

take a peek



# The Madrigal Season is Upon

*The royals have returned!*

by Abby Jamison

Once again, the Madrigals are back and better than ever.

In case any of you are unaware of who the Madrigals are, they are a group of amazing vocalists, from all different grade levels, who have several different events during the winter where they sing medieval carols to all who attend the concerts. These talented students are led by Mr. Erikson.

For these dinner events, the students are dressed in medieval attire so they not only sound the part, but look the part. The costumes are always gorgeous and elegant making each person look magical in his or her own way. The dinners also feature the Troubadour and Beggar Ensemble and the Madrigal Orchestra.

Not only is this group extremely talented, but they are also very hard-working. Though they perform for all to see during the winter season, they are working on their pieces months in advance. The auditions were held in August to determine who would be selected for this group. Additionally, they

are rehearsing for hours each week to ensure that they will give the best performance possible.

Junior Keegan Moore explains that his favorite part of being in Madrigals is, "the environment. We are able to work together really well. And sure we don't get along all the time but we all laugh and have fun, sing and get a lot of work done."

In addition to hosting dinners, the Madrigals also go on school visits. Before Thanksgiving break, they went to every elementary school in the district and performed for all the excited kids. It's a magical experience for the elementary students because it is something they may have never witnessed before.

Gaelle Moevi, a first year Madrigal member, explains that she is most excited "about being with the people. Singing can be stressful but the people that you do it with genuinely make or break it because it's like a family. When you are with this group of people, they will always encourage the best out of you and that's what makes this program so amazing."

Though they put in work for months, the days they perform are limited. Make sure you catch one of their performances soon. On December 13th and 14th, there are dinners being held at NIU. This is a perfect time to catch a glimpse of this talented group! I promise you will not be disappointed.



*The Madrigals performing for Jefferson Elementary School!  
Jefferson Elementary School*

# Why Respect is important

*Be kind today*

by Alexa Schultz

At DHS, we have important rules. These rules are expected to be followed and taken seriously for safety reasons. A few questions to ask yourself, are you taking it seriously? Are you respecting others? Are you yourself?

Respect is an important part of an environment. It helps others feel better and it gives a good feeling for the environment. People receiving respect from others is important because it helps everyone to feel safe and to express ourselves. Respect means that you accept somebody for who they are, even when they're different from you or you don't agree with them. Respect in your relationships builds feelings of trust, safety, and wellbeing. Which respect comes with a lot of things. If you have a friend, your kind of respect to give to them is the kindness and the loyalty that comes with a friendship.

Bullying here at DHS should not be a problem, but sometimes people just don't respect each other because of differences or drama. And having differences comes with everyone,

Respect in school gives practice for respect in life. When you respect yourself, you can give respect. When you give respect, it comes back to you. This is called being a respectful person and a healthy one that respects others that surround you. That is when you learn from others and learn about life because you are available to see life for what it is.

If you do not respect yourself you are staying a victim in a shell of fear. The fear stops learning, as you are in survival mode. When you are in survival you are not open to reality and what it has to offer.

DHS teaches maturity and growing up if you can accept what they have to offer. Teachers also teach through that

what you do in life is important and how to build up your future and how important it is to keep up with what you do and why not to slack off. Respecting your peers and your work is also important to do because it shows that you are putting further effort into what you're doing and what you are going to decide to do in life and after high school.

DHS also teaches the skill of not only to respect people around you, but also the environment around you, because also handling objects around you with care also get you ready to handle things more calmly with things in the future with this skill. Respecting your environment and respecting what is around you is a need. Here at DHS, there are many classes that work with hands-on work and activities. Examples are ceramics, art, building, designer, etc, They all work with something that respect is needed because safety reasons and the more you work with things and people, the more respect is needed.

In the hallways, a lot of people shove through or yell at each other, this is because there are a lot of people crammed in one place trying to get somewhere, When that happens, a lot of things can actually go on in those hallways that you don't expect that would.

In the hallways of DHS, I think people should respect each other more like they do in a classroom. And I think that most people are more respectful in a classroom because there is a teacher in the room with them. When they're off on their own, they act out because there is nobody to correct them or self control sometimes can be an outburst.

Without guidance, sometimes people are more tempted to do things without people that would take action, so they tend to do more outside of that environment where there are adults surrounding.

The skill of respect should always be built on to create a nice, happy, safe environment for everyone! Both society and here at DeKalb High School!



**BARB WIRE**  
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## Mission Statement

The Barb Wire aims to encourage students in becoming actively involved to improve their high school experience by providing up-to-date, well-researched, and well-written news relevant to DeKalb High School.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

The Barb Wire is produced approximately every month by the Journalism classes at DeKalb High School, 501 W. Dresser, DeKalb, IL 60115. Letters to the editor may be left in Mrs. Solomon's mailbox in the main office or be e-mailed to [barb.wire@dist428.org](mailto:barb.wire@dist428.org). Letters must be 300 words or less and may be edited for length, clarity, or libelous content. All letters must be signed, but anonymity may be granted if the editors see just cause. The Barb Wire will not print any material that is obscene, libelous, or that may be an invasion of someone's privacy, or may cause material disruption of the school day.

The staff of the Barb Wire is responsible for observing the legal and ethical responsibilities expected of them as practicing journalists. Opinions expressed on the editorial page are those of the writer and not necessarily those of other staff members, students, faculty or administrators of DeKalb High School. Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the editorial board of the Barb Wire.

The Barb Wire reserves the right to reject any advertisement from any business or company if the editors see just reason.

# ILMEA

## DeKalb hosts the ILMEA

by Anthony Burgess

On Saturday, November 23rd, DeKalb held a junior and senior concert festival. The performances were held by the DeKalb high school Junior and Senior Chorus, Junior Mixed Chorus, Junior Orchestra, and finally the Senior Band.

Participants for the Junior Chorus included: Blessing Coranez. Singers in the Junior Mixed Choir included: Clarissa Bond, Nevaeh Castaneda, Gabriel Galindo, Emily Hoshaw, Jise-

la Marquez, Iliana Rigaud, and Abby Strandboe.

Members of Orchestra were Ariella Cork, Jacie Cox, Angel Fernandez, Lauren Gates, Megan Gates, Erika Gregoraz, Frank Hernandez, Juliana Leon, Akemi McHan, Jessica Ni, Kauther Tawil, and Heaven Thomas.

Senior Band displayed these members Maddie Barnes, Abbey Brooks, Ivan Castillo, Brianna Castillo, Brandon Diehl, Nick Glover, Ben Grych, Nya

Jencks, Andrew Mays, Keegan Moore, Amber Moore, Karl Olsen, Noah Payton, Noah Prince, Julia Rasmussen, and Reagan VanderBleek.

The seniors also had their own chorus which displayed members such as Skyler Caljkusich, Juan Castro, Taylor Dirks, Lauren Duffin, Bernie Engh, Jane Leopardo, Jacob Mcgaw, Claudie Miller, Keegan Moore, Joel Pandess, Lily Slater, Allison Spotts, and Owen Wragg.



# Goodbye to the early graduates

*What will the future hold?*

*by Clare Corbin*

This year, 76 out of the 533 students in the senior class plan to graduate early in December 2019. The number of early graduates has steadily increased over the past few years and is expected to keep growing.

Graduating early takes a lot of time and planning to make sure all requirements are met in time. Students graduate early for many different reasons. Some students are ready to go straight to college while others are going to work or trade programs. Whatever the reason, these early grads worked hard to finish high school early.

Many of these students kept up with their grades, didn't fail a class, or have previously taken summer school to get ahead.

Even though these students will no longer go to DHS, they are still allowed to attend school events such as prom, Mr. DHS, senior breakfast, and are able to walk at graduation in May.

I have been on track to graduate early since my Freshman year. After I graduate, I plan to take the spring and summer semesters off in order to work full time. The following fall, I plan on attending College of Dupage. My biggest take away from these past 4 years in high school is that you should only surround yourself with people that constantly motivate you to do better, and support your successes.

Senior Asia Miller stated, "I wanted to graduate early so that I would have time to mentally prepare for college and dip my foot into the adult world.



After I graduate I plan on working full time then go off to college in the fall." She also stated, "The thing I will miss most about DHS is seeing my friends everyday, and will also miss the teachers I hold a close bond with. My biggest take away from my 4 years in high school is that you need to be dedicated, and put effort into all of your school work."

Senior Junior Tate said, "I chose to graduate early so that I could get a head start on cosmetology school. After I graduate, I plan on attending cosmetology school and become a hairstylist."

He also said, "As much as I didn't like high school, I still plan on going to all of the events in the spring. I will also miss being on the cheer team. My biggest take away from high school is that you should be open minded to new experiences, and to always be yourself no matter what."

Senior Zoie Bicksler added, "I chose to graduate early in order to get



an early start in my college career. After I graduate I plan on attending Kishwaukee College to become an Occupational Therapist."

She also said, "I will miss all of the teachers, as well as the fun extra curriculars. My biggest take away from the past 4 year is that your hard work will pay off!"

Jonathan Bannister, a senior as well stated, "I wanted to graduate early so that I could work as much as possible and save up for college. I will miss my friends the most, but still plan on attending prom. Over my 4 years at DHS, I have learned that you should never procrastinate."

To these students and the rest of the early graduates, we wish you good luck as you take the next big step into your future. We are excited to see the different paths you all pursue, and the lives you create for yourselves. See you in May!



# The Power of The Listicle: A Listicle

*What it is, why it's effective, and how it changed the journalistic scene*

by Khadija Nagi

A listicle is an article that is made up partially of a list or sometimes even entirely a list. In modern media, listicles are seen all over the place. At first it just started with companies like *Buzzfeed* posting listicles upon listicles every day. Now, it's spread to bigger news outlets such as *Reader's Digest*, *Wired*, and even *The Washington Post* has been taking part in this trend.

Listicles have taken over journalism and for good reason. Why have they grown so popular? What makes them so effective? Well...

## 1. Listicles are easier for consumers

Especially for people that don't normally read their news, a listicle is an effective and simple way to ease themselves into reading news. A list isn't as intimidating as a big block of text that you may see in a longer report style article

For example, you could see an article titled, "Everything You Need to Know About This Week in Politics," and it would likely be a handful of paragraphs narrating all the noteworthy events in chronological order. It would look like a few bulky paragraphs that fill up around the same amount of space as a full page article in the *Barb Wire*.

Now imagine instead finding an article titled, "Top 6 Notable Moments in Politics This Week." It's a lot more likely that a reader would click on that article rather than the first one.

Though it's probably the same information as the first one, the second version would seem easier to comprehend. By being broken up into different parts, the content doesn't look so intimidating and almost more diluted.

The content in a listicle makes it seem more accessible and comprehensible for all audience which is a big reason for the listicle popularity.

## 2. Listicles are neutral

Staying unbiased and only including objective facts in an article is a difficult thing to do for journalists. When one includes his or her opinion on a subject that should just be a report of a story, it is generally frowned upon, especially when it's political opinions.

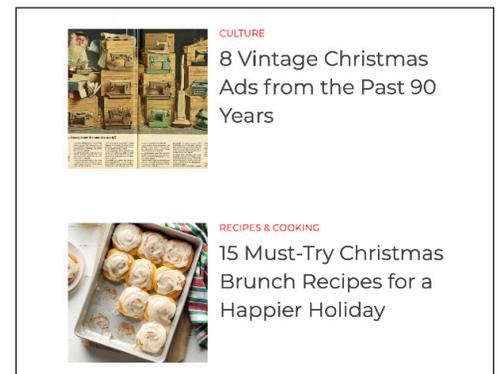
By using a list format, the writer can just say the facts, and the readers won't expect much detail or explanation. That way, personal tastes and thoughts can be avoided and it's harder for readers to find something to be mad about.

By putting articles into list formats, journalists that work in written media only can keep their companies alive and consequently ensure that they still have a job.

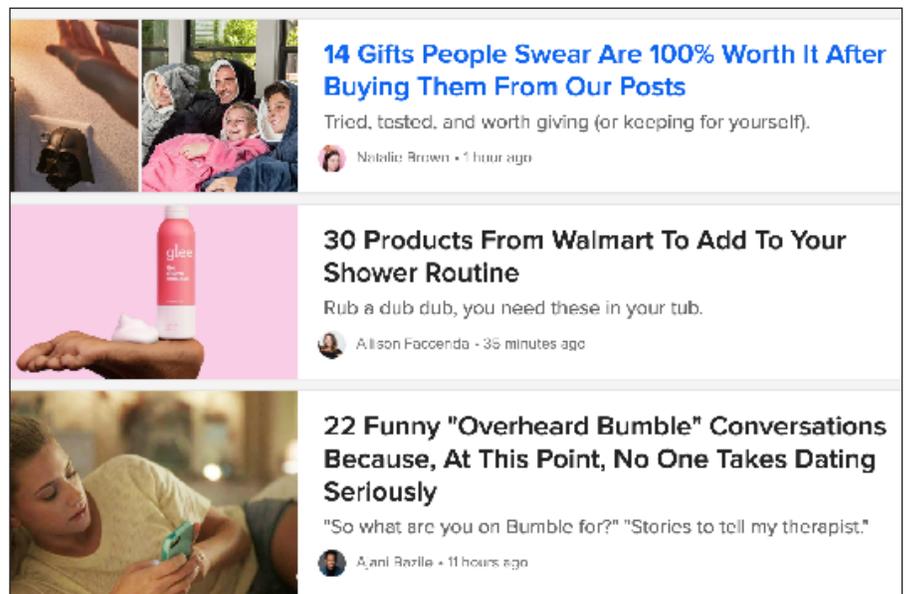
## 3. Listicles are exclusive to written media

Printed newspapers and news websites are always in competition with television media outlets like *CNN* or *MSNBC*. Even *Youtube* channels have become competitors to written media.

These video based brands can give their content in a list format, but it will never be as effective as a written list. With a video, one can't quickly scroll through and find an item on the list that he or she wants to show friends.



*Screenshot of listicles on the Reader's Digest website taken by Khadija Nagi*



*Screenshot of BuzzFeed website taken by Khadija Nagi*

# December's Top Binge-Worthy Tv Shows

by Asia Greer

*The best shows to watch while enjoying your holiday break!*

With the holiday season approaching very fast, movie and TV show apps are coming out with more new ones and also allowing you to stream some classics. Here are some ideas of shows to watch while enjoying some down time over your holiday break.

## Horror and Suspense

1. *American Horror Story* (Netflix)- A unique, anthology style series that has spooky and twisted themes in every season. Each season has a different time period and story line, and they overlap with each other and foreshadow details about one another. Some actors that show up in each season include Taissa Farmiga, Evan Peters (although he announced he would not be returning for the newest season), Jessica Lange, and Sarah Paulson.

2. *The Vampire Diaries* (Netflix)- This show is set in the magical town of Mystic Falls, Virginia. It is about a teenage girl who falls for two vampire brothers and they go on wild adventures and have steamy romantic scenes in almost every episode of its 8 drama-filled seasons. It is a very suspenseful and modern gothic-style show that fans of vampire and werewolf culture would love.

## Family

3. *Kim Possible* (Disney Plus)- A classic early 2000's cartoon following a high school cheerleader and her best-friend Ron who balance the challenges of being teenagers and fighting crime. Ron is Kim's sidekick and he has a little sidekick of his own, Rufus a

naked mole rat. The show has a catchy and unforgettable theme song that will be etched into your head by the third episode!

4. *Phil of the Future* (Disney Plus) This futuristic show is based on the adventures of the Diffy family of four from the year 2121. One day they decide to get a time machine to go on vacation but end of crash landing in the year 2004. Their dad works diligently to fix the time machine and in the mean time, Phil, his sister Pam, and their parents try to fit in and keep up with the times.

## Comedy

6. *Adventure Time* (Hulu)- This silly and fun cartoon is based on the crazy adventures of a 12-year-old boy and his best friend, a 28-year-old dog with mystical powers.

5. *Parks and Recreation* (Hulu)- An NBC original sitcom that was created by the producers of *The Office*. This quirky and hilarious show follows the wacky lives of people who work in Pawnee Parks and Recreation department as they create projects to help improve their city.



*Chris Pratt and Amy Poehler as Andy Dwyer and Leslie Knope in Parks and Recreation. Picture from IMDB.*

## Drama

7. *Breaking Bad* (Netflix)- This tv drama follows the mishaps and wild things that happen after a high school chemistry teacher, Walt, is diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer. He then decides to start selling drugs with a former student of his in order to help pay for his medical bill, funeral expenses, and family including his baby on the way.

8. *Dynasty* (Netflix)- Centered around the rich and famous Carrington family, this show follows the scandals and blackmails that they cause as they try to stay on top and relevant. It's filled with drama, plot twists, and lots of expensive and exotic trips. The show stars actress Elizabeth Gillies from the popular tween show *Victorious*.

*Actresses Elizabeth Gillies and Nicollete Sheridan as mother and daughter, Fallon and Alexis Carrington in Dynasty. Picture from IMDB. Actresses Elizabeth Gillies and Nicollete Sheridan as mother and daughter, Fallon and Alexis Carrington in Dynasty. Picture from IMDB.*

# Post-It Note Murals

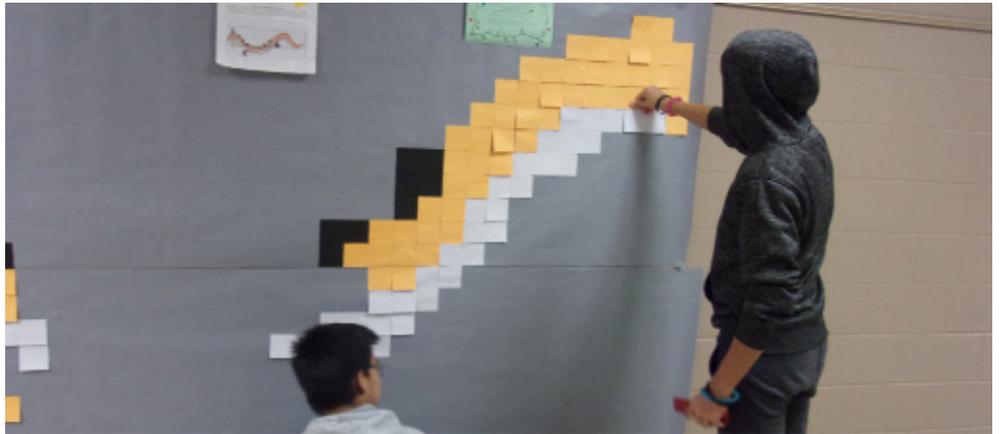
*Making the school a brighter place.*

*by Leah Sibley*

On November 13, the Art III class started a new project this year, the Post-it Note Mural. It has replaced the Masking Tape Mural, both Mrs. Bend and Mr. Gregory hoping to try something new this year to experiment with later classes.

Each Art III student was put into a group of four students, tasked with coming up with a mural to put up in the Art and CTE Wing. The idea was to make this school look “less like a prison”, in many staff’s words, and to make this place more happy and inviting with the murals lining the walls. Students had lots of control over the project, picking the placement of the murals, what the mural would be, and what colors and size it would be. Some things that students had to do was correspond their mural with what classrooms were nearby, or add an interactive element with their murals.

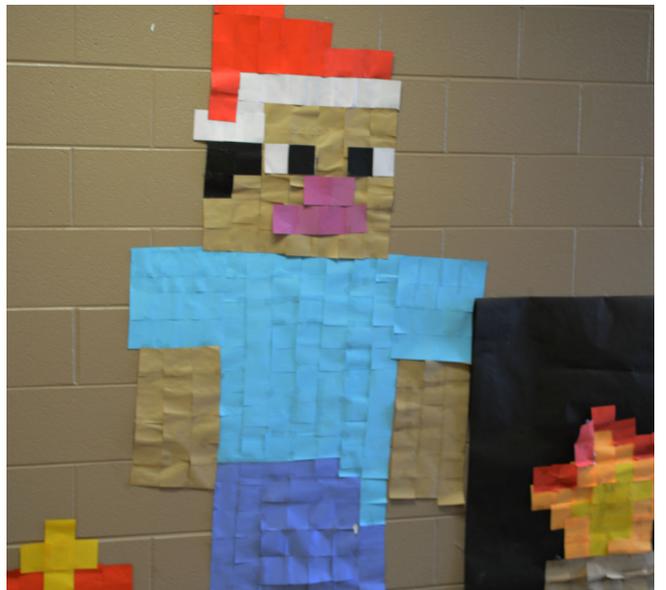
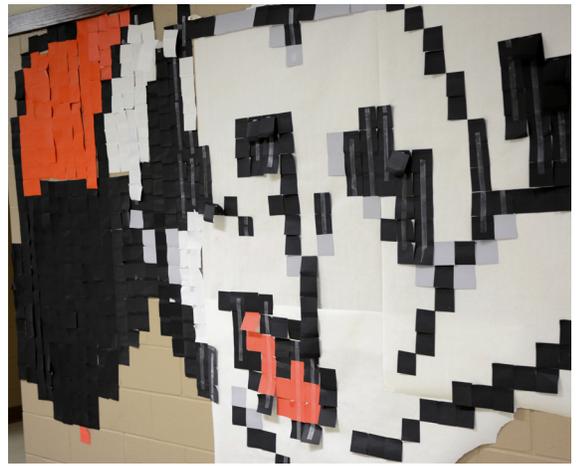
In addition to starting this new project, both Art III classes did it differently. Mrs. Bend’s art class put the sticky notes directly on the walls while Mr. Gregory’s class put the post-its on big sheet of paper and hung the mural up that way. Both methods work well, some looking neater than others or more dimensional with a background. This project was fun no matter which way you did it, making students and staff more positive as the semester comes to a close.



*Alberto Magana and Angel Martinez working on their Dragon mural. Taken by Leah Sibley*



*Sarah Marks, working on her Rick and Morty portal mural. Taken by Leah Sibley*



# Last Christmas

*Are Christmas movies your thing?  
Then you should check this movie  
out.*

*by Sara Collins*

*Last Christmas* was released on November 8th, 2019. The movie is a romantic drama. It's about a girl named Kate. She works at a year round Christmas store. Kate has bad luck with everything including relationships. One day she meets a handsome guy named Tom. Kate's Christmas season starts to become the most wonderful time of the year.

Kate learns a lot during the movie. There are many good life lessons in the movie. When I went into the movie, I didn't know what to expect. I just thought it would be a romantic film with a Christmas theme. I was wrong. It was a really good movie about being in love with yourself and finding out who you really are, I was shocked with the ending and was really surprised on how good it was.

The movie showed how important it was to give to the community and how important it was to be yourself. In the movie Kate would go to a shelter and help out people since Ken would volunteer there, She would also wanted to see Tom, but he was always gone. When she found him they would

take walks and look up.

Tom had the whole mindset to look up. When he told Kate to look up she had noticed things she hadn't before even when she was walking these streets for years.

Kate loved to sing and dance. She went to many auditions. When she was younger, she would sing at a church. She found her real passion for singing and did it very well.

Overall the movie was pretty good. The only part I would say was confusing was the beginning. It started out when she was a child singing with the church. Then it had jumped to present time.

She didn't talk to her family, her family at the beginning had lot's of rough patches. They didn't support each other, they didn't communicate. Kate's family stayed to themselves and didn't talk much. But during the end they found out how important it was to see and talk to family.

Kate in the beginning was way different from the end. In the beginning she had lost who she was, and it was affecting lot's of important pieces in

her life. She had started to lose relationships with important people.

In the movie there was a part where Kate and Santa had a fight. Santa kept noticing Kate wasn't doing her job or putting in any effort. After the huge event that had happened in the store, Santa had given Kate one more chance to become better and that's what Kate had done.

This movie was really good. The meaning of the movie was really important and was well written. If your into drama and romance I would totally say check this movie out, It has a turn that I didn't seen coming . If you're not into romance or drama, *it's still a good movie to check out.*

I would rate this movie a nine out of ten. The movie had lot's of turns I didn't see, and at the end it was a happy movie.

Last Christmas the movie showed a lot of good aspects in life many people don't notice. Watch this movie to see what the movie is all about and all the amazing parts about it.

# New Score Boards?

DeKalb High School recently installed new scoreboards in the main gym and out on the football field. The new scoreboards were installed after DHS moved to the new DuPage Valley Conference.

The installation of the scoreboards was not without a few difficulties. The doors on the field house had to be removed in order to move the scoreboard into the gym for installation.

The new scoreboards will be a feature article in a future edition of the *Barb Wire*.



# Preschool at DHS

## Alphabitty program

by Tiana Tingling

DeKalb High school have had the Alphabitty preschool for many years. This children's program is run by CTE teacher Tina Holtz. Holtz have run this preschool at DHS since 2011, and she is still is moving strong with her program.

Holtz explained that Alphabitty learning center is a preschool for children in the community that are 3 to 5 years old, and this program is almost exclusively run by students in a year long class called Child Care Occupation.

The students are the ones who run the show. They brainstorm ideas to teach the children, do the circle time, counting lesson and much more.

Holtz added that, the only thing I really do is supervise the lessons and the activities that take place.

She also said that, it is a good lab experiments for high school students that are planning out going into a career that involves teaching.

This class involves hands on opportunities to students, and this is something that can help someone identify if childcare is something that He/she really wants to do.

In order to take this class, Students have to have a B or higher in parenting



class.

The preschool is really affordable; it is only \$100 dollars for a whole year of preschool. This is less than many what many day care offer.

Makennah Stearns a senior at DHS she said that every child is different and every child learns in different ways, and we make sure that each activity meets everybody's needs because every kid is different and some kids need extra help and some can get it done at in the span of 2 minutes.

Stearns added we do try our best to make sure that everything test everybody needs, and I'm sure that we make sure that every child academics is reach.

Stearns continued, Preschoolers are introduced with a new math activity, with matching games, fine motor skills as well as our gross on their with the new literacy words and or matching uppercase to lowercase or spelling.

This is a great learning experience for us but for the kids as well. I think that even if you're not sure of what you want to do in life you can take this class, because it can definitely put you on the right way to ask yourself whether you want to go into teaching

or if you want to go into social work or something in that matter that works for kids this is definitely a great opportunity for your communication skills and child skill.

Madeline Maxwell senior at DHS was asked what are her parents thoughts of her doing this program, and she said that education runs in her family.

Her father is actually an Elementary School PE teacher and my mother work at a Therapy Clinic for children with special needs. So yes they love it, and I love it as well.

Maxwell continues, I just love how at the end of the year, when you see how much the children have learned, it makes you feel like you have really done something so rewarding.

When asked what disciplines do they use to towards behaviors she replied saying. "We came up with a sticker chart that we have expectations for, some of these expectations are, use your inside voice, hands to yourself, criss cross applesauce and these are out expiating for them in the classroom.

The Alphabitty program is a good program for children that are ready to strive and reach feather in to there play time.



All photos provided by the barbwire



# Robotics Club

## *Beep-Boop-Bop*

*by Sierra Cleveland*

In theory, it is possible for robots to take over the world. With the proper science infused, and accurate logic applied, robots will either become a friend or a foe. However, it's going to take a second for a robot that carries such authority to walk the surface of this earth. Who is to say that robots aren't already in DHS?

With great intellect and skill, the DHS Robotics club (often referred to as Crowbotics) has executed the manufacturing of bots. They don't look like automatons, but rather the results of a strong minded person's work.

According to *idtech.com*, a robotics club is the assembly of junior high or high school students who take an interest in the study of robots. These students are required to manufacture robots that contain the means to compete against opponents in competitions. There's a series of specific challenges that these robots must go through, so it is very important to pick the most relevant design for their robots.

As the idea may sound fun, the sole purpose is to get students engaged or at least interested in science, technology, engineering and math (commonly referred to as STEM or STEAM). In the 2019 championship, 30 nations participated.

Crowbotic's started during the 2015 school year. Mr. Mike Lofthouse is not only a math teacher, but he is also a mentor/coach of the robotics club. He said that the robotics club was initiated by a group of students on the principal advisory committee that made it their very mission to create an extra curricular activity that doesn't revolve around sports and music but rather

engineering.

Very few are aware of the variety of clubs that exist, yet the many factors that go into making a club also play into our daily lives. People deal with math and science everyday. The robotics club proves just how diverse clubs can be.

About 24 students in this school know about this club because they partake in it. Due to the abundance of members, it requires a lot of materials to be available for manufacturing



*Robotics team members working together to build a highly qualified robot for their competition.*

*Photo provided by Michael Lofthouse*

these robots.

Lofthouse explained, "manufacturing robots takes 120 pounds of aluminum to be exact, as well as steel bits, copper wiring and a lot more materials."

With competitions soon to come, a lot of time and effort come into play when making these competing robots. When asked how much time plays into making these robots, Lofthouse pulled out his handy dandy calculator, and said "over the course of 8 weeks it takes 250 hours total."

Lofthouse continued, "within these 8 weeks, the club meets every Tues-

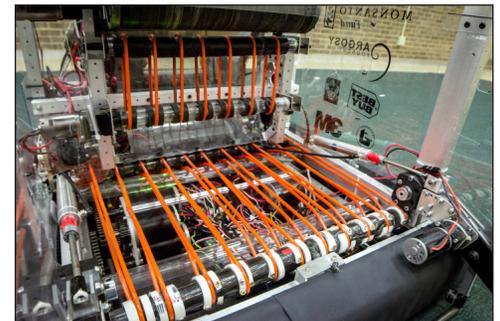
day, Thursday, and Saturday. We have been preparing for big and small competitions, and we placed 2nd in regionals last year and have won local off-season events twice."

This team has a lot of determination with a great mentor leading them. Anyone interested in joining Crowbotics should contact Lofthouse for more information.



*One of the Robotics Club's foreign machinery. Helping manufacture a great robot.*

*Photo provided by Michael Lofthouse*



*Robotics machinery*

*Photo provided by Michael Lofthouse*

# Cheerleading!!!

*Competition season is here!*

*by Becca Shank*

Cheer is starting its competition season already! After a great season of cheering for the Football team, now its time for the cheerleaders to shine in competition.

Instructional Coach Gabi Busse, head coach of the cheer team for the last 4 years, described how the team is looking going into graduation season. Busse said the team is, ".looking pretty good. We have our first meet Sunday [12/8]. We have got four seniors who are great leaders. I'm excited about their experience. I've had then all four years. We also have about seven freshman on the team, so I'm also excited about the new talent that we have coming up. I think it's going to be a great year"

Busse also explained what her main goal for the year is for the cheer team. "I feel as if our goal is always to make state. But really when we look at the fact that we progressed over four years, I feel like it's about seeing our growth through out the years. To be better than we were before."

Cheerleading is different from football season to competition season. The team prepares in different ways for each season. Busse explained how she prepares the team based on the purpose of the cheers. "So football season is a lot of doing things the crowd likes, but a lot of the time those this aren't liked by judges. So some of are techniques and skills change because of that. We focus very hard on being very very clean with everything,"

Junior Bella Aloba, varsity cheer captain, described what she's most looking forward to this competition

season. "Getting to see different teams perform. The competition and seeing what teams can be is an inspiration to our team."

Aloba continued to explain her favorite part of the competition season. "Getting ready, doing our hair, and makeup together. It's all part of being a team."

Aloba described her feelings on the difference between football season and competition season. "It's crunch time. Football season is more about fun and goofing around. Where during competition season we do full outs. Which is when we all do our routines

over and over again without any mistakes."

Aloba then reminisced of her favorite memory when she continued to say, "There are a lot. I think my favorite was our first away game. Where we had a big speaker on us. When we all put on our favorite song. We got to know each other a bit better."

Lastly Aloba was asked about what inspired her to do cheer was she said, "I have always loved to watch all star cheer. So to me it looked like a fun sport to do."

Best of luck to the cheer team during competition season!



# Dance Comp.

*Keep Calm and  
Dance On!*

*by Jasmin Garcia*

Happy December Barbs! December brings many fun events. One event that begins in December is the Dance Team Competition season. Head coach Ms. Valkner explained what the team has in store this season.

Valkner described how competitions work for dance. "You're up against multiple teams within your same division. Normally we're up against 12 or 14 dance teams, and each team can bring up to 1 to 2 dances. You go 3 minutes on the floor then you have a panel of judges who look at your choreography, your musicality, your techniques, and your spacing."

When asked what made her want to be a dance coach, Valkner replied, "I was a part of the dance team in high school myself. When the position was open, it just felt like it made sense. I also teach in a dance studio. I am just involved a lot with dance."

Valkner added her feelings going into competition season. "A little bit nervous but most definitely excited, We're doing the hardest dances we've ever done, I'm excited to see how they do at competition and nervous to see how that goes, so we'll see."

Addyson Snow, a sophomore on JV, explained how it feels going into competition season. "Going into competition, I feel really excited because even though the days are long and there's a lot of hard work involved it still makes so many memories & just having a fun time in general."

Snow added, "I joined the dance team because dance has always been my passion and going into high school knowing there was a dance team I

was excited to make new friends in my classes and joining the dance team I would meet new people."

Snow gave advice to any future dancers. "Don't be scared to try it, and also if you don't get something the first try don't give up and keep on trying."

Taylor Karasewski, one of the senior Captains of the Dance team, described how she felt about being a captain. "I enjoy it & I like all the responsibilities that come with, being able to help everyone and lead the team."

Karasewski explained her feelings about the season. "I'm definitely excited and nervous finding out how we did during the competition, how well we competed against other teams but it's definitely exciting."

When asked her favorite memory,

Karasewski said, "My favorite memory was our Castle Challenge performance over football season because we worked so hard all week and we performed it so well during the performance and it was nice seeing the reward we we're given."

Another senior captain, Josie Ward described her feelings about competition season. "I look forward to competition season every year because it's really fun and getting ready for competition and spend the whole day, weeks and months preparing for it."

When asked her favorite memory, Ward said, "My sophomore year we made it to Nationals, & we went to Florida and danced at Disney."

Best of luck to the dance team as they begin competition season!

