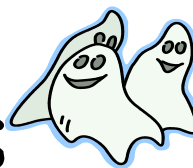




Ghost Notes



November, 2018

SENIORS

The Class of 2019 is looking forward to the many exciting events that take place during senior year at Abington Senior High School. We wish good luck to all of the students and staff members taking part in athletics and activities during the coming months. I am hopeful that each student continues to raise their academic efforts and strive to achieve to the best of their individual ability. I also encourage each student to pay close attention to their class requirements and know that attendance and effort are keys to success in any academic endeavor. I am also asking each member of the Class of 2019 to make a concerted effort to arrive at each class on time and ready to be an active participant in each lesson. Lastly, I want to take a moment to wish good luck to all of the students who are currently applying for admission to post high school programs. There are many great things ahead for this amazing group of young adults. Go Ghosts!

JUNIORS

The Class of 2020 officers this year are Joey Nolan, President, Courtney Kehoe, Vice President, Heidi Van Buren, Treasurer, and Rachel Oh, Secretary. We have been busy fundraising. We have held three successful fundraisers to date. Our first was with the Riviera De Italia, followed by a Sprinkles Ice Cream Event, and lastly a Claire's Gourmet fundraiser. Next up will be a Pur Vida Bracelet Sale and a Chipotle fundraiser on December 4th. We also still have pop sockets and Class of 2020 t-shirts available for purchase. The next class council meeting is Tuesday, November 20th before school. We are meeting in the library and all Juniors are welcome to join us.

SOPHOMORES

The Class of 2021 has demonstrated a commitment to their education and future goals. I have had the pleasure of speaking to many members of the student body in the Class of 2021, and I have learned that the students are goal-oriented and want to contribute to the culture and climate of inclusiveness and acceptance. Students should be diligent in attending school daily and being on time for classes. It is also important that the students continue to develop soft skills and navigate high school life in a way that is conducive to their future plans.

GUIDANCE

For our sophomore and junior students, the second marking period brings PSAT score reports from the College Board. All students who completed the PSAT in October will receive a score report in January. These scores will provide valuable college readiness information, and the reports will describe student performance in great detail. For our senior students, application and notification deadlines are rapidly approaching. Any college application materials that need to be submitted prior to Winter Break must be delivered to the counselor no later than December 7, 2018. Did you know that ASHS students have access to a free online and discounted classroom-based SAT/ACT program? For more details, visit: <http://www.abington.k12.pa.us/shs/our-school/guidance-department/kaplan/>.

If you are concerned about your student's personal or social/emotional well-being, the following services and programs are available:

- Student Assistance Program (SAP)
- One to one screenings for referred students
- Brief Intervention Therapy Services
- Mentorship programs
- Student support groups
- School Based Outpatient Counseling

Please do not hesitate to contact our Guidance Department at 215-517-2800 x2365 with any questions or concerns.

ENGLISH

As the first marking period of the 2018-2019 school year comes to a close, the English Department of Abington Senior High School is hard at work providing our students with knowledge, progress, and possibilities. Seniors have worked hard to write and revise their college essays, while Sophomores are working on the focus and organization of their essays. The AP Capstone course taught by Mr. Simmons is off to a great start. Students are currently working on performance Task 1, which asks groups of students to identify a problem and research potential solutions to that issue looking through specific lenses. This task will culminate with a group presentation. The Fall Play, "Arsenic and Old Lace" opens on Thursday, November 15, and Ms. Caiazzo and students have been hard at work since September creating what will be a memorable event. Mr. Quigley and the Abingtonian just published the second newspaper of the year, headlining the retirement of Dr. Amy F Sichel, while the Leo Club and Build on, sponsored by Ms. Katz and Mr. Hunt, respectively, are hard at work on serving the community. Clearly, the English Department is hard at work, providing the best for our students. We would like to thank the community and the Administration, as well as the faculty and staff, and we look forward to a productive second marking period.

ART

Students in National Art Honor Society and Art II Major are participating in Kids Care 25, a collaboration between the Woodmere Art Museum and MANNA. Forty-six works of art that focus on the subject: Places and Spaces, were donated and will be given to a person who is homebound due to illness. The works of art were inspired by the current exhibit "The Pennsylvania Landscape in Impressionism and Contemporary Art". Student works of art will be on view at the Woodmere from November 3 – December 16, 2018. There will be a reception on Sunday, December 9, 2018 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. where many students, their family members, friends, and teachers will celebrate their hard work and amazing talent. <http://woodmereartmuseum.org/helen-millard-childrens-gallery/>

The National Art Honor Society created and donated ceramic bowls for Arcadia University's Empty Bowl Benefit. Arcadia University hosts an annual Empty Bowl Benefit Dinner where people come together in the Castle at Arcadia to share a soup and bread meal. All proceeds benefited two agencies that work to help the hungry and homeless. This year the event was held on Monday November 12, 2018.

On Thursday, October 11, 2018 the Art III Major and Honors Art students went to the Barnes Foundation to view Post-Impressionist, Early Modernist, and African works of art that they are studying in their art courses.

On Sunday November 5, 2018 Tyler School of Art hosted the National Portfolio Day at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. This is an event where colleges and universities from all over the US have representatives reviewing student portfolios. In the past, many of the Abington students had the portfolio part of their college application accepted based on the quality of their portfolio. Some of the students were also given applications for scholarships.

The Art II and Art III Major students will go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on Friday December 7, 2018 and they will view works of art that they are currently studying in the Art History portion of their art major course.

ATHLETICS

The Galloping Ghosts Field Hockey team earned a berth to the District 1 playoffs for the second consecutive season with a 11-7 season. In the First Round, Abington lost to Council Rock South on Monday, October 22, 2018.

With their 21-3 record, Abington Boys Soccer won the Suburban One League American Conference Championship, advanced to the District 1 Class AAAA Championship game, and played in the PIAA Class AAAA Quarterfinals.

Girls Soccer finished the regular season with a 15-3 record and won their first League Championship since 1992. The team earned a bye for the First Round of the District 1 Class AAAA playoffs. Under the lights of Schwarzman Stadium, Abington defeated Central Bucks South as they advanced to the District 1 quarterfinals.

Congratulations to not only these team members but also all Fall sports student-athletes on their hard work!

Lastly, on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, the ASHS Athletic Department and Administration recognized and celebrated our student-athletes' accomplishments as ten senior student-athletes signed National Letters of Intent for scholarships at Division One and Two schools. The following students are signees for the Class of 2019: Matthew Bonnell – Swimming to University of Pennsylvania, Kassondra Brown – Basketball to University of Rhode Island, Eric Dixon – Basketball to Villanova University, Kaley Ehnou – Lacrosse to Elon University, Sam Henninger – Diving to LaSalle University, Anna Joseph – Lacrosse to East Carolina University, Camryn Lexow – Soccer to University of Virginia, Jamira Mashore – Lacrosse to Winthrop University, Lucas Monroe – Basketball to University of Pennsylvania, and Griffin Wittenberg – Baseball to Jefferson University.

SCIENCE

The robotics class is gearing up for the 15th annual Greater Philadelphia Sea Perch competition. This year the ROVs have to attach mines to a battleship and detonate them to sink the battleship. Five teams are competing for one spot to represent Abington at Temple University in March.

The Society of Women Engineers is heading for the second round of the Zero Robotics 3D coding challenge to rescue a damaged satellite from orbital debris.



Ghost Notes



November, 2018

MATHEMATICS

Students who enjoy challenging math questions and problem solving should consider joining The Math Club. This enthusiastic group of students competes in multiple leagues each year. Interested students should see Mr. Tinney in room 113, Mr. Wenders in room 204 or Mr. Rizzuto in room 209.

Tip for Math Success: If you are absent or having difficulty with a math concept, there are many helpful teaching videos online. The Khan Academy website (www.khanacademy.com) includes instruction and worked out examples on most high school math topics. There are also excellent videos on Youtube. If you search the topic name on YouTube, many titles will be available. You may want to sort by view count or rating as a starting point. Note the teachers who you find helpful, so you can search for more online lessons by them as you progress in your class.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Abington Senior High School's Health program started with a sense of great anticipation for our seniors as they began a wellness journey that will lead them into the next big phase in their lives, "Life after High School." Our Health curriculum is designed to provide information that will help our seniors make complex decisions that will impact their future in a positive way. One of our "curricular goals" is for our seniors to learn how to identify stressors and deal with them in a healthy manner. One of the most stressful times in a senior's life can be the college application process. In response to this stressor, every class had a member of our guidance department spend a period walking them through the process. Additionally, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is raising awareness and changing perceptions of mental health conditions with their "Ending the Silence" presentation in all health classes.

The Physical Education program provides students with the opportunity to select activities that align with their interests. This has allowed us to further our mission by encouraging healthy and active lifestyles through a variety of activities. Sound body, sound mind, is our mantra as we look to support cross curricular endeavors moving forward. In striving to achieve this goal, students are exploring and engaging in an assortment of indoor lifetime fitness activities as we move indoors for the winter months. Aquatics and Aerobics have students working hard to achieve personal fitness goals while Kan Jam has been an emerging activity in the Fall Sports course. We are continually looking for opportunities to meet the ever changing fitness needs and activity preferences of our student population.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies Department is off to a tremendous start for the 2018-2019 school year. Students have had the opportunity to participate in many unique and engaging projects and activities in each of their classes. Members of the social studies department created lessons and activities to commemorate 9/11 and Constitution Day and they shared special lessons in honor of Veterans Day. In anticipation of the General Election on November 7th, voter registration links were made available to all students who were eligible to vote this year. During the week leading up to Non-Violent Conflict Resolution week, the Social Studies Department conducted special civics lessons and a Mock Election featuring state and federal elections. All of the results from both the Mock Election and the General Election on November 6th were made available to students through their Social Studies teachers. As part of our *No Place For Hate* initiative students in 10th and 11th grade classes participated in curriculum-based activities that addressed the issues of bigotry and racism, and advocated tolerance and embracing diversity. Our Advanced Placement Government classes welcomed Montgomery County Commissioner, Ken Lawrence, who spoke to the students about local government and shared information about becoming poll workers for the county Election Commission. In the area of extra-curricular activities, students had the opportunity to elect officers for the class of 2021 as well as student council representatives. Our World Affairs Club, Psychology Club, Model U.N. Club and our newly-created NAMI club are up and running and are planning a number of trips and activities throughout the year including Start with Hello week during the first week of school and a "We Belong" campaign to promote inclusiveness in our school community.

WORLD LANGUAGE

The staff of the World Language Department is excited to share their wealth of cultural knowledge with our students. The true experience of studying a new language is the understanding of the history that helped to develop that language and how it's used in the world today. Please make an effort to invest yourselves in your classes by completing assignments and participating in classroom discussions. We encourage all of our students to embrace their opportunities for growth both academically and socially.

BUSINESS

For a number of years now some of the computer science students at Abington have participated in hackathons all over the country. These students have gone on their own, not as a school trip.

This year we decided to form a school trip to attend a hackathon. We attended EastHacks, a student-run hackathon in the South Jersey area for high school students, hosted by members of Cherry Hill High School East's Women in Science Organization. As defined by techopedia.com, a hackathon is a gathering where programmers collaboratively code in an extreme manner over a short period of time. For 24 hours, over 200 participants learned about technology, competed in coding competitions, and met up/make friends. Twenty-four of our own Abington students attended and had a great time.

Our Mock Trial team has begun its season preparing for the Pennsylvania Bar Association Mock Trial competition. This year's case, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Rae Shafer, is a criminal case to determine whether the defendant is guilty of illegal prescribing that lead to death.

Our Accounting students who are enrolled in the Dual Enrollment program with Gwynedd Mercy University recently participated in Dual Enrollment Day where students come to campus to network and learn from different business professionals.

Our Future Business Leaders chapter has begun its competitive season. Students have begun preparing for exams and creating projects in all areas of business administration and areas of technology.

Our Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles students participated in the Spotted Lanternfly Hackathon, a STEM-related initiative that invites students in grades 9-12 to design an app to easily track, detect, identify and access information about the invasive species.

We have developed a new Library website providing user friendly access to our vast variety of resources for students and staff. Please visit our page at <https://ashslibrary.weebly.com/>. Don't forget to try out the Destiny Discover app. All of our digital content including e-books, audiobooks, and tailor made collections for a variety of topics are available on your mobile device or computer. A reminder for those who would like access to higher level resources, Abington students can access the Penn State Library at the Abington campus. Please contact Ms. Summers or Mrs. Garecht if you are interested.

Classes have been participating in Breakout Room activities across content areas in the library, we love challenging students to problem solve and think critically. Students are enjoying our new Creation Station area, which is loaded with puzzles, mindful coloring options, origami, and board games. We plan to continue to grow this area to provide students access to an area that promotes outside the box thinking of all kinds!

Our Reading Olympic teams are preparing for our upcoming competition on April 9. We have 4 teams so far and we welcome new students to join. Our next meeting is Monday, November 26 after school in the library. Students who love to read should look for our upcoming lunchtime book club discussions. Next up is a discussion of *Dread Nation* by Justina Ireland on December 12. Interested students should sign up in the library or on the library home page.



Ghost Notes



November, 2018

MUSIC

The ASHS Music department, as usual, has had a busy first quarter.

The Marching Ghosts began performance operations in August and have been representing Abington at football games and in contests both locally and regionally with their 2018 field show "DOUBLE AGENT". On Halloween Weekend the Marching Ghosts hosted thirteen visiting bands for the 14th Bands in the Boneyard competition which, due to weather conditions, was held indoors for the first time. The marching season ended on Saturday, November 10th with the Cavalcade of Bands Yankee A Class Championship in Hershey, PA. The Marching Ghosts placed 2nd and won caption awards for "Best Visual Performance," "Best Color Guard," "Best Percussion" and "Most Improved Score."

As the final notes of marching season echo in the distance, the indoor season begins with the Abington Indoor Guard and Abington Indoor Percussion starting rehearsals on November 26.

On Friday, November 2, 2018, thirty-one string students represented Abington Senior High School in the Montgomery County Honors String Orchestra concert performance at North Penn High School. Under the direction of Dr. Timothy Schwartz, an Abington alumnus, as well as Assistant Professor and Head of Strings at Rowan University, the string orchestra was comprised of students from ten different high schools throughout Montgomery County. In addition, the strings students also performed at the Honor Society Induction on November 1, 2018. Likewise, ten of our string students were invited to perform at the award-winning 2018 Re-Imagine Luncheon on October 26, for over 600 guests, which included Montgomery County Commissioners, Josh Shapiro, the Attorney General of Pennsylvania, and other guest speakers at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks in King of Prussia.

As the 1st quarter is wrapping up, the Choral Department is busy preparing for the Winter Concert season. Select Choir will be singing at different places out in the Abington Community, as well as combining with the other ensembles to give the annual Winter Concert on December 19th at 7:00 in the Auditorium. Musical auditions for *Sister Act* are also coming up on December 4-6, with rehearsals starting on Friday December 7th.

Aside from seasonal performances, November and December are "Audition Time". The All-School Musical will hold auditions starting December 4. This year we are happy to be presenting *Sister Act*. Contact Mr. Myers for more information. The ASHS Jazz Band will begin rehearsals on November 27 as they look toward an active 2019 performance season. The Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 11 Band, Orchestra and Chorus auditions are being held between November 17th and December 8th. This is the first step in the All-State selection process. As 2019 approaches, the ASHS music department will be sending students out to participate in various PMEA ensembles.

There are many ways for students to be involved in the music department – please don't miss out!