

## Upcoming Events



April 20-  
CEO Trade Show  
SIC  
3:30-6:30 p.m.

April 21  
Key Club Earth Day Fair  
West Side School  
8:00 a.m.-2:55 p.m.

April 28-  
11:30 Dismissal

April 29-  
Prom

May 1-5-  
Teacher Appreciation Week

May 9-  
Humanities Night  
Davenport Gym  
6 p.m.

May 11-  
Senior Honors Night  
Davenport Gym  
6 p.m.

May 15-  
Spring Band Concert in Davenport Gym 6 p.m.

May 16-  
Graduation meeting for Seniors caps and gowns 8 a.m.

May 16-  
Senior Exams 4th-7th Hour

May 17-  
Senior Exams 1st-3rd Hour

May 17-  
8th grade students to tour HHS and orientation

May 17-  
Baccalaureate  
Davenport Gym  
6:30 p.m.

May 17-  
Senior Sports Awards  
Davenport Gym  
8 p.m.

May 19-  
Graduation practice and Grade Card Distribution  
11 a.m.

May 20-  
Graduation Ceremony  
4 p.m. in Davenport Gym

May 31-June 2-  
Spring Semester Exams, Chromebook Collection

June 2-  
Last Day of Student Attendance

June 5-  
Teacher's Institute

# Saline County CEO presents annual trade show at Southeastern this week

## Kelee Mills

Saline County CEO students created their own individual business for the second semester of the class. Now they are preparing for the trade show at the end of the year.

"The students have to write a business plan complete with financials. They work alongside a graphic designer to create a logo and branding," CEO facilitator Tina Norman said. "They also establish social media pages, market their businesses and network with others to promote their business,"

When the students joined the class they had no idea how to create their own business or what goes into the process, so it was a learning experience for them.

"It's a lot of work, but it's worth it. The process takes time because we had to take time and think about everything we would put into our business because even the small details matter a lot," Harrisburg senior Abbie Graham said.

The students have been working on their businesses for varying amounts of time.

"I have been practicing my skills in ceramics for four years, but this is my first year trying to create my business," Eldorado senior Katrina Coyle said.

Norman helps the students in different ways. "I am able to help the students by scheduling speakers, tours, and connecting them with mentors who provide insight in their specialized fields," Norman said.

Most of the students initially had problems when creating their business.

"Figuring out the LLC for my business was a little difficult for me," Eldorado senior Noah Turner said.

All of the students came up with their business on their own. Some of them had to find inspiration while others already knew what they loved to do.

"Making jewelry had been something I had loved to do for a while," home school senior Cassidy Currin said. "When I found out I would need a business for the class, I decided to use that since I already knew how to make jewelry."

The students had to overcome a variety of challenges. "I struggled with figuring out the financial aspect of things for my business, but I overcame it quickly with the help of my mentor, teacher and others," Harrisburg senior Liza Wiggins said.

After the students' ideas were approved by the CEO board, they met with a banker before being funded by the board for their business.

"The CEO program gave me \$599 to start my business," Car-



Photo provided.

## Members of the CEO class pose for a group photo for the promotional materials for the Trade Show.

rier Mills senior Abbigayle Musgraves said.

As this was a completely new challenge for most students if they could do it all over again and start from the beginning there are some things that they would change.

"I have some scheduling issues around the trade show, so I would give myself more time to prepare," Eldorado senior Brock Newman said.

Some of the students had to experiment with what they would offer at the trade show.

"There was lots of experimenting to figure out what scents and colors I wanted to do for the soaps," Carrier Mills senior Kaylee Horn said.

The students are excited as it gets closer to time for the trade show.

"I am most excited about seeing the fruition of what I have been working on for the last few months," Harrisburg senior Sophie Williams said. "It is so cool to see what originally started out as just an idea be transformed into a reality, so I am really excited to see the final results after months of working on it."

The Saline County CEO students trade show is April 20 at SIC from 3:30-6:30 p.m.

# Band marches toward Disney parade appearance

## Ayden Price

The band is going to Disney World May 26 - June 1. The band usually goes on this trip every four years so every band member can perform at Disney at least once in their high school career.

The last trip to Disney was in 2017, and they were supposed to go in 2021, but the COVID pandemic was still a factor at the time, so they didn't go.

"I think it's going to be a such a fun experience" Katelyn Hall.

This year marked what administration has frequently referred to as a normal school year, so band director Hannah Drake decided that it was an appropriate time to go on this trip.

"This is a more normal school year and this group of kids that are going were very excited when I announced that we are going," Drake said.

Members of the band will still be responsible for taking exams if they are not exempt, but the exams will be given early.

The expenses for this trip are high according to Drake. The cost for each student is \$800, but that includes their transportation, a four-day park hopper pass, hotel, a \$40 meal card per day, and shirts for Disney.

Junior Chelsea Morales is very excited to go on this trip and to have fun with her friends and classmates.

"It is very exciting, I'm glad to have this opportunity to march with my fellow classmates," Morales said.

The band has done a lot of fundraisers to help students pay for the trip such as the Puffins sale and the annual rummage sale. That will help students save a lot of money going on the trip.

Ryan Persinger made a lot of money at the rummage sale. "I'm glad that I made a lot of money at the rummage sale to



Photo by Abi Bragdon.

## Drum major Ali Hankins prepares to conduct the band at the Ridgway Popcorn Days parade Sept. 10. The band took first place at the parade and went on to have another undefeated marching season.

help me to go to Disney," Persinger said.

Drake also feels the rummage sale was very helpful. "The rummage sale was a huge success for students that were selling their junk. Everyone that sold items made some money for their trip," Drake said.

The band and color guard will perform at Magic Kingdom May 27 and then on the other days they can go have fun at the parks.

# Key Club event celebrate Earth Day with elementary pupils

Francesca Messerschmidt

Key Club members will go to West Side April 21 for an Earth Day fair with different activities, booths, and information about the environment.

All West Side students will be able to participate as the event will take place during the day.

The idea for the event came from a similar program held in the Chester school district.

"I was talking to the newspaper adviser from Chester at the IHSA state journalism competition last year, and he mentioned that he was sad to be missing their Earth Day event," club adviser Cathy Wall said. "It sounded like a perfect fit for our club, so I told the board about it, and they decided to give it a try this year. If this goes well, we are hoping to do a similar event at East Side next year."

Science teacher Janet Hughes is also adviser to Key Club. She sees the event as having even broader application.

"Since it's during the day, all the kids will participate during their PE classes," Hughes said. "We hope the activities will make students be more interested in seeing science outside of school."

The event will offer a variety of activities.

"Key Club will be setting up many stations with different activities to provide opportunities for the kids to get involved," sophomore representative Reed Rider said. Some of the booths will be more educational, while others will be more for fun.

"We will have multiple booths with games for the kids to interact with that are Earth Day related," vice-president Bella Hankins said.

Among the educational booths will be one manned by freshman Tanner Sheldon who will show students the equipment he uses to scuba dive. He will also share with students his work to keep waterways in the area clean.

The main purpose of the event is to help get kids interested in the Earth and science. "Key Club would like to help close the gap between grades K-12 on science topics important to the community," Hughes said. "They do mostly reading and math, so we would like to introduce more science topics that have STEAM applications."

Some of the resources that club members will use are on loan from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Education. Others are being donated or loaned by club members.

"I'm excited for the bee stand," treasurer Allison Dennison said. "My dad and I used to work with bees, so I think it'll be interesting."

Senior Wekey Wang will also be bringing a honeycomb and a jar of honey that



Infographic by Francesca Messerschmidt.

students will be able to taste if they wish.

Overall, the members of the club think the event will be important and beneficial for the students as they will have the chance to learn about things like the importance of clean water, recycling and more.

"The purpose of the event is to instill care in kids towards the earth," Rider said.

The members are also excited to go put the event on.

"I'm mostly looking forward to seeing all the little kids have fun and learn about the environment," Hankins said.

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**HHS GRADUATION INFORMATION**

**WHEN**  
**MAY 20**

**WHERE**  
**DAVENPORT GYM**

**TIME**  
**4PM**

Infographic by Ayden Price

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# Fighting to slow climate change is everyone's battle

Climate change has been an increasing problem over the last few centuries. It has created a negative effect on flooding, weather patterns, and water availability. Climate change is long-term changes in the weather and temperature. It is drastically changing life, and not enough people are taking the action needed to change that.

The weather patterns are causing major economic changes.

"Extreme weather, including heat waves, droughts, floods, wildfires and hurricanes, is killing and displacing people worldwide, and causing massive economic damage," reporter Rebecca Hersher said in an article for National Public Radio (NPR). "And the amount of carbon dioxide accumulating in the atmosphere is still rising."

It is important for everyone, including Harrisburg Unit District 3, to do what they can to help the environment. HHS does help the environment in some ways. The water fountains have a feature where reusable water bottles can be refilled, cutting down on the amount of trash that is produced each day. But there is so much more that could be done.

One simple change would be to start a recycling program. We don't have bins where plastic bottles and aluminum cans could be sorted for recycling. This would be a good first step as students produce a great deal of trash, especially drink containers, that could be recycled. According to CBS News, only five percent of U.S. plastic was recycled in 2021. Meanwhile, there has been an increase in the production of containers that don't use recycled materials. This contributes to the climate change problem as all this plastic ends up in a landfill somewhere where the heat from the sun causes it to produce greenhouse gases.

School doesn't really focus on stuff that helps the environment, but they could start working on insert-

ing recycling bins and trash cans for soda cans that a lot of kids buy from the high school

The high school has other available resources that aren't currently being used. We don't have solar panels even though we have a flat roof. The Energy Transition Community Grant Program has selected Harrisburg CUSD #3 to receive a \$539,000 grant that could go toward getting solar panels.

There are also many things students can do to help the planet we live in. Students can recycle at home, walk, bike or carpool, or help clean up the community individually or in groups.

Including routines that help the environment in our day-to-day lives could be beneficial. Getting in the habit of recycling or picking up trash when seen on the street could benefit the community. Using environment friendly products could also help. In addition to those, simple things such as: saving power, eating less meat, or choosing metal or paper products over plastic products are ways to help the environment.

Another important way to bring about change is to educate students about the consequences of the choices they make. More can be done to encourage conversation about living environmentally friendly. Even if we are high schoolers and should know, that doesn't mean all of us really do and protecting the environment is crucial to our lives. It affects the air we breathe, the food we eat, and even the water we drink. Classes such as physical science, biology, health, or any agricultural class could help bring awareness to environmental problems and solutions to it.

Climate change did not happen instantly, but it happened over time and will get worse if people do not change. This planet is our home, therefore we need to be taking care of it. No one enjoys a lot of trash in their home, so why trash the community we live in?



Cartoon by Bailee Clifton.

**Saving the planet requires everyone to do their part, both students and the district as a whole. It's time to look at the choices being made, from the containers used to package food in the lunchroom to the source of energy used to run the building, and make choices that contribute to a cleaner, greener world.**

## Journalism has many advantages for high school students

Riley Mize

When starting something new it can be a little nerve racking. However, it can be one of the best decisions that you can make. In high school stepping out of your comfort zone is often overlooked and can steer many people away from an amazing opportunity. HHS offers students a journalism class that has many advantages in advancing your high school career. The Purple Clarion has been going on for 100 years. This class offers chances to learn valuable and real life skills.

Joining The Purple Clarion can create a whole new lifestyle for many. While some get more into the writing part many also get into photography, cartooning, drawing, and layouts for the newspaper. These can build a portfolio to use in college scholarship applications. Joining this class will open your eyes to many different things that you have possibly never seen, heard or thought about doing before.

Many people that have previously taken this class have said that there are multiple benefits that come from taking journalism in high school. Kellyn Sirach (2011) announced that "the purple clarion expanded both my academic and social skills." Taking this class you work as a team, you can also build friendships with people you never would have thought to create friendships with. Hillary (Shires) Hall (2011) wrote that "Our group was so close, yet so different. It taught us teamwork and how to work with all kinds of personalities."

Joining journalism in high school isn't just gonna be one of the most fun things you could do but it also teaches us real world business skills that we will all use and need sometime in the future.

You can develop a sense of responsibility for your own work, exercising your own voice, you develop leadership and close working relationships. Juniors and seniors that chose to take this class can also receive dual credit throughout both semesters. You will earn 3 credits in the fall and 3 credits in the spring.

Students sometimes feel the need to do this to feel like they have a purpose in the school. Keelan Coker (2019) said "Journalism helped me feel like I belong and matter. It provided me with a safe environment to form opinions and challenge them. The college credit and learning to write was nice, my main takeaway from this class is the freedom it gave me and the light in me that may have never turned on if i didn't do journalism."

## Life after high school means new stressors

Bailee Clifton

With fewer than 30 days, including final exams, of school left for seniors, the year is coming to a close, and my childhood is dwindling as well. Whether I decide that I am going to college or going straight into the workforce, life after graduation is becoming more and more stressful.

People are entitled to their own opinions about growing up and being on their own. There are benefits and downfalls. I can handle my finances on my own, have my privacy and space to do with what I want, and can create my own schedule and curfew. Moving out at 18 also increases irresponsibility in many cases, is extremely expensive, and takes days or even weeks of time to complete.

For decades, new graduates have stressed about being on their own, but with the economy changing drastically, we now have to worry about making enough money for basic necessities such as food, clothes, and a place to live. According to Sam Garrison at Stackin, "According to a 2022 report, the median rent for a one-bedroom apartment in the U.S. is \$1,129. And if you want to live in a major city like New York or San Francisco, you can expect to pay upwards of \$3,000+ per month".

Moving out of my parents' house can be difficult for many other reasons, too, including learning to survive on my own. I have to get all the proper materials to move, make sure that I have plenty of money to get necessities for the new house or apartment and pay bills on time. With school, if a homework assignment is late then I just get a late grade, but when I live on my own and a bill is late, then I get no electricity or water or heat.

Finding a decent job with enough pay to meet my responsibilities and good hours is difficult, but once I do find it, I think it will be easier to stick with it. Staying with one job not only makes doing taxes easier, speaking from experience, but it can also increase the chances that I'll get a promotion in the future. Having a steady job will make earning a substantial amount of money a lot easier.

I've heard many people say that kids should just "grow up already" or that I shouldn't be stressed, anxious, or unhappy at my age because I don't have "real bills and expenses yet," but the experts say that these feelings are reasonable. "After a significant move, you might find yourself experiencing unusual levels of sadness, irritability, anxiety, or exhaustion" says BetterHelp. "Moving can cause symptoms of depression, anxiety, and adjustment issues." People of all ages can experience symptoms from worrying about the future.

Many may already know all of this, but for some, this is new information. Either way, the future is scary, and there is no way to stop it. I can't change the speed of time, but I can embrace the fact that I will have my freedom soon. BetterHelp gives advice and support to those going through a hard time, whether it's temporary or long-lasting. "Adulthood is like the vet, and we're all the dogs that were excited for the car ride until we realized where we're growing."



"I have two succulents in my room and my grandparents have a vegetable garden. I recommend people start with succulents you can buy pre-grown. That's what I did and they've grown really big."  
-Junior Maysa Moore



"I have a peace lily, an aloe vera plant, and more. When caring for a plant, make sure to water it regularly, buy the correct soil, and keep it in a designated spot. Keep in mind that you may have to replant it in a new pot. I would definitely recommend getting a plant, even as nice decor."  
- Sophomore Zechariah Underwood



"I have a Mammillaria elongata and a Micranthocereus. I would recommend starting with a cactus or a simple succulent. A cactus can be forgotten about for four months and still manage to live, while succulents need little water and lots of sunlight. Starting off simple and working your way up is the best route to have a plant-tastic hobby."  
- Freshman Lilian Coffie



"I have a variegated snake plant, also known as a mother in law's tongue, two variegated pothos, and some curly spider plants. For beginners, I recommend snake plants and ZZ plants. Both are low light friendly and don't require much of anything."  
- Freshman Rosie Robinson

## Horticulture is growing something up in the green house

Ayden Price

Horticulture is a class provided to let students learn more about plants. Ag teacher Travis Butler teaches the class, and he takes his class to the greenhouse often. Senior Kelsyn Fricker, a student in this class, was excited about that part of the class. "We've been to the greenhouse 90% of the semester, and I'm glad that we did" Fricker said. Inside the greenhouse, students cultivate many different plants. They plant, water, and move the seedlings to different spots. Senior Lane Shover was happy that she can see her plants grow everyday. "I love to see my plants grow and flourish," Shover said. In this class students have personal projects. Students plant a seed, and they watch it grow to whatever they planted. Senior Eli Fromm liked those projects. "Having your own personal projects is amazing, seeing them grow from just a seed to a flower," Fromm said. Students also enjoy the opportunity to have fun with their friends. Senior Olivia Gore particularly enjoyed that aspect of the class. "Growing plants with my friends is fun," Gore said. On Earth Day, the class is going to try to plant flowers around the school to make the school look better. Previously, the class added dusty miller plants to the existing flowers in the flower bed in front of the main entrance. They are also selling plants April 24-29, Monday-Friday from 12-4 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.. They are selling geraniums for \$3, marigolds, impatiens, and petunia all for \$5, ferns, petunia/sweet potato vine, geranium, and coleus all for \$10, as well as a variety of tomatoes and peppers in six-packs at \$3 per pack.



Infographic by Sarah Girtman.

## Birds and bees keep the world turning through pollination

Riley Mize

It takes more than just the trees and plants to help people continue to live on this Earth. The birds and the bees here on Earth are actually very important. As bees help with pollinating the food crops, birds help cross pollination and pest control. As the birds and the bees continue to help the Earth, sometimes they need a little help. Building bee gardens, creating bee baths and building homes for native bees can all provide bees with advantages to being more productive in helping the earth. Additionally, creating a bird oasis with clean water, plants for nectar, insects, and bird food that has a lot of nutrition and vitamins for the birds. Bees spend most of their life collecting pollen and nectar from flowers. When a bee lands on a flower, the hairs all over the bee collect the pollen grains to then carry it back to its nest. According to actionnews5.com, "the vast majority of plant species, almost 90 percent, rely on pollinators like bees to reproduce." This means "bees are responsible for one out of every three bites of food humans eat," according to the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University. Bees aren't the only species that help spread the earth's seeds around the world. Birds act as pollinators, seed dispersers, and ecosystem engineers. Birds are essential as pollinators and for seed dispersal. They feed on many insects and keep insect populations under control. According to travisaudubon.org, "birds eat pests in gardens and farms, thereby reducing the amount of toxic pesticides needed to control these populations and mitigating the damage pests inflict on our crops and ornamental plants". Birds' roles as pollinators benefit humanity directly; around five percent of the plants humans use for food or medicine are pollinated by birds. According to birdlife.org, "birds bring plants back to ecosystems that have been destroyed. Birds maintain the delicate balance between plant and herbivore, predator and prey". Without birds, habitats like forests, marshes and grasslands affect people across the whole planet because they store carbon, keep the climate stable, oxygenate the air and transform pollutants into nutrients. But without birds, many of these ecosystems may not exist. While bees and birds continue to work apart to help the planet, they actually coexist and help each other out. With birds going out and spreading seeds from what they pick up, they start new plants. The bees then go to the flowers and collect the pollen to recycle it to other parts of the earth.

## A few tips on how to maintain a great garden

Ellie Rann

Many people love to be outdoors and garden, and others would love to start but are not sure where to even begin. With weeds, some overgrown plants, or a few dried-out pots from attempting a garden in the past, some may become discouraged. "Where do I even begin?" "How do I know what to plant?" Others may be concerned if putting the time and money into a garden will even be worth it. Don't be discouraged or give up yet! Here are a few easy tips and ideas to help start a garden this summer. According to the Farmer's Almanac, start with picking the right location. A great place to start would be in the sun. Most vegetables need at least six hours of sun each day. Some crops such as lettuce, spinach, and other greens will grow well in partially sunny spots, but sun-loving plants like tomatoes and peppers need as much light as possible. With much sunlight, plants and vegetables will also need plenty of water, so make sure much water is available for them. Nothing burns out a beginning gardener faster than having to water plants constantly, so consider investing in a quality hose with a sprayer attachment or even a small irrigation system! Along with sunlight and water, providing good soil is the key to growing and maintaining a successful garden. Plants depend on soil for many nutrients, stability, and drainage. To grow the best garden, start with well-drained, sandy loam. Sandy loam is a soil type that is normally made up of sand along with varying amounts of silt and clay. According to realsimple.com, many people prefer sandy loam soil for their gardening because this type of soil normally allows for good drainage. Most garden vegetables can be directly seeded where they are to grow, like lettuce, carrots, beets, spinach, cucumbers, and squash. To avoid crowding, research the plants first to know exactly how large they will grow and how to space them out accordingly. Plants that typically live for more than two years, should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart to allow enough room for new growth. It's also important to know how high your plants will grow. Shorter plants should be planted toward the front and edges of the garden bed, with the taller plants in the back. Be mindful of taller plants that would block smaller ones, or the varieties that prefer a lot of sun or shade. Gardeners might not have to do a lot of work everyday, but proper care is the greatest thing one can provide for their garden. Taking the time to weed, prune, and tidy up the garden will help the gardener get in tune with what the plants need to thrive and survive. Each plant reacts to weather changes and how to correct issues like infestations before they become too problematic. If stunted growth becomes visible, check what's going on with the roots of the plant by carefully examining and digging around the underlying soil. Gardening is a process. It doesn't just happen in one day, it takes time. Monitor your plants and vegetables regularly, and unless something looks wrong, let them be. Soon, a great beautiful garden, with lots of great food, will be ready to enjoy.



Cartoon by Bailee Clifton.

Birds and bees help to pollinate the flowers and care for the trees.

### PLANTS THAT HELP POLLINATORS

**Sources:**  
University of Illinois (2023)  
U.S. Department of Agriculture Pollinator Partnership (1996-2023)  
National Park Service (2022)  
Smithsonian (2018)

	PALE PURPLE CORNFLOWER	SNOWBERRY SHRUB	MACADAMIA NUT	COMPASS PLANT	AVOCADOS	LEADPLANT SHRUB
	★	★	★	★	★	★
		★	★			★
		★	★			★
		★			★	★
	★	★		★		★

**Pollinators are a crucial asset to the environment. They give plants pollen, which the plant then uses to produce seed or fruit. One in three bites of food taken are because of pollinators. Since pollinators are such a major part of the food source, it is important to take care of them. Some ways to care for pollinators is to grow more gardens, plant native flowers, provide nesting areas for them, provide sources of water, and avoid pesticides.**

Infographic by Sarah Girtman.

Senior Evan McDermott signs with Oklahoma Christian University for bowling. March 15.

Senior Cooper Phalin signs with the Southern Illinois University Salukis for football. Feb. 14.

Senior Sebastian Brown signs with IUPUC for soccer March 23.

Senior Kelsyn Fricker signs with IUPUC for Soccer March 23.

Photos Provided.



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# Rider encourages student's to prioritize schoolwork while playing sports

Ellie Rann

Ross Rider, a senior three-sport athlete who is currently at the top of his class academically, has always been one to put in the work in all aspects of his life. As a result of his hard work, he will attend the University of Evansville in the fall on an academic scholarship.

Rider claims the best part of his education is his increased potential to succeed as a result of the choices he has made.

"To me, being a student-athlete means first focusing on the academic aspect of life. I am fulfilled by the knowledge that, because of the education I've received, my future will be bright," Rider said.

Rider is self-motivated, in school and outside of school. He says he is this way because of how hard he has seen his father work. He strives to be like his father.

"My motivation to always work hard in school is derived from my childhood dream to grow up to be a doctor just like my father," Rider said. "I have always wanted to become a doctor, and I know that the road will not be easy. I have always believed that it is important for me to develop a strong work ethic and the ability to persevere now, so that when I face adversity in the future, I can overcome it."

Rider believes that success is usually the result of hard work. He knows without composure and perseverance he would not have been able to achieve what he has in high school.

"I believe that one of the most important characteristics for getting good grades in school is discipline. I truly believe that good things happen in life to people who are able to manage their lives responsibly and show determination in the face of obstacles," Rider said.

Along with his father, Rider has also been inspired by many of the teachers at HHS that have helped him throughout the past four years. Whether they coached him academically or athletically, many adults have played a major role in Rider's high school career.

"The teachers at this school have been pivotal in my education. Every teacher at HHS wants to see each student succeed. They will do everything possible to help you along the way," Rider said. "There have been many times that I haven't understood something in class, but my teachers were always willing to help me in my understanding of the subject and guide me to success. If you are willing to meet them halfway and put in the effort to be successful, the teachers won't let you fail."

Throughout Rider's academic success in high school, he has also been a part of three sports. He has managed a busy schedule outside of school on top of his studies for each class.



Photo by Riley Mize.

## Senior Ross Rider rounds third after a hit against the Herrin Tigers April 11. The Dogs brought home a big win.

"One of the biggest pleasures and challenges of my high school career has been being a student athlete," Rider said. "Athletics have played a monumental role in the development of who I am as a person. Athletics have taught me to be tenacious, motivated, and, most importantly, competitive. The competitive spirit that athletics has taught me is ultimately responsible for my determination to get the best grades possible for my abilities. Even though it is hard to manage your time when you play three sports, the competitiveness and mental drive that athletics has taught me are more than enough motivation to complete the tasks at hand. All-in-all, instead of making it harder for me to get good grades, I believe that athletics is partly responsible for it."

Rider has much advice for incoming freshmen as well as students that still have a few years left in high school with regard to achieving goals.

"The advice I would give to other student-athletes is to always prioritize your grades first. Even though it may not seem fun now, it will be much more fun when you achieve your life goals because you learned what you needed to in school," Rider said.

Rider will be attending the University of Evansville (U of E) next year to major in Biology.

"Throughout college I plan to follow the course of pre-medicine, and upon graduation I plan to attend medical school. I believe that being a student athlete has been a monumental part of what has made me who I am today," Rider said.



Stephanie  
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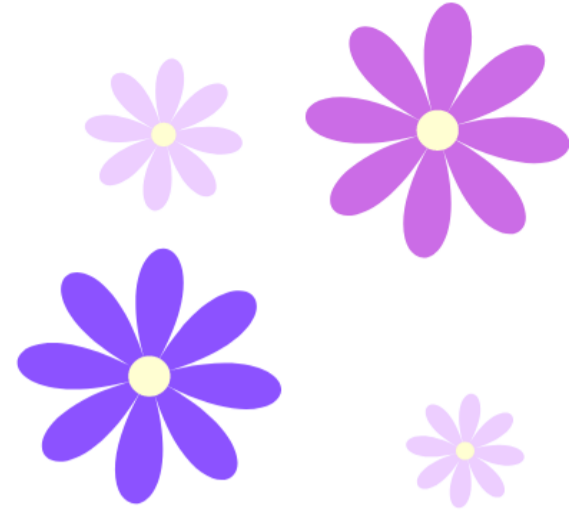
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