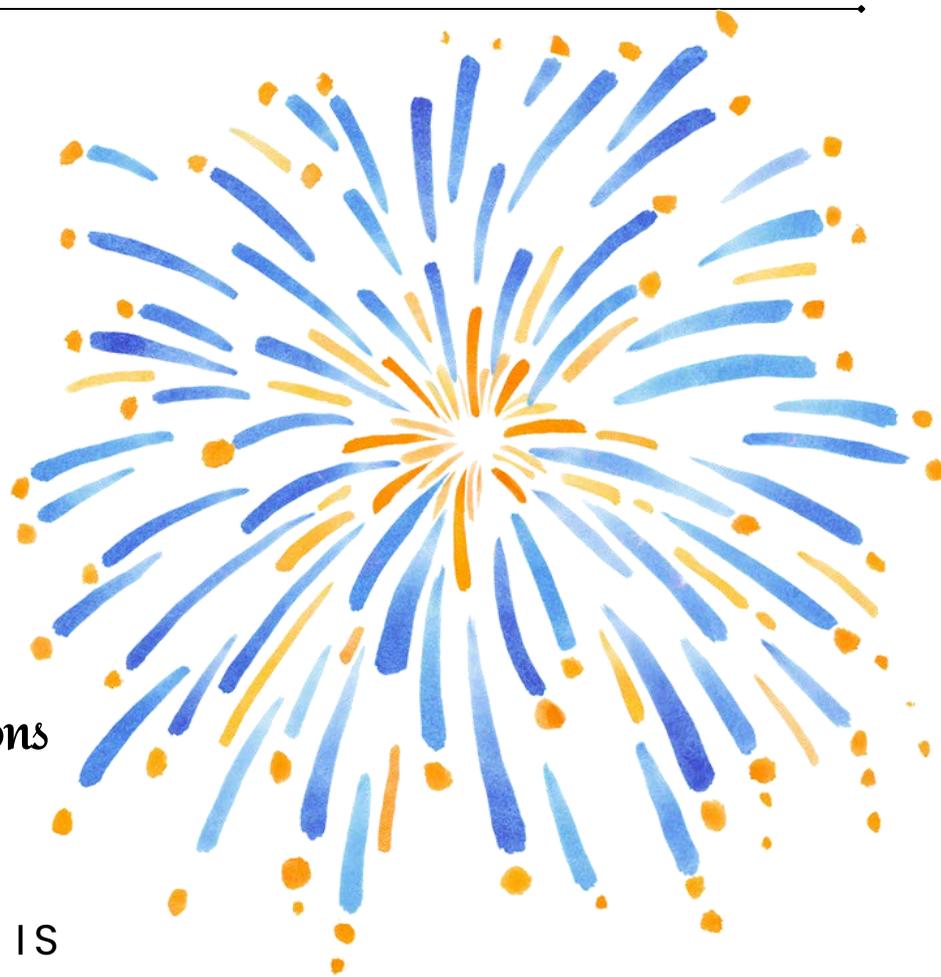


New Year, New Me?



2026

Students and Teachers Share Their New Year's Resolutions

WITH THE NEW YEAR STARTING, A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE MAKING NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS. A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION IS SOMETHING SOMEONE WANTS TO IMPROVE OR WORK ON IN THE NEW YEAR. STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AROUND THE SCHOOL SHARED SOME OF THEIR GOALS FOR THIS YEAR.

Many students said their resolutions have to do with school. One student said, "I want to stop procrastinating because I always say I'll do my homework later and then it's suddenly really late." Another student said their goal is to stay more organized, adding, "My backpack is actually scary right now."

Some students talked about health and habits. One student said, "I want to go to the gym more but I know I'm probably going to forget after a few weeks." Another student said their resolution is to spend less time on their phone at night, especially during the school week.

Teachers also had resolutions of their own. An English teacher said her resolution is to drink more water during the school day. "I usually realize I've only had coffee all day," she said. A math teacher shared that he wants to be more patient. "I tell students to slow down, but I don't always do that myself," he said.

Not everyone makes New Year's resolutions. One student said, "I don't really do resolutions because I forget about them, but I still try to do better."

Even if people don't stick to their resolutions, the new year is still a good time to start fresh. Whether it's school, health, or just daily life, students and teachers are hoping this year goes better than the last.



From First Bell to Final Bow



By: Melinda Poplawski, student writer

6:30 a.m. – Wake up. Get dressed. Mentally prepare for the chaos.

6:45 a.m. – Breakfast, pack lunch, grab my bag.

7:00 a.m. – Final checks: hair, perfume, deodorant.

7:10 a.m. – On the bus.

7:25 a.m. – Arrive at school and finish homework in the MG.

7:53 a.m. – Advisory.

8:39 a.m. – Algebra II.

9:25 a.m. – Chemistry.

10:10 a.m. – Spanish IV.

10:55 a.m. – Lunch (finally).

11:27 a.m. – Musical Theater—performance day, so energy is high.

12:13 p.m. – English.

12:57 p.m. – Chemistry Lab.

1:43 p.m. – Study Hall.

2:30 p.m. – Head to rehearsal at the college.

5:45 p.m. – Leave rehearsal and go straight to dance.

6:00 p.m. – Acro class.

6:30 p.m. – Ballet.

7:00 p.m. – Help teach younger dancers.

7:30 p.m. – Leave dance.

7:45 p.m. – KFC after dance (a necessity).

8:00 p.m. – Dinner at home.

9:00 p.m. – More homework.

9:30 p.m. – Sleep.

Between classes, rehearsals, and dance, the days are long, but doing what you love makes it worth it.

Drama Spotlight: | Anna Marquisse

1) How many shows have you done at Herkimer?

8

2) What roles have you played

Rafiki, Sour kangaroo, Ali, Lulu, Deborah Sue, Hortensia

3) Favorite role you've played

Ali

4) Favorite show you've been in

Mamma Mia!

5) A show you wish Herkimer would do?

Little Shop of Horrors!

6) Past Herkimer show you wish you were in?

Newsies.

7) What's your dream role?

Audrey and Lydia.

8) Why do you do theater?

The people, it also helps me stay active, and I always have fun!

9) Do you plan on staying active after high school?

Yes! I want to continue to do shows.

10) Most important thing you've learned?

No matter what role you are, you can still have fun!



Russel Staph

stage crew

1) How many shows have you done crew for? For 12 shows, including middle, high school and LF summer shows

2) Why did you start doing stage crew? He wanted to be part of the show without being on stage and Ms Baker made him.

3) Does the cast ever get on your nerves? Last year, the cast often got on his nerves because there was lots of strong personality.

4) Favorite musical you've done crew for? Matilda was his favorite musical hes done for crew because of how fun it was.

5) Have you learned anything important? He's learned lots of painting, lighting, and sound skills throughout these productions.



Three Recipes, Zero Leftovers

Appetizer: Boursin Cranberry Honey Dip

Ingredients

- 2 wheels (5.4 ounce) Boursin cheese, at room temperature
- 1 cup roasted salted shelled pistachios, chopped
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1/3 cup hot honey
- salted pretzels or crackers, for dipping

Instructions

1. Let the Boursin come to room temperature so it's easy to spread. Tip: most cheese will have more flavor at room temp!
2. Place the Boursin on a plate and use the back of a spoon to smash and spread it into an even layer. Tip: for a more whipped dipped, add 4 ounces of cream cheese and whip all the cheeses together in a food processor. Super yummy too!
3. Top with pistachios and cranberries. Drizzle with hot honey. Serve with your favorite crackers and enjoy!



Dinner: Lemon Pepper Cajun Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo

- 1 pound linguine or fettuccini
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 6 chicken cutlets or 1 pound tenders
- 2 tablespoons cajun seasoning
- 1 1/2 cups, plus 2 tablespoons parmesan cheese
- kosher salt and black pepper
- 4 tablespoons salted butter
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- crushed red pepper flakes
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 cup low sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

Instructions

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook the pasta al dente, according to package directions. Drain.
2. In bowl, toss together the olive oil, chicken, cajun seasoning, 2 tablespoons parmesan, and a big pinch of pepper.
3. Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a large pan set over medium-high heat, add the chicken and sear until deeply golden on both sides, 5 minutes per side. Turn the heat off and pour over the lemon juice. Transfer to a plate.
4. To the same pan, add 2 tablespoons butter, the garlic, and chili flakes. Cook 1 minute, until fragrant, then pour in the broth and milk. Whisk until smooth. Bring the sauce to a gentle simmer and cook 5 minutes, until slightly thickened. Stir in 1 1/2 cups parmesan, then toss in the pasta. Cook 2 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir in the parsley.
5. Serve immediately topped with sliced chicken and parsley.



All recipes from Half Baked Harvest

Dessert: Goopy Chocolate Crinkle Cookies

- 1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 1/2 sticks (3/4 cup) salted butter melted
- 4 large eggs, at room temperature
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup semi sweet or dark chocolate chips/chunks

1. Mix the cocoa powder, both sugars, melted butter, and eggs. Add the vanilla, flour, baking soda, salt, and chocolate chips, beating to combine.
2. Preheat oven to 350° F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
3. Scoop the dough into rounded tablespoon-size balls. Place on the prepared baking sheet. Freeze for 10-20 minutes, until chilled.
4. Bake for 8-10 minutes or until the cookies start to set around the edges and crack. The centers should be doughy though. Let cool on the pan. Eat warm or package them up for storing. The cookies keep for 2 to 3 days.





Sports Spotlight

SENIOR: SARAH HUYCK

LOOKING BACK ON YOUR HIGH SCHOOL CAREER, WHAT PART OF YOUR GAME OR GROWTH ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF? **"I AM DEFINITELY MOST PROUD OF ALL OF THE TIMES I MADE A MISTAKE, ANALYZED IT AND FIXED IT. NOTHING FEELS BETTER THAN EXECUTING SOMETHING I COULDN'T BEFORE."**

What's a moment from this season or past seasons that you'll remember long after it's over? ***I'll never forget our win over Westmorland this year! Not only did I get 9 kills that game, but we also won in four sets, and we were so alive that night and had so much fun.***

How has being part of this team shaped you as both an athlete and a person? ***Being a part of this team has truly had such an impact on me, it has not only helped me grow as a leader. It also gave me a forever family.***

As you look ahead, what's one goal you have for the rest of the season or beyond high school? ***My goal for this season is to make it to sectionals, and win our first round.***

How do your teammates support and motivate you? ***The way my teammates support me is hyping me up, after every play even i made a mistake they are always here to support me.***

COACH

STEELE



If the wrestling team had a theme song, what would it be? Why?

A Warrior's Call by Volbeat, that is what we come out to for every home meet and it helps set the tone.

What's been the biggest strength of your team this season?

A passion for wrestling, this is arguably the most difficult sport to play in HS and we are still a new program so its a huge kudos to the kids you are on the team and their passion and willingness to work incredibly hard on something new!

What's one lesson you hope your players take away from this season?

There's nothing that can beat working hard and the feeling you get when you accomplish something that only few can say they have done. I also hope they see and understand that what you put into anything is what you get out of it and there are no shortcuts in wrestling or in life.

Do you have a pre-game routine or superstition?

Wrestling is the one sport that is different in terms of routines or superstitions because at tournaments and duals its very fast paced and a lot going on but just talking with guys and getting them ready and trying to calm nerves is always good practice.

What's one goal you have for the rest of the season?

We are looking to have many guys continue to improve, with only 4 seniors this year we have a lot coming back! Also we want to compete for a league and class title and get as many guys to place at sectionals as possible, with hopes a few can make it to states. That would be the first time since Coach Appley did it in 2015!



What are the challenges and benefits of coaching three sports?

It's definitely difficult and I don't have much if any time between them, especially with off-season work going on with all three. The most challenging part is working to make all three programs as successful as possible, and that includes working during each offseason. That being said I wouldn't change it for the world!

Winter Weekend Winter Weekend Is the Highlight of February

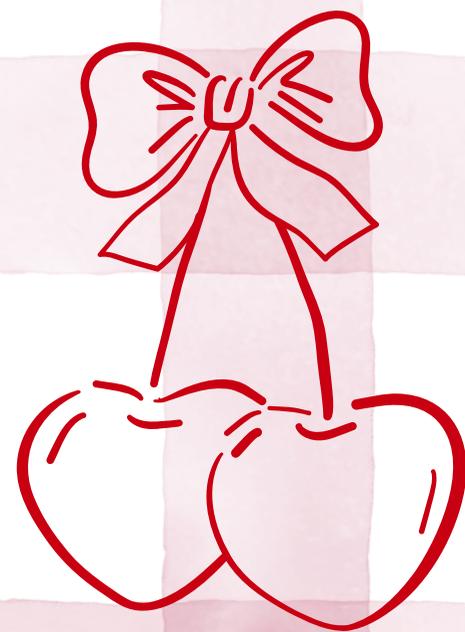
Winter Weekend is almost here and it's happening on Valentine's Day, which honestly makes it way more fun. It's the perfect excuse to dress up, hang out with friends, and forget about school for a night.

Before the dance, we get Spirit Week, which is always a good time. Everyone can dress up for the themes, be a little extra, and actually have something fun to look forward to during the school week. It definitely makes the days go by faster.

The dance itself is just about having fun. You don't need a date to go, and you don't need to take it super seriously. Go with your friends, take pictures, dance, laugh, and enjoy the night.

**ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE.
BUT A LITTLE
CHOCOLATE
NOW AND THEN
DOESN'T HURT.**

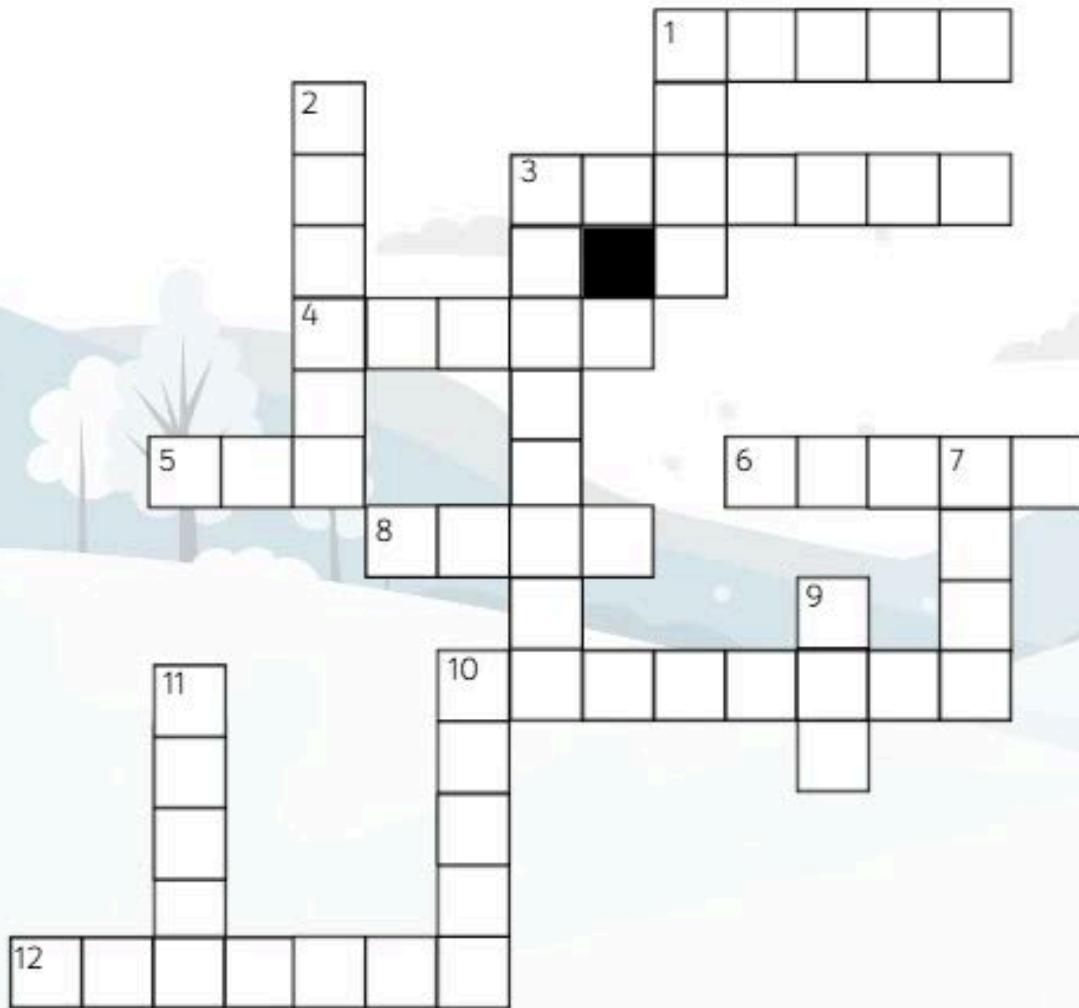
CHARLES M. SCHULZ



Happy Valentine's Day

HERKIMER HIGH SCHOOL!

WINTER CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. You wrap this around your neck
3. A person made from snow
4. A warm chocolate drink
5. Frozen water
6. Partly melted, muddy snow
8. Warm jacket for winter
10. A big winter storm
12. Warm covers for your hands

DOWN

1. White and fluffy, falls from the sky
2. Ice hanging from a roof
3. A round ball of snow you throw
7. You ride this down a snowy hill
9. Keeps your head warm
10. Winter footwear
11. Ice crystals on windows

STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

Want to see your submissions in the next edition of the Magic Ink Newspaper?

SCAN ME



Gerald P. Theodore
By: Anonymous

Class is ending.
People are standing,
discussing their new-old assignment.
It was given weeks ago,
the precursor even earlier,
read a book of your choosing, write a report.
Who has read it? I sure have.
My classmates? That's a different story...
That student? Not even half...
His best friend? Never opened it...
The valedictorian? Well he actually did...
The same can't be said for the rest of the class.
It's due in a week. Most haven't started it.
So they turn to their good new-old-time friend,
and have a chat with
Gerald P. Theodore.

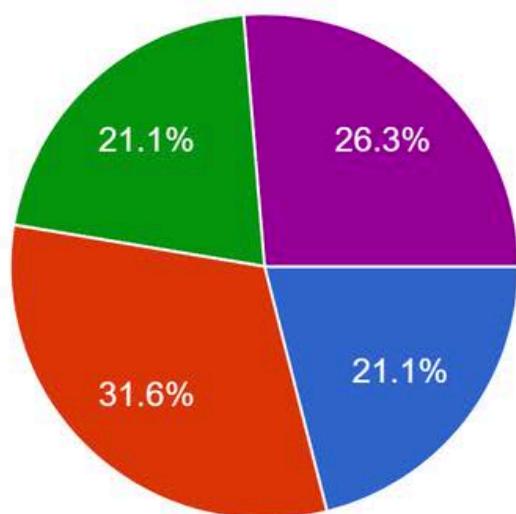
Valentines Poll

BEST GIFTS TO RECEIVE

Who doesn't love to get a gift for Valentine's day? Nothing is more exciting than getting something you like from your crush. With not many people choosing stuffed animals, the rest of the options are almost tied across the board. Overall, it seems most people would prefer to receive flowers for Valentine's day. Take notes love birds!

Whats your favorite Valentines Day gift?

19 responses



- Chocolate
- Flowers
- Stuffed Animals
- Jewelry
- Quality Time

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