

# THE PURPLE CLARION

VOLUME 97 EDITION 4  
MAY 15 2024



IN THE SPOTLIGHT  
Summer Readiness  
Students and staff prepare  
for summertime  
as the end of the year draws near

## NEWS

FFA wraps up successful school year

Students go shopping at Amazon Day

College or not?

## OPINIONS

How to decide where to go for summer vacation

Phones can be a distraction in the classroom

## SPORTS

Spring sports finish up for the year

Seniors sign to colleges for respective sports and activities

## FEATURE

TikTok ban passes leaving students wondering 'what's next?'

AI grows in popularity in the classroom

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## Students enjoy Amazon Day

Bryleigh Lewis

Amazon has over 300 million active users globally according to Capitol One Shopping Research.

Although many people use and love the app, much like other online shopping outlets, there are often returns of items purchased by others.

Some of these returned items were given away May 2.

Students were called down by class and given the opportunity to choose an

item to take home. At the end of the day, many returned for a second look at the remaining merchandise.

"I wasn't really the biggest fan of Amazon Day because it was hard to find things I liked and wanted," freshman Giovanni Roski said. "When it was time for my class to go look at everything, the majority of what was there was home goods and car parts which I'm not very interested in."

Even though there weren't many things that interested Roski, she was able to find a notebook she liked.

Other students were more enthusiastic.

"I think it was very nice to experience something like this and to see all the cool stuff we could find for free," sophomore Gracie Harrelson said.

Harrelson was able to find a cute wooden organizer for all of her accessories as well as a free t-shirt.

Seniors were the first group to visit the giveaway. Teachers were also allowed to go shop after all the students had a chance.

"Amazon Day had some good qualities in what they were trying to do for students. I feel that it was very nice of the school administrators to conduct this for students and staff as a way of helping out," senior Chelsea Morales said.

Morales was able to find a play mat with the ABC's that was beneficial as a gift for her niece, Nova.

Students at all Harrisburg Schools will have a chance to participate by the end of the school year.

## FFA nets multiple awards, plans for 2024-25

Kylan Jerrell

As the school year comes to a close, some clubs begin to prepare their calendars for next year. Events and competitions of this year will influence how the following year will go and what new additions will be made for FFA.

Ag teacher and 19-year FFA advisor, Chris Evans, had big plans for the year.

"This year we had a goal of competing in every Section 25 FFA Career Development Event," Evans said. "To accomplish this, we had to encourage and train students for each competition."

Senior Grace Trammel, has seen many accomplishments through her four years as an FFA member. This year she served as vice-president and set out to accomplish as much as she could.

"I have placed in the top ten in events like ag mechanics, ag business, job interview and ag sales," Trammel said. "As a team, we finished second."

Competitions and events require much effort from the club members.

"Events like banquets and the plant sale take a lot more time and planning than you would think," Trammel said. "Contests also take a lot more time than you'd think; you have to really study and prepare to do well in them."

New technology and careful planning made the plant sale a worthwhile event.

"The plant sale was a great success," Evans said. "This year we added several new plants to our selection and with the use of our new fertilizer injector into the sprinkler system, we were able to sell very high-quality plants."

As FFA expands, Evans plans to offer more opportunities for those in the club.

"In the future, we hope to expand our chapter to offer our members more opportunities to compete, participate, and earn State Degrees," Evans said. "We are planning to implement a chapter points system next year that will help us accomplish our goals."

An FFA banquet will be hosted to honor the members for their hard work and dedication to the club.

"Our FFA Banquet will be on May 14 at 6 p.m.," Evans said. "At the banquet, we will pass out Greenhand and Chapter Degrees as well as honor member achievement and officer success. We will also install new officers at the banquet."

Although Trammel plans on furthering her FFA interests by getting a bachelor's in Ag science, she still thinks the club could be a great opportunity for those who aren't planning to follow such a career path.

"I would recommend [FFA] for everyone because it gives you so many fun opportunities and you get to meet so many new people who you never would have met otherwise," Trammel said. "No matter what your interests are, there is something in FFA you can get involved with and enjoy doing."

Evans hopes more students will join FFA in the future.

"I enjoy seeing members succeed at learning new skills and giving them opportunities to become better leaders and citizens," Evans said. "In the future, I hope that more students will be able to experience all the benefits of the National FFA Organization."



### *Congratulations*

to the many seniors who received scholarships and awards May 9.

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dawson Griffith        | Andra Murphy            |
| Jack Ford              | Layla Borders           |
| Connor Henshaw         | McKenna Boon            |
| Jensen Naas            | Avery Henderson         |
| Frankie Leigh Nicholes | Maysa Moore             |
| Ali Hankins            | Mary Beth Winkleman     |
| Triton Kielhorn        | Kylan Jerrell           |
| Noah Arnold            | Mark Miller             |
| Malachi Black          | Jaxon Quisenberry       |
| Riley Fulkerson        | Wilson DeNeal           |
| Ethan Golish           | Bailey Cook             |
| McKenzie Boyd          | Jace Oglesby            |
| Tony Keene             | Allison Moyer           |
| Kale Brown             | Conner Rorer            |
| Malaina Casillas       | Bella Capuzzo           |
| Paige Potts            | Francesca Messerschmidt |
| Grace Trammel          | Ashlyn Brasher          |
| Becca McIntosh         | Dalton Martin           |
| Jake Blimline          | Carter Miles            |
| Leah Haugen            | Riley Mize              |
| Chloe Hernandez        | Cam Ande                |
| Gavinn Swann           | Braden BradenBurtis     |
| Tessa Harrison         | Karmello Downey         |
| Lillian Siler          | Kennedy Borders         |
| Whittleigh Trusty      | Regan Arnett            |
| Chelsea Morales        | Wyatt Moyer             |
| Avery Woolard          | Clyde Brand             |





# 'Cicadapocalypse' emerging this summer

Leah Haugen

Known for their recognizable ruckus, cicadas are expected to emerge from May to June. Cicadas are insects that make an appearance with their unique sounds, a nostalgic summer tune.

"I don't mind them. Though, they're sometimes annoying," junior Dex Randolph said. "The noise gives me nostalgia for my childhood."

Many are familiar with the noise but may not know why they make such a sound.

"I think the cicadas make that sound as a mating tactic," senior Wilson DeNeal said.

Along with marking territory, this response is correct. Male cicadas use a sound box in their abdomen to attract females, similar to what crickets do. On hotter days, this noise is louder.

This cicada season is an uncommon occurrence as this will be a double cicada eruption.

A cicada brood is a group of cicadas expected to emerge. According to the University of Connecticut, this year, two broods will emerge at once: XIX and XIII. According to NBC, the last time these two broods emerged was 1803.

Cicadas hibernate underground for up to thirteen years. However, their above-ground lifespan is much shorter—six weeks.

Cicadas spend most of their life underground to hide from predators like birds. According to Purdue University,

they feed on tree sap from roots, but don't emerge until the temperature is warm enough.

Cicadas are harmless to humans and animals as they cannot bite or sting. However, cicada eggs can cause damage to recently planted trees or plants because the eggs can weigh down branches over time. A mesh layering protecting branching can prevent potential damage. More information on how to protect young plants can be found in an article on Purdue's website.

Reaching adulthood, cicadas will leave fragile exoskeletons behind. These golden shells are commonly found on trees and cars.

"The shells creep me out," Randolph said.

Cicadas leave shells behind when they have reached their full development and must molt to develop their new shell as their skin cannot stretch.

Insect researchers are hoping to map the types of cicadas emerging. The Cicada Safari app, available on the Apple Store and Google Play, allows anyone to snap a photo of a cicada. When the photo has been verified, the image can be used to map the species of cicadas. This helps researchers identify the types of cicadas in specific areas.

"I used to hear them all the time as a kid," junior Kaitlyn Wiman said. "I fall asleep to the noise some nights."

**According to National Geographic kids, when "the cicadas emerge aboveground at sunset, (they) climb the trunk of a nearby tree, and shed their skin." This is called molting.**

Photo by Leah Haugen.



## Congratulations

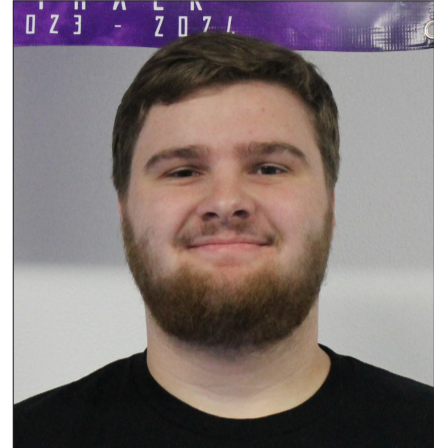


to senior members  
of the fine arts department

who will continue their careers at SIC



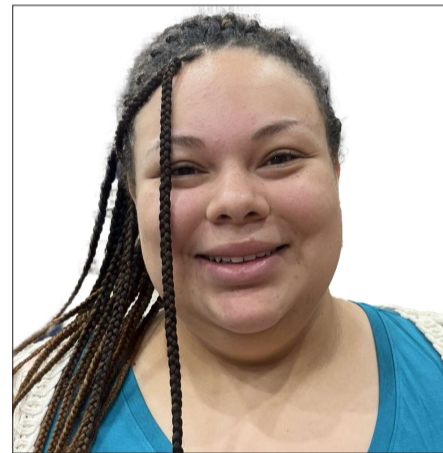
Clyde Brand - music



Jaxon Quisenberry - theater



Avery Woolard - theater



Chelsea Morales - theater



Francesca Messerschmidt - speech

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## Take my advice; Make freshman year count

**Kennedy Borders**

When freshmen come into high school it can be a big change. There are more classes and a lot more walking than in middle school where students are used to just their grades being in one wing.

High school is not like that at all.

Freshmen will likely have at least one or more classes with at least one senior. This can sometimes cause problems because some haven't had the opportunity to interact with older people in a school setting, and there's a definite order here.

Some tips I would give to the incoming freshman is don't be cocky. Just be nice. Yes, you are in high school, but those seniors have been here for four years. Give them some respect.

Another tip I would give is when walking with a lot of stuff in hand, don't rush. The stairs will feel very new because the middle school is all on one level. Just be careful. Nobody wants to be remembered for falling down the stairs.

Freshman should always be ready for class because as soon as the late bell rings, class will begin whether students are ready or not. It's students' responsibility to be prepared and ready to work.

Some freshman may be confused

about where to go on the first day but, that's okay! Don't be afraid to ask one of the seniors. (I promise we're not mean-well, not of us). The teachers are also more than willing to help if you get lost.

Lunch is very different at HHS. The high school has an open campus lunch so students get to go wherever they please at lunch. Students here have a 35 minute lunch, so don't be late getting back to school. That's how students rack up tardies.

HHS has many clubs students can attend. At the beginning of the year, students will get a sheet to sign up for clubs. As a senior, I think freshmen should do as many clubs as possible. It looks really good on a college application. Even though that feels like it's a long time away, take my word for it - it's not.

Another quite different thing is if students play a sport they will automatically be put in athletics. Athletics is a class where conditioning happens for student athletes. Students will get to work out in the weight room and run on some days. There is a variety of sports students can choose from in athletics.

The main thing to remember is that you only get four years here, so make the most of them.



## Proposed phone policy is probably just what we need

**Sydney Devous**

Mobile devices being used in the classroom affects a lot of things such as learning and concentration.

According to Stockton University, "Mobile device use in the classroom may be distracting and harmful based on students' urge to text or check notifications as they pop up on the screen, technological difficulties, off-task behaviors or academic dishonesty, and overuse of technology is correlated with decreased cognitive thinking skills, social interaction and a decrease in attention span."

There is also evidence indicating students will continue to use their mobile devices in their classes even if there is a ban in place.

Even in my experience having my phone is a big distraction for me in class. Knowing that my phone is accessible during classes is hard for me to manage because, like many teens, I would rather be on my phone scrolling through social media than listening to the teacher trying to teach the lesson.

In most of my classes, we have cubbies that we are supposed to be putting our phones into as soon as we enter the class but even with that rule being applied, most students don't fol-

low it and honestly, a lot of teachers don't even try to enforce the rule because the students won't listen to their directions.

These are not the only problems with phones used in classrooms. As for bullying with mobile devices in the classroom, I have seen many instances where students will take pictures, sometimes even videos of other students. Sometimes students post them to their social media accounts and there have been many times it has caused a lot of drama around the school.

Principal John Crabb stated that next school year there will be a strict no-phone policy. Every student will have a locker and students will be required to put their phone in their locker and leave it there for the entire school day. This will be hard for a lot of students, but I think it will ease up a lot of drama and will help students to better focus in class when their teacher is trying to teach the class. I also believe that grades will improve with this policy because students will probably focus on assignments instead of their phones.



## Standardized testing lets students down

**Whittleigh Trusty**

Every year, standardized tests strike fear into the hearts of students. To juniors, the SAT especially it made out to be like something of a life-changing event that dictates the rest of a student's life. While it can quickly be realized that this isn't quite the case, the scores can impact everything from the amount of scholarship money a student may get to whether or not they get admitted into a choice college. This is unfortunate and unfair as standardized test scores simply do not accurately portray the intelligence of students.

One might argue that the two areas that the SATs assess are general. The tests are meant to measure a student's abilities in those two fields, English and mathematics, and so scores are not meant to test other areas. This, although it somewhat makes sense, fails to indicate a student's abilities in other areas that could be crucial to how intellectual they seem to a college. This leaves a lot of money on the table when it comes to letting students show just how smart they are. A student is much more than what these tests reflect.

It isn't fair for colleges and universities to even slightly judge a student based on a number that doesn't carry much weight due to its inaccuracy. Another test, the Accuplacer, has full jurisdiction over whether a student can even attempt a

class or not. It has the same subjects as the SAT, English and math, and in the same way that the SAT restricts students, it does as well.

When taking tests like the Accuplacer and the SAT, some students tend to get quite nervous. According to Youki Terada of Edutopia, the stress chemical cortisol spikes by nearly 15% before the SAT, which has been "linked to an 80-point drop in SAT scores," based on what was predicted using the students' previous PSAT results.

Another issue with these tests in general is the strict time limit that is typically applied to them. While some students may not use all the time they are given, others spend more time worrying about how much time they have left than what questions they still need to answer. This leads to more stress and, therefore, fewer correct answers. It's similar to being in class taking a test that's really stressful, only to turn it in and realize how many answers got put down wrong just due to nerves.

By far the most striking issue of standardized testing is the aforementioned lack of focus it has on the other ways that students express intellect, such as critical thinking, problem solving, or even artistic abilities. These skills are not tested on either the SAT or Accuplacer, and henceforth not included in their score. As stated in the research done by Howard Gardner in 1983, there are multiple kinds of intelligence that stem beyond just the sheer ability to process a piece of literature or solve a calculus equation.

According to an interview with Dr. Robert Sternberg by Ben Isenberg of Hamilton College, "While these tests do account for analytical skills, they do not assess 'creative skills, practical skills, or wisdom-based ethical skills.'" Sternberg made it his career goal to create new standardized tests that no longer narrow themselves down to just two subjects.

Most standardized tests do not give students the chance to showcase what they can really do, and this unfairly pits the system against them. The tests themselves are in only two areas with little wiggle room to give students a chance to show what they know. You can't pull a rabbit from a hat if there is no hat, and students who achieve in ways not measured by the test are in a similar predicament.





## Clarion Editorial: Summer travel choices

When the school bells ring and students get out for the summer, one thing on many of their minds is what they plan to do for summer vacation. However, where they spend that summer vacation can also be worth debating.

Deciding on going far away for the summer, or staying close by is something that people take into consideration when planning their vacations, but which is better can be different for everyone.

There's a massive appeal to taking large spectacle vacations when going away for the summer. Many people enjoy traveling, both the adventuring of the trip and the end destination. According to USA Today, the top five most popular summer vacation destinations as found by Google Flights were Orlando, Cancun, Las Vegas, London and New York in 2023.

These destinations can appeal to people from Southern Illinois due to the change of scenery and the number of things to do and see. For example, New York is known for being the "city that never sleeps" making it appealing to someone looking for an exciting vacation this summer.

However, traveling far away is difficult for some. Notably, the price of travel is on the rise. USA Today also found that the average price for a round-trip flight in the US is \$367.79. While road-tripping is also an option, gas prices are also steadily increasing. AAA Gas Prices says that in Saline County, the average

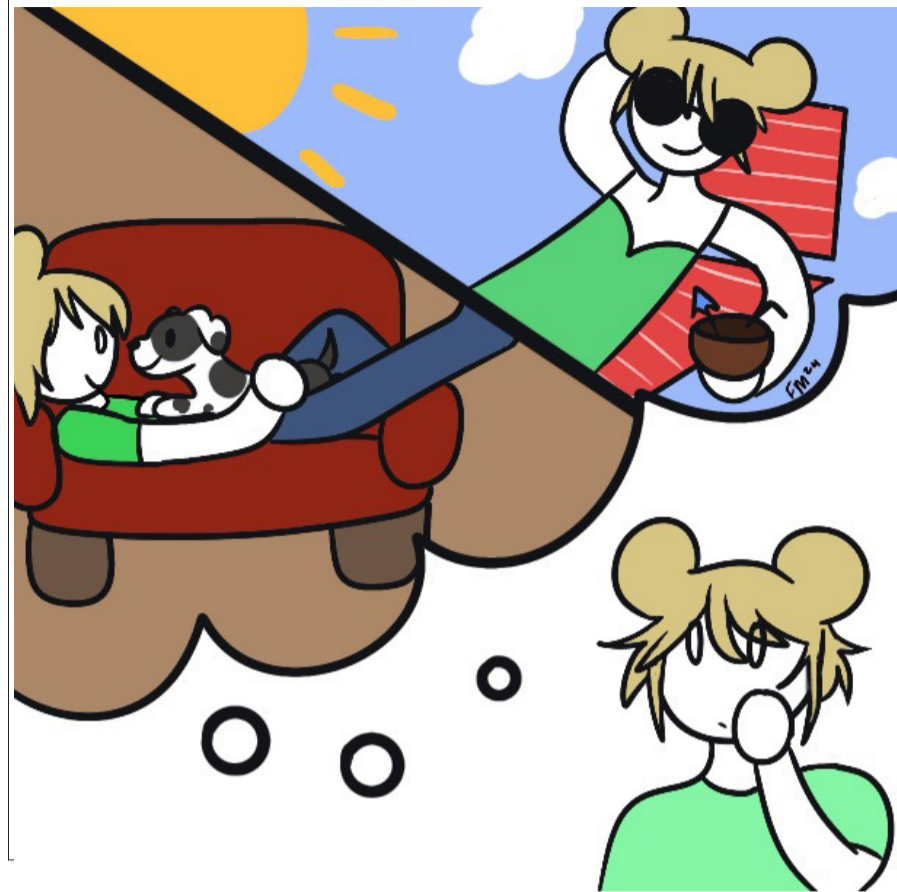
cost of gas is \$3.591 per gallon. Some also often find traveling long distances in a car to be stressful. It can be a lot of work to get all of the bags packed, keep track of everything and travel such a long distance. And this doesn't even take into account the potential for road hazards or the wear and tear on a vehicle.

Luckily, there are a lot of great summer vacation spots close to home. Those who don't mind a bit of a distance can go to Evansville, Indiana; Paducah, Kentucky; or even St. Louis, Missouri for a city experience. Most cities have a website with information about what they have to offer tourists.

But there are also a lot of options around home that can be exciting for those looking for a more natural summer vacation. Camping in the Shawnee National Forest, hiking the Garden of the Gods, Cave in Rock and Iron Furnace, or even swimming somewhere like Bell Smith Springs or Rend Lake provide enjoyable experiences that won't break a person's bank account.

Overall, whether someone decides to stay close to home or go adventuring for the summer is ultimately up to them, though each option has pros and cons. It's up to someone's personal preferences and budget to choose the route they take once school gets out for summer.

The most important thing is to get out and go. School will be starting again before we know it.

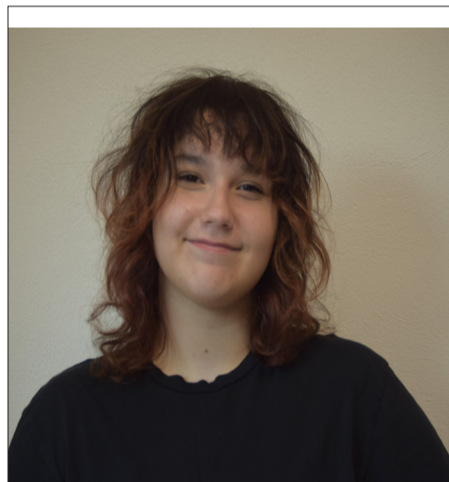


Cartoon by Francesca Messerschmidt

**Whether someone decides to stay home or go out for a big summer vacation, what matters most are the memories that are made.**

## Music aids student productivity

Leah Haugen



The idea of using music to influence the brain is not new. All stores implement music to affect customer activity. In the 80's, researchers conducted studies that determined that shoppers were likely to spend more money when slow-paced music was played.

For as long as history has lived, many cultures used instrumental rhythms to induce relaxation. According to the University of Nevada, low-tempo music causes brain frequencies to shift toward alpha wave patterns. Alpha wave patterns create feelings of calm, increase creativity, and enhance memory. These waves positively affect our mood, blood pressure, and heart rate. With this, stress is reduced throughout the body.

This idea can also be implemented into students' work ethic. Whether to boost mood or concentration, music can have a positive effect on students and their productivity.

This is not linear as no two students will react to music in the same way. However, the tempo of the music plays a role in how it affects the brain. In cases where productivity is needed, low-tempo songs may be futile. However, songs with a higher beat per minute (bpm) increase brain activity. Thus, low-tempo songs at 60-70 bpm are better suited for studying. It is recommended to avoid music with distracting lyrics. Genres like

jazz, classical, and electronic music are perfect for studying and working.

Music enhances concentration in the brain, specifically music without lyrics. A Stanford study from 2007 concluded that classical music increases brain activity in the right hemisphere, leading to increased productivity.

Even in the workplace, workers were noted to have increased performance in the presence of music. In a study, titled "Don't stop the music," researchers found that people had a better response when they were able to listen to music of their own. (They) "...reported lower stress and improved mood, as well as better cognitive performance scores in situations with high cognitive demands."

Many students can be found listening to music throughout the school day. With the positive effects that music gives, it can benefit in the completion of work. However, students should refrain from listening to music during lectures. Save it for study time.

## The Purple Clarion

Harrisburg High School

333 W. College St.

Harrisburg, IL 62946

Volume 97, Edition 4



The Purple Clarion is non-biased, student produced news, sports and feature publication dedicated to accurately reporting events that interest and impact the students of HHS.

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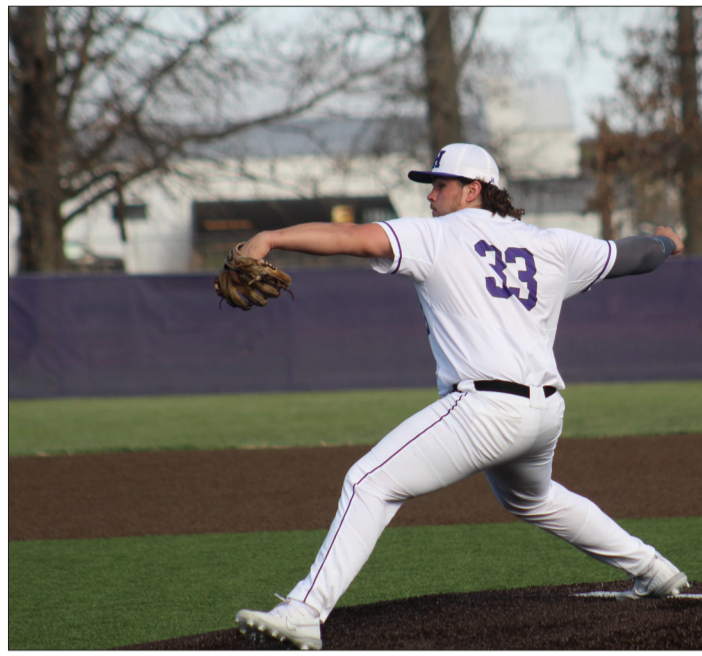
Avery Woolard

## Letters to the Editor

The Purple Clarion encourages letters to the editor. Letters should be sent from a school email or printed and signed and submitted to adviser Cathy Wall. All work is subject to editing at the discretion of the staff, and once submitted, becomes property of the Clarion. Content in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Clarion staff.

The Purple Clarion is a member of the Southern Illinois School Press Association.





(L) Junior Owen Rann gets ready for the pitch during the game against Massac. (R) Senior Braden Burtis pitches the ball during the HHS baseball game against Benton. The Dogs' record is 25-5 with only a few games left in the season.

Photos by Avery Woolard.

Three girls at the Girls Sectional Track Meet May 9. Junior Kaylee King qualified in discus, junior Gabby Shires qualified in hurdles and freshman Cece Franks qualified in pole vault. The State meet will be held May 23 at Eastern Illinois University.

The boys track team took second place at the SIRR Conference Meet the same day. They will participate in their Sectional Meet May 15.



## Congratulations to senior athletes who have signed to play at the collegiate level.



Noah Arnold, bowling – Southeastern Illinois College



Mackenzie Boyd, softball - Southeastern Illinois College



Karmello Downey, track – Southeastern Iowa Community College



Triton Kielhorn, bowling– Southeastern Illinois College





## Softball to play in upcoming Regional

Riley Mize

The Lady Bulldogs' current record is 14 - 15.

The team is mostly composed of younger members. Making the team of six freshmen, five sophomores, three juniors, and two seniors.

Senior McKenzie Boyd signs to play for Southeastern Illinois College. Boyd hit a 2-3 RBI at May 6 game against Anna Jonesboro with Sophomore Emma Mills and Freshmen Kinzley Stewart following, hitting RBI's as well.

"Most of our team is made up of younger players," sophomore Mckendra Douglas said. "Even though they are very skilled for their age, I feel like we have lots of room for improvement and growth."

Douglas feels as the team grows through this season into next they will have an advantage.

"Just as we get older it will be an advantage facing older players as younger players," Douglas said.

The Bulldogs are ready to go up against West Frankfort at this year's IHSA Regional

May 14.

"The game I look forward to the most is the regional game versus West Frankfort," Douglas said. "It's something you build up to and try to become that best at before you get to and then we all play the best we can to secure the next spot."

The team's skill in hitting and being able to play the ball has inspired the team to play the best they can, sophomore Hadley Hunt said.

"Our best skills are hitting at the plate and being able to put the ball in play and continue a play have been our best skills so far this season," Hunt said. "I believe if we continue to play like this we can continue to improve not only on those sets of skills but others to become the best team out there."

So far this season team members have enjoyed creating stronger bonds with friends and creating new friendships.

"The best part of playing softball this year is the people," Hunt said. "I get to play with friends, and being around them and creating stronger bonds with the people I'm surrounded by has been a great experience."

Douglas concurs.

"This year one of the best things about playing softball is how well the team gets along. You can see it out on the field how everyone has trust and confidence in each other and it just makes for a great attitude and a great game," Douglas said.

## Soccer celebrates Seniors



Photos by Cathy Wall.

(L) Coach Jordan Baxter, seniors Bella Capuzzo, Abby Brimm, Shelby Brantley and Hannah Bartok pose for a half-time photo.

(R) Senior Abby Brimm takes the ball toward the goal for the first score of the game. The Lady Dogs defeated Mt. Carmel 2-1.

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# Is time running out for TikTok?

Bryleigh Lewis

As many know the app TikTok, a leading destination for short-form mobile videos and entertainment, has seen some rough patches in the past year. According to forbes.com, Zhang Yiming is a Chinese internet entrepreneur who founded the company ByteDance in 2012. TikTok was created by a tech giant and was first released in September of 2016.

Although this app is loved by many, being the most downloaded app in October of 2018 with over three billion downloads and over one billion active users as of 2022, according to Laura Ceci of Statista, the app has been through some heat. TikTok stands accused by the U.S. of being a conduit for the Chinese Communist Party, taking everyone's sensitive user data and sending it to China according to Scott Nover of Time.

According to TikTok itself, they claim "they store users' data in servers located in the United States, Singapore, and Malaysia. TikTok user data is protected by strong physical and logical security controls, including gated entry points, firewalls, and intrusion detection technologies."

TikTok has repeatedly stated that it would deny requests from the Chinese government for American data. It also points to "Project Texas," an initiative that TikTok began in 2022 to safeguard American users' data on servers in the U.S. and ease lawmakers' fears.

According to Caitlin Yilek of CBS News, previous efforts to widely restrict TikTok in the U.S. have not been successful. The most recent case stemmed from Montana passing an outright ban last year. A federal judge temporarily blocked the law from taking effect in January, saying it was unconstitutional.

However, the House passed a bill that would lead to a nationwide ban of the popular video app TikTok if its China-based owner doesn't sell its stake, as lawmakers acted on concerns that the company's current ownership structure is a national security threat.

The bill, passed by a vote of 352-65 and now goes to the Senate, where its prospects are unclear.

As of April 24, the Senate has signed the bill and President Joe Biden signed legislation that could ban TikTok in the U.S. April 24. While Biden has signed legislation, he's been under fire as he has had a campaign that embraces the platform and tries to work with creators on the app. Biden has previously been struggling to maintain support from younger voters, but with the signing of this new legislation, he has been facing some criticism from users of the app, being around a third of Americans under the age of thirty according to apnews.com. According to the Associated Press; don't use the URL

The law Biden had signed this week would force the Chinese tech giant ByteDance to sell the app to a U.S. company within a year or face a national ban. ByteD-

ance has argued with them that the law violates the first amendment and the company has promised to sue.

TikTok has more than 170 million American users according to the Associated Press. If passed, this ban would have a pretty significant impact on, not just teens and kids, but adults too.

"I don't think they should ban TikTok because I use this app the most and I don't really know what I would do without it. My usage of the app ranges from just scrolling through random videos when I'm bored to using the app to find out important information about various things. The app is very versatile and a great thing to have on hand," sophomore Shaun Dooley said.

It is estimated that TikTok has about 80 million monthly active users in the United States. Sixty percent of users are female and 40% are male according to Brandon Doyle of Wallaroo. The majority are between the ages of 16-24.

The share of U.S. adults who say they would support the U.S. government banning TikTok has declined from 50% in March to 38% now, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted this fall. Some lawmakers have recently renewed calls to ban the app after initial momentum stalled in Congress earlier this year. And the potential impact on teens has become part of this debate.

U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 were asked about a potential TikTok ban in a separate survey by Pew Research this fall. It was found that few teens (18%) support the government banning it.

"I would not support the TikTok ban because TikTok has expressed how they are protecting us and our information," senior Regan Arnett said. "They make it very clear that they have safe servers located in the U.S. I have seen more effort in situations like this, from this app more than others."

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teens say that they never use TikTok as 16% of teens say they use the app almost constantly.

"The TikTok ban probably would not affect me much at all. I use the app but I don't really care," senior Ali Hankins said. Hankins added that while she enjoys watching funny videos, the app isn't very beneficial to her. "I just waste time scrolling through videos on the app," Hankins said. Hankins said that she supports the ban, as she would be more productive if she didn't have the app as a distraction or something to do if she was bored.

When users were asked why they use TikTok so much compared to other apps, they answered that they use the app as a search engine the most. Most said that the short video format is more informative and easier to understand while the other half says the information is more current, according to Sabrina Ortez of ZDNet.

"When I'm bored, I usually just scroll through TikTok. If it were to be banned, I wouldn't know what to do in my spare time," freshman Giovanni Roski said. Roski said there are a lot of people who are inspiring on the platform. "There are a lot of creators who try to make others feel good in their own bodies and let them know it's okay to be them. There are also creators who bring awareness to mental health and things of that sort to let people know it's okay to go through things and that you are never alone. I wouldn't support the TikTok ban because it's one of the most famous social media platforms," Roski said.

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# AI presents challenges for schools

Francesca Messerschmidt

With the launch of DALL·E mini in July 2021 and ChatGPT in November 2022, AI programs have skyrocketed in popularity, especially in the classroom. This popularity has raised concerns in schools, namely regarding overuse for generating images and text.

ChatGPT was released by AI company OpenAI using AI coding that the company already had access to.

“It’s not a fundamentally more capable model than what we had previously. The same basic models had been available on the API for almost a year before ChatGPT came out,” OpenAI alignment leader Jan Leike said in an interview with William Douglas Heaven for MIT Technology Review. “In another sense, we made it more aligned with what humans want to do with it.”

Despite what some may believe, AI itself is not a new technology. However, some of the ways that companies have been developing is a new phenomenon. According to Rockwell Anyoha in an article for Harvard Science, AI began development in the 1950s by computer scientists Allen Newell, Cliff Shaw, and Herbert Simon.

As AI began to develop and grow as a concept, many companies and jobs utilized the technology.

“The application of artificial intelligence in this regard has already been quite fruitful in several industries such as technology, banking, marketing, and entertainment,” Anyoha said.

AI in the workforce at this point is more commonly used by those who work closely with computers and technology. The Pew Research Center found that jobs such as web developers and data entry keyers are more likely to have exposure to AI as opposed to somebody working as a firefighter or a hairdresser, for example.

The way AI is trained, namely for image generation, is another point of contention for some. To train an AI program, it must be given information and data to learn from, putting the intelligence in artificial intelligence.

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With the growing prevalence of AI in the workforce,

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“We already do have a lot of (staff) using AI and are training them in using it with the students and letting the students try it out,” HMS principal Debbie McGowan said. “They shouldn’t be using it to plagiarize; we just have to embrace it and teach them to do it and not plagiarize. It’s tough, but once we get a policy in, I’ll have a lot more information on it.”

The use of AI in the classroom often brings fears of students using it to plagiarize. If a student were to use a program like ChatGPT and plug an essay prompt into the program, there is a chance that they could turn in an essay that was not written by them but instead by an AI program eliminating the purpose for the assignment which is to teach students how to write.

There is currently no AI policy in the HHS handbook, but there will be one by the next school year.

The new policy prohibits “engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, using a writing service and/or generative artificial intelligence technology in place of original unless specifically authorized by staff” says a draft for next year’s school handbook.

HHS is not the only local school that does not have any district-wide policies in place. Galatia, Eldorado, and Carrier Mills do not have any policy in place within this school year’s handbook either.

According to Herrin High School’s journalism adviser, Sami Goetting, they attended a conference on AI earlier this year and are working on a policy for implementation that includes teaching students how to use the technology responsibly.

“To my way of thinking, this approach is the best approach,” fellow adviser Cathy Wall said. “This technology isn’t going away. It’s going to be part of the college experience and part of many students’ careers. If we want to prepare our students for those next steps, we have to teach them to responsibly use AI.”

Some teachers at HHS and HMS have already noticed problems since the growth in the popularity of AI, notably, in English classes.

“I know some English teachers have had problems with students turning in AI papers,” HHS principal John Crabb said.

On the ACT website, they report statistics from a poll on student use of AI conducted in June 2023. They discovered that out of 4,006 students, 46% percent reported having used AI at all, as well as 46% of that group having used AI for school assignments.

English teacher Stephanie Winkler has a dedicated policy to combat AI within her syllabus. She also believes that it can be easy to spot when students use AI in their work.

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In a poll of 55 students conducted in Winkler’s English 4 classes and Wall’s English 3 classes, 15 stated that they have used AI on assignment, 37 responded that

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According to BuiltIn, some of the most commonly used AI programs are the Snapchat AI, ChatGPT, FaceTune and Bing AI. Statista also found that 27.7% of individuals between the ages of 18-24 have used AI before.

Aside from potential plagiarism, there are also concerns about legal problems. McGowan notes that impersonation using AI is something to watch out for at the middle school level.

“There’s a big concern about (students) mimicking someone, of them using one of our voices to say things on social media... There are so many ways to use it for bad that in these kids some of them are pretty smart and they figure out that you can do stuff like that. That’s a concern.”

While some focus on the negatives of the use of AI, especially at school, some believe that it must be integrated, especially to help prepare students for the possibility of using AI in the future.

“You could put (into an AI app) what you wanted and it would spit out the results and then you would fine-tune it,” Winkler said. “So it’s not necessarily that it is totally replacing your work, (but) it’s more that it is supplementing your work.”

Sacramento Country Day School’s The Octagon conducted a round table discussion between students and teachers about the use of AI at school. Sophomore Anisha Mondal shared her experiences and use of AI in school. Mondal also focused her sophomore project on the use of AI in school

“It has been pretty helpful for studying,” Mondal said. “Sometimes I use it to generate brief summaries of chapters from books in our English class, especially the ones that have deeper meanings within them because I often miss that when I’m reading at home.”

Media specialist Heather Cox believes the integration of AI could differ in certain ways in Harrisburg.

“I think poverty being the way it is in Illinois, especially in Southern Illinois, impacts our technological advancements so we may be a little bit skewed on that spectrum,” Cox said.

While some have strong opinions on either completely banning or completely integrating AI, others are still unsure.

West Side principal Scott Dewar is among that number.

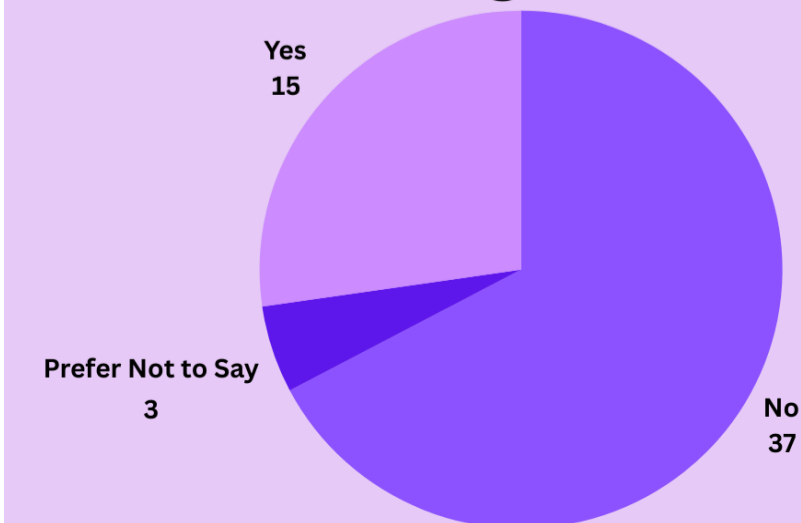
“I don’t have a good stance right now,” Dewar said. “This could be a very valuable tool so you have to find a balance. I think we will eventually find ways to make it a positive experience in schools, I just personally don’t know what that is right now.”

Overall, while some people are still unsure what to make of AI it seems to be something that will not be going away anytime soon. While HHS will be implementing future policies to prevent plagiarism, only time will tell how students will be impacted by AI in the future.

“AI is here and it’s probably here to stay. It’s just something that we’re all going to have to adjust and adapt to in the future,” Dewar said.

Infographic by Francesca Messerschmidt.

## How many students have used AI on an assignment



Information from poll conducted on 55 HHS English students and BuiltIn

## Most popular AI programs

- Snapchat AI
- ChatGPT
- FaceTune
- BingAI
- DALL·E Mini





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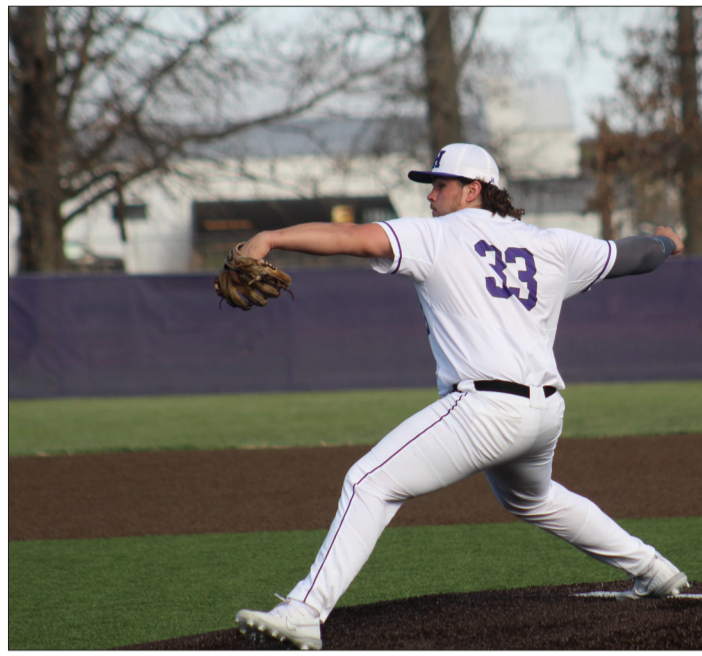
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This Project is supported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$11,666,734 with no percentage financed with nongovernmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS, HHS or the U.S. Government.





(L) Junior Owen Rann gets ready for the pitch during the game against Massac. (R) Senior Braden Burtis pitches the ball during the HHS baseball game against Benton. The Dogs' record is 25-5 with only a few games left in the season.

Photos by Avery Woolard.

Three girls at the Girls Sectional Track Meet May 9. Junior Kaylee King qualified in discus, junior Gabby Shires qualified in hurdles and freshman Cece Franks qualified in pole vault. The State meet will be held May 23 at Eastern Illinois University.

The boys track team took second place at the SIRR Conference Meet the same day. They will participate in their Sectional Meet May 15.



## Congratulations to senior athletes who have signed to play at the collegiate level.



Noah Arnold, bowling – Southeastern Illinois College



Mackenzie Boyd, softball - Southeastern Illinois College



Karmello Downey, track – Southeastern Iowa Community College



Triton Kielhorn, bowling– Southeastern Illinois College





## Softball to play in upcoming Regional

Riley Mize

The Lady Bulldogs' current record is 14 - 15.

The team is mostly composed of younger members. Making the team of six freshmen, five sophomores, three juniors, and two seniors.

Senior McKenzie Boyd signs to play for Southeastern Illinois College. Boyd hit a 2-3 RBI at May 6 game against Anna Jonesboro with Sophomore Emma Mills and Freshmen Kinzley Stewart following, hitting RBI's as well.

"Most of our team is made up of younger players," sophomore Mckendra Douglas said. "Even though they are very skilled for their age, I feel like we have lots of room for improvement and growth."

Douglas feels as the team grows through this season into next they will have an advantage.

"Just as we get older it will be an advantage facing older players as younger players," Douglas said.

The Bulldogs are ready to go up against West Frankfort at this year's IHSA Regional

May 14.

"The game I look forward to the most is the regional game versus West Frankfort," Douglas said. "It's something you build up to and try to become that best at before you get to and then we all play the best we can to secure the next spot."

The team's skill in hitting and being able to play the ball has inspired the team to play the best they can, sophomore Hadley Hunt said.

"Our best skills are hitting at the plate and being able to put the ball in play and continue a play have been our best skills so far this season," Hunt said. "I believe if we continue to play like this we can continue to improve not only on those sets of skills but others to become the best team out there."

So far this season team members have enjoyed creating stronger bonds with friends and creating new friendships.

"The best part of playing softball this year is the people," Hunt said. "I get to play with friends, and being around them and creating stronger bonds with the people I'm surrounded by has been a great experience."

Douglas concurs.

"This year one of the best things about playing softball is how well the team gets along. You can see it out on the field how everyone has trust and confidence in each other and it just makes for a great attitude and a great game," Douglas said.

## Soccer celebrates Seniors



Photos by Cathy Wall.

(L) Coach Jordan Baxter, seniors Bella Capuzzo, Abby Brimm, Shelby Brantley and Hannah Bartok pose for a half-time photo.

(R) Senior Abby Brimm takes the ball toward the goal for the first score of the game. The Lady Dogs defeated Mt. Carmel 2-1.

# WHERE EDUCATION MEETS COMPASSION.

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# Is time running out for TikTok?

Bryleigh Lewis

As many know the app TikTok, a leading destination for short-form mobile videos and entertainment, has seen some rough patches in the past year. According to forbes.com, Zhang Yiming is a Chinese internet entrepreneur who founded the company ByteDance in 2012. TikTok was created by a tech giant and was first released in September of 2016.

Although this app is loved by many, being the most downloaded app in October of 2018 with over three billion downloads and over one billion active users as of 2022, according to Laura Ceci of Statista, the app has been through some heat. TikTok stands accused by the U.S. of being a conduit for the Chinese Communist Party, taking everyone's sensitive user data and sending it to China according to Scott Nover of Time.

According to TikTok itself, they claim "they store users' data in servers located in the United States, Singapore, and Malaysia. TikTok user data is protected by strong physical and logical security controls, including gated entry points, firewalls, and intrusion detection technologies."

TikTok has repeatedly stated that it would deny requests from the Chinese government for American data. It also points to "Project Texas," an initiative that TikTok began in 2022 to safeguard American users' data on servers in the U.S. and ease lawmakers' fears.

According to Caitlin Yilek of CBS News, previous efforts to widely restrict TikTok in the U.S. have not been successful. The most recent case stemmed from Montana passing an outright ban last year. A federal judge temporarily blocked the law from taking effect in January, saying it was unconstitutional.

However, the House passed a bill that would lead to a nationwide ban of the popular video app TikTok if its China-based owner doesn't sell its stake, as lawmakers acted on concerns that the company's current ownership structure is a national security threat.

The bill, passed by a vote of 352-65 and now goes to the Senate, where its prospects are unclear.

As of April 24, the Senate has signed the bill and President Joe Biden signed legislation that could ban TikTok in the U.S. April 24. While Biden has signed legislation, he's been under fire as he has had a campaign that embraces the platform and tries to work with creators on the app. Biden has previously been struggling to maintain support from younger voters, but with the signing of this new legislation, he has been facing some criticism from users of the app, being around a third of Americans under the age of thirty according to apnews.com. According to the Associated Press; don't use the URL

The law Biden had signed this week would force the Chinese tech giant ByteDance to sell the app to a U.S. company within a year or face a national ban. ByteD-

ance has argued with them that the law violates the first amendment and the company has promised to sue.

TikTok has more than 170 million American users according to the Associated Press. If passed, this ban would have a pretty significant impact on, not just teens and kids, but adults too.

"I don't think they should ban TikTok because I use this app the most and I don't really know what I would do without it. My usage of the app ranges from just scrolling through random videos when I'm bored to using the app to find out important information about various things. The app is very versatile and a great thing to have on hand," sophomore Shaun Dooley said.

It is estimated that TikTok has about 80 million monthly active users in the United States. Sixty percent of users are female and 40% are male according to Brandon Doyle of Wallaroo. The majority are between the ages of 16-24.

The share of U.S. adults who say they would support the U.S. government banning TikTok has declined from 50% in March to 38% now, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted this fall. Some lawmakers have recently renewed calls to ban the app after initial momentum stalled in Congress earlier this year. And the potential impact on teens has become part of this debate.

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According to BuiltIn, some of the most commonly used AI programs are the Snapchat AI, ChatGPT, FaceTune and Bing AI. Statista also found that 27.7% of individuals between the ages of 18-24 have used AI before.

Aside from potential plagiarism, there are also concerns about legal problems. McGowan notes that impersonation using AI is something to watch out for at the middle school level.

“There’s a big concern about (students) mimicking someone, of them using one of our voices to say things on social media... There are so many ways to use it for bad that in these kids some of them are pretty smart and they figure out that you can do stuff like that. That’s a concern.”

While some focus on the negatives of the use of AI, especially at school, some believe that it must be integrated, especially to help prepare students for the possibility of using AI in the future.

“You could put (into an AI app) what you wanted and it would spit out the results and then you would fine-tune it,” Winkler said. “So it’s not necessarily that it is totally replacing your work, (but) it’s more that it is supplementing your work.”

Sacramento Country Day School’s The Octagon conducted a round table discussion between students and teachers about the use of AI at school. Sophomore Anisha Mondal shared her experiences and use of AI in school. Mondal also focused her sophomore project on the use of AI in school

“It has been pretty helpful for studying,” Mondal said. “Sometimes I use it to generate brief summaries of chapters from books in our English class, especially the ones that have deeper meanings within them because I often miss that when I’m reading at home.”

Media specialist Heather Cox believes the integration of AI could differ in certain ways in Harrisburg.

“I think poverty being the way it is in Illinois, especially in Southern Illinois, impacts our technological advancements so we may be a little bit skewed on that spectrum,” Cox said.

While some have strong opinions on either completely banning or completely integrating AI, others are still unsure.

West Side principal Scott Dewar is among that number.

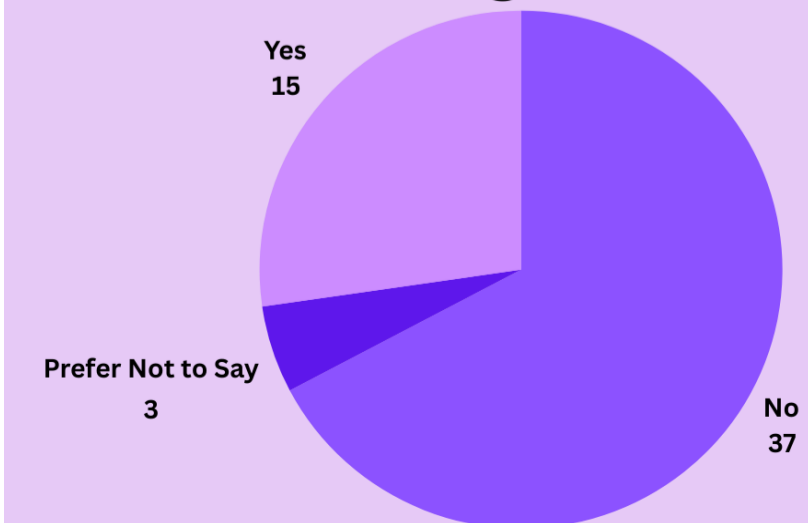
“I don’t have a good stance right now,” Dewar said. “This could be a very valuable tool so you have to find a balance. I think we will eventually find ways to make it a positive experience in schools, I just personally don’t know what that is right now.”

Overall, while some people are still unsure what to make of AI it seems to be something that will not be going away anytime soon. While HHS will be implementing future policies to prevent plagiarism, only time will tell how students will be impacted by AI in the future.

“AI is here and it’s probably here to stay. It’s just something that we’re all going to have to adjust and adapt to in the future,” Dewar said.

Infographic by Francesca Messerschmidt.

## How many students have used AI on an assignment



Information from poll conducted on 55 HHS English students and BuiltIn

## Most popular AI programs

- Snapchat AI
- ChatGPT
- FaceTune
- BingAI
- DALL·E Mini