



## Coming Events

April 11-15  
Spring Break

April 11 (Home)  
Softball 4:30 p.m.  
Baseball 4:30 p.m.  
Soccer 5 p.m.

April 16 (Home)  
Soccer 11 a.m.  
Softball 11 a.m.

April 18 (Home)  
Baseball 4:30 p.m.  
Softball 4:30 p.m.

April 19 (Home)  
Softball 4:30 p.m.  
Baseball 4:30 p.m.  
Soccer 5 p.m.

April 20  
PSAT for Sophomores

April 20 (Home)  
Baseball 4:30 p.m.  
Soccer 5 p.m.

April 21  
PSAT for Freshmen

April 23 (Home)  
Baseball 11 a.m.

April 25 (Home)  
Baseball 4:30 p.m.

April 26 (Home)  
Soccer 5 p.m.

April 28 (Home)  
Softball 4:30 p.m.  
Soccer 5 p.m.

April 29  
12 p.m. dismissal

April 30  
Prom

May 3  
Mu Alpha Theta  
6 p.m.

May 3  
Humanities Night  
7 p.m.

May 4  
Good Dogs Days

May 5  
Senior Honors Night  
7 p.m.

Band Concert  
6 p.m.

May 11  
Baccalaureate  
6:30 p.m.

May 14  
Graduation  
11 a.m.

## Freshmen, sophomores to participate in PSAT

Francesca Messerschmidt

Now that the juniors have taken the SAT, it's time for the underclassmen to participate in their set of standardized tests, the PSAT (Practice Scholastic Aptitude Test.)

The PSAT testing will take place on April 20 for sophomores and April 21 for freshmen.

"This test can be good for underclassmen," said English teacher Krystal Wilson. "This is a great chance to see where your strengths and weaknesses lie to better prepare for the SAT."

Having sophomores participating in the PSAT isn't new. However, this is different for the freshmen, especially since most state testing has been canceled in the last two years due to COVID.

"It's required by the Illinois State Board of Education," explained assistant principal John Crabb.

The requirement of the PSAT is very new to the freshmen.

Students are somewhat apprehensive about the test.

"It's a little scary," said freshman Bailee Kingston. "It definitely makes high school feel real."

Since COVID has prevented many schools from participating in standardized testing, some students aren't fully prepared, but English and math teachers have been helping to get the students ready.

"I do my best to cover as much material as I can before my students take the PSAT," said math teacher Gabe Angelly. "I try to make sure that questions throughout the unit are written in a similar format as PSAT questions."

While teachers are helping to prepare students, some of the preparation and studying must still fall on the students.

"Reading well and quickly are two important components of doing your best on any standardized test," said Wilson.

While teachers are doing their best, not all students feel like they've been properly prepared.

"I do not feel prepared for the test in the slightest," said sophomore Kimberly Riley.

Others feel more confident.

"I think I've prepared myself and my teachers have helped me a ton, too," said Kingston.

Since the idea of this test is completely new to the underclassmen, many of them have a lot of different expectations.

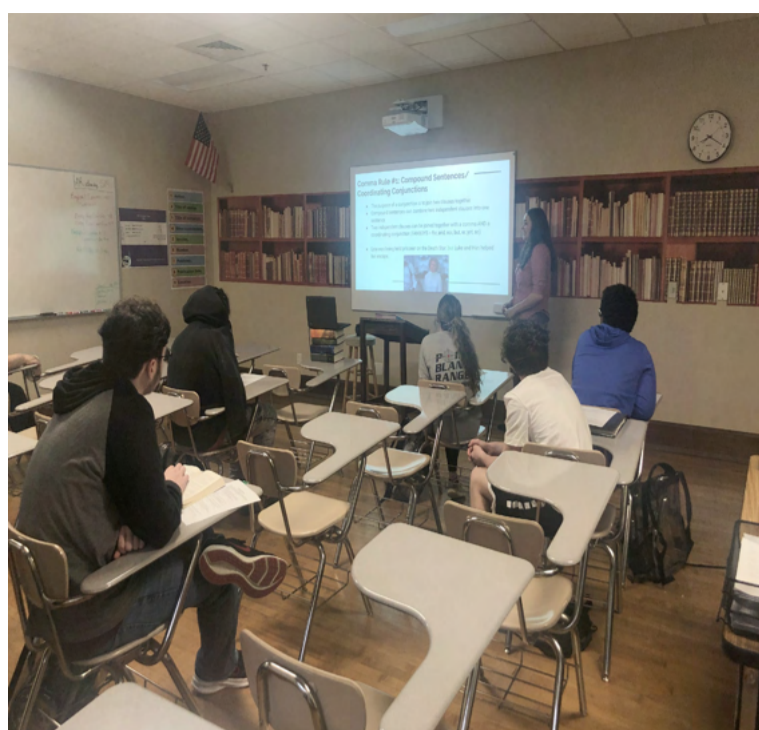
"I expect to know a little bit of the material," said sophomore Zoey Brand. "I know it'll be hard though."

While being prepared and knowing the answers is important, there are also strategies to get the right answer.

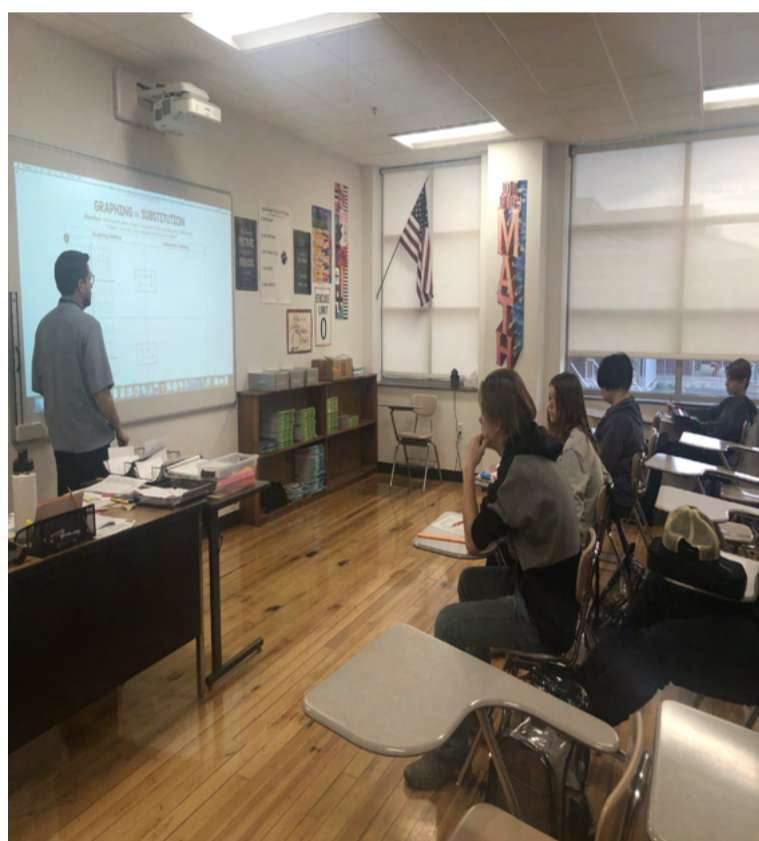
"When I used to teach SAT prep with juniors, I told them to select a default answer for any questions they don't have time to read," said English teacher Stephanie Winkler. "It doesn't really matter what they put (if they are guessing); they all have an equal likelihood of being correct."

While the SAT and PSAT are important, not everyone thinks that it's the right way for gauging college readiness for every student.

"I read a study that colleges are starting to understand that a student's GPA and resume are a much better indicator of college success than the SAT," said Angelly. "A standardized test may give someone an idea of their overall intelligence, but cannot gauge someone's work ethic and determination which will lead to greater success."



English teacher Stephanie Winkler teaches her English I class about independent clauses and compound sentences.



Photos by Francesca Messerschmidt.

Math teacher Marcus Angelly teaches his Geometry I class about graphing and substitution.

## Graduation moved due to construction at Taylor Field

Kelee Mills

Graduation will be held in Davenport Gym this year, and while that is often the case if the weather is bad, graduation is usually at 8 p.m. This year it will be held May 14 at 11 a.m.

Principal Scott Dewar said the school board changed the time because turf is being installed at Taylor Field.

"It is a one year change," Dewar said. "We changed it because Taylor Field is under construction. The school board figured that Davenport would be a lot cooler in the morning than it would be at night."

Senior Whitlee Pankey likes having graduation in the morning. "I like that it's early in the day because I can get it over with and have more time to spend with my family," Pankey said.

There can be some problems with having graduation being early in the morning. Senior Luke Miller will have one problem with graduation being so early.

"It will be hard for my grandparents to make it to graduation since they live a few hours away," Miller said.

Another problem with graduation being early is that girls may not have enough time to get their hair ready for the ceremony.

"There will be less time to prepare and make appointments for hair," Pankey said.

Senior Hallie Lane thinks that is a little different.

"It's different for graduation to be early in the morning but I think it'll be good to have the whole day to celebrate and not just for an hour or two in the evening," Lane said.

Conflicts may occur for students who have siblings graduating from college.

Senior Drew Hawkins' sister, Matty Hawkins (2018) graduates the same day.

"My parents are going to split," Hawkins said. "My dad is going to my sister's graduation and my mom is going to mine. My grandparents are also going to mine because they live here and Matty's graduation is near Chicago."

# Exchange student weighs in on Russia-Ukraine conflict

Francesca Messerschmidt

While the last few years have been full of uncertainties, a conflict between Russia and Ukraine might not have been something a lot of people expected. With an unknown death toll, destroyed cities, and areas of Ukraine being taken over, it's hard to tell what could come next.

Russia's military began to invade Ukraine Feb. 25 under order of President Vladimir Putin, leading many Ukrainian citizens to become injured, flee the country, or even die.

"Russia is looking to regain its sphere of influence," explained social studies teacher Matt Griffith. "They're looking to take Ukraine back over like the 1900s."

Currently, a foreign exchange student from Ukraine is going to school locally.

"I won a contest to come to go to school in America from an exchange program," said Vienna High School sophomore Mark Sharovarov.

High school in America is a lot different than school in Ukraine.

"School is a lot easier in America," said Sharovarov. "Everyone here is really nice."

Sharovarov gave his input on what's going on between Ukraine and Russia.

"There's a war with Russia. Ukraine has been preparing for eight years," he explained. "Russia has been lying a lot in their news over the war going on."

This conflict is nothing new to the citizens of Ukraine.

"It's not a new conflict," Griffith said.

Griffith shared a piece of advice he often gives his students.

"The only color the world sees is green, and it's a complicated situation for the US to go through."

Sharovarov still has family living in Ukraine.

"For this period of time, they've moved to a different part of Ukraine and are safe," said Sharovarov. "I've been checking the news everyday, looking for updates and checking with my family."

The conflict hasn't just affected Ukraine and Russia; the impacts are becoming global.

"There's been a ban on Russian goods, especially oil," said Griffith. "Flour is also often imported from Russia, [so] the cost of food is going to go up."

There are things students can do to help the people of Ukraine.

"People can donate to Ukraine's army to help protect Ukraine and the rest of the world," said Sharovarov.

There are many charities accepting donations to aid those suffering from this conflict. According to Charity Navigator, these are five star charities:

Alight, Save the Children, Heart to Heart International



(Photo by Karavanov on depositphotos.com)

Protests are taking place internationally to show support for Ukraine.



Photo by Kelee Mills.

Senior registered to vote during advisory. According to Principal Scott Dewar, 66 students registered as new voters.

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# As PSAT looms, students encouraged to try their best

The Practice Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) is a standardized test for freshman and sophomores in the US. It is preparation for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) which students are required by the Illinois State Board of Education to take in their junior year.

According to principal Scott Dewar, the SAT is a test that is enforced by the Illinois State Law and is a graduation requirement at the school itself. PSAT has been a required test in high schools since spring of 2019 for freshmen and sophomores. SAT has been required since 2017.

"The state has always bounced around," Dewar says. "They are trying to find an exam that fits best."

The tests give not only the school, but the state as well, important information.

"The state gains, just like we do, data on how to adjust and develop curriculum, and also it gives them data on how schools are actually performing," Dewar said.

But there are problems with the testing process.

While some teachers have students participate in various activities to prepare them for the tests, examples being Khan Academy or NoRedInk, others do not.

Of 14 freshmen students surveyed, 10 said they have not practiced in English and 11 said they have not practiced in math. More sophomores have practiced in math than English.

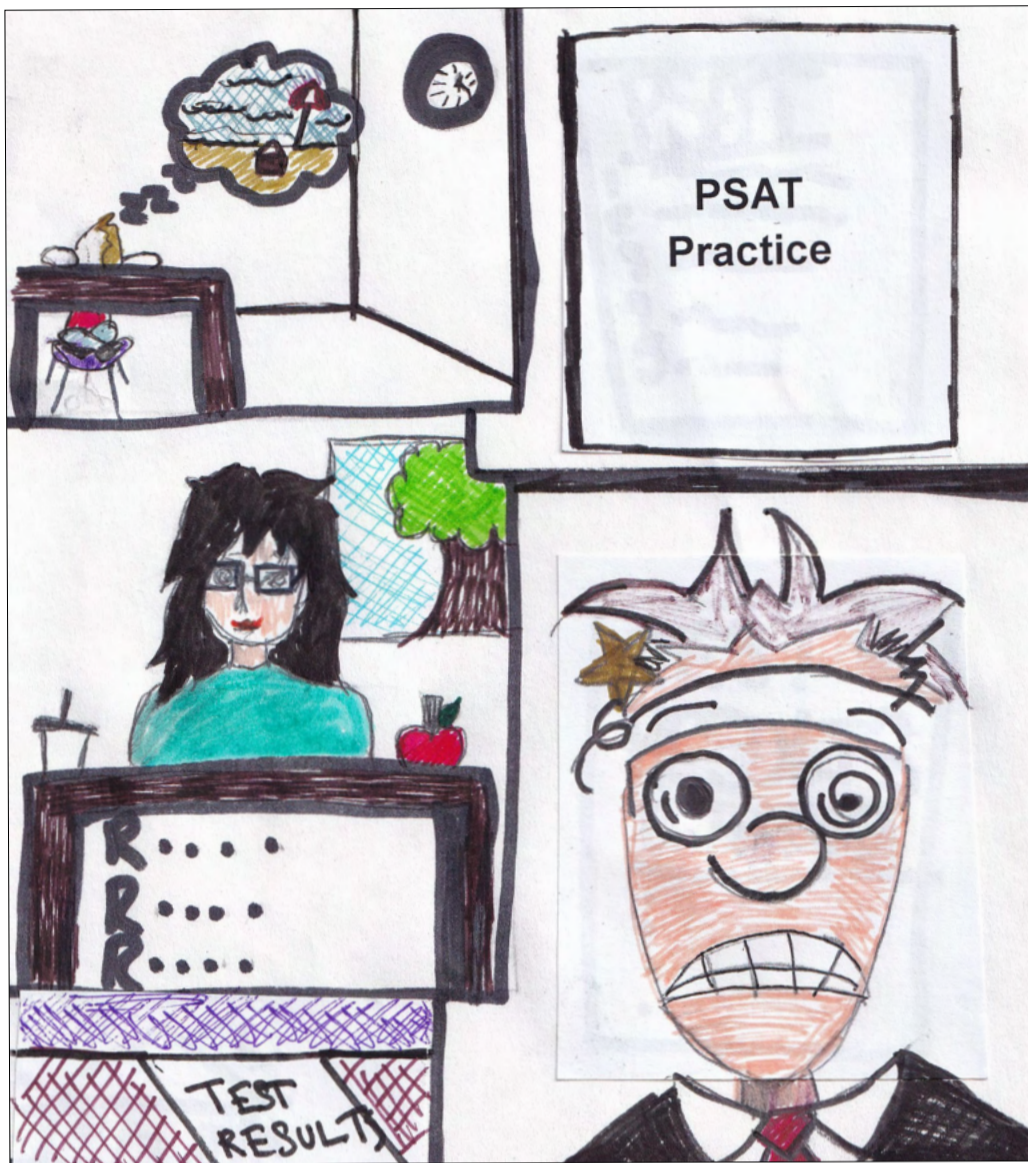
And even if students are required to take the test and teachers give them the tools to pass it, there is no guarantee that they will put a lot of effort into it because some students just don't care enough to try on it. This means that the information that the state and the school acquires is false.

The school tries to motivate the students to try their best when testing.

"What we like to do is we try to put incentives out there," Dewar said. "They can range anywhere from giving students who we think have done the very best coupons they can use to getting some release time."

While PSAT testing is important for students because it shows them what to expect on the SAT and gives them a game plan for reaching the score they want to have on the test their junior year, there are problems.

If the information is not accurate, the school will not know what needs improvement and what should stay the same. As boring as taking the test may be, it is crucial that students give it their best.



Cartoon by Bailee Clifton.

The explosion resulting from the review of the students' test scores were heard three counties away.

## Celebrating 50 years of friendship and pizza

Drew Hawkins



Harrisburg's most beloved pizza place is hitting its 50-year anniversary this year. Monical's Pizza opened its doors March 28, 1972. The place originally opened in what is now Peking Palace and was changed to Mackie's Pizza once it was moved to its current location.

Most children who have grown up in Harrisburg likely have a memory of being in Mackie's. And when people move out of Harrisburg, the first thing they want when they return is a taste of the familiar pizza they can't get from anywhere else.

Everything started with Roxy and Mackie Nicholes. The two moved to Harrisburg from northern Indiana where they had both taught. Upon their arrival in Harrisburg, the two opened Monical's Pizza.

The restaurant has employed hundreds if not thousands of teenagers, giving most of them their first jobs. Most members of the current police force of Harrisburg were Mackie's employees before becoming police officers. The business even employed Harrisburg's own mayor, John McPeek. McPeek was hired as a manager in 1991 and became the manager of the second Mackie's location in Marion in 2006.

Employing teenagers offers a good opportunity to be a good influence. Almost everyone who has worked at Mackie's can say that working there contributed to their later successes in life.

"(Mackie) was a pleasure to work with, like a father figure to me. He was a great teacher," John McPeek said of Mackie after his death in 2013.

Though Mackie and Roxy have both passed, Roxy only recently, their influence on the city of Harrisburg is immense. They created something bigger than themselves. A business that is able to run for 50 years shows the success and brains behind the people who run it.

"He expected you to do your best and provide good customer service," McPeek said. "He had a strong personality and knew everyone."

Mackie was known for being not only a businessman but being a friend to all who came through his doors.

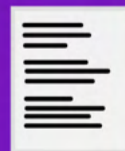
The duo of Mackie and Roxy Nicholes is one like the town might not ever see again. The two were so influential and played key roles in the city. They came to Harrisburg and made a name for themselves where they knew no one. By being friends to all, they became loved by all.



For more stories, photos and student interactions, visit us online at [hhs.purpleclarion.org](https://hhs.purpleclarion.org) or download our app, Student News Source, in the Google or Apple stores.

## Join us!

Reasons to join The Purple Clarion



Helps when mastering writing for college

"I would give a great amount of credit to this class for becoming a better writer. Junior year is full of essays left and right. Not to mention the SAT with the essay portion being brought back. I felt extremely prepared for the writing portion."  
(Writer Junior Braxtyn Baugher)

Learn new skills like photography and design



Discuss current events and write about what interests you

"I feel more confident going into college knowing that I can write a paper that will be well written. Writing is a skill that I know I will need for the rest of my life."  
(Writer Senior Drew Hawkins)



Improve your interpersonal communication and critical thinking skills



"Being in the Purple Clarion has really taught me how to properly write a paper. It has also taught me how to create designs and layouts for the newspaper"  
(Writer Junior Kelee Mills)

# Myths vs. Reality

Graduation for eight graders and seniors is on the horizon. Not surprisingly, many eighth grade students are thinking about how life will be different at HHS. Working with HMS language arts teacher Hillary DeVisser and her sixth graders, eighth graders were surveyed to find out what their expectations for next year look like. The Purple Clarion staff asked a few seniors to respond.



**Sarai Morales**

**Talon Thurston**

"I feel like it will be more difficult since their stairs also and I don't know how much time there will be for me to get to class"

"You have around four minutes to get to your class which is plenty of time so there is no need to worry about it, and there are teachers always in the hallways to help you if you get lost. You will know where everything is in about three weeks."



**Isaac Miller**

"High School, because they have the classes just for you, while in middle school the teachers have to teach a whole class, some might be ahead or behind you. So it is hard for the teacher to teach every type of person at once."



**Madison McClusky**

Don't underestimate high school classes. Some may come easier to you, and some may not. You will be expected to be able to do certain things on your own but that does not mean you will be completely on your own. If you take any advanced classes, never slack off or you may get too far behind. Never be afraid to ask upperclassmen for help, or even just someone who understands it better than you.

Thanks to all the sixth and eighth graders who participated in this project. We hope that you will give serious thought to becoming members of the Clarion staff when you get to HHS.



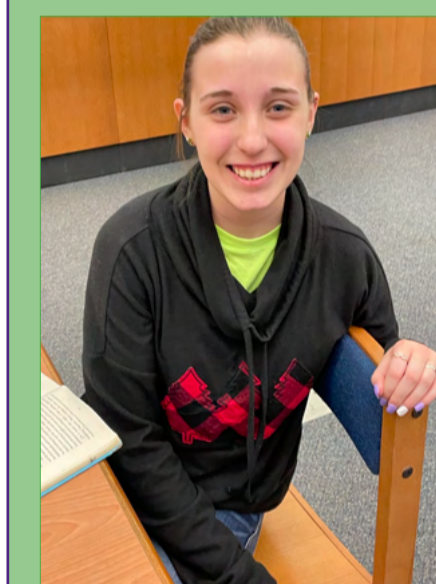
**Abi Wilson**

"I don't think I will be nervous because we have been playing with them some already so I am kind of used to it but it will definitely be different than middle school because in 8th grade we are like the leaders but when we get into high school we are going to be like the babies of the school."



**Vershay Guyton**

"Don't be scared just because you aren't the leader. The upperclassmen are there to help you grow to make sure that they are leaving behind a solid team to carry on their legacy throughout your years at highschool."



**Jasmine Norris**

"I have plans to get a job in my sophomore and junior year of high school and will work after-school hours in order to keep it out of the way of my education."



**Kennedy Hodges**

"Handling a job is actually quite easy. In high school, you have many different opportunities to get school work done."

Drew Biggs thinks "academically, high school will be easier than middle school." While he suspects that high school teachers might be more strict than middle school teachers, he's looking forward to the change. Interview by Brylee Absher

Jailynn Booth thinks high school "will be harder for sure, less lenient, and overall a lot more responsibility." Interview by Ben Winters

Savanah Brasher thinks "high school will be a lot more fun than middle school because of getting older, having more freedom, and everything that comes with growing up." Interview by Hayden Everett

Matt Brown thinks high school will be more "challenging and different" Interview by Staff Writer

Caden Burzynski thinks "Homecoming will be an exciting event and fun to attend." Interview by Shane Garnett

Zeaden Bute thinks it will be the "same as always, all I'm going to do is go to school; nothing different." Interview by Staff Writer

Melliyah Byrd thinks "they will expect us to push our game more" Interview by Staff Writer

Lilian Coffie is "Excited for the speech and debate team and the community service." Interview by Keaton Cuttrell

Xavier Castros feels "a little bit nervous." Interview by Ally Brannock

Luke Baugher is excited for "driver's ed, mainly because you get to learn to drive." interview by Chandler Allen

Ansley Crank wants "to accomplish having all As in high school" Interview by Staff Writer

Aniyah Crittendon thinks "High school life will be more complicated than middle school." Interview by Callie Reynolds

Harmony Cousert thinks "competing in sports will be harder than middle school sports." Interview by Noah Douglas

Laikyn Dooley thinks "high school to be more exciting than middle school." Interview by Dilyn Durham

Shaun Dooley is excited to "socialize and make lots of new friends." Interview by Lilly Apple

McKendra Douglas is "excited to make the change to go to highschool from middle school." Interview by Fin Pilcher

Gunner Doyle thinks it "will be harder than middle school because there won't be enough time to go to classes. There's barely enough time in middle school." Interview by Jaydan Scott

Ryder Duvall thinks "the classes in high school are harder than middle school classes." Interview by Staff Writer

Katelynn Fann thinks "Teachers will be less strict than HMS teachers" Interview by Justyce Hyatt

Makenna Gerber thinks "high school life will be way more fun with so many more freedoms." Interview by Olivia Nelson

Kouper Goodson "Gets to meet people he's never seen before and that it will open new opportunities." Interview by Addison Hudson

Mercie Gott thinks "high school life will be a lot busier than middle school life." Interview by Staff Writer

Lily Edwards thinks the "teachers will be a mix of more strict and more relaxed when compared to middle school teachers." Interview by Staff Writer

Meagan Evans is "excited to be with her sister and brother at the high school" Interview by Staff Writer

Sydney Frailey thinks it "will be a bit harder" than middle school, Interview by Canye' Guyton

Payton Hall is excited "to take more higher level classes to prepare for college." Interview by Staff Writer

Andre Hagan thinks "it will put a lot more freedom and happiness in my life." Interview by Kylie Wiman

Brennan Harrington is excited to "have more free range than in middle school." - Interview by Leah Peterson

Raelyn Harris thinks students will have more freedom at HHS "because we're supposed to be more mature even though most of us are not." -Interview by Dontae March

Daykota Hast is excited to taking carpentry and history classes. -Interview by Landon Hill

Emma Harbison is "mostly excited about homecoming because that will be my first real dance." -Interview by Cedric Johnson

Caleb Hefner is eager to be able to leave for lunch and not eat the school's lunch everyday. When asked about playing with upperclassmen he said, "I will be nervous playing upperclassmen because they are stronger and better." -Interview by Briley Bergan

Abel Henson is excited to "meet the more experienced band members." -Interview by Peyton McDaniel

Kenady Herren thinks high school teachers will be "less strict" than the middle school teachers. - Interview by Luke Pankey

Kaniyah Hodge is comfortable with the idea of making new friends at HHS. She shared, "I already know most of the people there." -Interview by Jordan Spanel

Hadley Hunt is looking forward to electives like Current Events and Business Concepts. -Interview Quest Weatherington

Alexis Jarvis is "excited about doing art at HHS." -Interview by Jaxsten Booth

Haylee Jones thinks high school will be tougher academically "because the older you get, the work just gets harder." -Interview by Aiden Hathaway  
Compared to middle school,

Missouri King knows "the work will get harder as we get one more step closer to college." To handle the additional stresses of high school she'll try to get her work done on time instead of waiting until the last minute.

-Interview by Asher Smock

Adam Lane is excited about going to high school and looks forward to joining the bowling team and chess club. -Interview by Alex Torres

Kishawn Lawrence has two goals for high school include "reading a lot more" and someday being Mr. Bulldog. -Interview by Tinsley Hathaway

Sophia Lin looks forward to classes "that are more interest-oriented and more fun than the ones we have in the middle school." -Interview by Laken Garbel

Autumn Long wants to focus on getting good grades and taking business, small engine, and parenting classes. -Interview by Staff Writer

Ryan Maddox looks forward to the HHS band and "has been playing trumpet for four years." - Staff Writer

Myles Mattingly thinks that, "it will be more interesting being with other grades." - Staff Writer

Parker Miller thinks intro to carpentry will be his favorite class in high school and plans to play football and wrestle for the Bulldogs. -Interview by Staff Writer

Emma Mills said "I want to be a straight A student in high school." -Interview by Cole Williford

Addison Moore plans to participate in volleyball and student council. -Interview by Travion Johnson

Thia Moorman is excited for homecoming because she loves dressing up and dancing. - Interview by Ella Pickens

Presley Morris wants to "make good grades, obtain at least eight varsity letters in sports, and graduate." -Interview by Staff Writer

Emma (Sallie) Morse wants to join the FFA club and play softball, volleyball and basketball. - Interview by Cayden Straube

IT AIN'T EASY

Being Green





...Continued from page 1

April 29 (Home)  
Baseball 4:30 p.m.

May 3 (Home)  
Soccer 5 p.m.

May 4 (Home)  
Softball 4:30 p.m.

May 5 (Home)  
Baseball 4:30 p.m.

May 6 (Home)  
Softball 4:30

May 6  
Regional Soccer begins

May 7 (Home)  
Baseball 11 p.m.

May 9 (Home)  
Softball 4:30 p.m.

May 10 (Home)  
Baseball 4:30 p.m.

May 14 (Home)  
Softball 11:00 a.m.

May 16  
Regional Baseball begins

May 17 & 21 (Home)  
Regional Softball

May 17  
Sectional Soccer begins

May 24  
Sectional Softball begins  
Super-Sectional Soccer begins

May 25  
Sectional Baseball begins

May 27  
State Soccer begins

May 30  
Super-Sectional Softball  
and Super-Sectional Baseball  
begin

June 3  
State Softball and State  
Baseball begin

Home games for Lady  
Bulldog Softball are played  
at Center Field at Paul  
Emery Park.

Home games for Lady  
Bulldog Soccer are played  
at Michael Herrin Field at  
Harrisburg Middle School.

Home games for Bulldog  
Baseball are played at Jay  
Thompson Field in Harrisburg.

# Taylor Field receiving major renovation, additions

*Drew Hawkins*

Taylor Field is getting some of the biggest renovations of an HHS sports facility since the installation of artificial turf on Jay Thompson Field.

Artificial turf is a synthetic grass that was made for making the upkeep of the grass itself easier and making sports surfaces easier to play on and more consistent.

The football field is currently undergoing demolition first on the top layer of dirt. Once the top layer is reduced, they will slowly work on the installation of artificial turf. The football field along with the track is expected to be done around June.

Not only will the football field host home football games but also boys and girls soccer matches.

The field house is currently under construction but is not expected to be done anytime soon. According to Coach Greg Langley, the school is hoping it will be done around August.

Coach Matt Griffith, the head coach of the varsity football team, believes the artificial turf is good overall.

"I'm excited that the district is investing money into this," Griffith said. "It will hopefully get the community excited about the football games and bring in some more fans."

Since the exact date of the project's completion is unknown, Griffith feels it will be no setback for the team.

"If the new facilities are installed, we will be on them," Griffith said. "If not, we will do [summer practice] on the cow

pasture and work out in the old weight room like we've always done it. We will adapt and overcome."

Turf will definitely require some adjustments.

"I like a natural grass field," Griffith said, "but I'm excited about not having to worry about the problems of having natural grass."

New technologies are also going to be added that will benefit other athletic programs of the high school.

"The fieldhouse will have a dressing room on both ends, a concession stand, a weight room, a coach's office, (and) a dressing area for officials. There will (also) be a golf simulator for the golf teams and a small athletic training room," Athletic Director Greg Langley said.

With the addition of a simulator, it means that Bulldog golfers will be able to practice year round.

Right now though, the construction on the field is making practice difficult for the track and field team.

"We have to adapt and overcome," Griffith said once more. "Not having a track seems trivial especially with working on handoffs and turns, but our hurdle runners have not been able to work on hurdles for the length of a race. Long jump, triple jump, and pole vault have not been able to practice like they've wanted to."

In the long run, the hope is that the construction will positively benefit all sports teams.

"I think any time you have top notch facilities, it will go a long way in helping all athletic programs," Langley said.



An artist's rendering shows what the new turf and track, done by ATG Sports Industries, will look like when finished.

The field is set to be done by June 24.

Photo provided by HHS Athletics.

## Springs sports underway with strong showing by baseball, softball teams

*Drew Hawkins & Kelee Mills*

Bulldogs baseball and softball have been hot to start the year. The boys are 9-1 while the girls are 9-0.

The boys are building off of a 30-2 season from the 20-21 season where they made it all the way to super sectionals but lost to the eventual state champions.

The girls are coming back from a 7-14 season where they struggled but are seeing success early this year. The girls made it as far as the regional championship.

Senior Drew Hawkins plays first base and pitcher. He is hoping to end his senior season at the IHSA State Series.

"Last season we had a really good

team in which we lost in the Super-Sectional to the eventual State champions of Freeburg," Hawkins said. "With Harrisburg baseball it is a tradition to win at least 20 games and to have at least win a Sectional title. My goal for this season is to win State though."

Physical education instructor Josh Allen is at the head of the JV baseball team this year. Allen is assisted by Evan Denbow, who was a member of the program's 2004 state-winning team. Comprised mainly of freshman players, his team takes the field after the varsity team.

The softball coach is Red Stafford. Stafford is assisted by Jake Stewart

Junior Joey Quinn plays softball. She plays first base and left field and is hoping for her team to come together as the season progresses.

"For this season I am hoping that we all come together and start winning games," Quinn said.

Quinn recently hit her first home in a

late March match-up.

Also in play is Lady Bulldog soccer, coached by Jordan Baxter (2013) and Hannah Bartok (2016). The soccer team plays all home matches at the middle school.

Bulldog track and field will not host any home meets this year due to the renovations at Taylor Field.

The boys track coach is health and drivers' education teacher Zach Cox. He is assisted by history teacher Matt Griffith. Lady Bulldog track is coached by James Herren(1999). His assistant coaches are Chuck Ingram and Bucky Neal (1995).

Senior Makenna Moss does track. She runs the 100 meter, the 200 meter, and the 4 by 2 relay. She is also hoping for a great season.

"It was a tough year, due to the track getting redone, and we are not able to practice there everyday like usual, but I just want us all to have a great season and do the best we can," Moss said

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# Student fire fighter volunteers time for public service

Kelee Mills

Fire fighting is a career for some people, and it is a dangerous career at that. But for junior Briley Houston, it is an opportunity. Houston is a student firefighter for the Carrier Mills Fire Department. Being a junior firefighter has helped Houston tremendously.

"Being a junior firefighter is probably the best decision I have ever made," Houston said. "It is a great learning experience and a great way to get my foot in the door."

The junior firefighters don't really get to do everything an actual firefighter gets to do for safety reasons.

"I am not able to go into a structure fire or throw myself into any situation that would require a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)," Houston said.

As a junior member of the department, Houston may not get to do as much as other firefighters get to do, but he still gets to operate equipment.

"I am able to do quite a bit," Houston said. "I can operate a small fire hose. I help on the pumps and also help on traffic. There are indeed restrictions on what I can do, but that's fine and I will take what I can get."

Unlike other firefighters, Houston doesn't get to respond to calls during the day because he cannot leave school for his fire calls. But before school and after school, he responds just like everyone else.

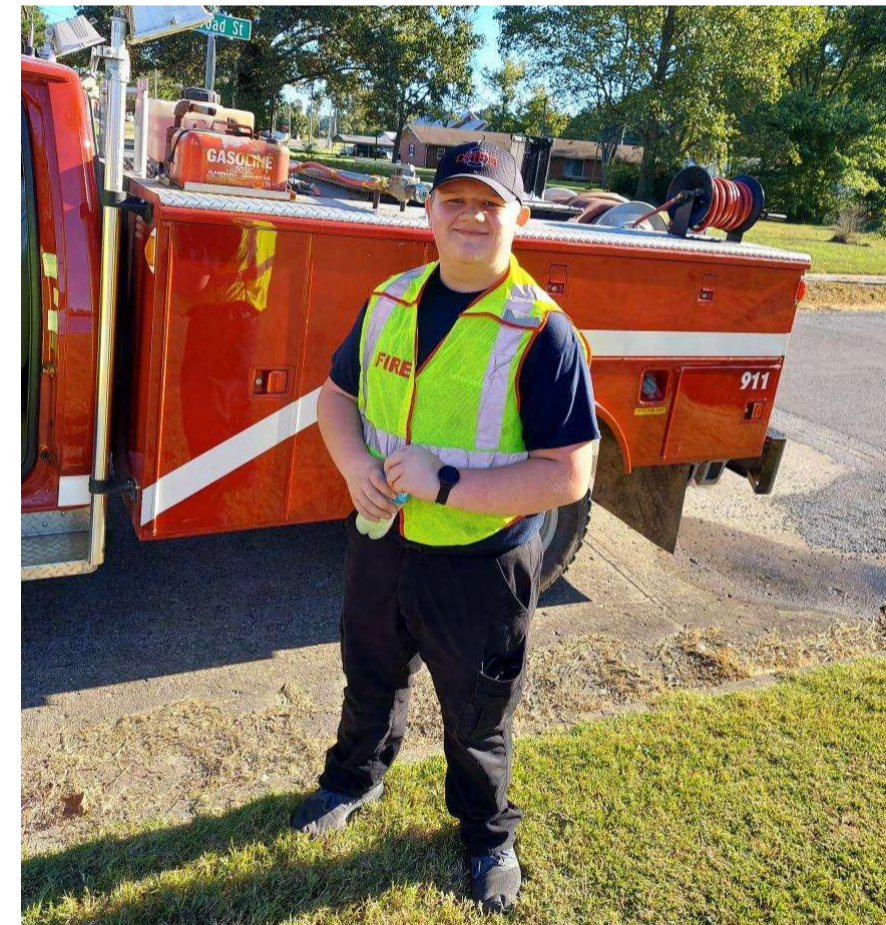
"Being a junior is seven days a week," Houston said. "I am able to respond to calls anytime from six in the morning until ten at night. I can go to calls up to eleven on weekends."

Sometimes Houston may be working on homework when he gets a call, but it's nothing he can't come back and finish later.

"I wouldn't say it's hard to balance fire fighting and school," Houston said. "There have been multiple times when we've got a call as I was working on homework, but it's nothing I can't finish when I get back home."

Houston encourages others with a similar interest to reach out to their local fire departments.

"I became a junior firefighter by showing interest in the topic and reaching out to the chief. The chief was happy to help me and get me in the department," Houston said.



*Fly High, Little One*

Premature birth and its complications are the number one cause of the death of babies in the U.S. Babies who survive premature birth often have many long-term health problems. The pre-term birth rate in the U.S. is 9.8 percent or about one in ten babies. This is the highest rate among high-resource nations.

The March of Dimes Prematurity Campaign aims to reduce premature birth in the U.S. and to give every baby a chance for a healthy, full-term birth.

The March of Dimes is a partner association for Key Club International. If you would like to help Key Club in their support of the March of Dimes, you can purchase a paper kite for \$1 from any club member, Mrs. Wall or Mrs. Hughes. Kites will be displayed in the from entry way during May.

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# Students make final decisions for prom attire

Braxtyn Baugher

Prom will be held April 30 which means many students have been looking for extravagant dresses, dapper suits, the boutonniere, bouquet, and all of the other things necessary to attend prom.

Simplistic, almost slip-like dresses are on trend this year. According to an article by Kelsey Stiegman of Seventeen, prom-goers will wear “extra sparkle, lingerie inspo, and unexpected cut-outs...”

On the opposite end of the trend spectrum is the stereotypical elegant dress which is also very popular this prom season. These could feature a sweetheart neckline or a cinched waist with a lace-up bodice, but with a “scandalous” twist such as nude illusion and dresses with a corset like details.

When it comes to colors, Promgirl reports that hot pink/neon pink, emerald green and rose gold are the top prom dress colors for this year.

The Purple Clarion conducted a survey of 74 HHS juniors to get some insights on what their choices for prom will be this year. Nearly 30 percent have yet to purchase or rent their prom attire. Of those who have and are wearing a dress this year, nearly all are wearing long dresses. Look for the primary styles to be body conscious with trendy cut-outs. Most are planning to wear jewelry that accentuates the dress with heels purchased especially for the occasion still more commonly worn than flats

For the non-dress wearers, colors are narrowly edging out traditional black at HHS. This matches the national trend reported by Stiegman. Jewel tones, velvets and prints are among the options now available in tuxes and suits as well as more traditional pieces that have long been used to coordinate with a date.

An accessory that is an absolute must have when attending prom is flowers. The two most popular ways for a girl to arrange their flowers are a corsage and a bouquet. Bouquets are the more “on trend” option for prom. Some arrangements are simple with very little glitz, others extravagant, while some are a nice balance of the two.

Survey results suggest that bouquets and wrist corsages will be fairly evenly split at this year’s HHS prom.

The New York Times reported in February that national shortages of some flowers still exist, so those who were hoping for a fresh bouquet of flowers may have to alter their expectations depending on what is available. Price increases may also be an effect of the shortage.

Silk flowers are still the favorite among juniors surveyed with nearly twice as many choosing them as fresh flowers.

According to Sophie Winkleman (2020), a florist at Petal Pushers, “Many people are incorporating a variety of bright, and vibrant colors into their bouquets this year.”

Winkleman also expressed that she is a bit worried because people aren’t planning in advance when ordering their flowers.

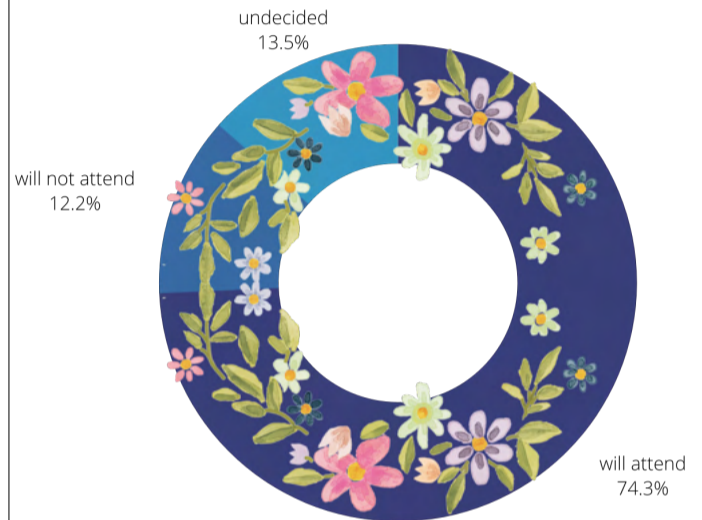
With over 50 percent of juniors surveyed reporting that they haven’t made a decision on flowers, Winkleman’s experience may reflect a larger trend.

“It can be stressful when I have orders rolling in just a few days before prom,” Winkleman said, “especially because I am a full time college student with a job.”



## Prom Attendance

Seventy-four juniors responded to a survey on the 2022 Prom.



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