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Henry-Senachwine High school

THE QUACKING QUARTERLY

THE TOP STORY

A New Path for the Mallards

A side-by-side look at how and why the new school leaves the old building in the past

By Ilaria Durante

A New Place to Grow: *Henry-Senachwine High School welcomes students and staff into the new school year with an updated building featuring improved classrooms, modern facilities, and the school's familiar mascot displayed on the exterior.*

"Is nice to have brand new facilities and to know we have great support for students from the community," said Mrs. Nauman.



The staff and students at Henry-Senachwine High School were excited to begin this school year with a new building. The School Board decided to start the new building project during the 2024-2025 school year and construction began in the 2025 spring semester. Their goals behind making this decision were to not have any more leaking roofs, upgrade the science and technology laboratories, give more room and better space for students and teachers in their classrooms, and have air conditioning. There is also a new weight room and upgraded cafeteria and gym. The new building is also more accessible for people with disabilities. There is an elevator and more space in the hallways, restrooms, and classrooms. Unfortunately, the building is not done yet. The construction for the front office is still ongoing. Mr. Zinke is very glad for the work that the architects did in planning the new building. They decided to take inspiration from the old building by including historic pieces like the trophy cases and a sign made from the wooden lockers. "The most rewarding part of the process has been seeing the students get to enjoy the new building and the upgraded classrooms," said Mr. Zinke when asked what has been the most rewarding part of the building project. HSHS staff and students are now really enjoying the start of the school year with all their new classrooms and equipment!

FALL INTO SCHOOL

This year was the second year of the annual Fall Bonfire at HSHS

By Brookelin Eaves



Strike a Pose: *McKenna Chamness, Rylee Cheney, and Brookelin Eaves pose and smile for a photo at the Fall Bonfire on September 11th. "The bonfire was a great time with my friends," said Kenna.*

On September 11th, for the second year now, the Fall Bonfire was hosted by the Industrial Arts and Tech Club at Henry-Senachwine High School. The bonfire is held at the beginning of the year as a fun welcome back event for all students. This event is held in place of a Homecoming, which Henry does not celebrate in the fall since the Falcon football team no longer exists. The bonfire offers lots of fun for everyone to engage in and is just an overall good time for students and staff to enjoy. Some of these activities include nine-square, which is well loved by many, along with bags. There were hotdogs and hamburgers along with chips offered as food. Attendees also had the opportunity to make their own s'mores on the firepit that the Industrial Arts & Tech Club made. Senior members of the club Gunnar Smith and Denver Hoffstatter helped weld the firepit last year. Ilaria Durante, a junior foreign exchange student at HSHS this year, was interviewed about her experience at the bonfire. She explained that in Italy, they don't have these sorts of after-school activities with students and teachers where they can just have fun and hang out. Their schools don't have student events, just classes. "It was very different, but fun and exciting," she said. HSHS hopes to continue the tradition for many years to come!

CLASSES

FANTASTIC FCS CLASS

Intro to FCS is a fun class that helps students with life skills

By John Deffenbaugh



Beating Butter: Harper Warner and Trinity Frawley pose for a photo with containers of their homemade butter. On October 21st in Ms. Schoepke's Intro to FCS class, they learned about dairy and how butter is made from heavy cream. "It was quite fun making butter," said Preston Hovis, senior Intro to FCS student.

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FANTASTIC FCS CLASS (Continued)

Intro to FCS is a class taught by Ms. Schoepke at HSHS this year. The class gives students the opportunity to experience the sewing and cooking side of FCS and learn all the safety procedures first. So far, the class has sewn an apron, pin cushion, and a pillow. Preston Hovis, a senior student in Intro to FCS, said his favorite memory was when they sewed the apron because he learned the most about sewing from that project. The class just finished learning about food safety and they got to make cake pops to celebrate that they all passed their food safety test. They are now getting into the dairy unit, which is Ms. Schoepke's favorite part of the class because they do a milk and cheese taste test and make homemade butter. She particularly enjoys teaching Intro to FCS because she gets to know underclassmen and gets students started in her program. "My high school FCS teacher helped me a lot my first year teaching. I was inspired by the way she teaches the class at Midland and the projects she does with her students," said Ms. Schoepke. The class is nearing the end of the dairy unit, so they are finishing by making ice cream and grilled cheese, which the students get to create their own recipe for. The class is looking forward to what they get to learn and make in the rest of the semester!

THE MAGIC OF MUD

A look inside the classroom at HSHS where students turn clay into their own personal masterpieces

By Grace Stowe



Mud, Sweat, and Tears: *Addi Holocker glazes her ceramics project and Danika Maddex works on sculpting her piece of cake that's almost ready to be fired in the kiln. Both are students in Mrs. Underwood's Ceramics class this semester. "It's fun because you get to learn how to make things," explained Addi.*

Ceramics is an art class offered at Henry-Senachwine High School this semester and is taught by Mrs. Underwood. The class takes place in the fall semester of each school year. In this class, students study different sculptors and then do a project in the same style. They take about 2 weeks on each project due to the drying process of clay. Addison Holocker, a senior student in Ceramics, was interviewed. She enjoys the class because art calms her. Addi said her favorite project so far has been the double pinch clay pot, where she made a bat. They were studying the sculptor Claes Oldenburg. Claes Oldenburg was a pop artist who sculpted everyday objects into larger scale versions. The class has also worked on clay coiling, which is the process of rolling the clay into a long strand and stacking it to make a pot. Addi stated that this was another one of her favorite projects because, "It was very cool to see the finished product." When another senior student, McKenna Chamness, was asked about her experience in Ceramics, she said, "I most enjoy painting my sculptures." Ceramics is a very fun and interesting class. As Addi said, "It's really fun and if you like working with messy things, then you'll love Ceramics!"

Creepin' it Tasty

HSHS students meet monthly in Advisory to hang out with friends and cook seasonal treats

By McKenna Chamness

Cooking Club is open to all students and meets monthly to make treats in the FCS classroom. There are no requirements in order to join Cooking Club aside from the $10 dues at the beginning of the year. This money goes towards ingredients for their recipes. Every month, the treat being made is different from the last meeting and is usually a seasonal theme. Ms. Schoepke, the club's advisor, shared that her favorite memory was making "Grinch Punch" last year in December. It was made by using sorbet, green hawaiian punch, sprite, and cherries. Ms. Schoepke could only find orange sorbet, so the drinks turned out more brown than green. "I love meeting with my kitchen group monthly to make treats," said club President McKenna Chamness with a smile on her face. Members made fruit pizzas during the September meeting. For their October meeting, students made spooky dirt and worms with candy corn pumpkins to celebrate Halloween. Their next meeting is dedicated to their annual service project to celebrate Thanksgiving and the spirit of giving. Every year during November, Cooking Club members donate homemade Christmas cookie mix jars to Red Stocking. They hope to see you there!



Bon Appetit: *Alivia Brenny shows off her Halloween dirt and worms that she made during the October Cooking Club meeting. "It was spooktacular," said club President McKenna Chamness.*

Anime Club's Reminiscence Plot:

A flashback story and a meeting tradition all in a 35 minute long episode!

By Ella Stanmar

Pictionary Perfectionists: *Isabelle Knuckey, Kendra Story, and Carly Hentchel play pictionary at the Anime Club Halloween meeting on October 30th. This is an activity they often do at meetings when they don't have anything else planned. "It was a lot of fun playing a game with everyone and I'm happy that everyone got involved," said Kendra.*



Anime Club's Reminiscence Plot (Continued)

Anime Club is a club at Henry-Senachwine High School that started around 5 years ago when some students suggested a similar club, and that club eventually turned into Anime Club. This year, members in the club have suggested changing the name to Media Club because of people's variety of interests. The club talks about much more than just anime, like tv shows, movies, and comics. Anime Club is mainly about giving members the opportunity and courage to freely talk about their niche interests. It also provides a space for people to connect with each other in all different genres. This is the Ms. Sessler's favorite part of the club other than the activities they do like going to the C2E2 Convention for the their end of the year field trip. Ms. Sessler is a Special Education teacher here at Henry-Senachwine High School and has worked as a staff member for 9-10 years. She runs Anime Club as the club advisor. "How can I not be the club advisor? What do you think I do for a living?" Ms. Sessler explains during her interview, gesturing to the superhero, sci-fi, and urban fantasy posters around her room that blatantly show what her interests are. Anime Club just finished hosting their annual Halloween meeting on Friday, October 30th, in which the members held a costume contest and ate snacks that Ms. Sessler prepared. They can't wait for the rest of their meetings this year!

STAFF

Changing the Equations

Mrs. Hanson is the new math teacher at HSHS this year

By Emma Kay Gaspardo



Helping with Hanson: *Mrs. Hanson helps Alivia Brenny with her Algebra 2 homework in Advisory. ¨I am thankful that I am able to go get help from Mrs. Hanson anytime,¨ explained Alivia.*

Mrs. Hanson is a new math teacher this year at Henry-Senachwine High School. Mrs. Hanson's inspiration to become a teacher came from her grandma. She decided to become a high school math teacher because math was her favorite subject in school and she wanted to give kids a safe place to discover who they want to be when they leave high school. She builds relationships with her students by doing her best to relate to them and make her classroom a welcoming space. She strives to have consistent routines and clear expectations so the students know what to expect everyday. The biggest challenge she has faced is knowing how to adapt to students of all levels, especially students in the same class. She overcame this by prioritizing relationships with each student to better understand how they learn. Mrs. Hanson has been teaching for six years after graduating from Augustana. Her favorite class she has taught is Pre-Calc because she liked the material they went over. Now, she teaches Algebra 1 and 2. If she was not a high school math teacher, she would want to be a librarian or book store owner. "Henry has been so fun to teach at and all the staff and students have been so welcoming my first months here," said Mrs. Hanson. If she could give new students entering the education field any advice, she would tell them to "have fun everyday and enjoy the memories you make with your students." She is certainly doing just that here at HSHS!

Ready to Make History

Introducing our latest addition to the flock, Mr. Ulrich

By Danika Maddex



Hyped about History: *Mr. Ulrich, new history teacher at Henry-Senachwine High School, is hyped to be teaching and getting involved here. "Go Mallards!" he exclaimed at the end of his interview.*

Mr. Ulrich is a new history teacher at HSHS. He has been teaching for the past 2 years and is excited to teach a variety of classes here like US History, AP US History, Sociology, Psychology, Economics, and American Wars. Out of all of those classes, APUSH is his favorite class to teach because he gets to analyze and go more in depth about influential moments in American history with his students. In the classroom, he tries to keep good energy and connect the students' lives to the material they are discussing. So far, he has loved his time teaching here because of the tight-knit community and how connected everyone is. Mr. Ulrich is also excited for sports to come along so he can get more involved and connect with the students and community that way. Mr. Ulrich decided to become a teacher in the first place because he wanted to be able to make a bigger impact on the future workers of our country. He has also had many teachers in the past that pushed him to be successful and he wants to be able to do the same for his students. If Mr. Ulrich could give any of his students advice, he would say, "You don't have to be good all the time; you only need to be good when it's time."

Making a Mark on History

Mr. Richardson is excited to teach history at HSHS this year

By McKenna Wilhite



Mellow Yellow: *Mr. Richardson, new history teacher at HSHS, poses in front of his favorite flag in his classroom. "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That is why it is called the present." – Master Oogway, Kung Fu Panda*

Mr. Richardson is one of the new history teachers at Henry-Senachwine High School this year. He taught for four years before he decided to join the staff here. Mr. Richardson became a teacher because he has always wanted a job where he is able to give back. Before becoming a teacher, he wanted to do political research and get his PhD in Political Science, but his professor encouraged him to go down the teaching route. He has officially taught everything under the history umbrella, but Government is his specialty. He is now teaching Geography, American Law, AP Government,

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MAKING A MARK ON HISTORY (continued)

Government, and World History 1 and 2. Mr. Richardson says that behind the scenes of being a teacher, there is a lot going on. He has to plan out all of his lessons, either making or finding the materials online to create them. He has to make sure that they follow state standards, too. Lastly, he has to submit his lessons to the principal before teaching them. If he could tell the people of HSHS anything about his job, he would say, “It's more rewarding than you think.” Mr. Richardson’s ultimate goal is to show his students that they can have fun while learning. He couldn’t wait to be a teacher here because he knows how rewarding it will end up being!

CURIOUS CHEMIST

Science this year has a new face at HSHS

By Colby Preuser



A Spark of Science: *Mr. Benck pauses for a photo right before he sets magnesium on fire–and it’s gonna do something cool! “Chemistry is cool and you never know what’s gonna happen,” he said during the experiment.*

Mr. Benck is the new science teacher here at Henry-Senachwine High School. It is his first year teaching at Henry, but his 14th year of teaching overall. He has previously taught at Bureau Valley and Plainfield East High School. Before becoming a teacher, Mr. Benck used to work in a chemistry lab, but he didn’t like that because there was no human interaction. He decided to switch to teaching because he still wanted to do something with science but be able to also interact with people. The one person who inspired him to teach was his high school Chemistry teacher, Mr. Moreano. “He did a lab where he lit his hand on fire with bubbles on it. I said, ‘Wow, I want to do that,’” Mr. Benck explained. To prepare for his career as a teacher, Mr. Benck got his degree in Chemistry with a Master’s in Secondary Education. Here at Henry, he teaches Chemistry 1 and 2, Physical Science, and Physics 1 and 2. His favorite class to teach right now is Physical Science. “I like Physical Science because it’s more hands on rather than sitting and doing math like what we are doing in Physics,” Mr. Benck explained. Outside of school, Mr. Benck loves to hike, workout, and read. HSHS is so grateful to have him here teaching these classes and hopes to have him for many years to come!

FRESH FACE

Ms. Philhower is a new staff member at HSHS this year

By O’hanna Victors

Butterflies All Around Me: *Ms. Philhower smiles and poses for a photo in Ms. Sessler’s classroom. “Ms. Philhower has been a big help in my Multimedia class working one-on-one with students. She always brings positive energy wherever she goes,” said Ms. Schoepke.*



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MAKING A MARK ON HISTORY (continued)

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FRESH FACE (Continued)

Ms. Philhower started as a new paraprofessional at Henry-Senachwine High School this year. She was inspired by her friends that worked as paraprofessionals and knew she always wanted to be a teacher. Mrs. McCarter, the paraprofessional who taught Ms. Philhower to read, also inspired her. Being a paraprofessional allows Ms. Philhower to do a job that she enjoys with a schedule that allows her to take care of her four kids. She helps in Mrs. Wolfe's Reading class, Ms. Sessler's Life Skills classes, and P.E. She also helps with job training for students and provides accommodations and one-on-one help for instruction and tests. "It's easier getting up everyday for work when I enjoy my job and the people around me," said Ms. Philhower. In the past, Ms. Philhower has subbed as a paraprofessional in Princeton and Ohio. She is very sweet and funny and HSHS believes she is going to be a fantastic addition to the paraprofessional staff!

OP/EDS

SCHOOLS TO TOOLS

How HSHS students are using Industrial Arts classes to train for the workforce after graduation

By Gunnar Smith



Wild Welder: *"Better this than a pencil," says Erik Amaral as he shows his recently welded pipe, his excitement clear as he holds the pipe up for the camera to see, proud of his work.* Erik, like many other students, enjoys hands-on work as opposed to pencil and paper work.

HSHS students are using shop classes to propel their future careers into the workforce.The workforce always needs new laborers, and they have plenty of benefits to entice employees. There are tons of classes at HSHS that can help prepare for the trades, like Woodworking, Survey of Construction Trades, and Welding. "Good money, workin' hands," says Erik Amaral, a senior student that is using these programs as a way to boost himself into his future career in welding. The quote itself is literal; by working in the trades, he gets to work with his hands and make good money. Erik is an experienced welder at here at Henry-Senachwine High School. He has been welding for four years and is currently in a Dual-Credit Welding class where he is working on welding pipe. He is also a two-time welding competition winner at Illinois Valley Community College, having blown mostly everyone else out of the water. He is on track to become a pipefitter when he leaves high school. He is using the skills he learned here in high school to help when he joins a trade union as an apprentice after he graduates. Along with Erik, there are many other seniors in the Class of 2027 who are on a similar path path and many more future tradesmen and women who are lined up to to join HSHS shop classes–freshmen and eighth graders alike. A life working in an office isn't for everyone. Maybe the trades are for you!