed for over ten minutes. They cheered for the many football players, keeping their pom-poms in

the air the entirety of the time it took the players to be recognized at the rally. Their pep rally and homecoming game performances



were successes, and they were confident that they would be prepared for their three competitions at the end of October. Two of the three competitions took place at River Hill High School and the third at Oakland Mills. On November 24th, they had participated in one of the two competitions at River Hill. The first two were Invitationals, in which the team goes against any other high school teams in the state of Maryland that sign up or are invited to compete, including Montgomery County and Anne Arundel County schools. To hear about how invitationals were and how the rest of the season went, go to hhsbearpress.com.

Cross Country

Claire O'Rourke, Carlos O'Ryan
Features Editor and Online Editor

Hammond's very own Cross Country team has had a fantastic season. Over the course of the fall, the runners have all improved their times and ran strong, setting personal records in their latest meet, and taking races against other teams throughout their season.

Coach Kosisky offered kind words and optimism on the season that unfolded under his first year of coaching. "[The] season has been great overall. There's definitely room for improvement, but in terms of the kids improving over the course of the season, they absolutely have."

This was Coach Kosisky's first experience with cross country. He shared that he had a love for running outside of school. He talked about his love for jogging, staying in shape, and the knowledge about nutrition that goes along with both coaching and just running for fun.

Coach Williams also did not have any former experience with cross country in her high school years, but she has been an excellent and well-loved cross country coach here at Hammond for six years. She shared the source of her inspiration: "I'm a distance runner, I love running, running

has been a part of my life as long as I can remember. My kids are distance runners, and I see what a great positive impact it has had on my family, and I wanted to share that. And since my job is more administrative, it's my only real interaction with the kids, and I really, really like it."

When asked about the season, Coach Williams had this to say: "My gosh, we're having a great season. It's the first time in the history of our team that we have

8 guys running under 20 minutes. Fast in cross country are kids running between 15-16 minutes, pretty fast are kids running in 17 minutes. And we have three or four people running between 18 minutes, and a handful in 19 minutes. Most of the time, we're in between 20 and 23 minutes, and this is the first year where everybody has

been really running, and really doing a great job."

Hammond's cross country team continued to astonish and improve as their season progressed, and they were excited to compete in the MPSSAA 2A West Regional Championships on November 1st.

The last time that Hammond's Varsity Cross Country team participated in the state's competition was in 2013. But for the first time in five years, a few of our Hammond bears made it to states. For the rest of the cross country article, run on over to hhsbearpress.com.



Allied Soccer

Troy Kelly
Staff Writer

The Hammond Allied soccer team had another exciting and successful season this fall, finishing with an exceptional record. It has been a great experience for the players. Coach Dylan, who has been coaching for 2 years, took to this year's team. "They're getting a little bit of

instruction from me, which they probably haven't had before, being included and being able to represent Hammond, and just being able to hang out with other kids their age." They had an amazing season this year with only one loss throughout the whole season.

Since last year the program has increasingly grown, doubling the number of players on the team in comparison to the previous season. "The program has definitely gotten bigger. Just last year there were only three players now there are seven, so I think more people are participating," says Senior David Garvey. Having a larger number of participants in the program has pushed the team to work even harder than they

did in the past.

The program has gotten more competitive and serious. The practices have started showing increased focus on the fundamentals of soccer. "Last year it was us and two other people, but now we are like: this is how you pass-- we are making it more challenging," Bilal Akbar shared. Making the practices more

challenging has helped the team achieve their great record this season, and the players hope to continue this trend in the coming years.

Allied soccer is fun for all players. "[The] most rewarding part is how everybody gets when they score a goal, it's cool seeing ev-

everyone happy," Caleb Salem shares. These reasons and more are why he says he loves being a player on the team. Allied soccer has made a big difference for all players. At the end of the day win or lose, it leaves everyone with a smile on their face.

Allied Soccer continues to be another way kids at Hammond receive amazing opportunities, so make sure you come support the team in future years.



For the full fall sports rewind, check out our website at www.hhsbearpress.com



And follow our coverage of ongoing spring sports on the website and twitter @hhsbearpress



Winter Sports Recap A Recap of Each Winter Season



Boys Basketball

Claire O'Rourke

Features Editor

Hammond Boys Basketball's Varsity Golden Bears finished this season with an impressive overall record of 8-14.

The Varsity Golden Bears started the season with five back-to-back wins, including an overtime victory by a close score of 59-57 against Glenelg. Their momentum was stunned, however, following a tough loss two games later against Oakland Mills, but they were able to bounce back in the next game with a 53-47 win against Kent County.

January was a tough month for the Varsity Golden Bears, who suffered close losses in most games that month. The highlight and showcase of skill for them that month was their January 28th game against Concordia Prep, in which they won by an overwhelming score of 70-32.

Going into their March playoffs, the Varsity Golden Bears had lost the game before, but were still strongly carrying the momentum from a win against Centennial two games before by a score of 62-58. However, on Friday March 1st, they would drop their first playoff game against Wilde Lake 59-44.

The season had its ups and downs, but the consensus among the team was that the season was a success because they had fought through each game together.

Coach Michael Salapata commented saying "they made me proud daily, just with their tremendous work ethic and desire to be coached. They were a really good group of kids, and they were a pleasure to coach."

He says the team's greatest accomplishment in his opinion was "literally just coming in to work everyday, putting the time in, and just never giving up."



Junior David Aodu commented, saying "I would say that the biggest accomplishment this year was really playing together as a team. I felt [that] this year we played more as a team than last year, and every game we played with effort no matter the result."

Aodu also believes keeping up that effort, sometimes in lieu of the game score, was a big challenge for the team this season. "The most challenging part of the season was probably not letting the losses [affect our] next game, and not letting us get our heads down," he shared.

Senior Captain Micah Henry shared a more personal and heartfelt accomplishment this season for him: "[My greatest accomplishment was] making it to 1,000 points over my high school career," he said.

Micah is now committed to play basketball for St. Mary's College of Maryland in St. Mary's City, MD, and hopes for a great furtherance of his basketball career with St. Mary's and the Seahawks.

While Henry holds high hopes for his college season, Aodu and the rest of the non-senior Varsity team members share the same aspiration for the Varsity Golden Bears' next season at Hammond.

"Next year I am looking forward to seeing the next guys from JV come up, [to work] with them over the summer, and having more time to practice," Aodu shared.

Coach Sal shares the same sentiment, as he says "I'm very happy with the program we have, and the transition is becoming [more] seamless as the years go by. So, the JV kids know what to expect when they get to Varsity, and the Varsity returners we have know exactly what to expect, so as the kids come up, they kinda take them under their wings, so it's a pretty smooth process right now." Coach Sal and the rest of the Varsity Golden Bears team are excited for their next season.

Tori VanderPutten

Back Page Editor

The Hammond Girls Varsity Basketball team ended their regular season with a record of 12-10, the best record in the past 17 years. Led by new coach, Ryan Hudy, the team not only defeated their rival, Oakland Mills, 70-62 but Senior Captain Imani Reid completed her goal of scoring 1,000 points over her high school career following in the footsteps of her mother and former coach, Raymona Reid. Imani noted that "it was weird adjusting to a new coach, but when we actually got to know who he was and his methods of coaching that made everything easier."

Though the season started with a tough loss, the program had worked hard to end the season strong, ready to take on any challenge that playoffs may throw at them. Coach Hudy commented that "the most challenging part of the season has been getting the girls to realize their talent and how good of a team we can be."

The team has done a phenomenal job of working together to come back after rough first halves and continuing to play their game after debatable calls. In their game against Marriotts Ridge February 25, the girls were down 3-14 after the first quarter yet never gave up and ended up winning the game 61-54, allowing them to achieve their winning record.

Senior Captain Taylor Liguori mentioned that, "the last time Hammond girls basketball had a winning record was 2002, so being able to come in senior year and have that winning record and have that winning mentality was a big part of why this season was great." Coach Hudy worked day after day to push the team to be the best they could be and as the results show; this team is the best that Hammond has seen in a while.



Coach Hudy expressed his belief in his team by saying, "If we play together with 100% effort, we can do something special this year." The team has given 150% effort and has done something special for themselves as well as for the school as a whole. Sophomore Jocelyn Fogle commented, "win or lose we just wanted to compete in every game," and teams that may have expected to crush Hammond had to work hard to try to win in the last couple of minutes with a lucky shot or two.

On March 5, Hammond took to River Hill for a 2A South Playoff game. Unfortunately, the team lost a hard fought battle 50-48 leaving the team distraught. Earlier in the season, River Hill beat Hammond easily, but this time they came back hoping for a game that would turn things around. "Even though it was a loss, I am so extremely proud of this team and where we ended up. We fought harder than any team I have seen and overcame so much adversity and although it hurts, I would not want to play for anyone else or with anyone else" exclaimed Taylor Liguori after the game.

For years to come, the 2018-2019 team will be known to have broken the dry spell and brought Hammond a winning record which is an achievement that all Golden Bears should be proud of. The girls will be able to look back and realize they were a part of something bigger than themselves.



Captain Imani Reid hits 1,000 points.

Indoor Track

Brian Paul and Chris Parris

Sports Editor and Staff Writer

Hammond High's Indoor Track team had a spectacular season that will surely be remembered for a long time. With the team placing high across multiple events and competitions, the sky's the limit for the achievements that the Indoor Track team will earn in the years to come.

Senior Caleb Evans took great pride in the overall success of the team this past season. "During the season we did a lot of good things. We were ranked in the region. In almost all of the events that we went to [we] ranked in the Top 10 or Top 20. A lot of us made it to States. Overall, we were really successful." Caleb, along with his brother Collin, have both been running for Hammond's Indoor Track team since freshman year, making a big impact on the team and having a good time along the way.

One aspect of the team that was not overlooked was the collective bond that was formed over the course of the season, which resulted in overwhelming success for the unit as a whole. Caleb was also very appreciative of the chemistry built by the team. "I love the environment. I mean, everybody gets along. They're kind of like a second family to me. We try to do team activities, like having a game night or texting each other in our group chat. We're always bonding."

Senior Collin Evans also expressed how the team's chemistry would push them to new heights during competition. "Honestly, when we were competing in the middle of meets, we would try

to hype each other up. We bring each other up instead of tearing each other down. We may be on the rails of the track and we'll just yell each other's names, bring each other up, and we believe in one another."

Tommy Dowdall, a senior who has

been running for a while, loves everything about track and the environment. "This indoor season was about rebuilding. For the first time we've had a respectable distance team. There's a lot of young talent here for the future. We've improved a lot under the leadership of Coach Mack. It's been a grind running 50 plus miles a week in the cold. I'm ready to finally break through and be competitive during outdoor season." Dowdall, who ran Cross Country in the fall and Indoor Track in the winter will also run Outdoor Track during the Spring season.

Coach Wright is the Head Coach for Indoor Track, and the players cherish his presence within the team. Ekene Ezech, a junior, stated how Coach Wright empowers his team to perform to the best of their abilities. "Coach Wright is a smart coach who pushes [us] to be our best everyday. He's a guy that you want to fight for, and he will make you a better runner in the process." Coach Wright was really proud of the rapid progress the team made over the season. He believes that in the future, this will serve as a building block for bigger and better achievements. When asked about his plans for the future, Coach Wright elaborated saying, "To just continue the success that we have started to build here, we have a nice foundation that we're starting so, just to continue that. Having more kids qualify for states, potentially win a county meet, a regional meet and also have kids working hard every day."

Coach Wright also identified the team's brightest stars, who will continue to shine on Hammond's track team for the next few seasons. "Damon Brockenberry who got 3rd in the 300 meter dash who was also on our 4x2 team that got 4th. Loick Amouzou, who got 2nd in the 55 hurdles, who was also on that 4x2 team.



Collin Evans, who placed in the 55 dash, didn't advance when he got to states, but he did make it to states. There was a young man Kenneth Lee who did pretty well at regionals, he didn't advance to states, but [there is] a lot of upside with that young man. The 4x2 team, which was Ronald Sample, Damon Brockenberry, Jaylen Knight, Loick Amazoudon, they placed 4th, those were a lot of bright stars on the team and I wasn't really expecting that."

Hammond's Indoor Track has completed a fantastic season. The success of the team this season should serve as a foundation for new heights, leading to even more memorable seasons down the road.

When asked about his plans for the future, Coach Wright elaborated saying, "To just continue the success that we have started to build here, we have a nice foundation that we're starting so, just to continue that. Having more kids qualify for states, potentially win a county meet, a regional meet and also have kids working hard every day."

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Loick Amouzou and Damon Brockenberry showing off their medals.



Loick Amouzou and Damon Brockenberry showing off their medals.

BEAR PRESS SPORTS



Winter Sports Recap A Recap of Each Winter Season



Wrestling: All the Way to States

Bin Lin and Steven Pangburn

Staff Writers

With winter season sports soon coming to a close, the Wrestling Team at Hammond High School has once again outdone themselves. All of the new and veteran players have made improvements and sufficient progress in this most recent season.

Senior Jordan Davis, one of three captains on the Wrestling Team, shared that to him

wrestling is a lifestyle. Something that furthers his own personal skills. "It's mostly about becoming a better person and developing good life skills and good habits."

Davis believes that gaining experience is very valuable and he admires the process. "You could lose to a guy, in the beginning of the year, but when you meet him again in regionals you could destroy the kid because you remem-

ber how he wrestled you, how he wrestles, and how you could counter his mistakes."

Davis also commented that Coach Yeo has been the MVP of the team because Coach Yeo has been encouraging wrestlers to work hard and teaching them how to overcome their obstacles. "Coach Yeo is the one person in the school, that I know, that

really cares for his athletes. He has taken them out of bad situations and turned them around into some of the most respectful and hard working people that

I met in my entire life. He has taken some people who had little to no experience in sports into the most dedicated people and I am confident to say that."

The remaining two captains have managed to capture County Title and Regionals Title and will be moving on to state competition. The first of the two being Senior Shehzan Dahya, who captured the regional title for the 106 pound weight title.

To Dahya, getting this opportunity to compete the state competition means a lot to him. He has been participating in wrestling matches during the off-seasons.

"By wrestling more during the off-season, all the wrestling stuff during the summer, outside of Maryland. Going to Pennsylvania tournaments, Virginia tournaments. I think that's what made me a better wrestler." He would also like to thank Coach Yeo for being his biggest help and as for his teammates it would be Loic Tuego, Arrows Degado, and Jabari Pinkney.

After graduating Dahya believes that both Pinkney and Degado would be able to take over as team captains. Recently Dahya has achieved sixth place for the County Title and believes that he is satisfied with his results but, "if I pushed myself a bit harder then I could have got higher."

The other state wrestler was Loic Tuego, who captured a County Title and a Regional Title in the 220 pound weight class. Tuego views wrestling as challenging yet fun sport. "It's very

hard but to me it's very fun. I like to exert all my energy and just have fun."

He also commented that his team has been putting in a lot of effort during practices and the team's mindset is the same.

He mentioned Arrows Degado to be a most likely candidate for the County Title in the upcoming years and after seeing how well other wrestlers have been doing it encouraged him to do better than he already has.

Although he believes that he has put in the same work as last year he is excited that this year he is able to participate and compete for the County Title. After obtaining third place in the competition he expressed that regional competition is nothing like the state competition. When compared to regional competition Loic exclaimed "States competition is different from regionals because it is more competitive, intimidating, and a lot

diverse players with different skills in wrestling."

Hammond Wrestling is a talented team deserving of all things they get.



Both Loic Tuego and Jordan Davis hit 100 wins



Loic Tuego places third at States



Shehzan Dahya places sixth at States



Jordan Davis finishes with a 25-5 record

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² Financing is available with 3% down of your home's appraised value. Example: monthly principal and interest payment for a 30-year fixed conventional mortgage of \$200,000 at an interest rate of 4.375% with one point (which is an equivalent APR of 4.5845%) and a payment of \$1,065.24. Total payment is \$375,583.15. APR as low as 4.584% for a 30-year fixed conventional mortgage. Rates are subject to change without notice.



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College and Career

The Bear Press examines post high school options.

THE CHALLENGES OF THE COLLEGE APPLICATION

Amanda Russell
In-Depth Co-Editor

With college application deadlines coming and going for the next few months, seniors are currently in the midst of the lengthy, stressful, and tedious process of applying to college. At the beginning of the school year, seniors were instantly thrust into the chaotic college application process. Senior Luz Serna said “I wish it wasn’t so quick. We just got back from summer and it feels like there is no thinking time.” With the earliest college application deadlines being due on October 15th, and the FAFSA Application opening up on October 1st, it is no wonder that seniors felt overloaded at the start of the school year. ” In addition to applications, seniors also have to think about applying for scholarships, which have deadlines that range from fall to the late spring. Some seniors do not even realize the vast amount of scholarships that are available, and have no idea where to find them or when most of them are due. There are numerous resources available, but it can be hard for seniors to know where to start. Senior Ashley Duncan commented “I do not know what to do in or-

der to apply to scholarships, and I feel lost.” One resource available to seniors, is a bulletin board full of scholarships which is located in the hallway across from Student Services. The majority of applications are completed through programs such as Coalition or the Common App, which are also quite hard to navigate. “I wish it was all one uniform application; it would save time, and I wish that Naviance was not such a big part of the application process because it makes everything so difficult” said Senior Paige Goldscher. Every college has different requirements, so seniors have an overwhelming amount of work they have to complete in order to apply to multiple colleges, in addition to their schoolwork. Most schools require at least one essay, possibly more if you are applying to certain programs or an honors college. On this subject, Senior Akash Chauhan commented “I wish there weren’t so many essays.” The vast amount of work that is needed in order to apply to college can sometimes overwhelm the amount of schoolwork that a student has. Many seniors are struggling to find a balance between their school classes, their college applications, and scholarship applications.

TAKING THE SAT AND ACT OUT OF COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

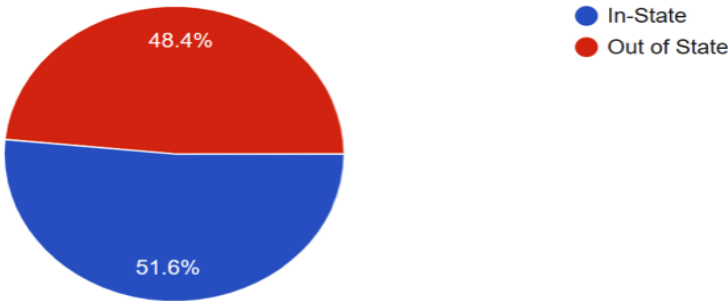
Aubryanna Lee
A&E Co-Editor

Have you taken the SAT? Have you taken the ACT? Have you ever been worried about not getting into college because of your SAT or ACT scores? Well, if you are a student in the Class of 2023 or any of the following classes, you may not have to worry about submitting any standardized test scores to any colleges. There are over 850 schools that no longer require applicants to submit their SAT scores (The New York Times). Colleges say that removing the SAT scores helps them attract strong applicants that may not have previously applied. This includes minority students, those from low income families, and those whose academic abilities are not showcased by standardized tests. Data shows that tests like the SAT are biased against students from low-income households. Students coming from low-socioeconomic backgrounds tend to have a lower performance on standardized tests. The reason for this is the high expenses for preparatory courses, study books, and tutors. For years, there has been a debate between universities and colleges over how much

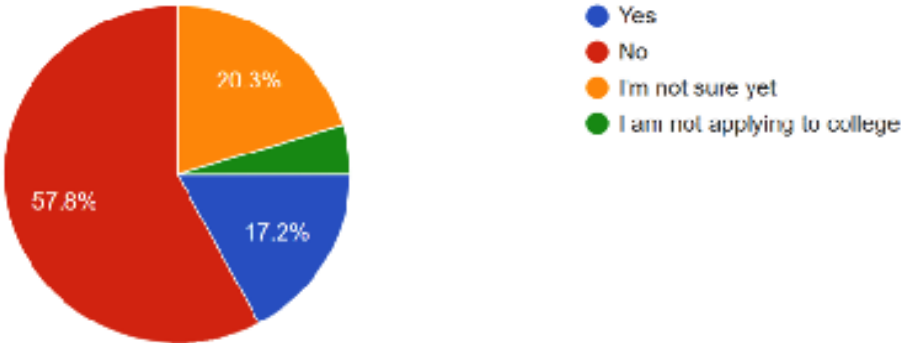
weight should be given to standardized tests as officials consider students for admissions and whether they should be required at all. Some families spend thousands of dollars to prepare for a test that does not fully demonstrate a student’s true qualifications. Some families will spend over \$20,000 on SAT prep and top tutors charge over \$600 an hour. The majority of students applying to colleges spend hundreds of hours doing SAT/ACT prep when they could be doing other activities pertaining to college. There are other things that can be done in high school to help prepare you for college and demonstrate that you are qualified. Taking an AP course, and the AP test that goes with the class, show that you have the ability to do college level coursework. Many colleges admit that the most important thing in your application is your essay. The personal essay shows your personality, your ability to express yourself, what you care about and what you say makes you stand out from the other thousands of applicants. They can be helpful when it comes to determining whether you will perform well in college. Some schools are starting to move away from how much weight the standardized tests hold in applications.



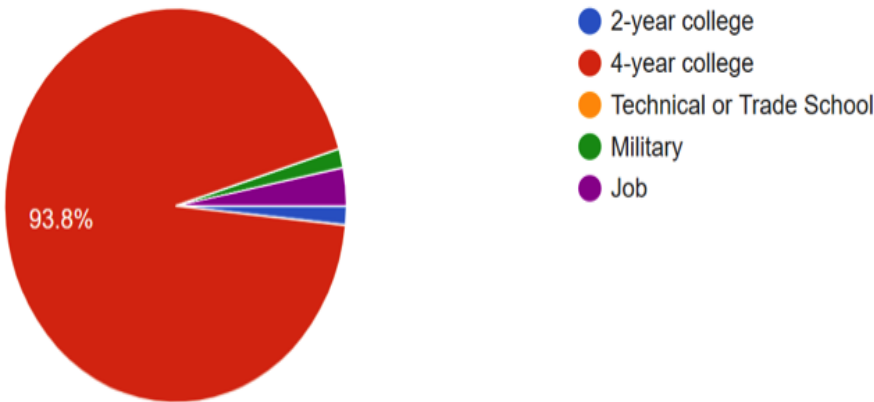
Are you planning on staying in-state or going out of state for your post high school plans?



If you’re applying to college, are you planning on applying to any Ivy League schools?



What are your post graduation plans?



Hammond’s Top 5 Most Applied to Colleges

- 1. University of Maryland: College Park
- 2. Towson University
- 3. Salisbury University
- 4. University to Maryland: Baltimore County
- 5. Pennsylvania State University

Poll numbers are based on 70 responses from Hammond juniors and seniors.

College and Career

The Bear Press examines post high school options.

HOW HAMMOND’S STUDENT-ATHLETES HAVE PREPARED FOR RECRUITMENT IN COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Taylor Liguori
Sports Co-Editor

The process of recruitment for a student-athlete is a lot more than one would expect and is a rather tedious multi-step process. For each athlete, the process may vary a little bit, but in the end there is a similar way that everyone goes about it and similar steps that need to be taken. Seniors



Photo credit: HaHS Twitter Imani Reid's varying in slight ways. O'Neil's process began in spring of his freshman year when he decided to become serious about recruitment and playing in college. "I started by putting together game film and I emailed the coaches the film with my team, some of my stats

Jordan Davis and Mathias O'Neil had a similar experience to one another in the recruitment process with Senior

and my GPA." The way that O'Neil went about this is much like most athletes do.

The "unwritten" written rule of getting coaches attention is to email them like an annoying little bug and send them as many videos and emails as possible of game film and good plays. The first step in the process is to look at schools that are most appealing to you. This does not change whether you are an athlete or not. Most people already have an idea of the schools they want to attend so they go from there. From that point, game film and emails should be sent and camps should be attended. For most, if not all college coaches, they want to see as much of your skill as possible and want to see you at all camps. If they have an interest in you, you will know. No matter what, your best foot should always be put forward.

Bethune-Cookman signee, Imani Reid, was found during her AAU basketball season. "Through AAU, they recruited me. I knew I had to take advantage of when they were looking at me and play my best." Coaches will come and watch games that



Photo credit: HaHS Twitter advantage of this opportunity. Reid did exactly this and has officially signed to play in college in Florida for a great Division 1 program. Much of the recruitment comes from off the court or field also. The time spent in the gym and learning nutrition is crucial to being an elite athlete.

Jordan Davis was a two-sport athlete that was being recruited for both baseball and wrestling but chose baseball. He has always been an extremely hard worker and cares greatly about his future. When asked his routine for working out, he explained his mindset. "If I'm asked to do 10 reps, I do 20. I stay after practice to train harder and overall have

you play in and as a competitor and athlete, you must take advantage

a good mentality." Jordan Davis has now officially signed to play baseball at Wilson College in Pennsylvania and is the first recruiting class for the upcoming program.

I was recruited my freshman year to play collegiate softball at The University of Maryland. I was recruited through my travel ball team and by going to the camps the university hosted. I was always there when any event was going on for the Maryland softball team just to make sure the coach was exposed to me. The way that athletes go about being recruited is different and individually tailored to each person, but in the end, the dreams do come true and all athletes end up exactly in the best spot for them.



Photo credit: HaHS Twitter



HIGH SCHOOL VS. COLLEGE

"In college I would definitely buy used textbooks versus new textbooks. I mean, a new one could probably be like \$200 and a used could be \$60."- Ms. Spencer (Virginia Tech)

"In terms of school, you have to study a lot harder and much sooner before a test, but you're actually in class for a shorter amount of time and you don't have to wake up quite as early as you did for high school. You have a ton more free time during the day which is amazing!"- Ashley Bissenas (College of William and Mary)

"I worked at the union and I was able to do my homework there and I worked just twice a week, and I met a lot of people that way."- Mrs. Osborne (University of Maryland)

"There's not a lot of hand holding when it comes to managing your time which is really hard for a lot of first year students." - Mandi Bhatt (George Washington University)

"High school was built for extroverts to thrive, college is built for introverts to thrive, as well as extroverts."- Mr. Livieratos (Towson University)

"I'd definitely say effort and self-discipline is the biggest difference because I thought I worked hard in high school, but it's genuinely nothing compared to the effort I've put into college." - Rachel McClanahan (University of Maryland)

"You do all the fun things first, and then you go back to your dorm and you go "oh my gosh, I have to read fifty pages." And then you get so tired and you don't get it done, or you don't do it well. Don't procrastinate."- Ms. Lancaster (Ball State University)

Editorials

Immigrants Should Be Allowed in This Country, and Here's Why:

Casandra Arreola and Uma Ribeiro
Staff Writers

Immigration is a topic that people have been debating for centuries. But with the Trump administration in office and making ridiculous policies that even go as far as to hurt children, it is being discussed and debated now more than ever before, and has become an issue of morals rather than one of politics.

Under the zero tolerance policy Trump released back at the start of his term, in which all people entering the United States illegally are prosecuted, innocent children were separated from their families, some younger than two years old.

Though the topic of new people entering the country is largely debated, there should be no debate when it comes to the separation of families and the detaining of innocent children in horrible conditions. It has been proven that family separation causes severe trauma, especially in children, and the fact that they are detained in these horrendous centers rather than being comforted in any way only makes that trauma worse.

The Trump administration, including White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, continues to justify the abuse of these innocent children. The US government legally has to provide any detainees with safe and sanitary living conditions as well as proper medical care, and they did not do so in any way.

Mariee Juarez, the 19 month old daughter of an immigrant who was detained in a Texas detention center, died due to improper medical care for a respiratory infection while in the center, and there have been many other cases similar to that as well.

According to the Washington Post article entitled "Unrest at U.S.-Mexico bor-

der creates new tension over migrant caravan," the actions Trump is taking are actually causing more immigrants to come into the country rather than his goal of keeping them out, and is only harming people.

The pictures that have been re-

leased from the attack show parents desperately trying to pull their children away from the fast-approaching white fog. Trump has actually defended these terrible actions, stating that the gas was not harmful, when the effects of the gas have been known to be harmful, and in extreme cases, lethal.

Trump has continued his bombardment of childish tweets, in his latest excusing the unleashing of the gas and calling the migrants "stone cold criminals" when in reality the migrants trying to enter the United States are fleeing horrible conditions in their country and are trying to seek asylum (the right to international protection in another country).

Here are the real facts: Seeking asylum is not, in any way, illegal, but denying immigrants the right to seek asylum is. The migrants are not the criminals, but rather the very president of the United States and his administration are. The very people who constantly defend their heinous actions by referring to the constitution are being unconstitutional themselves.

The administration is not only harming innocent people, but is causing political crisis in Mexico as well. According to The Baltimore Sun article, "Trump's tweets and the truth about the migrants at the border," the next president of the country, Lopez Obrador, who spent his entire career trying to aid the poor, was hit with Trump's statement that he will not allow Mexicans into the United States to seek asylum. This statement is causing a great humanitarian emergency and now Obrador is deciding whether to fight it or just comply, as either decision could have major negative consequences. Trump continues to bash immigrants, yet he and his administration have no real facts to back up their statements, and they continue to dodge any legitimate questions they receive.

When it really comes down to it, it is a question of morals, not political views. Most immigrants come to the United States to flee war, poverty, and to make better lives for their children, not to inflict violence or cause trouble, and instead are met with ICE officers, having their children taken away from them for an unknown amount of time, and tear gas. Legal or illegal, immigrants are still human beings and the way Trump is tackling the issue of immigration is only creating more conflict within the United States.



Members of the migrant caravan passing through the interior of Mexico on October 21st. (Source: Vox)

The 2018 Midterm Elections: Howard County is Heading in in the Right Direction

Anna Tache
Editorials Editor

During the last Midterm Elections, held on Tuesday, November 6, 2018, the nation voted to elect candidates for positions such as Senator, House Representative, Governor, and even County Executive. These elections determined our country's Congress for the next two years and were crucial to the future of our nation. I had personally hoped for a Democratic takeover of both the House of Rep-

ernment, and I was not completely disappointed. Although the Democrats did lose the Senate by a few members, they did take over the House with a 26-person lead over the Republicans. In Maryland, Republican incumbent Larry Hogan won the race for governor; however, Maryland elected a Democrat for Attorney General, as well as majority Democrats for the State Senate and the House of Delegates.

When it comes to Howard County, former Council member and

can speak up for those who have been underrepresented, especially minorities.

man, I feel that Ball has the potential to be a distinguished leader for the county be-



A news broadcast on the day the results were released, stating that Ball was elected County Executive (Source: WMAR)

On this issue, my reasoning comes from personal experience. In early 2017, a few students from around Howard County, including me, got together to form the Howard County Young Democrats. Our focus was to create and pass a bill that would make Howard County a sanctuary county, which means that we would help protect many immigrants' immigration statuses. The person who sponsored this bill was Calvin Ball. He helped a small group of high school students take their bill to the Howard County Council for a week-long hearing. Ball was extremely supportive of our efforts and stood beside us the entire time. Eventually, the bill was vetoed by Kittleman. Based on my encounters with both Ball and Kittle-

cause of his unchanging care for those who tend to be underrepresented.

Ultimately, after following the midterm elections closely on both the national

and local level, I feel that I've formulated a strong opinion on who I believe should have won. Some of my hopefuls did win, but unfortunately, some did not. In my opinion, although it may seem that while the national government still has a lot of room for improvement, I feel like Howard County is headed in the right direction.

Want to share your thoughts on topics that matter to you and Hammond students? The Bear Press welcomes Letters to the Editor. The editor reserves the right to edit material for brevity, grammar, and style. Any obscene, intolerant, or inappropriate letters will be not be printed. All letters must have the writers name and class. Email letters to hhsbearpress@gmail.com.



representatives, the Senate, the Maryland State Government, and the Howard County Gov-

I think it's a huge step in the right direction for Howard County. I feel that Ball

Editorials

Waffles VS. Pancakes

Marcia Herrero and Troy Kelly

A&E Editor and Staff Writer

Waffles are better than pancakes for various reasons. First, the square waffle texture allows for a great and useful characteristic: topping storage. Whether it's butter, maple syrup or any other topping you want to add, you can be sure that it will stay in place. Another reason why waffles are better than pancakes is that pancakes get soggy much more quickly than waffles, making waffles the best brunch food. The public seems to say the same. "I don't like how soggy pancakes get. Waffles are better because they always stay crunchy," said Sophomore Phaedra McNeill. The crunchiness of the waffle really makes the taste more appealing. You could drown your waffles in syrup or butter but it would still taste crispy and hot. And if you wanted to eat it the next day, waffles taste much better the next day, compared to pancakes. When you try to reheat pancakes, they taste terrible, so you would just have to end up throwing it out the next day.

Waffles are super easy to carry around without making a mess, unlike pancakes, which are big and floppy and much more difficult to take anywhere. They are also the perfect dish for sharing (which basically promotes peace), thanks to their pattern. You can easily tear them apart into perfectly symmetrical pieces, offering them to other breakfast-lovers while pancakes require knives to cut up and share. With pancakes if you would try to share with others it would just make ugly tears and no one would want to eat them.



Waffles are also much less time consuming than pancakes. With pancakes you have to worry about watching them and flipping them over, which can be very problematic for some people. This is perfectly normal, many of us aren't expert cooks. Pancakes also take much longer to cook than waffles. Waffles can just be made by putting the batter into a waffle iron, and letting it do the work for you. The consistency of making pancakes tends to be off too. It's hard to get that perfect circle or to the right crispiness you prefer. If you look away for one second and they're burned and you have to throw them away. With waffles, there's a timer that dings to alert you when your waffles are just perfect.

These are only functional reasons, but we can also talk about how amazing and great a waffle's taste is in comparison to a pancake's taste. A waffle has a much richer taste than a pancake and is also more pastry-like. Waffles also generally have more butter and sugar in the batter which makes it more caramelized during cooking, creating the unique waffle taste and flavor. On the other hand pancakes are just lightly sweet and bready, lacking taste and uniqueness. Also whenever you make pancakes you have to make something with it. You can never eat pancakes alone, but with waffles you can eat them alone and still be satisfied.

Waffles are better than pancakes because after 5 minutes, a pancake becomes a floppy bore, while waffles keep a crispy outside and sweet inside of deliciousness.

Amanda Russell

In-Depth Editor

It's one of the biggest debates of all time: Pancakes vs. Waffles. Both sides have strong arguments, but pancakes are obviously more superior than waffles. Pancakes have a much sweeter flavor than waffles. When you bite into a pancake, your mouth explodes with a yummy, cake-like, buttery flavor. You can also easily add flavors to pancakes to specialize the, for a specific season. For example, you can have pumpkin spice flavor, chocolate flavor, cinnamon flavor, peppermint flavor, and the list goes on and on. You can easily add chocolate chips, blueberries, bananas, or other add-ins, to give your pancakes an even more delicious flavor. Pancakes come in stacks and you can stack them as high as you want to. Waffles never come in stacks. Because they are flat, pancakes can easily be stacked; but waffles have bumps in them that make it hard to stack. It is also socially acceptable to eat a large stack of pancakes in one sitting. Because pancakes have such a light and fluffy texture, you are able to eat a large amount of them without feeling stuffed and sick. You never see a large stack of waffles though, and usually, a single waffle is considered to be an acceptable serving size. Pancakes are healthier than waffles. Two pancakes are about 160 calories, but one Belgian waffle is about 290 calories. Not only are they more delicious, but pancakes are the healthier option.

The uneven texture of waffles presents numerous problems that pan-



cakes do not have. For one it is impossible to evenly spread butter on waffles. It gets stuck in all the little dents, but pancakes do not have this problem because they are completely flat. When you spread syrup on waffles, the syrup pools in the little squares and you usually end of having too much syrup. You can evenly spread syrup on pancakes and make sure that you get the correct amount of syrup.

Pancakes are far easier to make than waffles. You can make them in a pan or a griddle. But waffles can only be made using a waffle iron. Waffle irons are literally terrible to clean. The batter gets stuck in all the crevices and it is so hard to completely clean it. But, if you give a pot or a griddle a quick soapy scrub it will be spotless!

Pancakes can also be a creative outlet for some people. There has been a recent trend called Pancake art. People use cooking tools and food dye to make outrageous characters or objects using pancake batter. Because waffles are waffles because of their specific grid-like shape, it isn't possible to make cool art using waffles. Some people may argue that waffles makes it easier for you to cut it into even pieces. But, this girl-like shape actually prevents people from feeling comfortable to cut their food in any shape, direction, or size that they like. Pancakes have no guide for cutting and people can cut them into many different ways. Waffles are also denser in texture than pancakes are and it is a lot harder to cut them into small pieces... *(Read the rest of this article online at www.hhsbearpress.com)*

Gun Control: Why America Needs to Follow and International Example

Laura Mosier

In-Depth Editor

There have been 51 mass shootings in the United States as of March 4, 2019. In just 63 days, there have been 51 mass shootings. In this same period of time, 2,344 people have been killed by guns. Out of all of the victims of gun violence in 2019, 458 of those injured or killed were under the age of seventeen.

Fifteen days after the deadliest shooting in Australian history, the Port Arthur Massacre, Australia had implemented the National Firearms Agreement. Since then, gun violence has gone down immensely in Australia. The United States continues to have mass shootings that take the lives of so many people, yet nothing has been done to combat this issue.

The U.S. has a significantly larger number of mass shootings and death due to guns than other countries, such as Australia and Norway, that have implemented stricter gun laws. On July 22, 2011, Norway had the most deadly mass shooting in the world at a summer camp called Utoya. 77 people were killed, and most were children. After the fact, the Norwegian government worked hard to improve national safety in relation to mass attacks. Norway has not had a mass shooting since then. Both Australia and Norway took action im-

mediately following a tragic event, and both countries were successful in fixing the problem. Neither country has a complete ban on guns. A common misconception is that gun control means banning guns entirely.

The goal of strict gun laws is to make guns harder to obtain so that people who should not have them cannot get them. There is no reason that anyone outside of the military should have an AR-15 or any other type of assault rifle, nor should mass shootings be so common in the U.S. that it is known what the most popular gun is for mass shootings.

Controlling guns will not only help lessen the number of mass shootings drastically, but it will also help lessen the number of suicides by gun and the number of deaths and injuries due to domestic



Protesters at the March For Our Lives protest. Photo Credit: China Daily

disputes. Guns are not the only method of suicide, but that are a common weapon used for it. By implementing gun control, it will be much harder for someone to obtain a gun if they have a mental illness. This will make is harder for someone who is contemplating suicide to obtain a gun, therefore bringing down the number of suicides by gun.

In domestic disputes, women are more likely to be murdered if a gun is present. Making it harder for people who show signs of excessive anger to obtain a gun. This in turn will lower the number of gun deaths that occur during domestic disputes.

Gun control also applies to how a gun is stored when it's not being used. By having laws that require guns to be securely locked up, children will not be able to get their parents' guns, and guns will not be

able to be stolen during break-ins. Legally owned guns are frequently stolen and used by criminals, so having gun control will keep them from purchasing guns, and keep them from stealing guns during break-ins.

One of the most common arguments people have opposing gun control is that it violates the Second Amendment, however this is not true. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the right of militias to own guns, not the right for individuals to own guns. Since militias are no longer necessary, the Second Amendment does not apply here. However even if the Second Amendment did apply, conditions have changed since the bill of rights was first created. New amendments are created all the time that change old ways of living. As time goes on, there is a need for change, so altering the second amendment, or adding a new amendment to alter it, would be a necessary change.

Gun violence is a major problem in the United States. Other countries who have recognized the problem have taken action, and it has had a positive impact. Implementing gun control in the U.S. will reduce the number of gun related deaths and injuries, and reduce the number of mass shootings. While gun control will not completely eliminate gun violence, it will help diminish the problem.

A Midsummer Night's Dream: Play Review

Uma Ribeiro
Co News Editor

William Shakespeare's many plays have been taking the stage everywhere for centuries, becoming more famous with each performance. Hammond's theatre department, alongside their director, Mrs. Lauren Tobiason, have continued to honor the great playwright with their performance of the famous comedy and timeless love story, A Midsummer Night's Dream. The story has three main plot lines to it, one which follows four lovers, Helena who loves Demetrius, her ex-lover. Demetrius, who wants to marry Hermia, and has her father's blessing to marry her, and Hermia who wants to be with Lysander. The play then enters the world of the fairies, led by Puck, an anti-cupid of sorts who creates as much mischief between the four lovers as possible, and the fairy king, Oberon, along with his queen, Titania, both of whom are feuding over custody of an Indian child. Finally, it follows the story of the Rude Mechanicals who are putting on a play in order to impress and entertain Theseus, the Duke of Athens, on the evening of his wedding with Hippolyta, the Amazonian queen. These three storylines intertwine as the play progresses, creating much hilarity as the fairy world and human world come together when they obviously should not. While the original play takes place in the woods outside of Athens, the Hammond High Production decided to twist the concept of the play by setting it in Athens, Ohio, in the year 1957, inside of a high school. The young actors did an amazing job capturing the essence of the various characters in the story, truly reflecting their many hours of rehearsal and

their great talent and acting abilities. Senior Katie Rees played Helena with great energy, capturing her quirks and obsessive love of Demetrius perfectly throughout the entire show, and causing a ripple of laughter to come from the audience when she and Kenneth Apana-Korley, who played Demetrius, were on stage together. Others who saw the play seem to agree. "I felt all of the cast did a stellar job... and one of my favorites was definitely Helena. I loved her character and how she was portrayed and the play overall was magnificent," commented Freshman Cat Ijams. The hilarious and slightly sad constant rejection of Helena by Demetrius and of Demetrius by Hermia, played by Senior Grace Quade, which is shown in the first few acts was entertaining to watch, as the tragedy of the love that is not returned is subtly overshadowed by the comedic relief of the majority of the characters and the overall storyline. The lively energy and mischievous personality of Puck, played by Senior Kaylee McDonald, never faded throughout the entirety of the play, acting as the narrator and interacting with the audience while also playing the enchanting flute which only added more magic to the entire performance. Freshman Sarah Oyemade loved watching "Puck, Helena and Demetrius, because their personalities were so relatable." The second plot line in which the fairies play tricks on the human world comes into play when Oberon notices



Photot Credit: Hammonds Theater

es the sticky situation forming between the four lovers, and then requests for Puck to cast a spell on Demetrius to make him love Helena. However, Puck mistakes Lysander for Demetrius, making Lysander love Helena instead. Oberon and Puck then take it upon themselves to right this wrong. The king even goes as far as to play a trick on his queen, which is when the Mechanicals come into play, intertwining with the lovers plot line as well. After seeing the terrible play the Mechanicals (or the AV Club, as they are called in this high school setting) are trying to put on despite their atrocious acting abilities, the mischievous and elusive prankster, Puck turns the face of the play's lead actor, Nick Bottom, into a donkey's head. King Oberon then casts a spell on Titania so she would fall in love with the donkey-faced mortal, which

would then give him the opportunity to steal her adopted child from her. The meeting of newly-turned donkey, Nick Bottom and Queen Titania makes for some of the most comical parts of the performance. The confident and cocky mechanical Nick Bottom, played by Junior Carlos O'Ryan, definitely allowed for some of the funniest parts of the entire show. Carlos does a fantastic job of not only playing his character, but also Pyramus, the character that Nick Bottom portrays as well. His many different voices and singing abilities, he was definitely a crowd favorite. Freshman Saili Khorjekar commented on the performance, "[Nick Bottom]..was so funny. He had good projection, he got into character so well. I was excited [after seeing him perform] and was like, I need to watch this."

Battle of the Music Apps: Apple Vs Spotify

Taylor Liguori
Co Sports Editor

In this world we live in, there are quite a lot of debates going around regarding sports, politics, TV shows, movies and so on and so forth. Let's be real here for a second though. The most important debate is really in music and what is better: Apple Music or Spotify? Apple music, without a doubt, is much better than Spotify. Apple music is only \$10 a month and includes so many great little ways that improve your life. You can add Apple Music songs to your phone and all of a sudden it is in your own personal library. Not only do you have access to all of the songs Apple provides, but you also have access to Beats-1 Radio and all of the radio stations you can imagine based on artists, genres, moods, and seasons. Sharing playlists is also made easy with Apple Music. You can share playlists with other people and make playlists public to everyone if you wish to. Also, all artists start somewhere and Apple music understands that. They play songs by artists that are just starting out and that is great for listeners too.



Photo Credit: Drakes Apple Music

People may say that Spotify is better because you can match it with Hulu and such, but it costs more, especially for college kids. Apple Music allows college students to pay only \$4.99 per month. They understand that college kids have a lot on their plate and they want to help them out in the best way they can. According to some accounts, Spotify is also confusing to follow and hard to navigate. According to senior Haley Rice, "Apple Music is easy to use because Spotify is confusing. I couldn't understand Spotify and its an additional app that I have to get on my phone. With my iPhone, I already have the Apple Music app." Apple music so much is because Apple music lets you store up to 100,000 songs and they can be in your cloud therefore you can listen to them offline. You do not need wifi in order to listen to all of these songs. On the other side, Spotify only works for local files. Based on this information, I think it is crystal clear to see that Apple Music is better than Spotify. Apple understands the hardships people face and that's why they cut down price for college kids. Don't you want someone who understands where you're coming from? I definitely do.

Tori Vander Putten
Backpage Editor

Although most teenagers like listening to music, not everyone wants to pay just to listen to it. Spotify understands that and offers a free version of their service, that is more limited than the paid version, but still allows its users to enjoy music. Though the free version includes advertisements, limited skips, and only-online listening it is better than nothing. If the \$9.99 per month is concerning consider the Spotify Premium and Hulu deal which is \$12.99 per month for both services. Go from singing your heart out while listening to "Before He Cheats" by Carrie Underwood to crying your eyes out while watching One Tree Hill. College students can take advantage of this deal for only \$4.99. There is an option on Spotify to follow verified artists as well as other users. Along with being notified when a new song or album comes out, following an artist comes with the benefit of being offered presale access to concert tickets. If you were to ask every person in your English class what kind of music they listen to I am sure that there would be some crossover but there would also



Photo Credit:: Ariana Grandes Spotify

be a lot of unique answers. Spotify understands that and for that reason it makes a new playlist for each user every Monday, Discover Weekly, based on previous songs the user has listened to and songs similar to those. There are also Daily Mixes which are created to sort the various types of music that the user listens in case they are in a certain mood or feeling a certain way. Every Friday users are made a Release Radar playlist which contains new songs from the artists being followed. At the end of each year Spotify creates a playlist of the songs and artist that the user listened to the most over the course of the year. Mr. Dunlap praised Spotify by saying that he likes Spotify because "it has allowed me for years to listen to all the music I want to listen to and it's more often used so people can share playlists with me." What could be better than a music streaming service that adapts to each user's specific taste in music? For some people listening to music is part of their everyday routine and Spotify is the perfect way to seamlessly intertwine music and life. Apple Music may be an option for iPhone music lovers but in order to reach the full potential of music enjoyment Spotify is the key.

The "Death" of Fortnite

Troy Kelly
Staff Writer

There has been a lot of talk about the health of Fortnite, a game created by Epic Games for mobile, PC, and game console play. A lot of gamers say Fortnite will later be forgotten due to players' loss of interest.

There have been many indications of Fortnite dying. A lot of gamers are getting tired of the same thing in Battle Royale and repeated glitches in the game, which causes many playerst to get frustrated and quit.

Freshman Thomas O'Hagen says his frustration with fortnite comes from the combat system and cooperative game-play. "Headshots with pump do nine damage. My teammates sell me out, too many try-hards," he elaborates. Some people have won so many times that they start to get bored of the repetition of winning matches.

The Bloom, Building, and Epic Games responding to the gamers' complaints too much and constantly making chnages to the game is one of the greatest problems that Fortnite faces, famous Youtuber "Ged" reports.

Bloom is a mechanism that randomizes the location that your bullets hit. Most gamers don't like this feature because it makes a lot of the game seem like it relies more on luck rather than skill. "The pump hits for one damage... People faze through



Photo Credit: Fortnite

bullets," states Freshman Jaylen Griffin, who claims has raged over the game on multiple occasions because of these features.

In a game where pure luck can beat skill, there's bound to be rage-quitting in the game. Another factor in the "death" of Fortnite is due to the changes in building. Freshman Alex Gayele stated "I don't want them to build, I want it to be like PUBG or Call Of Duty."

The skill level of one's building ability can really show how good that player is, but Epic Games have lessened the amount of materials you can use to build. That decision has made a lot of gamers angry because it makes it harder for them to demonstrate their building skills when it takes forever to gather their materials.

However, Epic, the creator of the game, listens to all of the feedback and constantly makes changes. But still, streamers say that most of the time not everyone likes the new changes.

Ged claims that Epic is trying to make the game more inclusive for newer players, which in turn makes it less enjoyable for those at a higher skill level. It is not fair for the players who actually have skill in the game to be treated like novices.

Fortnite will eventually die out because Epic is making changes that are ruining their reputation and making them lose players.

RED DAWN: IS IT RIGHT-WING PROPAGANDA?

Chris Parris
Staff Writer

In 1984, Red Dawn was released by MGM/UA Entertainment. The movie starred Patrick Swayze, C. Thomas Howell, Charlie Sheen, Lea Thompson, and Jennifer Gray.

In an alternate version of history, the Soviet Union and Cuba invade the United States and make it a communist nation. A group of teenagers manage to flee into the wilderness, where they decide to become guerrillas and take on the troops that have invaded their country. By the end of the movie, the teenagers are referred to as "The Wolverines."

At the time of its release, Red Dawn did well at the box office, but was panned by movie critics. Red Dawn is also a perfect example of right-wing propaganda.

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, propaganda is "the spreading of ideas, information, or rumor for the purpose of helping or injuring an institution, a cause, or a person." For this review, propaganda will stand for the use of media to advance a potentially dangerous worldview that can be valued by a single nation.

Calling Red Dawn right-wing propaganda is not too much of a controversial opinion. So, which elements of the movie reflect right-wing views?



Photo Credit: Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc.

To start off, the opening text in the movie reveals that NATO has been dissolved, leaving the United States vulnerable to a communist invasion. This is a popular nationalist theory: globalism will fall.

After Soviet Union paratroopers jump into a rural Coloradoan town, a group of high school students manage to flee into the wilderness by truck.

One of the students, student body president Darryl Bates (portrayed by Darren Dalton), is presented as an intellectual yet weak individual. Jed Eckert (Patrick Swayze), an athlete, is portrayed as a natural leader who can never be incorrect. This makes their deaths patriotic and established the invaders as savage beasts.

In a February 2009 issue, The National Review, a conservative magazine,

ranked the movie at number 15 on their list of the best conservative movies ever made. Theideaofteenagersbecomingguerrillasand becoming victorious over specially-trained Soviet Union and Cuban soldiers makes the movie good entertainment in their eyes.

Overall, Red Dawn is special on how obvious it is as a piece of John Milius' political propaganda. The best thing we can do to limit the Red Dawn's impact is to recognize the movie for what it is.

Netflix Review: The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina

Cassandra Arreola
Staff Writer

On October 26 of 2018, Netflix released an original series, "The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina". They released ten thrilling episodes.

The story originated from Archie Comics, and, throughout the years, more versions of the comic have been passed on, for example like the show Sabrina the Teenage Witch which premiered in 1987. "The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina" is the new and improved version of the last remakes of the show that took place. The plot is about a teenage girl in Greendale, who is half witch and half mortal.

On her sixteenth birthday, Halloween, there has to be a dark baptism in order for her to embrace her inner witch. In order to confirm her full commitment to being a witch, she has to pledge in The Book of the Beasts. Signing her name in the book entitled that she will always stay loyal to the Dark Lord, and



Photo Credit: Sabrina Netflix

he will always have authority over her. However, by agreeing with his rules, she would have to leave her best friends and her beloved boyfriend without telling them about her other life.

Things take unexpected turns along the way and she encounters hatred, revenge, and other supernatural complications. Sabrina learns more about her friends, family, and herself. She encounters hardships, and faces some realities she would never dream of. Junior Liya Kebede shares: "I loved the show, it really kept my attention for consistency."

The show captures all scenes with great detailing, and perfect spooky scenery. As a matter of fact, the show displays many issues revolving today like bullying, harassment,plays girl power, kindness, and love.

The show also delivers many messages, both hidden and "moral of the story" types. Kebede shared a message she gained. "Probably to find strength in those around you like your friends, and family, it was a really big one throughout the show." The show displays the loving, and new bonds of relationships between the characters, making the audience relate to those who have the same care for others.

"THE THING" MOVIE REVIEW

Carlos O'Ryan
Online Editor

It has been 36 years since "The Thing" was released in theatres in June of 1982. Director John Carpenter's science-fiction/horror movie, which revolves arounds the bloody events that unfold when a shape-shifting alien finds itself at a research base in Antarctica, was heavily criticized at release for being an absolute gore-fest, where characters only existed to be grotesquely dismembered in a splash of blood and guts.

However, in the years following its release, it was eventually accepted for what it was, which was never an uninspired mess of body horror, but as a genuine classic full of thrills and absolutely wonderful practical effects, but at its initial release, it was heavily criticized for having characters that only existed to be chopped up, burned, and torn apart in gross ways.

Part of what makes The Thing so compelling is how these characters interact. Almost all of the thrills here come from the tension that the characters and audience feel when they're left to contemplate which one of the actors on screen is supposed to be the alien. As you watch, you see the psychological impact that this horror and distrust gives to each charac-



Photo Credit: The Thing movie

ter, as they begin to snap and turn to more violent and reckless tactics of driving this Thing out of the shadows. The other aspect at play here that is worth mentioning are the practical effects. Within the movie, this alien is never revealed in its true form, as it is always changing shape. And without any sort of CGI or special effects, it is truly impressive what the people who worked on this movie were able to accomplish. Heads sprouting legs and crawling on the floor,

a dead man's stomach opening up into a mouth and biting off a dude's hand. This stuff is absolutely horrendous and it is not difficult to understand why people didn't like it at release.

If you were to only watch one scene from The Thing, google the defibrillator scene, where the teams doctor performs tries to save a man's life, only to discover that he was The Thing all along. It took hours and hours of painstaking work to set

up the scene, not to mention all the time it took to create all the models, the fake bodies, the amalgamation of forms that the alien becomes in that scene, it all looks really good, and the work that was put in for sure payed off. The point is, The Thing is a classic that is out of this world, it is full of chills, thrills, and disgustingly riveting practical effects. This is one 80's film!

Senior Alayna Munoz Shines a Light On Hammond Art at the Walter's Art Museum

Uma Ribeiro
Co-News Editor

Senior Alayna Munoz's art piece "Musical Community" was selected to be displayed in the Maryland Art Education statewide art exhibit at the Walter's Art Museum in Baltimore on 3rd December 2018.

Creating art is very important to many people at Hammond, one of them being Senior Alayna Munoz. The piece featured in the exhibit was a self-portrait, done in the medium of marker, which conveyed Munoz's love of music and Jazz Band. Alayna was one of the only students whose work was selected to represent Howard County and was included in the Walter's Art museum show.

Alayna was able to create a great work of art by thinking about the daily activities in her life. "The piece that was in the show was actually from a series about home, and...in the series I was exploring how my family and the different communities that I belong to influence me, and how they inspire me in my daily life and how those things affect me. In the piece itself, it was about the music community and how it intersects with my daily life and my life at home."

Alayna is one of the many art students who show that art can be born from anything and inspiration can be found anywhere.

The creative process is lengthy and at times difficult, and Alayna has a specific way of going about projects and dealing with the process.

"When I'm thinking about big projects, I begin by thinking about my identity and my values [and] the important people in my life, so definitely when I'm doing a piece, especially one with a lot of meaning in it, I need to think about what is important to me and what I want to show through in the piece. And as I'm

continuing in the process, I want to make sure that the different elements, like the composition of the piece and the subject and all the details are contributing to that meaning," she commented.

All parts of the Earth contain some some type of art, whether obvious or not, so the statement "you can't take the art out of the earth" is precisely accurate, as art is present everywhere.

"[Art] is entwined in all of our lives, from the games that we play to the shows that we watch to the billboards we see when we drive down the street to the clothing that we wear, so I believe that art and design is critical, especially now, to our entire culture," Ms. Jenkins, Hammond's art teacher, added.

It is important to remember that art is not exclusive to only a certain group of people at Hammond. Both Alayna and Ms. Jenkins made it a point that anyone at Hammond can create art and can be considered artistic.



Alayna Munoz alongside her piece "Musical Community," as it is featured in the Walter's Art Museum.

"I think if people begin to understand that you don't have to be good at drawing to have important things to say [then more people would be interested in art]. I think the arts would generally be more accessible if people were more willing to accept that they have something that only they can say and that art is one language that they can use to express themselves," Ms. Jenkins commented.

Having the ability to draw paint well is not all that art is, Ms. Jenkins continued.

"Here at Hammond we try to look at art from lots of different angles and places of inspiration. So we look at how science connects to art, we look at how English can empower art through illustration, and mostly we're looking at how art connects to a person individually, so being able to find that individual connection to what you're

trying to say or show...helps people understand that art goes beyond just talent or a technical skill of being able to draw or paint or build, but it's really just a way of seeing and thinking about the world."

Those who believe that one can only be either artistically oriented or scientifically oriented should think again, as art and science are actually very much related.

"Both [science and art] share a similar approach to problem-solving. An artist would pose a problem, something to investigate, they would gather materials and they would test the different materials, the same way that [a scientist] would test a hypothesis and you would choose from your research what you think is gonna be the most effective way to solve the problem in the same way that a scientist would gather the data and take that information and use it a number of ways as well."

It is important to carry down art from generation to generation and in order to do so parents and teachers must encourage their kids and students to pursue and pay attention to art.

Alayna Munoz credits her teachers and parents for her artistic pursuits, which were crucial aspects that led to her current successes.

"I really got interested in doing art long-term because of my elementary school art teacher. She really encouraged me to continue exploring art and to get involved in art within the community by entering in different shows. And since then, my other teachers, like Ms. Jenkins, have also encouraged me to continue exploring my passion for art...also my parents were really involved in art [and] they always really encouraged me and supported my interests," The 12th grader says.

"Art [is] a way to express yourself visually, and it's another path for sending a message or creating something of meaning."

Joining is the Write Choice

Amanda Weirich
News Editor

Hammond Writer's League is a private and safe space to write for students interested in free and creative writing. The club is run by President Ian Pinkerton and Vice President Claire O'Rourke after school on Thursdays from 2:10 to 3:15 in Ms. Isch's room.

O'Rourke's dream is to become a novelist and write young adult novels. She believes that Hammond Writers League is the best way to write what you enjoy and pursue any writing dreams you may have.

According to O'Rourke, Writer's League's normal routine is to come in and have a snack and follow the prompt on the board. They usually have thirty minutes of writing time, and at the end there's the option to share.

O'Rourke states, "The prompts are usually really open ended. For example, I came up with a prompt that was like 'you're summoning a demon at a sleepover party,' but we decided to change the word 'demon' to 'anyone,' and many people took different directions on that."

Writer's League holds passionate and inspired writers, O'Rourke adds "We advertise it as a space to write, not what to write about."

President Ian Pinkerton attends Writer's League because he is interested in pursuing writing as a literary critic or professor and studying literary analysis at the University of Iowa. He is most interested in writing poetry and working with comparative literature. Pinkerton is in-

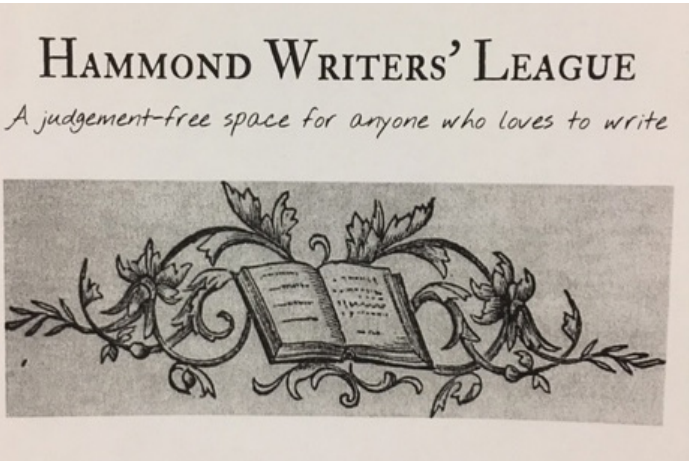


Photo Credit: Ian Pinkerton

terested in advertising and publishing the work of Writer's League to attract more writers, "I was trying to enter our work into the vision so people could see it there."

If anyone has dreams or wishes of becoming a writer in the future or is just interested in having a safe space to relax and free write, Writer's League offers exactly what you are looking for.

THE WISE MAN IN ROOM 509

Chris Parris
Staff Writer

When Dr. William Moyer attended George Washington University, he intended on becoming a history teacher...for college students. However, history was not considered to be a growing field at the time. Therefore, Dr. Moyer decided to become a high school history teacher--a decision that has positively impacted the students at Hammond High School.

Anybody that walks into Room 509 will know automatically that it is a history class. "You can see that my room is a museum. I've got all kinds of historical references, articles, signs, and newspapers all over the room," Dr. Moyer pointed out.

Born in Post-World War II America, Dr. Moyer has been around for a long time. He has lived through twelve U.S. Presidents and has been there to witness many historical events in our country's history. Telling stories and sharing his own life experiences helps his students learn about history on a more personal level. In some ways, Dr. Moyer is a walking time machine. He lives and breathes history. "I like storytelling because I've been around for a long time. So, I've been a part of the history that my students study. I like being able to share my experiences in history."

In addition to his exceptional talent for sharing the stories history has to offer, Dr. Moyer uses modern-day technology and media to reach his students. He also creates many hands-on learning



Photo Credit: The Bear Press

experiences that have captivated students.

Junior Brian Paul remarked that Dr. Moyer's history class was much more different from the history classes that he had taken in the past. "Sometimes in those types of classes, you kind of just try to memorize stuff, but Dr. Moyer makes it real. He explains the culture and the history behind things." "I always look forward to going to Dr. Moyer's class because he had a way to make history fun and interesting," says senior, Taylor Liguori.

Dr. Moyer's bond with his students is very important to him, and therefore apparent. "I love the kids. I love teaching the students. I like the study of history. If you put those together, I've got the best job in the world. I have a pretty good relationship with young people and they really make my life both interesting and enjoyable," he heartily shares.

Hammond Provides Opportunities for Students With Special Needs

Claire O'Rourke
Features Editor

Hammond has long been providing opportunities for its students with special needs, but for the 2018-2019 school year, educators and students have worked together to expand the opportunities that are offered.

This school year has seen the return of the well-loved Best Buddies program, along with additions of brand new opportunities for students with special needs like the Book Buddies program and the ALS Coffee Delivery Service.

Best Buddies, a club where students in special education programs can meet with fellow Hammond students and participate in fun thematic activities, started a new chapter this year that proved to be the club's revival. After a few years of the club's absence, Senior Katie Rees saw a chance for the club to come back, and quickly sprung into action.

"I saw a huge need for it. There are a ton of incredible students with special needs at Hammond, and a ton of people I know are very interested in being friends, so I think what we needed was a space where we could all be together and just have fun and make friendships, so I wanted to be a part of that—to initiate that," Rees shared.

The club's sponsor, Ms. Shah, told the story of Rees' role in the club's revival, recounting that "At the end of last year, Katie Rees

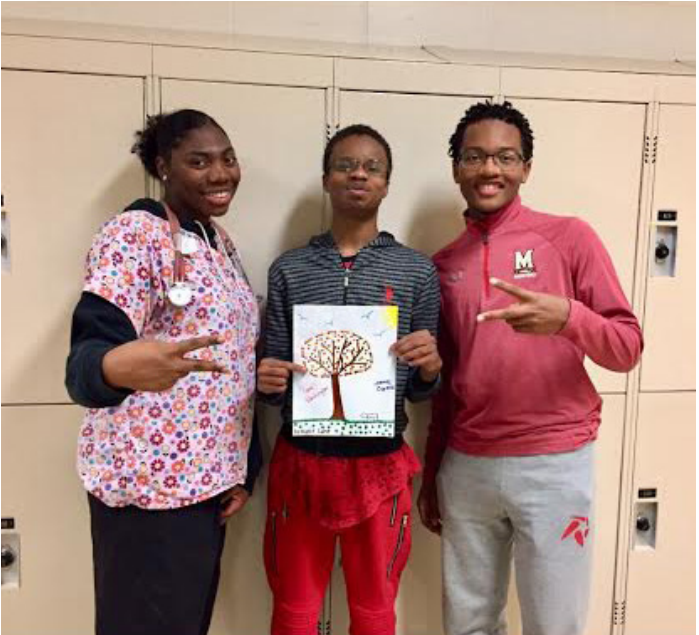
went to an admin and asked if we could start a chapter, and then she came to me and asked me if I would help her start it. I was all for it because I had actually been thinking about starting it because there are opportunities for our students with special needs to participate in other activities, but nothing that's for them specifically at Hammond."

Rees first learned of Best Buddies through the "Spread the Word to End the Word" mural outside of Room 205, but was prompted to start the chapter up when she met Senior Deja Reece. On the topic of Deja, Rees said, "Deja and her mom are both very active in the Maryland Best Buddies community, but they have to go all the way to Anne Arundel County for meetings because there isn't one at Hammond."

After learning this, Rees decided that there needed to be a chapter closer to home. Best Buddies has produced successful friendships across the globe, and has chapters designed for middle school, high school, college, and adults. Rees believes that, "a program like Best Buddies is so needed at Hammond." She wants to see the impact that Hammond students can have on the lives of their classmates with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Rees would like everyone to know that, "[Best Buddies] makes a huge difference, and parents and families of students with IDD

are so happy to see it being started again."

The ultimate goal of the club, as Ms. Shah explains, is for students to focus on social skills and learning how to interact with their peers, as well as to provide Hammond's students with disabilities a real-life experience with their classmates



Ramel Washington with buddy Jamal Owens and friend Armonie Lane.

who are there specifically to support them. She emphasizes: "One of the goals is definitely to work on their social skills and prepare them for the work environment."

At their October 2018 meeting, Best Buddies celebrated Halloween by throwing a huge Halloween-themed party packed with fun followed by a festive scavenger hunt.

The Buddies and their pairs also participated in a fall tree-painting activity together at the party. Senior Ramel Washington, who is the peer-buddy of sophomore Jamal Owens, recalls the joys of the scavenger hunt with his buddy. "My buddy was so into it, and so happy to try and find the next pumpkin at 'x' location, and he actually overran one spot. He went into a classroom and it was right there, and he was looking through the classroom like crazy. It was just really fun to see."

For Washington, he hopes to gain a long-term friendship with Owens, "He's a real good guy," Washington says.

Best Buddies has already started to see development in the social and work skills of the buddies. "I've actually seen a really big change in a lot of buddies being [more] open with people and communicating much more," says Rees. "Those social skills that they're learning [through Best Buddies are] how to interact with [their] peers because a lot of times they don't have that opportunity," Mrs. Shah adds.

In addition to the return of Best Buddies, Hammond has also introduced a new program for students in Special Ed in the form of Book Buddies. These students take to the halls of Hammond with the Media Specialists,

along with a portable book cart, venturing to the teacher's classrooms who have signed up to participate in the program.

The program came about when Ms. Henry contacted Ms. Du Puis and asked if there was a job she could give the ALS students. Ms. Du Puis recounts "a couple of years ago, [having] an idea that I really wanted to go into classrooms to provide kind of a 'media center experience' for students to check out books, so when [Ms. Henry] came to me and asked: that's when I suggested that [they] could help with doing 'Book Buddies.' That's what we could call it: Book Buddies instead of 'Best Buddies.' They could meet with teachers of different students and check out books for them."

Book Buddies provides the ALS students with the opportunities to use the scanner, hand out books to the students, and provide the bookmark that tells the student checking out a book when to bring it back. They also stamp the bookmark, then verbally tell the students what date the book is due, so it is a lot of friendly interaction and encouragement.

"I think the students in the classroom that come out to meet with the Book Buddies know that not only are they out there to check out a book to read for enjoyment, but they're also getting that extra social interaction with the ALS students, and I think it's really nice to see," says Ms. Du Puis. "It just goes to support our motto 'where people are important.'"

The program hopes in the future to expand their resources to two book carts, and start visiting classrooms more than just fifth or sixth period. The goal, Ms. Du Puis says, is to get the cart to as many classrooms and teachers as possible.

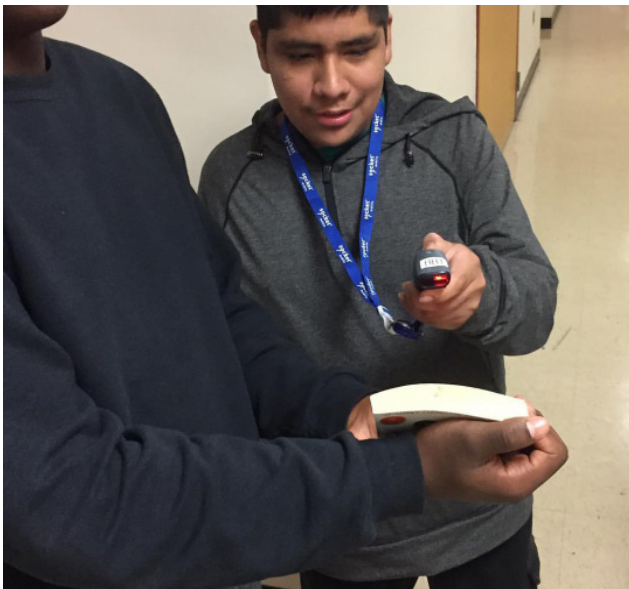
Hammond also offers the ALS program, and while the main goal of that class is not building upon social skills, the program focuses on developing work skills for later in life. The class

fee and delivery service to staff members once a month. This is the second year the ALS program is offering this service. To participate, staff members need to fill out an order form sent to them by email. They then place their order and pay beforehand, and the delivery is about a week later.

The service started up when Ms. Shah recognized a need for their students to have real life job experience and to practice their social skills and teamwork.

Ms. Shah detailed the work experiences for the students: "Working with each other is really good because they each have designated tasks. It may sound like simple tasks for most people, but for them it's big things. [They're learning] how to staple the thank-you note onto the bag, how to read an order form and know that it says the person wants a donut, not a muffin, and then put that donut in the bag while not forgetting the napkin. They're learning how to pour coffee, so there's just a lot of tasks to do around the building."

As for their experiences with social skills, "Students have to interact with teachers they wouldn't normally see on a regular basis nor students they regularly see. They [also] have to communicate and learn if the next person's ready or not. Patiently waiting and learning how to be in charge: that's



Cesar Herrera-Saavedra scans a book being checked out.

the social skills piece," Ms. Shah explains.

Even before the day of the delivery service, the ALS students are already gaining experience working and using technology. Mrs. Shah gives them a Google form, and together the program decides what food and drink options will be offered.

They also decorate the bags the food items will be delivered in. Students then enter the orders into a spreadsheet.

"That's all done in advance, but the day of, they're reading the order forms, they're putting the correct food items in the bag, they're pouring the correct beverage. They do a quality control check: [They have] to knock on the door, not barge in."

Both Ms. Henry and Ms. Shah share hope that this opportunity will give these students strong work and social skills and prepare them for work later in life.



Deja Reece helps out with the Book Buddies Cart.



Deja Reece and Skylar Shaffer at the Best Buddies Halloween party.

is during the school day for students who are working towards a graduation certificate for when they leave Hammond.

The ALS students also offer a cof-

THE BACK PAGE

the office

Parks and Recreation



THE OFFICE

2. Catch you on the _____ -
3. What is the best pizza place in New York City?
4. The ratio of Schrute Bucks to Stanley Nickels is similar to the ratio of unicorns to _____
6. Joe McCarthy, Richard Nixon, Studebaker, Television, North Korea, South Korea, Marilyn Monroe, _____ started the fire!

- 8 DOWN. What typo was left in the script of "Threat Level Midnight"?
8 ACROSS. What is the worst thing about prison?
11. What is the name of the security guard?
17. What is Michael's online dating username?
16. What kind of watch party does Gabe host?

PARKS AND REC

1. We have to remember what's important in life: friends, _____, and work.
5. What award does Ron Swanson win?
7. _____, FBI
9. What is the name of the business Tom open for tweens?
10. What club does Tom invest in?
12. Bye bye Li'l _____

13. What does Ron hate more than lying?
14. What is the name of Ron's first wife, second wife, and his mother?
15. What word does Chris Traeger say the most?

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