Issue: Quarter 4 S2026

Henry-Senachwine High school

THE QUACKING QUARTERLY

THE TOP STORY

BRICK BY BRICK

New HSHS wing is almost done for the 2026-2027 school year

By Leaf Rackley



Building Blocks: *In the beginning of the 2025-2026 year, there was barely a foundation of flooring in the new HSHS wing. Now, the construction is almost 75% done and it shows! The building now has windows, electricity, and even a fun red stripe. Mr. Rich, HSHS English teacher, said, "I'm excited for new furniture, specifically newer bookcases."*

The new school building is a very hot topic around the halls of HSHS. Ryan Lane, the Superintendent of the building's construction, has the answers everyone's been waiting for. He stated that around 75% - 80% of the building is done and is on schedule to be ready for the 2026-2027 school year. Currently, MCP Midwest is working to put in sprinklers and a cloud ceiling. Soon, they will add finishing touches like metal lockers, AC, and stairwells. The new classrooms will feel a lot bigger and there will also be new bathrooms. Even the old parts of the building are being renovated. For example, the gym is getting new lights, bleachers, flooring, and basketball hoops. During the summer, the corridors will get new flooring and a fresh coat of paint. Ryan said his favorite part of overseeing the construction was seeing it all come together "when the precast walls were being put in place." This is a very exciting time for current and upcoming students of HSHS and the community as a whole!

Girl, I Just Graduado

Seniors celebrate as they get ready to graduate

By Taylor Rowe



Superb Senior: *Naomi Lester poses for a picture in her graduation cap and gown. The class of 2026's commencement ceremony was on May 17th in the HSHS gymnasium. "I'm peacing out," Naomi said.*

The Henry-Senachwine High School Class of 2026 graduated on May 17th in the HSHS gymnasium. High school graduation is a very important event for all of the seniors. "It is a significant historical event in everyone's life. If you ask an adult what year they graduated, about 98% could easily say their high school graduation date," said Mr. Zinke. Graduation was planned by Mr. Zinke with help from Dr. Miller, Ms. Self, and other staff members. Mr. Zinke was very excited for this graduation, since it is his first as a Principal. Before graduation, he had to do many things like edit the script used for previous graduations, check the seniors' grades, prepare a speech, coordinate with the custodial staff about setting up for the ceremony, and much more. During graduation, there are many traditions like congratulatory remarks, speeches from students and staff, and most importantly, the seniors get their diplomas. Each year, the senior class votes on a quote that will be displayed during graduation. This year, they chose the following: "We didn't realize we were making memories, we just knew we were having fun." - A.A. Milne. This quote perfectly sums up their four years as mallards. HSHS wishes them luck as they fly the nest!

Celebrating Excellence

Seniors are honored at the annual awards ceremony

By Rylee Cheney

Where Hard Work Meets Recognition: *Henry-Senachwine's students of the month stand up front at the senior awards banquet on May 7th to get recognized. Every month, the teachers voted on a student they thought excelled. Usually, the awards day is hosted the same day as Spring Fling, but this year it was hosted separately. March's student of the month, Leaf Rackley, was asked about their favorite part of the experience. They said, "It was a very fun experience and I loved the food they served at the Rotary lunch."*



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Celebrating Excellence (continued)

Henry-Senachwine High School hosted their annual senior award banquet in the high school gymnasium on Thursday, May 7th at 9:00 AM. The banquet is important because it provides students, their parents, and peers a chance to celebrate the senior class's accomplishments. The awards presented reflect how hard they have worked and what they have been involved in throughout their four years of high school. It's important for the rest of the student body to attend so they can support their fellow mallards in celebrating, as well as see what awards are available to them when they are seniors. This year, there were eighteen awards and scholarships presented by various presenters including teachers, prominent community members, and administrators. This day used to be conjoined with Spring Fling, but it changed this year due to certain scholarship cut-off dates. When asked why attending the banquet is important for other students, Mr. Zinke replied, "I think celebrating other people is an important skill all people can get better at instead of comparing themselves to others." The Henry-Senachwine staff and student body couldn't be prouder of all the seniors' accomplishments!

Midnight Magic

Students dance the night away under a starry night at prom

By Naomi Lester

Chasing the Stars: *The Class of 2027 planned this year's prom. Prom was held at Shore Acres in Chillicothe on April 25th. This year's theme was "Meet Me at Midnight," so the decor featured lots of stars, dark blues, and silver. "At first I wasn't sure how it would all come together, but the day of the dance I absolutely loved it," said Rylee Cheney, class of 2027 Treasurer.*



The Class of 2027 spent lots of time preparing for this year's prom at Shore Acres in Chillicothe on Saturday, April 25th. This year's theme for prom was *Meet Me at Midnight*. The night consisted of prom premiere to announce and photograph each attendee, dinner, dancing, a photobooth, and a late-night snack from Swanee's Pretzels. The prom committee met with Prom Sponsor Ms. Schoepke and their Class Sponsor Ms. Crook to pick out the venue, dj, menu, and decor. They also organized ticket sales, song requests for the dj, and voting for king and queen. ¨I love helping plan for prom because I enjoy taking an aesthetic vision and bringing it to life,¨ said Ms. Schoepke. The prom committee pulled off a beautiful night that all the attendees enjoyed!

Post-Prom Pops Off

HSHS students continue the party after prom

By Carter Williams



Post-Prom Princesses: *A group of seniors unravel a saran wrap ball to reveal different prizes at post-prom. The event was put on by a group of junior parents. All students who attended were very grateful to the volunteers and donors who helped put the night on. When asked about her experience at post-prom, senior Sophia Miller said, "It was such a fun experience, and I am glad that post-prom is an option for HSHS students!"*

Many HSHS students and a few junior parents attended the annual post-prom on April 25th. Post-prom was held at HSHS immediately after the dance until 5:00 AM. Post-prom helps keep students in a safe environment and off the roads after leaving prom, while still making sure everyone has lots of fun. At this year's post-prom, there was a dodgeball tournament, a caricature artist, a dirty soda/coffee bar, inflatables, a saran wrap ball game, and much more**.** As if being able to spend time with your friends after prom wasn't enough, every guest who attended the event also left with at least one prize! This HSHS tradition was put together thanks to many volunteers and donors in the community. The junior parents began planning this event all the way back at the beginning of the school year. Junior parent Ericka Anderson shared her thoughts on the importance of post-prom. "It is a gift from parents and the community to HSHS students. Our goal is to make their prom night a memorable experience," she said. It is safe to say that this year's post-prom was a huge success thanks to everyone that helped organize it and participate in the tradition!

Spring into the Spotlight

Singing, dancing, and games make for a fun final half-day

By Ellie Barnes

Friday Field Day: *Students play dodgeball in the gym during the first round of activities for Spring Fling. Spring Fling was held on Friday, May 1st. Student Council helped put on and organize Spring Fling. When asked what she thought of the day, senior Taylor Frawley said, "There were a lot of things to do and it was very fun."*



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Spring into the Spotlight (continued)

Spring Fling happens every year here at Henry-Senachwine High School. This year, it was held on May 1st. It started with donuts in the cafeteria and voting for next year's class officers. Then, there were two rounds of activities. Students could either choose to watch a movie, play board games, do arts and crafts, or play sports in the gym. After, everyone headed into the auditorium for the annual lip sync battle and senior video. Spring Fling is an important tradition at HSHS because it gives students the opportunity to have a day of fun before finals hit and school is over. This day is also a way to say goodbye to the seniors. The day couldn't happen without the hard work and planning of Student Council. Student Council President Brooklynn Thompson always enjoys this day. She said, "While it is very sad and often causes tears, the senior video is a really sentimental and nostalgic look back on growing up, so that is something I always enjoy watching." Spring Fling was a fun experience a ll around and a great way to leave the school year off on a high note!

Welcome to the Circus

Art Club takes a field trip to the Gamma Phi Circus

By Raleigh Eakins

Circus Smiles: *Art Club took a field trip to the Gamma Phi Circus on April 17th at Illinois State University. The students took this trip because Ms. Pointer went to the same circus in college and has always wanted to go back and share the experience with her students. When asked about the field trip, senior Carter Williams said, "There were lots of really fun acts at the circus and I really enjoyed my day off of school!"*



Art Club took a field trip to the Gamma Phi Circus at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois on April 17th. Ms. Pointer chose to go to the circus for the field trip because she went to the same circus when she was in college. She really enjoyed it and has always wanted to go back. In the past, Art Club has usually gone to Chicago to watch a musical, but they wanted to switch things up this year so that way students could go on a variety of trips throughout their four years of high school. There was a lot of work that went into planning this trip. Art Club had to consider the timeliness, cost, and distance. Since the trip wasn't as far away as Chicago, planning was a little easier and students could be back at the end of the school day for sports. When Ms. Pointer was asked about what she was most excited for on the field trip, she said, "I am very excited to introduce the students to something new." Art Club had an amazing time experiencing the Gamma Phi Circus and looks forward to next year's field trip!

TimberDucks Tame the Track

The 2026 track team looks to accomplish many things this season

By Taylor Frawley



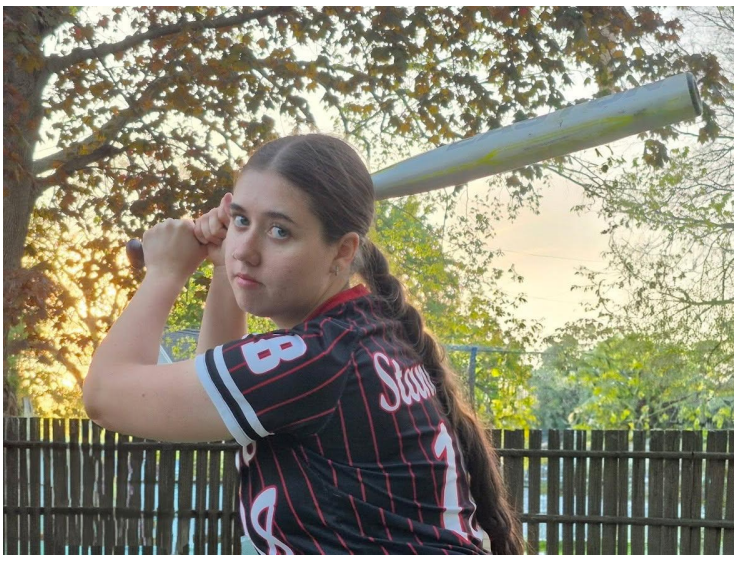
Awesome Ali: *Senior Ali Mitchell poses in front of the HSHS track records. She recently broke the 100 meter hurdles record with a time of 16.34! She was also named the NewsTribune Athlete of the Week. "I'm all for having fun, but when it's time to put in the work, it's time to put in the work," she said. Way to go Ali!*

The 2026 Henry-Senachwine/Midland track team kicked off their season on April, 7th this year. Athletes have been putting in the work for the past month to get ready for meets. There have already been many individual and team accomplishments. Many athletes have gotten personal records, with some athletes even hitting State qualifying standards. The team is looking forward to Boys' Sectionals on May 20th, where they will compete in a variety of events including sprints, long distance, jumps, hurdles, and throwing. Audrey Chambers, Harper Warner, Ali Mitchell, and Taylor Frawley all qualified for State during the Girls' Sectionals meet on May 13th. Senior athlete Ali Mitchell appreciates the sport's fun environment. She stays inspired by her favorite quote from Coach Briscoe: "The ball is in our court; it's up to us what we do with it." The team is continuing to improve and is excited to send athletes to State late in May!

Athletic Growth

HSHS Lady Mallards hit it out of the park

By Adam Stanmar



Batter Up: *Junior Lana Stanmar practices her swings at home whenever she finds the time to. She and the other softball girls have been practicing often so the team can advance to Regionals. "Once we win Regionals, we can hopefully continue to move on and possibly break another school record for softball," said Lana.*

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Athletic Growth (continued)

The softball team has had a very productive start to their season. They've had many victories on the field and lots to prepare for off the field. The Lady Mallards have been preparing for Regionals on May 18th. While practices have definitely strengthened the team's athletic skills, it has also had a huge improvement on their mindset. "When you have a good mindset, you perform better and that's why we've done this good so far in the season," says Lana Stanmar, one of the team's players. The team's coach, Ms. Stenstrom, found plenty of her own great things to say about the team's progress this semester. "I'm happy with where we are at this point. We have several players who can play multiple positions. They have stepped into those roles and done a great job," she said. In addition to their athletic season, the team held a #ChooseJoy fundraiser on the home field during the baseball and softball doubl- header game. There was a cookout, bake sale, and t-shirts for sale. The money made at the fundraiser went to the Dravet Syndrome Foundation. The Lady Mallards are looking forward to the rest of the season and all it has in store!

Swinging in Spring

The baseball team works hard and plays hard this season

By Preston Hovis

The 2026 Henry-Senachwine High School baseball season has officially started. Senior Jacob Miller, who is a center fielder and pitcher, was interviewed to represent the team. The season started with open gyms led by coaches Randy Westerdahl, Ted Rowe, Austin Price, Griffin Self, and Will Meachum. Recently, they've been working on their bunting skills. The team has been improving a lot despite many players getting injured. The team's greatest success was beating three 2A schools this season (Seneca, St. Bede, and El Paso-Gridley). They are looking forward to playing at Dozer Park in Peoria where the Peoria Chiefs play on Saturday, May 23. When asked what makes this team special, Jacob responded, "We have a ton of guys who could play almost any position on the field." Be sure to come out and support the HSHS baseball team for the rest of their season and upcoming Regionals!

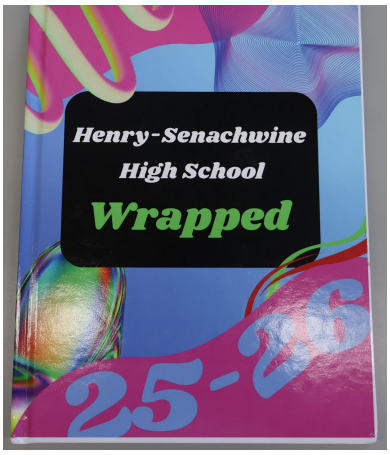


Hey Batter, Batter Swing: *Here is just some of the equipment the HSHS baseball team needs to keep up their great season!*

YEARLY YEARBOOK

Multimedia class has worked all year to create the yearbook

By Noel Tobar



Your Year Wrapped: *Pictured is the cover design of the 2025-2026 HSHS yearbook. This year's theme is Spotify Wrapped. Multimedia students have been working on the yearbook all year. "It's so fun seeing the book come together at the end of the year," Ms. Schoepke, Multimedia teacher, stated.*

Multimedia students at HSHS have been working on the yearbook since the beginning of the school year. The class started this process by voting on this year's theme, Spotify Wrapped. The theme features lots of funky shapes, bright colors, and music-themed headlines. Students first had to pick out the pages they wanted to design. The design process started on paper so students could see their ideas come to life. Eventually, they designed each page digitally on Entourage, the online yearbook platform the class uses. Each page had to have headlines, pictures, action shots/candids, and a writeup. The class is run like a workshop so that students can work on the yearbook and the newspaper throughout the year. The yearbook used to be designed by the Yearbook Club, but that changed a few years ago when Ms. Schoepke created the Multimedia Publications class. "The club just didn't have enough time to complete the yearbook," Ms. Schoepke explained, "as a class, there's a lot more built-in work time to get it done." Students interested in purchasing a yearbook can contact Yearbook Club Sponsor Mrs. Nauman for more information.

STAFF

GOODBYE, MRS. ALDRICH

Mrs. Aldrich's last year at HSHS

By McKayla Estes



The Final Flight: *Mrs. Aldrich poses for a picture in her classroom. She will be retiring at the end of this school year after teaching at Henry for three years. She will be greatly missed by many HSHS students and staff "Mrs. Aldrich is a very kind teacher who is always willing to help," said Noel Tobar, one of her Algebra 1 students.*

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GOODBYE, MRS. ALDRICH (Continued)

Mrs. Aldrich, a math teacher here at HSHS, is retiring after teaching for 33 years. During her career, Mrs. Aldrich has taught at Midland, IVC, and HSHS. She wanted to be a teacher since she was a little kid because she has always enjoyed helping people. She was influenced by her own high school math teacher because they showed her that you can learn math while still having fun. Her main goal as a teacher was to provide a safe space for her students, always be there for them when they needed someone, and make learning more enjoyable. “Learning math is important, but connections with the kids are more important. If you don’t have a connection with your kids, they aren’t going to learn,” she elaborated. She also wants to make kids enjoy learning. She feels bittersweet about retiring.

She’s very sad that she isn’t going to get to see all of her coworkers and students everyday. She is also going to miss not getting to do math problems everyday. But, she is looking forward to all the free time she will have and getting to spend more time with her family. Mrs. Aldrich has been an amazing teacher for hundreds of students, including many at HSHS. She will be very missed!

HISTORY OF A TEACHER

Ms. Hefner retires at the end of this school year

By Lennon Crawley



Leaving with a Learning Attitude: *Ms. Hefner poses with her last academic class of the year. She taught at HSHS for 25 years. She originally planned on retiring 2 years ago, but decided to continue teaching to continue spreading valuable knowledge about history. “I hope they remember my love for them,” she said.*

Ms. Hefner, a teacher of 25 years here at HSHS, has announced that she is planning on retiring at the end of this year. Ms. Hefner started her teaching career back in 1994 and planned on retiring 30 years after she started. However, she decided to stick around for a few more years to continue teaching students the importance of history. She taught 20 different subjects over the course of her teaching career, including, but not limited to, World Wars, British Literature, and World History. One of her most outstanding memories at HSHS was when she dressed up in a muscle suit and became her “J.J. Hefdog” persona to face off against her student Myk, the reigning arm wrestling champion at the time. When reflecting on her time as a mallard, Ms. Hefner said, “My life has been totally enriched by my students over the years. This is the hardest part about retiring. I hope they remember my love for them.” After retirement, she plans to focus on her home, family, and faith. She is looking forward to the freedom to follow her own schedule, not bound by the sound of the passing bell. Ms. Hefner couldn’t be happier to have had the opportunity to teach at this school, and HSHS students couldn’t be happier to have had the opportunity to have her as a teacher!

Final Words Before They Fly The Nest

HSHS seniors share about their high school experience

By Maddy Nighsonger



Wise Words: *The class of 2026 is about to graduate, but a lot of things have helped them get to this point. "Do your homework and participate,"-Waylon Lindstrom advises the freshmen.*

Three HSHS Seniors were interviewed about their high school experience and asked to give advice to underclassmen before they fly the nest. Their biggest pieces of advice were to focus on getting homework done and finding a good group of friends. To accomplish this, Lennon Crawley said he does his work before class starts so that everything is easier for the rest of the day. Landon Nighsonger, on the other hand, does an hour of work at home every night. Lennon added that despite having this work, there is still a lot less responsibility in high school than there will be after graduation. He is grateful for his high school years, though, because they helped him realize what he wanted to do with his future. "Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Heaton helped me the most for my future because they encouraged me to go into the science field," said Lennon. Waylon Lindstrom also had people to thank for helping him find his way. His family pushed him to be who he wants to be and go where he wants to go. Although he'll miss knowing everyone around him at HSHS, he is excited for his future at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. All three seniors are excited to meet new people and learn new things. HSHS wishes them the best for their future!

Staycation or Vacation?

HSHS students weigh in on their summer plans

By Addi Holocker



School's Out for Summer: *Junior Rylee Cheney poses for a photo in front of the HSHS doors to show her excitement of the school year coming to an end.*

HSHS students were surveyed this spring semester about their plans for summer break. One question asked was who the students plan on spending their summer with. Most students said they plan on spending it with their friends. Many also mentioned activities like swimming as a big part of their summer plans. Students were also asked whether they would rather stay home or go on vacation. Most responded that they are expecting to stay home. When asked about their dream vacation destinations, the responses varied with one of the more interesting ones being a sensory deprivation tank. Another question focused on what the students want to do before summer ends. A lot of responses included going to concerts, tubing, and visiting waterparks, proving a clear pattern with water-related activities. Students were also asked whether they consider themselves to be night owls or early birds during summer break, and most said night owls. Finally, students were asked if they had a summer job. The answers were evenly split with about half stating they already have one and others either not working or planning to get one soon. Overall, the survey shows that while many students wish they could go on big vacations, they are preparing for a more relaxed summer close to home with lots of fun activities waiting for them.

No Homework, No Problems

HSHS teachers plan their summer fun

By Carly Hentchel



Souring to Summer: *The teachers start decorating their classrooms for the exciting upcoming summer season. They are looking forward to break as much as the students are!*

Summer is quickly approaching and many students might not realize how their teachers prepare for the next school year and how they spend their summer break. The teachers were surveyed to get some insight. First, the teachers were asked where their dream vacation spot would be. Most said some variation of a beach; others mentioned Europe and southern states. As a follow up, they were asked if they usually travel in summer. Ms. Schoepke said she goes to Lake Michigan with her fiancé every year. Next the teachers were asked what their favorite thing to do in summer is. Swimming and spending time outside or with family were the most popular responses. Others said they enjoy reading. Then, they were asked who they are spending summer with. Most said with their family or friends. Ms. Sessler is spending her summer with her dog, Xena. Summer isn't all fun and games for teachers, though. Many spend at least some time preparing for the next school year. Three teachers surveyed said that they start preparing two or so weeks before school starts. Some teachers also work during summer. For example, Ms. Sessler teaches her martial arts classes over break. To end the survey, they were asked what their favorite ice cream flavor is. The results were very mixed. The top flavor was chocolate, but some others were vanilla, strawberry, rocky road, mint, and banana. Based on the results, the teachers seem just as excited as the students for summer to begin!