

the FOCUS



June 2022 Official district newsletter Volume 53, Issue 7



Friendship endures for, from left, Angelo Walker, Jacob Donner and Evan Ernst.

Current Charlotte students looked up to their older siblings. From left: Gabriella Bottoms with Emelia Bottoms and Ella Yeager with Reid Catanzaro.



Stroll down memory lane

There were fond memories for members of Hamburg High School's Class of 2022 in May as they took a stroll through the Hamburg elementary school that they attended, followed by a stop at the Middle School. At Charlotte Avenue Elementary, ukele music welcomed the seniors and the halls were lined with students, and current and former staff members, who extended best wishes. The seniors also opened letters they wrote to themselves as fifth graders, for a perfect confluence of past, present and future.



Jordan Ditkowski checked out her mark from the past.

Congrats!

TOP 10



Jenna Jablonski
Valedictorian

Parents: John & Katherine Jablonski
College plans: William & Mary
Major: Molecular biology
Activities: Varsity soccer, Character Club, Latin Honor Society, National

Honor Society
Most rewarding high school experience: Running the Thanksgiving Drive every year
Career plans: Pharmacologist



Clara Forehand
Salutatorian

Parents: Scott & Lisa Forehand
College plans: University of Georgia
Major: Mechanical engineering
Activities: National Honor Society, Academy of Finance, Key Club,

French Honor Society, Character Club
Most rewarding high school experience: Character Club's Thanksgiving Drive and Concert Chorale's trip to New York City
Career plans: Law school

Top 10 continued on page two



Alyssa Riter

Parents: Dave & Jayme Riter
College plans: University of Notre Dame
Major: Computer science
Activities: Dance, Junior & Senior Class treasurer, National Honor Society vice president, Academy of Finance, Model United Nations, Character Club, tutor

Most rewarding high school experience: Character Club's Thanksgiving Food Drive

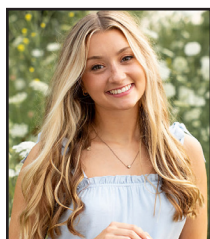
Career plans: Computer engineer who creates technology that aids in advancing the medical field



Chika Simon

Parents: Bruce & Kuniko Simon
College plans: Wesleyan University
Major: Classical studies
Activities: Writers' Guild, Latin Club

Most rewarding high school experience: Playing on varsity golf team
Career plans: Undecided



Quinn Heine

Parents: Bruce & Kelly Heine
College plans: University of Michigan
Major: Biomedical engineering
Activities: Varsity cheerleading, National Honor Society, Spanish Honors Society/Club, unified basketball, Challenger League Baseball volunteer

Most rewarding high school experience: Winning cheerleading sectionals for the first time as a senior

Career plans: Undecided



Lyndsay Cyrek

Parents: Joseph & Lori Cyrek
College plans: SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry
Major: Environmental resources engineering
Activities: Field hockey, AP Calculus BC, Character Club

Most rewarding high school experience: Field hockey, Character Club's Thanksgiving Food Drive
Career plans: Engineer and participate in research



Alexander Smith

Parents: Steven & Karen Smith
College plans: Michigan State University
Major: Mechanical engineering
Activities: Varsity soccer (4 years), captain (2 years); varsity swimming (2 years), participated in state championship; varsity outdoor track (3 years); varsity

indoor track (1 year); Academy of Finance; Unified Basketball Team; Bulldog Dash participant

Most rewarding high school experience: Representing Hamburg in sports; playing alongside teammates on Unified Basketball Team; helping classmates with special challenges have success and fun

Career plans: Engineer for space exploration company



Josef Dunlap

Parents: William Dunlap & Jennifer Noble
College plans: New York University
Major: Computer science
Activities: Student Tech Support Team, "Purple Underground"

(school newspaper), Academy of Finance
Most rewarding high school experience: Starting AI Team, the school student tech support team
Career plans: Software developer



Lila Ruff

Parents: Eric & Tonya Ruff
College plans: University at Buffalo (Honors College)
Major: Biomedical engineering
Activities: French Club and Société Honoraire de Français (treasurer), Health Science Academy, National Honor Society, Varsity H Club, Science Olympiad,

varsity field hockey, varsity flag football

Most rewarding high school experience: Lille Exchange Program in France

Career plans: Research & development biomedical engineer



Maze Drum

Parents: Sara Piper & Jeremy Allen; Jesse & Laurel Drum
College plans: SUNY Fredonia
Major: Music composition
Activities: Concert Chorale, Chamber Choir, Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, Writers' Guild, Drama Club, GSA, Civic Engagement Club,

musicals

Most rewarding high school experience: Playing Eddie McCuen in this year's Drama Club production of "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940"

Career plans: Obtain Ph.D. in music composition; write scores for films and conduct orchestras



LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS



Agnes H. & Elbert Hargesheimer Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Grace Baumgartner



Country Porcelain Artists Scholarship
Carly Glashauser



Brian Scholl AIDS Awareness Memorial Scholarship
Madison Martin



Hamburg Alumni Foundation & Wall of Fame Scholarship
Derek Moelbert, George Rodis & Caleb Lafko with presenter Kevin Tilley. Absent: Evan Chaffee



Amos J. & Leigh Hunt Minkel Student Award
Alex Smith & Clara Forehand



Anna Kowalska Bley Music Award
Gunnar Nowicki & Lillian Hoffman



Andrea R. McFall Memorial Scholarship
Alexa Steffen, Kathryn O'Brien & Leah Jarzynski with presenter John McFall



David A. Hoffner Memorial Scholarship
Ella Melcher



Character Education Scholarship
Ella Ballowe, Sarah Tanski, Molly Connolly, Lyndsay Cyrek & Jenna Jablonski



Boston Lions Club Scholarship

Hannah Neudeck, Grace Baumgartner, Brianna Reese & Jenna Crowley with presenters Betty & Vito Czyn



LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS



Bronson M. Collins Scholarship

William Budney
with presenter Jim Harrigan



Russell Villarini Memorial Engineering Scholarship

Lila Ruff with presenters from the Villarini family



**Cristin Ann Bambino
Memorial Scholarship**

Sienna Nowicki



**David Brinkerhoff Memorial
Scholarship**

Michael Nolan with presenters
Karen Howard & Michael Brinkerhoff



Terrence C. Mack Scholarship

Bryce Clark with presenters from the Mack family. Absent: Jonathan Oswald

Class of 2022



Conor J. Long Memorial Scholarship

Sienna Nowicki, Antone Michael Sperry & Jane McGowan with presents from the Long family. Absent: Evan Chaffee

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS



David Stephans Jr. Memorial Music Scholarship

Mia Sorgi & Emelia Bottoms with presenter Timothy Thompson



Fisher Bus Scholarship

Alexa Steffen with presenters Lindsey Nyitrai & Angela Coughlin



Friends of Mark Colmerauer Scholarship

Kai Severson with presenters Joanne Warren & Brian Colmerauer



Frieda W. Waugh Memorial Student Award

Griffin Nunn & Leah Iwanitzki



Hamburg Central PTSA Scholarship

Jordan Ditkowski, Kai Severson & Derek Mueller with presenter Amy Forrest



Hamburg Academy of Finance Advisory Board Scholarship
 Brooke Zimmer, Gunnar Nowicki, Alyssa Riter, Liam Riter, Kerith McGarry



LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS



Hamburg Administrative Council Scholarship
 Daniella Merlino & Robert Weissflach



Town of Hamburg Lions Club Charles Thompson/Lee Benz Memorial Scholarship
 Leah Jarzynski, Elizabeth O'Brien & Mya Teijeira with presenter Fred Wengert



Hamburg Music Festival Scholarship in Memory of Evan Granville
 Gunnar Nowicki, Matt Andrew, Jordan Ditkowski, Kerith McGarry, Adeline Ford & Lillian Hoffman



Hamburg Class of 1970 Scholarship
 Kelsey McCartney, Sienna Nowicki, Matthew Diamond & Mya Teijeira with presenters from the Class of 1970



LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS



New York State Scholarship for Academic Excellence

Seated: Chika Simon, Lyndsay Cyrek, Quinn Heine, Alexander Smith
 Standing: Maze Drum, Jenna Jablonski, Clara Forehand, Alyssa Riter



Hamburg Central Maintenance Scholarship

Nathan Morabito
 Absent: Cameron Hernandez



Hamburg Historical Society Scholarship

Ashley Hansen



Town of Hamburg Lions Club Incentive Awards

Sabrina Clancy & Josef Dunlap with presenter Fred Wengert. Absent: Cameron Hernandez



Hamburg Garden Club Scholarship

Ingrid Siudzinski with presenters Jean Errington & Donna Griffey



Hamburg Oktoberfest Community Leaders Scholarship

Jack Skora & Jenna Jablonski



HTA Marcella Fugle Memorial Scholarship

Derek Moelbert & Brianna Reese with presenters Jodi Follett & Sandy Wittmeyer. Absent: Evan Chaffee & Emma Fiebelkorn



High School Student Government Scholarships in Memory of Colleen Brunner
Brooke Zimmer & Ella Melcher



Hamburg Sunrise Rotary Scholarship
Mya Teijeira



LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS



Hamburg Track Scholarship
Alexander Smith & Lauren Beres



Karen Farrell Memorial Scholarship
Ingrid Siudzinski & presenter Julie LoTempio



Town of Hamburg Lions Club James L. Haley YES Scholarship
Jack Skora with presenter Fred Wengert



James R. Owen Scholar Athlete Cross Country Award
Liam Bonner & Courtney Schaeffer



Lois Koss Memorial Scholarship
Ayden Link



Maurice G. Bley Drama Award
Mia Sorgi & Maze Drum



James Yoviene Memorial Scholarship
Olivia Rashkin & presenter David Yoviene



Matthew Adler Memorial Scholarship
Chika Simon & presenter Tom McGowan

Class of 2022

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS



Parent Child Connection Scholarship
Quinn Heine
with presenter David Yoviene



Steven T. Webb Memorial Scholarship
Matthew Andrew



Mark Prockton Memorial Scholarship
Liam Bonner



Montgomery Family Foundation STEM Scholarship
Alyssa Riter



Ravel Scholarship
Grace Cole
Absent: Benjamin Kisker



Meridia Credit Union Scholarship
Jack Skora & Kathryn O'Brien
Absent: Evan Chaffee



Skingley Memorial Scholarship
Gunnar Nowicki



Shelley Jones Memorial Scholarship
Delaney O'Brien



Southern Erie County Counselors Assn. Scholarship
Carrie Surprenant



Rotary Club of Hamburg Scholarship
Ella Ballowe
with presenter Maria Guizzotti



Paul M. Touris Memorial Scholarship
Olivia Rashkin
with presenter Matt Touris



**Zonta Club of Hamburg/
Orchard Park Scholarship**
Sarah Tanski



**William Reichert
Memorial Scholarship**
Kelly Bement



Wegmans Scholarship
Ryan Milligan & Molly Connolly
Absent: Lily Syracuse

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

**Andrea McFall & Mary Lou
Ranger Memorial Hockey
Award:** Carson Kummer & Luke
Stotz
**Lillian Brand Memorial Scholar-
ship:** Abigail Buffum
Project InVest Scholarship:
Neven Tanevski
**Town of Hamburg Police Benev-
olent Association Scholarship:**
Jenna Ehret

Appointments solidify High School administrative team

Having proven their leadership in more than six months in their respective interim roles, two Hamburg High School administrators this month received permanent appointment to their posts.

John Crangle was named High School Principal and Rose Kowalski, Assistant Principal, solidifying the administrative team that has been in place in an interim capacity since Principal Michael Gallagher retired last December.

"In the six months that they have served in their respective roles, Mr. Crangle and Mrs. Kowalski have provided leadership to Hamburg High School that can only be described as outstanding," said Superintendent Michael Cornell. "As a result, they have earned



J. Crangle



R. Kowalski

the trust and confidence of the staff, students, parents, their fellow administrators, and importantly, the Board of Education."

Mr. Crangle joined the district in 2006 as a social studies teacher at the High School. He later served as an Assistant Principal at the Middle School, then the High School.

Mrs. Kowalski was a teacher with Hamburg Central since 2016, most recently at Armor

Elementary, and for a second year is serving as Principal of Hamburg Connects, the district's summer learning program. She also completed administrative leadership internships while with the district.

Rounding out the High School's administrative team is Assistant Principal Michael Tylock.



Director's Key (Outstanding Senior) award recipients.

Director's Key (Outstanding Senior): Evan Chaffee, Madelyn Harrison, Riley Divine, Sophia Olivieri, Ella Yeager, Liam Bonner, Courtney Schaeffer, Sean Snyder, Alexandria Stoddard, Kathryn O'Brien, Devin Collins, Jack Luba, Mekena Hruby, Ryan Steiner, Jack Skora, Charlie Hunter, Brady Reinagel, Jenna Jablonski, Jenna Crowley, Benjamin Kisker, Jessica Humby, Sofia Weissflach, Aidan Tanevski, Lauren Beres, Griffin Nunn, Matthew Diamond, Dylan Collins

Booster Club (Most Improved): David Conklin, Benjamin Genzel, Clara Strack, Nathan Johnson, Summer Segal, Maia Litwin, Olivia Rashkin, Nicholas Koch, Adeline Ford, Hudson Brewer, Jane McGowan, Larissa Schmitt, Cameron Viavada, Dillon Paas, Claire Berwaldt, Luke Stotz, Leia Schneid, Camden Michienzi, MacKensy Nyhart, Mia Ceriani, Benjamin Gasper, Shaelee Smail, Samantha Morlock, Logan Takas, Ella Sidorowicz, Nicholas Zona, Julia Knodel, Alan Whittemore, Meg Dhanantwari, Alexander Watts, Benjamin Bill, Avery Lyons, Luke Smeader

Hamburg CSD (Sportsmanship): James Simoncelli, Cameron Viavada, Alexa Steffen, Michael Koester, Jade Divine, Quinn Heine, Molly Connolly, Bradley Tobin, Ella Herman, Lisa Basil, Grace Sauda, Lila Ruff, Nolan Heavern, Chika Simon, Sabrina Clancy, Griffin Nunn, Holly Stuart, Eliana Endress, Carson Kummer, Jane McGowan, Kai Severson, Rilee Nunan, Avery Lyons, Luke Kirchberger, Peyton Buell, Jacob Andrew, Katherine Blackwell, Brady Reinagel, Deborah Borysewicz, Addison Kinderman, Derek Moelbert, Jillian McDonnell, Henry Vallant

Varsity H Club (Leadership): Nolan Smith, Ryan Gormolka, Lauren Beres, Emmett Simonsen, Kaylee Mis-



Athletic Awards



Bulldog Service Award
Recipient Sean Cronin, *right*,
& presenter Patrick Cauley

kell, Ella Yeager, Kendal Szlachetka, Andrew Zielinski, Aurora Smith, Lyndsay Cyrek, Kerith McGarry, Andrew Takacs, Justin Coyne, Olivia Reeves, Alexander Wood, Elizabeth O'Brien, James Simoncelli, Dylan Collins, Alexa Steffen, Alexander Smith, Ella Ingraham, Summer Segal, Bryce Zeltman, Morgan Matyas, Michael Zak, Nelle Doyle, Abbie Herman, Ryan Haffey, Grace Kusmierz, Shane VanDusen

Bulldog Service Award: Sean Cronin, High School social studies teacher

Outstanding Senior Athletes (presented to the athletes who have participated in the most interscholastic sports from Middle School through High School): Lauren Beres (17 sports teams), Riley Divine (17 sports teams) & Brady Kustra (17 sports teams)

Outstanding Scholar Student Athletes (presented to the athletes who have participated in at least two sports during their senior year and achieved the highest academic grade point average): Quinn Heine & Alexander Smith



Hamburg Central has received the New York State Public High School Athletic Association's (NYS PHSA) **Scholar-Athlete School of Distinction Award** in recognition of excelling in the classroom.

To receive this honor, 100% of a district's varsity programs must qualify as a Student-Athlete Team, receiving a 90 or above grade point average. The district had 32 teams that achieved that standard, of which 30 were noted in the official recognition.

SAVE THE DATE



October 16, 2022

Information at

www.bulldogsbooster.com



BOLDLY GOING BALD — There was plenty of head shaving, beard trimming and hair braiding when Hamburg High School Student Government hosted Bald for Bucks in May to raise funds for cancer research and patient care programs at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. This year's event raised \$5,221, bringing Hamburg's 10-year total to more than \$148,675.

NYS PTA lauds C. Ditkowski for service to children

Candace "Candy" Ditkowski, long active in the Hamburg Central PTSA, received a New York State PTA Honorary Life Membership Award in May. This award is given to individuals whose contributions have improved the welfare of children and youth with far-reaching impact.

Mrs. Ditkowski said she has particularly enjoyed being a voice for children and the legislative advocacy in which she's been involved at the local, state and federal levels. This included pressing for e-cigarettes to be included in the New York State Indoor Clean Air Act.

While serving with Hamburg PTSA, Mrs. Ditkowski chaired multiple events that engaged families; led the School of Excellence committee at both the elementary and middle school level to fortify the partnership between parents and school administrators; and served as the unit's Membership Chair, Treasurer, Vice President and President.

Her outreach moved to the state level when she was named as the Literacy Chair for NYS PTA, where she supported the implementation of programs to develop reading and writing skills in students.

She served Western New York by joining the Western Region PTA board as the Education Chair and then Advocacy Chair (to meet with legislators on issues specific to children, families and schools). PTA members across the five-county area of Western Region PTA elected her to serve as a Regional PTA Associate Director, before she was appointed by NYS PTA to lead the region as its Region Director from 2018-2021. During this time, Mrs. Ditkowski led more than 75 PTA units and 3 PTA councils through the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring schools maintained family engagement, high educational standards and open communications. After serving as Western Region PTA Director, she was appointed Field Support Coordinator for NYS PTA, where she oversaw three regions of PTA in the state.

Said Sarah Ruth of Western Region PTA when she presented Mrs. Ditkowski with the award, "While that might be quite the list, I can tell you with certainty, it barely scratches the surface of the roles Candy has played to uplift children and our families. Sometimes there aren't enough words to recognize someone for all they do or how much of themselves they give for the betterment of their community."

In honor of the award, Western Region PTA made a donation in Mrs. Ditkowski's name to The Jenkins Memorial Scholarship for Teacher Education, a program to support college students pursuing educational careers.



Honoree Candy Ditkowski, left, with Dana Lamb, who was installed as President of Western Region NYS PTA.

Congratulations to our 2021-22 retirees

Thank you for your many years of dedicated service



The district honored its retirees at a reception in June. Celebrating, in the photo at left, from left: Linda Fox, Edith Roll and Sharon Zaccarine. At right, Debra Hohl was joined by grandchildren MaKenna and James Skeels.



Bethann Cheney	Armor Elementary	senior clerk typist	33 yrs.
Michele Darstein	Administration Building	community relations coordinator	24 yrs.
Nancy DiDomizio	Union Pleasant Elementary	teacher aide	21 yrs.
Michael Edwards	High School	art teacher	24 yrs.
Linda Fox	Armor Elementary	cleaner	28 yrs.
Michael Gallagher	High School	principal	21 yrs.
Ania Gibbon	Union Pleasant Elementary	teacher aide	17 yrs.
Debra Hohl	Administration Building/Registrar	clerk typist	20 yrs.
Mary Huen	High School	math teacher	30 yrs.
Marilyn Knoll	Middle School	teacher aide	34 yrs.
Susan Kruszynski	Middle School	nurse	23 yrs.
Kathleen Philipps	Union Pleasant Elementary	cook manager	22 yrs.
Edith Roll	Boston Valley Elementary	custodian	35 yrs.
Janet Stephan	Union Pleasant Elementary/Tech Office	senior clerk typist	21 yrs.
Tracy Tone	Union Pleasant Elementary	special ed. teacher	24 yrs.
Deborah Willis	High School	computer aide	31 yrs.
Rhonda Willcox	High School	food service helper	7 yrs.
Sharon Zaccarine	Union Pleasant Elementary	cleaner	29 yrs.



Raindrops for rainbow crops at Union Pleasant Elementary

Union Pleasant Elementary School was first place winner in a recent rain barrel painting contest sponsored by the Erie County Department of Environment & Planning. Fourth graders decorated their entry with kawaii vegetables to illustrate that raindrops make rainbow crops.



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Armor Elementary 646-3350
Boston Valley Elementary..... 646-3240
Charlotte Avenue Elementary 646-3370
Union Pleasant Elementary..... 646-3280
Hamburg Middle School..... 646-3250
Hamburg High School 646-3300
General Information..... 646-3200

hamburgschools.org

SUPERINTENDENT HONOREES —

Hamburg High School's Top 3 academic seniors were honored by the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association in May. They were among more than 200 students recognized from 81 high schools in Western New York. *From left:* Superintendent Michael Cornell, Jenna Jablonski, Alyssa Riter and Clara Forehand, School Board President Thomas Flynn and High School Principal John Crangle.



Wall of Fame event returns; 2022 Inductees announced

The Hamburg Alumni Foundation's Wall of Fame event returns in 2022 after a two-year hiatus due to COVID. The dinner and induction ceremony will be held on Saturday, Oct. 1, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Michael's Banquets and Catering on Southwestern Boulevard in Hamburg. The Wall of Fame Committee is pleased to announce this year's honorees:

Distinguished Alumni: Rudy Arendt, Class of '60
Phil Grigsby, Class of '65
Tom Zabielski ("Tommy Z"), Class of '89

Distinguished Educators: Evelyn Morgan
Dick Kosha
Diane Hanitz
Erma Meisenheimer

Sports Legends: Dale Boelke, Class of '66
Steve Shiffler, Class of '72
Ian Margerum, Class of '05
Katie Medina, Class of '08
Nicole Shea, Class of '08
Amanda Obenshain, Class of '12

Team of Distinction: 1974 Boy's Championship Soccer Team

The community is invited to an evening of nostalgia and recognition as athletes, teachers and distinguished alumni are honored. Tickets go on sale Aug. 1. See the Foundation website at www.hamburgalumnifoundation.com for additional event and ticket information or to nominate future inductees.



BATTLE OF BOOKS — Twelve schools went head-to-head when Hamburg Middle School hosted the Battle of the Books final in May, a competition where teams that have read the same five titles answer questions to determine who remembers the most details from those books. The Middle School's Musical Mayhem team, *from left*, Tessa Reinagel, Kennedy Calvert, Soleil Marcinelli and Charlie Dzubella, clinched second place, a mere one point away from winner Casey Middle School.



Kaelyn Pawelek swabbed a surface.

Health Science Academy students lead second graders in microbe study

Microbes were the focus as Hamburg High School Health Science Academy students led a lesson for Union Pleasant Elementary second graders in May. Guided by their older peers, the youngsters swabbed surfaces and plated samples in petri dishes. They completed a lab report on the colonies' growth a week later, documenting their observations and drawing conclusions on their hypotheses.



High School student Abbie Herman oversaw Paige Chudoba, *left*, and Tessa Rice as they plated samples.



Coming Summer 2022... Bulldog Pride Entrance!

Show your Bulldogs Pride by becoming a sponsor
and leave your MARK on the wall for years to come!



Hamburg High School
Hamburg Varsity H Club



Above: view when entering in through the gymnasium entrance.



Draft of sponsorship display



Above: 180° turn once entered building.

The Bulldog Pride Wall will welcome visitors who enter through the gymnasium doors by displaying images of all types of groups and activities that happen within the halls of Hamburg High School - classroom learning, clubs, the arts, and athletics throughout the years.

Honoring our **Past**, Celebrating our **Present**,
Inspiring our **Future!**

*The above images are a draft and not the final project.

