



BROWN & GOLD

Haverhill High School

MAY 2024



Conneely's Corner

Senior Events

Thursday, May 16: Early College Graduation, 5 p.m. at NECC.

Tuesday, May 21: Senior Prom, 6-9 p.m. at the Castleton, Windham, NH

Wednesday, May 22: Last day of classes for seniors; express sign-out

Thursday, May 23: Chapel practice, 8:30 a.m. at the HHS Library

Night of Stars 6 p.m. in the Auditorium

Friday, May 24: Senior Chapel, 9:45 a.m. in the Auditorium

Thursday, May 30: Graduation practice and senior BBQ, 10:30 a.m. at the stadium

Senior Farewell, 7 p.m. at the Stadium

Friday, May 31: Graduation, 4:45 p.m. at the Stadium

Rain Date: Saturday, June 1

Summer School/Credit Recovery begins Monday, June 24 and runs Monday-Thursdays, 9-1, until Friday, July 19.

The annual **Haverhill Art Walk** will be on full display throughout downtown on Saturday, June 8 from 2-8 p.m.

After-school AP meetings:

AP Lit.: Wednesday, June 5, Library

AP Lang.: Wednesday, May 29, Library

AP Environmental: Monday, June 3, Library

AP Seminar: Tuesday, June 4, Library

AP Students: make sure you check in with your 2024-2025 teachers for information about required summer work.

Multi-lingual learners confront new culture, language District adapts to increased enrollment of ML students

By Sean Wynn

HAVERHILL-In recent years, immigration has become an increasingly fraught issue in America, but amid this political minefield lies the often overlooked experiences and perspectives of the immigrants themselves, especially the children.

While cities struggle with the fight to secure funding and housing and migrants wrestle with the process of getting acclimated and finding work, children new to not only the city but the country come to American public schools everyday where they are

expected, just as every other student, to attend seven classes, demonstrate the knowledge they've attained, and, for those who have recently arrived, become fluent readers, writers and speakers of the English language.

Heidi Perez, the District Director of Multilingual Learner Education Programs, lauds Haverhill High's immigrant population for their tenacity.

"We have a very capable group of students here," she said. "They come in, sometimes not knowing any English, and they take

their classes and the MCAS test—in English—and they perform very well."

Of Haverhill High Schools 1,991 students, 245 this year are multilingual, or ML students, formerly known as English Language Learners, an increase of 153 students in the last 10 years. In 2010, MLs, formerly ELLs, made up 6.2 percent of the high school student body with 111 students. The number is expected to continue increasing.

ML students take English Language Development (ELD) classes and navigate general education

courses in their second language. When ML students arrive at Haverhill High, they are tested and scored from 1-5 based on their proficiency in English.

Students with 1's and 2's take double blocks of ELD and 3's, 4's, and 5's take one block of ELD, along with another standard English class.

Ms. Perez says this test is important in tracking student progress and providing adequate education based on students' needs.

"The purpose of the test is to demonstrate that the student makes annual

progress in their language acquisition," Ms. Perez said. "We typically place students for ELD based on this composite score; however, we factor in grades, interim assessments, and the domain scores to ensure the MLs receive the language instruction they need."

In their ELD classes, ML students learn English grammar and vocabulary, and have lessons on American culture. Some ML students find difficulty in these classes.

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Seniors Display Powderpuff Power!



Photo courtesy of David Martinez

By Sara Tucker

HAVERHILL-The Class of 2024 are back-to-back champs!

For the first time, a class has won the annual Powderpuff Game as both juniors and seniors. The feat was capped by a resounding 32-18 victory on April 23 at Trinity Stadium.

Powderpuff is a football game that many high school students, usually girls, across the country compete in, including the junior and senior girls here at Haverhill High School. The seniors were clad in pink, while the juniors sported teal as both teams put together impressive offensive performances.

The event was run by the

Student Council, and student governments of the classes of 2024 and 2025 contributed the shirts.

The game consists of two halves, both lasting 20 minutes. The game follows the rules of a flag football game, just with double-hand touch instead of flags. Each team consisted of 22 players, coached by several members of the HHS Football Team.

One of the standout players was Jamie Pearl, a senior, who played quarterback for her team. She stated that winning back to back years felt awesome.

"Our class is wicked athletic, so it's cool to be the first class to ever do it," she said. Fellow senior, Abby Burrill,

agreed, noting getting everyone playing time was a challenge with all the talent on display.

"When there are so many talented and athletic girls, it is hard to get everyone into the play," she said.

These seniors were correct in stating that the senior powderpuff team was made up of talented athletes. From softball, soccer, track, volleyball and lacrosse, the team was represented by several different sports.

Ava Votto, who plays on both the girls' soccer and lacrosse teams, emphasized how having players who did multiple sports was a boost for the senior girls.

"The skills I have from

sports like defense and hand-eye coordination really helped with my ability to play the game since that translated well to powderpuff," she said.

The seniors not only saw excellence from their athletes, but the coaches on the teams did a great job as well. As noted, the coaches on the powderpuff teams are HHS football players. The seniors were coached by Jayden Brito, Max Graham, Sebastian Guillaume and Nick Wilson. The junior coaching staff included Jake Bourque, Parker DiNatale, Alex Feil and Brandon Piraino.

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What's all that racquet?

New indoor tennis facility underway, touted as benefit to school community

By Ava Votto

HAVERHILL-Students and staff can't help but notice the large building that has sprouted by the side parking lots, with a white sign touting the arrival of indoor tennis and pickleball courts. But as construction continues, the question on many students' minds is: why are the pickleball courts here at Haverhill High School?

When talking to Athletic Director Tom O'Brien, he gave some background on the project and how Haverhill High stands to benefit from the pickleball courts.

"Ernie DiBurro has been a huge donor for us for a while and has given us millions of dollars over the

years," Mr. O'Brien said. "He approached me a couple years ago and said, 'Hey I have another million dollars I wanna donate to do something with the athletic program.'"

Initially, the idea was to bring in an indoor track facility but that proved to be too expensive.

"So he had the idea of indoor tennis courts and we moved forward with it and got approval to do it," Mr. O'Brien said. "The former mayor made the suggestion to have pickleball in there as well as tennis, so it is gonna be two full size tennis courts and two pickleball courts."

Former Mayor James Fiorentini initially pushed

for a different location at Riverside Park or Winnekenni Park, but due to issues at both sites prohibiting the construction, the project moved to the high school.

"Here we think the students can benefit the most from it," Mr. O'Brien said. "The tennis teams will benefit the most. Right now we only have three courts, so the matches go long, so now we can play a full match here, and we won't have to cancel any practices or matches."

David Reed, the girls' tennis coach, noted how it will help both the boys' and girls' teams.

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Brown & Gold

The mission of the Brown & Gold is to provide the Haverhill High School community with accurate, socially significant, and thoughtful news. As an organization of dedicated, conscientious, and curious journalists, we honor and revere our responsibility to ensure that our readers are equipped with all of the necessary information to make the mature and deliberate decisions that are the foundation of rich and ethical lives.

SPRING SPORTS ROUNDUP

Boys' Baseball

The Haverhill boys' baseball team has had a successful start to the season with a 6-5 record.

With the goal of making state playoffs, the boys have been hard at work. After their defeat against Chelmsford, it is clear that the work is paying off. Senior Nicholas Terilli believes that this is one of the best seasons they have had in a long time, most likely due to how the boys interact and work together.

"This is one of the best teams we have ever had," Nicholas said, "We have had more success this year than in the past few."

With all of their success, the team believes that if they keep up the work ethic, there is a possibility to make it to states.

Upcoming home games include May 15 against Methuen at 4 p.m.

Boys' & Girls' Crew

The crew varsity team has been diligently practicing on the water. With an early start to the season, work is being done to finalize boats for the upcoming regattas. Junior Declan Gillogly believes that he has seen improvement in many of the boats.

"The team has hope to grow over the season," Declan said. "I believe this team has the work ethic to be very successful in the future."

Junior John Prendergast, a member of the crew team since freshman year, shares that the team has closer bonds than in previous years, which makes for more fun and successful practices.

"The team is closer than ever, which is helping to make our boats faster," he said.

Currently, the Haver-

hill crew team is looking to place at regattas including the Amber Zapatka Memorial Regatta (May 11-12), New England Regionals (May 18-19), and the Mass Public Schools Regatta Association Championships (May 26).

Boys' Lacrosse

With its current record of 6-2, the boys' lacrosse team is making a great run at qualifying for the playoffs this year.

In the past two games, Senior Captain Ty Lescord and Junior Captain Pat McGowan, scored their 100th goal, adding to the success of the season so far. Ty Lescord, a two-time captain of the boys' lacrosse team, believes that this has been a successful season so far, but there is more for the team to show.

"The season has definitely been solid, but we have a lot more to show," Ty said. "We've been set on making the playoffs and at this pace, we are confident that as a team, we will achieve this goal."

In 2024, the Haverhill boys' lacrosse team has its eyes set on qualifying for the state tournament for the first time in far too long.

Girls' Lacrosse

The girls' lacrosse team is off to an amazing start. With the record at 5-3 and a recent win against rival Methuen, the girls' lacrosse team is eager to show what they can accomplish.

Ava Votto, a co-captain of the girls' lacrosse team, believes that with the hard work this team has shown, there is definitely a chance to win the conference and make it to the tournament.

"The season so far has been great," she said. "We have a lot of new fresh-

men, and they have made a huge positive impact on the team."

"We go into each game with a confident and eager mindset, which I truly believe helps our team to connect and win." Ava added. "Our hopes for the season are to win the Merrimack Valley Conference, and to make it to the tournament, which is definitely a possibility with our work ethic."

With their positive mindset of "not taking any game lightly" and "determination to play strong each and every game," the team looks forward to trying to qualify for the state tournament.

Upcoming home games include May 22, against Tewksbury at 7:30 p.m.

Boys' & Girls' Outdoor Track

Big things have been happening on the Sapienza Track this spring season. On both the girls' and the boys' side, there have been records broken, personal records and many other successes.

On the boys' side, outdoor track has had the largest boys turnout since 2019 and that has brought excitement to all. With the recent success of Natanael Vigo Catala bringing home the Boston Globe title of "Indoor Track Athlete of the Year," and the 4x4 relay team of Stephane Fevry, Hannon Wipf, Joel Ishiimwe and Natanael Vigo Catala all being named All Scholastics. The team looks to find the same success in the spring season.

On the girls' side, the sprint medley relay team, consisting of Brenna Corcoran, Lauren Downer, Gianna Spero and Avery Lescord recently broke the school record. Their hope for this season is to continue their hard work to get even

better results.

Head Coach Michael Maguire hopes that the remainder of the season will be successful for the boys' and girls' outdoor track and field team.

"My goal for the team this season is to run, jump, and throw our best in the major competitions at the end of the season, including the Merrimack Valley and MIAA Championships," said Coach Maguire.

The throwers are winning big. In the past five meets of the spring season, the throwers, both boys and girls, have come out on top. Connor Chmielecki and Maddie Goncalves won shot put at the Ottaviani Invitational Meet, and the boys' shot put relay came in second at the Division I State Relay Meet. Maddie Goncalves also remains undefeated in the shot put this spring season.

Upcoming important track and field events include the MVC Championship, Divisional Finals, and the MIAA State Championships.

Girls' Softball

After bringing on eight freshmen, the girls' softball season is focused on laying the foundation for future years.

With the current record of 2-6, they are constantly improving week by week. Senior Captain Jamie-son Pearl believes that this year is a pivotal moment for the team's future. With so many new girls, it's crucial that all grades become one unit to have success this season and in future seasons.

"Over the course of the season, so far, all ages on the team have been focused on becoming one singular unit on the field, and it's great to be a part of," Jamie-

son said. "We all improve everyday, and our hope this season is to make it to the playoffs."

All and all, the hard work of the softball team is not going unnoticed, as they continue to fight for a spot in playoffs for the state tournament.

Boys' Tennis

The Haverhill boys' tennis team is off to a great start. With the recent win over Tewksbury, the team looks to the future in hopes of winning the MVC small division title, for the third year in a row.

Captain Michael Kmenta, a member since freshman year, believes that if the team continues its hard work, the possibility of MVC Champions is definitely on their radar.

"As a team we are working really hard to win the conference championship for the third year in a row," Michael said.

Coach Zachary Eldridge believes that there is nothing stopping this team from being able to win their third Merrimack Valley Conference Championship.

"We won our conference for two years in a row and are now going for our third," he said. "We are very excited and are looking to build upon our recent seasons."

Girls' Tennis

Girls' tennis has had a great turnout this spring and now currently has a team of more than 30 players.

The team's main goal this season is to be constantly improving. This goal has already been set in motion, as seen with the victories against Pentucket and Lawrence. Junior Dianna Moreira believes that even with all the ups and downs

of the season, the team will continue to improve. "Overall, as a team it's been challenging with matches getting postponed due to the rain" Dianna said, "Hopefully the team stays motivated, showing up at practice and showing improvement, so we can continue to grow as a team and end the season on a good note."

Boys' Volleyball

The boys' volleyball team has had a great start to the spring season. The team is led by senior captains Gabe Batista, Cooper Dellea, and Mason Holmes, all of whom are returning starters from last year. They had a notable number of underclassmen joining the boys volleyball team. Captain Gabe Batista is excited to see how the new athletes are coming together as a team.

"We are getting off to a slower start than we would've hoped for," Gabe said. "We've had a lot of moving parts and lots of new players that need to get adjusted. It's now starting to come together. We believe that with the hard work being done, we can turn this season around."

This year's group, thus far, has shown themselves to be tight knit and passionate about the team and the game of volleyball, and are looking to make some noise in a very competitive Merrimack Valley Conference.

A noteworthy match so far this season includes their victory against Lawrence High School. Future matches at home include May 13, against Methuen at 5 p.m.

Emily Miller
&

Amanda Jones

The Man Behind The Camera

Tracy Gilford, longtime community and Haverhill High School photographer, retires

By Mikayla DeFrank

HAVERHILL-The end of the school year brings many emotions for students and teachers alike. While seniors are celebrating the end of their secondary education and teachers are prepared to enter a well-deserved summer, a different kind of emotion hits a person closer to Haverhill High than most know.

Tracy Gilford, a well-known and respected photographer within Haverhill High School, is responsible for countless pictures. These include yearbook photos, athletic candids, prom pictures and more.

Gilford has been with Mark Lawrence photography for over 40 years and he is the Mark Lawrence School Coordinator and Photographer for Haverhill High. He is highly experienced and passionate in his field and has been consistently capturing the moments that make Hillie Nation, Hillie Nation.

His dedication to photography and representing the student body of several schools throughout the Merrimack Valley is most admirable. Gilford is a prime example of hard work in its finest and purest form. As this school year comes to a close, Gilford has announced his retirement and prepares to close the lens for a final time.

Unfortunately, Gilford was recently hit with devastating news. He was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a nervous system disease that weakens muscles and impacts physical function. The main symptom is muscle weakness, which will make it very hard to continue photography. For Gilford, this diagnosis is detrimental as it will have to put an end to his photography career.

Marilyn Caradonna, re-



tired teacher and the Hillies honorary photographer, spoke about her friendship with her fellow photographer.

"Through photography, he shared a lot of his techniques and ideas with me and we developed a friendship over that," she said. "He is willing to help with anything and he is very giving."

On top of photography at the high school, Gilford is a part of the Professional Photographers Association of Massachusetts and has been the Official Convention Photographer since 1985. Through this prestigious group, he also has an award named after him entitled "The Tracy Gilford Spirit Award" and he is the first recipient. This award represents individuals who by their ability, ingenuity, and selfless talents have enriched the PPAM group, so it was a given that Gilford would be its very first recipient.

Not only is Gilford an experienced photographer, he is also an active member of the community in a variety of other ways. He was a member of the National Guard for six years, as well as a volunteer firefighter with the Groveland Volunteer Fire Department. He is a part of Groveland Congregational Church and

its Historical Committee. He volunteers his photography to various programs such as Rebuilding Together, a local 501(c)(3) tax exempt affiliate of the National Rebuilding Together Organization that joins together volunteers and communities to improve the homes and lives of income-challenged homeowners.

On top of all these accomplishments, he has consistently volunteered his own time to his town and community for decades. He does a lot of volunteer work with military veterans around the town. As a veteran himself, he adopted Grand Army Park (GAR) and does general upkeep of the park to keep it clean and lively for the community. On Memorial Day, he places all the mini American flags seen around the park as well as takes them down after the holiday.

What makes Gilford so special within the community is his dedication. He photographs any event that the yearbook needs, such as Drama Club productions, sporting events, prom or social, and more. Gilford's talents aren't just limited to Haverhill. Many

times when he is on the sidelines capturing the Hillies, he is working not just for Haverhill High, but for the opposing team too. He goes above and beyond and does any requests the schools ask him to.

Additionally, Caradonna spoke about his experience.

"They have all had their picture taken by him at one point or another because he has been a regular person on the sidelines for decades," she added. "He knows his kids, he knows what he is looking for, he knows the seniors, and he remembers the students throughout the years they are in high school because he watches games in addition to taking the pictures."

His co-worker, Lisa DePalma at Mark Lawrence Photography, shared her gratitude for his dedication to his art.

"He is very much a person that gives so much of himself and his time and talents," she said. "We are fortunate to have him as a coworker, mentor and friend for so many years. He continues to inspire us not only as our coworker and mentor, but also as a person."

Find me in the club...the Book Club, that is

Interviews with club advisors

By Raymond Bartimus and Isabella Budd

HAVERHILL-In high school, joining clubs is a way to have something fun to do, explore interests and make new friends. A club can provide you with resources you didn't know you needed and can help you in the future with applying to colleges. The Brown and Gold reached out to several club advisors/leaders to ask a few questions just to get to know the club and why someone should join, in the hope that it may spark one's interest to join one of these clubs next year.

Jason Burns, advisor: BIPOC Union

How many students are in your club? Has that number gone up or down in recent years?

We average around 10 students per meeting, that number tends to fluctuate depending on the events we are hosting.

How do you recruit/promote your club to students?

We utilize a variety of meth-

ods to recruit and promote our club, including social media campaigns, handing out flyers, attending local and community events as well as school events, and our favorite, which is the simple form of word of mouth.

Tell us why students should join your club.

A BIPOC Union is an organization that pushes for inclusion and cultural diversity within a school. This promotes a welcoming environment for students of all backgrounds. This is through various activities, such as cultural celebrations, mural creation, and involvement in both school-based and extra-curricular politics.

A BIPOC Union is a necessary core component of a healthy, supportive school environment. Not only does a BIPOC Union encourage universal awareness and understanding (for white and non-white individuals), but it is paramount in ensuring that students feel and do belong, and that their voices matter. BIPOC students have a right to feel and BE important in

their school and community, especially in a world where they are underrepresented. This sense of belonging will also result in greater academic achievement and performance in all areas, but most importantly, promote the mental wellbeing of all students.

Colleen Brusio, advisor: Book Club

How many students are in your club? Has that number gone up or down in recent years?

We currently have four. This is my first year as the advisor, so I'm not sure.

How do you recruit/promote your club to students?

Announcements. I speak to my classes. When I see students who are interested in reading, I try to pull them aside and speak to them individually. The students in the club also try to recruit other members as well.

Tell us why students should join your club.

Students should join because it's not just really about books! We talk about how the books relate to our lives or not, our experiences in life, etc.

Cody Kucker, advisor: Creative Writing Club

How many students are in

your club? Has that number gone up or down in recent years?

Some weeks there are 8-10, other weeks there can be 2-3. There is no obligation to attend Creative Writing Club on a regular basis so who can or cannot make it varies from week to week. The club has shrunk over the last several years. There was a time, back in 2016-2018 when there were 12-15 members showing up on a weekly basis.

How do you recruit/promote your club to students?

I encourage students from my classes to join and in the classes that I cover throughout the week. I strike up discussions with any student who happens to voice an interest in writing or may simply be carrying a book in their arm down the hallways.

Tell us why students should join your club.

Because understanding how we feel and what we see and being able to clearly and artfully communicate that is how this world will ultimately be saved.

Beth Tilden, advisor: Fashion Club

How many students are in your club? Has that number gone up or down in recent

years?

There are eight people currently in the club

How do you recruit/promote your club to students?

We make announcements regarding club meetings, have had tables during school events in order to garner interest, and have placed flyers around the school. I know students have brought friends into the club also.

Tell us why students should join your club.

It's a fun but relaxing club where you work at your own pace on a project of your choice. It's fun to learn to use the sewing machine and make something yourself. It is a skill that you can use for the rest of your life. The best thing is that whatever you make, you get to gift it, use it or wear it yourself when it's done!

David Martinez, President: Interact Club

How many students are in your club? Has that number gone up or down in recent years?

Interact Club currently has over 20 active members! I am proud to say our club has grown significantly from last school year.

How do you recruit/promote your club to students?

The main way we've promoted Interact Club is through word of mouth. We also set up a table at open houses to

invite new students to join.

Tell us why students should join your club.

Students should join Interact Club for a multitude of reasons. We are a community service club working closely with our parent organization, the Rotary Club, on local projects and on service projects of our own. We have flexible commitment, and we automatically log all of your hours for you!

Ms. Kimani, advisor: Spoken Word Club

How many students are in your club? Has that number gone up or down in recent years?

Right now there are not any students in Spoken Word Club, but I'd love to revitalize it!

The club is fairly new. The first two years it ran there were about 6 students who were in it. The number has gone down sadly.

How do you recruit/promote your club to students?

Flyers, word of mouth, Google Classroom, announcements

Tell us why students should join your club.

It's fun! Lots of students like to write poetry, and when they perform them, the emotions really come out. Past members have performed at the Coffee Houses here at HHS!

Congrats,
Grads!

PICKLEBALL:

Continued from page 1

"The new indoor tennis facility will allow for both boys' and girls' teams to practice on those practice days impacted by poor weather—snow, rain, and extreme cold," he said.

Mr. Reed also stated that playing matches at the new facility could happen, although it wouldn't be ideal given the number of indoor courts that the facility will have.

"I guess it would be possible to play matches there as well due to poor weather, but it would take some time to play the five varsity level matches," he said.

However, the community at large will benefit from the facility as well, according to Mr. O'Brien.

"We are going to open it up to the community at times so they can play tennis and pickleball as well," he said.

Associate Principal Victoria Lu said that the facility could also potentially house physical education classes.

"They try to rotate spaces because we have more P.E teachers than spaces," Ms. Lu said. "We only have the two main gyms and the weight room, and since we eliminated swimming as a requirement, the pool is no longer part of the P.E 1 ro-

tation, like it was before, so this will give them an alternative space to go and do different kinds of activities."

Mr. O'Brien also noted the benefit for students not on the tennis teams.

"Every student takes P.E so every student will essentially benefit," he said. "Space is always tight for our P.E classes. Sometimes there are 5 P.E classes going on at once, in the gym and the weight room, so now we have this nice big space for P.E classes to go."

When asked if the school might add pickleball (a racket sport similar to tennis but on a smaller footprint), Mr. O'Brien didn't discount the possibility.

"We are looking at that as an elective like a racket sport," Mr. O'Brien said. "I think there are other teams that can benefit from this. Sometimes we have snow, and when fields are covered, lacrosse, baseball, softball can go in there and throw the ball around...During the school day it will be open to P.E classes, and after school, I anticipate having some open hours for students."

Of course, in the spring, the tennis teams will have priority, Mr. O'Brien noted.

Mr. O'Brien did state

that details about how the facility will be used by the general public still need to be ironed out. A stipulation of the donation for the facility is that it would be open to the community at large.

"We are going to work closely with the recreational department to figure out a way to open it up to the public and possible rentals with other schools," he said. "We are still working through all the details with that."

However, Mr. O'Brien said the arrangement with the town on using other athletic facilities on campus is a template for the new building.

"It is probably going to be in cooperation with the city's recreation department and be similar [in arrangement] to the other facilities we partner with them on," he said.

Ms. Lu echoed that folks should expect a similar arrangement as the other athletic facilities.

"I know that after school, with the track, it is open from the end of the school day to dusk or it might be something that the city uses for rentals, possibly similar to how they rent our soccer fields or the pool and ice rink," she said.

MLs:

Continued from page 1

Vleimir Brito Puello, a freshman ML student originally from the Dominican Republic, said that it is sometimes hard to understand the instructions coming from the teacher, but that this fact also depends on the teacher.

"It's not difficult every time, but there are many times that it is hard to understand the classes," he said. "But it also depends on the teacher too."

To overcome the difference in language, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has outlined three programs for instructing ML students. Haverhill utilizes only one of these programs, called Sheltered English Immersion. SEI is instruction solely done in English, with an emphasis on visuals to mimic the language acquisition process of young children.

Beyond the classroom, many ML students face difficulties socially and culturally. Joining clubs is often difficult for MLs, as they find it difficult to interact in their non-native language. In addition, advertisements for clubs and events are almost exclusively in English, and sometimes depend on prior knowledge about the school that new MLs may lack. Moreover, some cultural aspects of American schools might not translate.

Nicoletta Filimon, Director of the Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education Program (SLIFE) shares a story of her students finding difficulties with the individualistic

nature of American schoolwork.

"One time I gave my students a test and they began talking to each other and helping each other. I said 'No, this is a test, it's individual work,'" she said. "They didn't understand that because they come from cultures that are more communal, but the United States is more individualistic."

To help Spanish-speaking MLs (the greatest portion of the multilingual population) feel more comfortable and to help them integrate into Haverhill High, Eridania Nieves created the RISE club, an organization focused on community. The RISE club holds activities in the mall area of the high school after school, runs fundraisers, such as empanada sales, and goes on field trips. They provide after-school meetings with adjustment counselors and guidance counselors for ML students.

Janelle Alexandra Vasquez Nieves, a sophomore member of the RISE club, describes the benefits of her joining the RISE club, from an improvement in grades and English fluency to a sense of community in a new country.

"My grades are higher because I do work with them, and my English has gotten better because we get to practice at the club," Janelle said. "I like it because I'm with my friends and we get to do activities like painting. I feel more confident when I'm in this group."

However, some say more needs to be done to

better help ML students feel comfortable at Haverhill High. Assemblies are often only given in English, meaning students who do not speak English may miss out on that information.

Lisa Anderman, a history teacher for ML students, tells of a time last year when her students were unable to understand a drunk driving assembly because the information was not translated.

"Before Junior prom they held an assembly about drinking and driving and its consequences," Ms. Anderman said. "I brought my class down and it was not translated for them at all, but there was some really good information that they didn't know because they aren't familiar with the laws of America. It's a shame that the school didn't think ahead."

Ms. Anderman proposed that the ML students could wear headphones so that they could receive the information while a translator quietly speaks into a microphone.

Ms. Nieves says that the change starts with nurturing a supportive community that inspires everyone.

"We all have to make that comforting space," she said. "I love being able to make the kids feel heard, that they belong, because I remember that feeling of not being heard, of not belonging. I can only hold so many kids in RISE, so everyone needs to be doing their part. That way the kids are free to be their most capable selves, and they can just shine."

POWDERPUFF:

Continued from page 1



Photo courtesy of David Martinez

But as awesome as it was to win, going along with the spirit of the game, they noted that the camaraderie of the event was the best part.

"I enjoyed bonding with a fantastic group of people,"

said Nick Wilson. Ava Votto also noted that one of the best parts of playing the game is being able to do it with friends.

"It was awesome playing back to back year

with all my friends, and especially winning both years we played it," Ava said. "It was such a fun and competitive experience."

Next year, the Class of 2025 is going to look to re-

deem itself as seniors as they look to show the Class of 2026 who rules the school.

"I think they'll win next year because I know they'll execute better next year," said Nick Wilson, noting there is plenty of athletic talent on the junior team. "I was especially impressed with Fran Purdy."

Looking into next year, the annual Powderpuff Game is a fun experience, either as a player or just playing the game. There was a great turnout, as the Student Council raised about \$800, according to advisors.



Photo courtesy of David Martinez

Stolen parking spots frustrate staff, students

By Emily Fusco

Haverhill-The Haverhill High parking lots are beginning to resemble a game of musical chairs, especially when after the 7:25 bell.

Over the 2023-2024 school year the frustrations surrounding parking arrangements have been building at the high school. There have been many complaints from students and faculty regarding spot stealing, and people not parking in their assigned lots.

While students have not been shy to voice their frustrations to staff at the school, issues regarding parking can not be fixed if not reported to administration. Many students have complained about people being parked in their assigned spot when they come in late for school, as well as how far away the spots are from the main en-

trance.

Victoria Lu, associate principal of Haverhill High School, advises students to always report when there is a car parked in an assigned spot they shouldn't be in.

"We can't address behaviors if we don't confront the person," she said.

There are three lots that have designated spots for students that are located near the M and F wings, as well as next to the tennis court. The two lots located at the very front of the high school are 100-percent staff parking.

In an email sent out in April, administration called the school community's attention to the parking issue. In the email, staff and students were told, "As you know, illegally parked vehicles are becoming an issue on campus, which is turning

into a safety concern for all. We have received numerous complaints from staff, students and visitors, however there is enough parking if everyone parks where they should."

Along with telling staff to have their placards visible, students were told not to bring unregistered vehicles to campus and not to park out front of the main office during school hours in the A or B Lot, noting this also applies to Early College students.

Additionally, students and staff were told to be mindful of the parking signs.

The email read: "If a spot has a sign reserved for specific staff and visitors, please do not park there. Do not park in any reserved spots or handicap spots, or make your own spot (i.e.

parking at the end of a lined row, next to a sidewalk, on the grass or dirt). Emergency vehicles must be able to access our roads and parking lots as well as other vehicles must be able to maneuver safely."

It is known school wide that after the 7:25 a.m. bell rings, all doors to enter the school will lock and any late students must enter through the main office. This has become a very controversial rule that has left many students unhappy as the student lots are located a fair distance away from the main entrance.

Spot stealing is most common when students come in late. Someone will have parked in their spot and now they must park either farther away from the main entrance or resort to taking a

spot in the teacher lots. The distance between student parking and the main office is significant enough for students to most likely just take a teacher's spot or another student's.

Many students feel the spot stealing would subside if they could enter through the doors closest to where their assigned spot is.

Caroline Madden, a senior in the Early College program, noted the distance between the lot and the front entrance.

"It wouldn't be bad if you could get in through other doors," she said.

Fellow senior Ava Votto also shared the annoyances she among other students most likely have with parking.

"It's annoying to have to walk around the whole

school, especially when it's cold," she said. "It makes you like 10 more minutes late."

The parking procedures are so important to staff because they want to keep all students and themselves safe, according to the administration. A car cannot claim an assigned spot if the driver does not have a permit and if the car is not registered with the school. This becomes a safety issue as the car cannot be identified by the school and security personnel will not know who the person is or if they even attend the school.

Ms. Lu asked: "If we just left it open to everybody and people who didn't have permits brought their cars, like how are we going to ensure we have enough [parking spots] to go around?"

OPINION: If you want us to be on time, extend passing periods

By Emma Serverius

Haverhill-Have some sympathy for the A-Wing students racing to the 200's: Increase passing times.

I think we're all a little too familiar with the sluggish hallway traffic. Herds of students, sometimes completely at a halt, clutter the hallways, costing precious minutes.

At Haverhill High, we have a passing period of around five minutes. In an ideal world, this would be the perfect amount of time to get to our classes, but with a fast climbing population of students, traversing the hallways seems to become more daunting every year.

In a series of experiments, I've deduced that it takes, on average, 6 minutes and 45 seconds to get from the 200s to the A wing with hallway traffic (not to mention, I am a pretty speedy walker). This data means that students crossing from one end of the school to the other is, on average, 2 minutes late for their class.

Now this may not seem

like that big of a deal in the grand scheme of things, however, for someone who takes AP classes and subsequently AP level tests, those precious minutes could make a huge difference. But even non-AP students said they could benefit from a longer passing period.

"Those 2 minutes would give me time to prepare for the class and to go to the bathroom," said Breanyce Flete, a Junior at Haverhill High. "Even when I'm going from the Cafeteria to the A wing, I'm still late"

A huge factor impacting the ability to get to class on time is the amount of students in the halls. Even if the hallways are full of dedicated scholars who want to get to class on time, when you're shoulder to shoulder with other people in the hallway, you can only go so fast.

"I can't get to the opposite side of the school in time because the amount of people interferes with how fast I can walk," said Flete.

Another effect of short passing periods is the need to pack up during class time. Because we only have 5 traffic-ridden minutes to get to our next class, many students feel the need to start packing up at 9:05, even if the bell rings at 9:08.

Just because we are in class, doesn't mean it's in-class-time.

A large blockade in the lengthening of passing periods is the teachers' contract, which states a clear end-of-day time at 2:05 p.m.

We are going back to the drawing board for next year's schedule with a waterfall style of classes. Details are still being worked out, but this new schedule gives us 5 passing periods. Adding just 2 minutes to each passing period would not be that big of an issue, in my opinion, leaving the last bell at 2:15 p.m.

Most people don't leave the school grounds until 2:15 or so anyway, so these 10 short minutes would not real-

ly affect people's after-school plans. What it would affect, though, in a good way, is the ability to get to class on time.

"I think a good amount of students would be benefited by longer passing periods, especially those who have to cross the school to get to their next class," said Flete.

Ultimately, it doesn't look like this is a problem on its way to being resolved. I interviewed Principal Michael Downs, as well as Associate Principal Victoria Lu about the possibility of lengthening passing periods, and it seems very unlikely to happen.

Mr. Downs noted the need to log a certain number of hours of class time.

"We can't really extend those times... During the school year we have to have 990 hours of class time," Mr. Downs explained. "And if we lose all those hours, then we can't do half-days and things like that."

When asked about extending passing periods by

2 minutes, he noted that the contract with the teachers' union prevents it.

"I can't do that [extend the last bell] because that is negotiated with the teacher's contract," he said. "So 7:25 to 2:05 is the only amount of time I have to work with."

Ms. Lu explained the same idea of having set times to work with, in terms of mandated hours and contracts.

"Has it been brought up before? Sure. Do we know that there are challenges? Absolutely," she said. "But at the same time I think that there is a general understanding among staff and a lot of alumni that if a student is really focused on getting to their class on time, then they're going to find a way to get to their class on time."

"It's really the students that are not prioritizing prompt attendance that are the ones who are chronically late," she added.

While Mr. Downs and Ms. Lu give reasonable rea-

sons for the unlikelihood of any changes, I still feel that increasing passing times should be debated, and that the teachers' union would reconsider its stance on future contracts if students speak up.

Fellow students, what do you think? Is there enough time for you to get from one class to the other or could you use the extra time? As it stands right now, there doesn't seem to be any upcoming changes, but it seems as if being late due to short passing periods has been a silent struggle for many students.

So, if you want to increase passing times, make your voice heard by reaching out to Student Council members or in your conversations with administration and teachers. Chances are that change won't come anytime soon, but if you speak with a loud enough voice, future Hillies going from Art to English will thank you.

WE BARELY KNEW YE' CLASS OF '24

Brown & Gold to Crimson

Mason Holmes is first HHS grad to attend Harvard since 2016

By Meg Gardner

Haverhill—"Ivy Day" has just recently passed on March 28. Students everywhere received their admission decisions from the most renowned schools in America. In the small city of Haverhill, one student in particular was overjoyed on this year's "Ivy Day."

Mason Holmes is a senior at Haverhill High School that was recently admitted to Johns Hopkins University, Dartmouth College, and his top choice Harvard College—the undergraduate program at the prestigious Harvard University. Harvard only accepted approximately 5 percent of their 54,000 applicants, and an outstanding Hillie was one of them.

This accomplishment was not just dumb luck, Mason has been a hard-working and dedicated student since he stepped into this school in 2020.

"I've always been in Honors classes, since freshman year," Mason said. "I doubled up in math for two years so that by senior year I could take a level of math class that those top schools look for."

Mason will graduate with 9 Advanced Placement courses and a 3.99 grade point average. So he is clearly an exceptional student. However, Harvard looks for more than just outstanding academic statistics.

Outside of the classroom, Mason is also active in the Hillie community.

"Since freshman year, I've been an active member of Model UN," Mason said. "I was class president freshman year, secretary sophomore year, and the past two years I had been a member of the Student Council."

Mason also is a member of Haverhill High School's National Honor Society and the captain of the Haverhill High School boys varsity volleyball team. In addition, he



manages the Haverhill High School girls volleyball team in the fall and participates in club volleyball in the winter at Mill City Volleyball Club in Lowell.

Mason seemingly was all Harvard and other Ivy League schools could want. However, he was still hesitant initially.

"No one in my family has ever been to a top school, no one in my four years of high school has really gone to an Ivy League school," Mason explained. "I know I'm a good student but I know there are also a lot of good students who apply there, so I kind of just applied [to Harvard] as a sense of closure and to know that at least I tried. And luckily I got in!"

Mason is the first student to attend Harvard from Haverhill since Class of 2016.

When it came to applying to schools earlier this year, Holmes was prepared for anything.

"When I was creating my college list, I tried to create an even spread of safety, target, and then reach schools," he shared.

Mason got into schools of all different kinds from all across the map, including Purdue University, Ohio State University, and of

course—Harvard.

There was a lot to take away from this year's college admissions process for Mason.

"I think my biggest takeaway was the worst thing they can say is no and the worst thing that could happen is you get rejected. So to me, the amount of time you spend filling out that application compared to the chances of attending that university is so worth it," Mason said.

Mason also shared some insight into the financial aspects of these Ivy League and highly competitive private schools.

"[These schools] have huge endowments and most of them do not give merit-based scholarships," he said. "They just give 100-percent needs-based scholarships, which you obviously don't have to pay back."

When it comes to where he wants to end up after college, Mason is still undecided. However, luckily, Harvard is fantastic for undecided students. A student's first two years at the university includes primarily liberal arts classes.

"That's something that I was really looking for, and it allows me to discover new things. As someone who doesn't know what I want to do, that's really helpful," Mason said.

As of right now, Mason plans to study integrative biology and computer science and might possibly go on the pre-medical track.

When reflecting on how his college journey is looking now, Holmes shared some advice to his younger self.

"It's all going to pay off. It all works out!" he said.

Mason is setting the bar high for Haverhill students. Yet, he's also showing everyone what a Hillie can do. This is just the beginning of the bright future Mason Holmes has in front of him.

As Hillie grads prepare to take the stage to receive their diplomas and embark upon the next chapter of their promising lives, Brown & Gold tried to catch up with a few familiar faces for one final goodbye.

Interviewed by Makenzie Hillsgrove



"Throughout high school I have made some of the best memories with friends including going to football games, hockey games, fall fest, the homecoming dance, social/prom and many other events! Being able to support teams at their games/meets was always fun with friends. Participating in spirit week and being able to paint our parking spots are more of some of the amazing memories I have made. I am grateful to all of my friends for making my high school experience so unforgettable."

-Keira Bushey,
UMass Dartmouth



"I got a lot of great memories out of high school, such as beating Methuen 8-6 at our home opener for girl's lacrosse last year. I've also learned a lot of new skills from the teachers in the A-Wing, such as ceramics, jewelry, and photography. I feel like I have grown a lot these past four years and I am so glad I got to experience high school the way I did!"

-Brenna Corcoran,
UMass Lowell



"High school, especially in Haverhill was a time I will never forget. There was never a week where we didn't have a stay in place, fight, or a pulled fire alarm. Every day was something new, but my friends and I always had a good laugh regardless of what it was. But, I will say that I looked forward to lunch every day, that's where everything went down. It was finally time for us to distract ourselves from our classes, and hang out with the people who made high school the most memorable, our friends."

-James Cassell,
NECCO



"It's hard to say which memory from high school is my favorite because I have so many. But my most memorable times are definitely all of the sporting events and the amount of school spirit that would radiate from the crowd. I remember showing up to football games and seeing the entire bleachers filled from bottom to top, everyone matching a certain theme. It could be the most insane theme, but somehow the student section would still pull it off. I remember one girls soccer game when the student section had to be kicked out because they still cheered on from the gates outside. The support was just so amazing and unconditional at every event, win or loss!"

-Shayla Igoe,
Class President,
UMass Amherst



"I want to especially thank some of my teachers like Cody Kucker and Marc Harvey, they were like second father figures to me. But there was also a sports aspect to Haverhill High, for me, it was soccer. The team this year in particular taught me to put others before myself. Especially going into my sophomore and freshman years, I only cared about how I did—and after being named captain, I understood that it was more than just about myself, but rather the team and their performance."

-Stephane Fevry,
Salem State



"I learned how to manage my time more efficiently. In middle school, it's not stressful at all, you barely have any work. Especially coming here and it being my first year, I was shocked with the amount of work that I had. I was able to take AP classes, it was chaotic to learn at first but eventually I got into the groove of it and that's definitely a really helpful school for me moving forward. I also think Haverhill High is good for anyone just because of the sheer amount of opportunities I had, like band, and other things I wasn't able to do at my other schools."

-Jorie McIrvine,
Rochester Institute of
Technology

Oh! The Places They Will Go!

Class of 2024 features diverse post-graduation plans

By Ava Vasquez

Haverhill—Class of 2024! Graduation is almost here! The time we have all been waiting for since we took our first steps into kindergarten... 2024 seemed so far away then, but it's finally here! I think it's time to take stock of our accomplishments.

A "two-week" break in eighth grade has led us here. From being asked to "put your cameras on" to being asked "put your caps on," the Class of 2024 is graduating! But did you know we have students going all across the country?

We have students going to Florida: the University of Miami, Florida Atlantic University and Saint Leo University. We have some students in the Carolinas: future Gamecocks at the University of South Carolina. Some are headed to the west coast to places like USC and the University of Washington.

And of course we have many students staying in Massachusetts. Lots of the UMasses, along with Brandeis, Endicott, Fitchburg State, Holy Cross, Merrimack, Nichols, Northeastern, Plymouth State University, Salem State, Tufts University, Westfield State and many more.

The other New England states are represented with Hillies heading to the Colby Sawyer in New Hampshire, the University of Maine, the University of New Hampshire, the University of Rhode Island, and Roger Williams University, which is also in Rhode Island.

As for other college

choices that stood out, Emily Fusco is going to the Boston Conservatory at Berklee to study Contemporary Dance; Mason Holmes will be attending Harvard; and Nata Vigo Catala is going to Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Every year, there are a handful of students that commit to the military. One senior, Sam Harisson, is already enlisted in the Marines. He joins the U.S. Marine Corps to become a combat engineer.

Thessalea Churinske, dean of the English Department, celebrated the highlights for the class of 2024.

"While every college acceptance is exciting in its own way, I think the class of 2024 is going to some of the most exciting schools HHS has seen in a long time," she said. "These are really prestigious, and really far away! I think it's really exciting to see this class branch out so far. For a class that started high school in the middle of a global pandemic, you have come such a long way and I can't wait to see where your lives will take you."

Assistant Principal Nelly Garcia-Santana, who worked with seniors this year, pointed out the challenges the class of 2024 faced.

"This class has survived having several different administrators guiding them, so the fact that they've been able to adapt and really develop coping skills and people skills to deal with all of these different personalities that they've had shows

they're very adaptable," she said. "Reaching this point where they can graduate and go out and either work or go to school is a big accomplishment."

Ms. Garcia-Santana also pointed out the accomplishments of the ROTC.

"They've been very successful in all their competitions, they represented the school, they are known throughout the United States, they represent us, I think that's exciting," she said.

"One thing I do see in this class is very diverse. We have students who are going to Ivy League schools, or going to work, and going to trade school," Ms. Garcia-Santana added. "They're very aware of who they are. I'm excited to see how they do and hear about what they've done"

According to Ms. Garcia-Santana, three words describing the Class of 2024 is "strong, resilient, and spicy" or better described as "self-advocating."

"They're goal-oriented, they know what they want," she said.

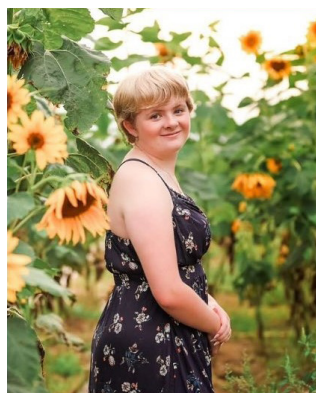
As we wrap up this chapter of our life (and this article!) staying connected is going to be our next responsibility. Whether you're staying in Haverhill or moving, remember: "Once a Hillie always a Hillie!"

Graduation starts at 6 p.m. at Trinity Stadium on May 31. A difference this year is that there will be two APs reading names, which Associate Principal Victoria Lu said is to "move that part of the ceremony along a little bit faster."



"My favorite memory was definitely my experiences in theater. I had loads of fun, got to make lots of friends, and I got to perform—which is something I love doing!"

-Hannah Minnis,
Valedictorian,
Roger Williams University



"One of my favorite memories was our Junior social. A bunch of my friends, and even some people I never met before, all started dancing and partying together. It was a really fun and crazy night, one I won't ever forget."

-Vashti Jean-Charles,
UMass Boston



"I learned how to appreciate and love high school. Especially at Haverhill High, there are so many different cultures, people, and more. Here, I was able to play football for all four years and manage the baseball team. I will forever be grateful to the people I met here, like my coaches, friends, teammates and teachers."

-Nick Wilson,
Nichols College



Journalism starts with heart.

It's a privilege to be part of a community that looks out for one another and lifts each other up when needed. At Pentucket Bank, we're proud to support the Haverhill High School Brown & Gold newspaper. Thank you for showing us passion in action—and what students can accomplish when we all pitch in.



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