



# MAGIC INK

SPRING 2025 - 3rd Edition - Herkimer High School

## IN THIS ISSUE:

# Influence in Herkimer

By: Melinda Poplawski

Any resident of Herkimer ends up on the edge of their seat when they hear, “Herkimer student” on the news.

***Herkimer student shadows and assists a meteorologist on the local news*** (Junior, Arthur Dadello).

***Two Herkimer High School honor society students score their 1000th high school basketball career points in the same week*** (Seniors, Zach Petucchi and Madison Marusic).

Unfortunately, while there are a lot of good headlines to be heard about Herkimer, and other schools in general, what most students, parents, and even neighboring towns focus on are negative press or tragedies that take place. It makes sense why the negative headlines stick out more, they are hot topics that people like to theorize about, but our school contains a multitude of remarkable scholars and athletes.

### **Musical spotlight**

Interviews about students in our 2025 musical “Footloose”!

### **Video Game Reviews**

Some video games you should play recommended by herkimer students!

### **Deep dives**

A special look into some students and teachers at our school!



## ***Herkimer student is selected to attend a Journalism and Media Conference at George Mason University in Washington DC***

Which is why our staff, students, and alumni should be compelled to share the achievements they’ve seen take place in our school to lift our school’s name, reputation, and inevitably, graduation rates. So, for future newspaper endeavors, Melinda is submitting an extension of this article on an application to a journalism and media conference she was selected to attend at George Mason University in Washington DC in order to represent HHS and New York state. So, don’t tell them she wrote the article after she was selected and that she wrote this caption about herself, by herself in the 3rd person.

So, Melinda, will be reaching out to staff students and alumni to share any Herkimer accomplishments of themselves, their parents, their children, etc. Please feel encouraged to recognize yourself, or any other remarkable scholars, athletes, musicians, or anyone with any talent or accomplishment that is worth sharing and spreading. The goal is to increase student confidence, school pride and spirit, and construct a sense of community that revolves around the positive accomplishments of Herkimer.

# Spring Break Escape

Spring Break is one of the most anticipated times during the school year. It gives everyone a break to finish off the school year strong.

Spring Break is just around the corner, and whether you're looking for an adventure, relaxation or a mix of both, there are plenty of ways to make the most of your time off.

Here are some exciting ideas:

## Travel:

Some people plan to travel off to beaches and cities to relax and have a splendid time while embracing their time off. Spring break is a great time to travel and get away. People travel during spring break to nicer locations such as Florida and New York to embrace different places with nicer weather before having to come back.

## Staying home:

Staying home and relaxing is a great option and a perfect time to unwind and recharge. You will have more time to catch up on sleep and if you're missing any assignments or have lots to grade you can get them done so when school rolls back around you won't be stressed with old and new upcoming tasks. Spring break also gives you opportunities to spend time with your family and friends while waiting for summer.



Here are some places your fellow classmates and teachers have ahead for them:

- **A Cruise**

- **France**

- **New York**

- **Tennessee**

- **Florida**

- **North Carolina**

- **Six flags**

- **Aruba**

- **Cancun Mexico**

- **Auschwitz**

- **Poconos**



**By: Alyssa Canter**





# Footloose Spotlight: Landon Ploss

By Jonah V. Maiorano

Landon Ploss is a junior playing Ren McCormack in this year's production of Footloose: the musical. He has been involved in theater for four years and might not continue after graduation but he enjoys doing it as an outlet to express himself by becoming a different character. His favorite show and role he's been in is Ren in Footloose (2025). He wishes he was in Herkimer's production of Newsies (2020). However, if he could play any role in any show it would be Danny Zuko in Grease. His favorite person he's worked with is Cole Bolen. They work very well together as enemies even though they're best friends. Even if you feel a show is not right for you, like how Landon felt with Cinderella, you have to realize any experience is necessary for growth. A piece of advice from Landon is to let loose and be your character.

# Footloose Spotlight: Maddy Collis

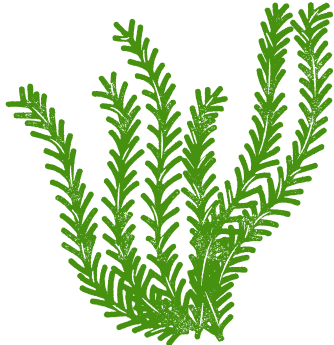
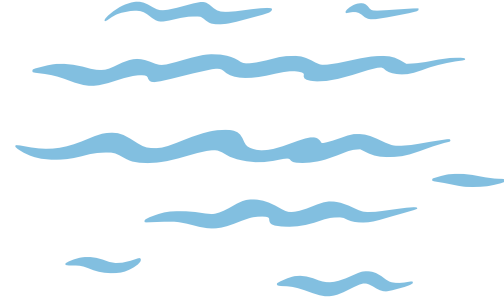
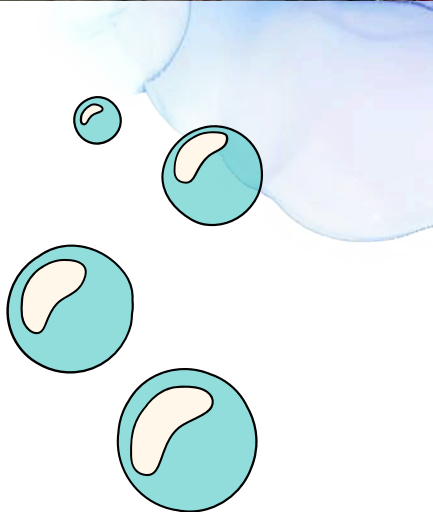
By: Melinda Poplawski

Maddy Collis is a sophomore playing Rusty in this year's production of Footloose: the musical. She has been involved in theater for nine years and plans to continue after graduation because she enjoys entertaining people. Her favorite show and role she's been in is Rosie in Mamma Mia (2024). She wishes she was in Herkimer's production of Newsies (2020). However, if she could play any role in any show it would be Velma Kelly in Chicago or Delores Vancardi in Sister Act. Her favorite person she's worked with is Ayla Simpson <3. A piece of advice from Maddy is that you have to try your best with what you're given even if you think a show is not right for you.





Mrs. Beardsley, a teacher at Herkimer High School, started her career here eleven years ago. She is very passionate about helping others because if she wasn't helping others she'd question the point of being here. Success to Mrs. Beardsley is being happy with what you have and your effort and hard work you put into something. An important lesson life has taught her is that you will make mistakes in life but it's how you react to the setbacks that really matters. What really drives Mrs. Beardsley to do what she does in life is having a positive impact on people's lives. One experience in life that significantly shaped who she is today is having her kids. If you were to ask Mrs. Beardsley what her favorite food was she'd tell you that there's too many, she can't pick. In her spare time she tends to go on runs, bikes, reads, and goes camping. She has always been obsessed with Australia forever and if she could travel anywhere she'd go there. Lastly, one thing Mrs. Beardsley likes about herself is her persistence, she never gives up on things easily and fights through till the end.



# DEEP DIVE



Max Migliore, a student at Herkimer High School plans to pursue a job in the government field after graduation. Max likes school and says there is nothing bad to say about it. Someone Max looks up to is a fellow student Cross Nicastro because Max believes he gives good advice and is the only person he can talk to about anything. Something he is very passionate about is how much stronger he has become and how much knowledge he has gained. A big accomplishment for Max is the fact that he has gained twenty-five pounds in the past year and can do fifteen pushups. His favorite food is fruits and bread. In Max's free time he tends to go on runs on the biking trail and take photos of the scenery. If you asked where in the world he'd like to go he'd tell you Alaska because they have very pretty mountains. If he could change one thing about the world he'd make it so there are no more bad people. Lastly, one thing Max likes about himself is how he is taller than the majority of the people his age.





# LEVEL UP

## WALKING INTO A NEW DOOR

By Jonah V. Maiorano

Roblox Doors has grown in enormous popularity over the last almost 4 years that it has been out. Doors is a game where you have to go through 100 doors in a haunted hotel with different types of monsters trying to hunt and end you. These entities consist of Rush, a head of pure smoke that bursts through the next two rooms, Seek, a boss entity where you have to run through 5 doors trying to escape him, and Figure, the main boss of the game. To deal with him you have to collect books to solve a code and connect fuses to power an elevator.

But it doesn't stop there! After escaping the hotel, you have to escape to the mines where you have to walk through 100 more doors and defeat Seek once again in a giant dam. In only 4 years, it has over 6,000,000,000 views. This game is recommended for people ranging from 12 and up.

**OVERALL RATING: 9 /10**



## The Open Quest of Elden Lord

By Zechariah Hayes

Elden ring is a open world souls-like game. A souls-like game is a game that is made and built to be difficult. In Elden ring you can chose a class such as mage, a samurai warrior, hero, astrologer, and so on. In this game players take on a huge open world with multiple sections such as Limgrave or Calied. In this game you take on this world starting off with almost nothing. So, you have to go around the map and collect items and supplies. Your goal in Elden Ring is to become the Elden Lord. To do this, you have to collect all of the great runes.

Great runes can be collected from a ring that gets destroyed. When you collect a great rune you get the chance to activate it and it gives you buffs. The great runes are held by demigods and/or the bosses of the game, such as a man that has multiple arms or a mage. The bosses all have their own perks and all are unique, but they all have in common the fact that they went to war for great runes and they all have some sort of sad history or background lore. In Elden ring there are endless amounts of things to do, there are endless supplies to pick up or spells to learn, you name it, it has it. This game is unique and made to be difficult, but it is extremely fun to play.

**OVERALL RATING: 9 /10**





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# SPRING TIME TIC-TAC-TOE

Do the activity in the middle and then choose two more activities in a row (vertically, horizontally or diagonally) to complete the Tic-Tac-Toe

Write a poem about spring	Create a song about spring	Create a spring clothes catalog
Mention 5 important events that take place in Spring	Write a spring bucket list	Create a word search or crossword with 10 spring words
Create a poster welcome the spring season	Make a plan for a day out with your family in spring	Write the pros and cons of Spring



# FUN PAGE

≡ Poll

Song of the  
spring:

Smells like Teen Spirit-  
Nirvana

(recommended by Mr. Valesek)



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## EARTH DAY WORDSEARCH



W	W	A	T	E	R	P	B	O	T
A	P	R	I	L	R	L	I	W	R
S	E	E	D	S	E	A	R	P	E
S	A	I	R	F	C	N	D	L	E
L	I	G	H	T	Y	T	S	A	S
B	R	E	D	U	C	E	Q	S	E
G	R	E	E	N	L	X	K	T	A
R	E	U	S	E	E	N	Z	I	R
A	R	H	C	L	E	A	N	C	T
B	M	Q	P	A	P	E	R	X	H

AIR  
APRIL  
BIRDS  
CLEAN

EARTH  
GREEN  
LIGHT  
PAPER

PLANT  
PLASTIC  
RECYCLE  
REDUCE

REUSE  
SEEDS  
TREES  
WATER





# Teacher Quotes

*Inspiration at HHS*

*"My perm is so fire" - Steele*

*"Figure it out" - Watkins*

*"Tomorrow is a new day" - Mrs. Jory*

*"What are you waiting for?" - Mr. Watkins*

## PROM LOOK AHEAD

Date: May 31st

Time: 7pm

Place: Rustic Ties

Grand March to be  
held at the High  
School Auditorium @

5:45

