



# THE GROVE GAZETTE

## Selinsgrove Area High School Student Newspaper

### In this issue:

- Drug Controversy
- Graduation
- Seniors
- Grease Awards
- What to do
- Sports
- Student Profiles
- Standardized Testing
- My Turn

## Drug Issue Controversy

Daniel Napsha

In the midst of a national opioid crisis, Selinsgrove Area High School has found itself burdened by its own drug problems.

Earlier this month, two students suspected of being under the influence of drugs at school were treated for medical emergencies. According to multiple sources, these students came to school on Xanax, a prescription drug used to treat anxiety and panic disorders, which left

them “tripping over in the [school’s] bathroom.”

In a situation like that, High School Principal Brian Parise said, protocol prioritizes student health over discipline, so an ambulance was called to the school. Altogether, though, up to five students were reportedly hospitalized for substance abuse recently.

The incidents received heightened attention when a local newsletter, the *Orange Street News*, reported misinformation about the drug problem in Selinsgrove School District. Hilde Lysiak, the ten year-old who runs the newsletter and does not attend Selinsgrove, alleged that hard drugs, including heroin, cocaine, and meth were rampant at Selinsgrove.

According to her source, someone who claims to attends the high school, students will do drugs “in the bathroom stalls so that the teachers don’t go into the stalls” and around the high school’s welding room. “It already smells like all the burnt wood and metal so the teachers may not even pick up on the other mixed scents if they do smoke in there,” Lysiak transcribed her source.

However, the high school experience described in the article is far from the reality at Selinsgrove, and the distortion

caused somewhat of an uproar in the school community.

Mr. Swineford, the agricultural education teacher whose classroom is in the welding area, expressed his frustration with the allegations: “I’ve been here 13 years and I’ve never seen hard drugs here. It was a surprise to say the least.” As one agriculture student pointed out, “We don’t even burn wood here.”

Principal Parise echoed these exact sentiments, saying, “I would consid-

er trying to paint a picture of heroin abuse, crack, cocaine, as a gross exaggeration.” He hastened to add that his conclusion was based on what students told him. He admitted, “I am not ignorant or naïve that there are certain isolated incidents.”



The most visible presence of drugs at Selinsgrove happens here at “Smoker’s Corner” where students hang around before and after school.

According to sources familiar with the drug scene, the drugs most heavily used at Selinsgrove are marijuana, dabs, Xanax, Adderall, coke, molly, and Percocet. Drugs are readily available if someone who wants them knows the right person.

A quick stroll in the high school library, for instance, leads to the knowledge that Xanax, the drug that left at least two students hospitalized, is sold in 2 milligram bars for \$10-\$15 each.

Story continued on page 2

### Grove Gazette Editorial Staff

**News Editors:** Savanna Foor & Dan Napsha

**Sports Editor:** Dawson Klinger

**Opinion/Editorial Editor:** Isabel Bailey

**Graphics Editor:** Sydney Reibschied

The *Grove Gazette* is a student organized newspaper that was created and organized in 2013, by three freshman: Daniel Napsha, Isabel Bailey and Savanna Foor. As this is the last edition prior to our graduation, we would like to thank our readership for following our work for the past four years. All of our previous editions are archived at: <http://www.seal-pa.org/domain/316>

# Drug Issue Controversy continued from page 1

Though it may not be the drug den as the *Orange Street News* depicted, Selinsgrove does have a drug problem, one moving away from typical teenage experimentation and into addiction.

High schools across the country are grappling with this encroaching epidemic and Principal Parise is keenly aware of the problem. Parise attributes the problem among teenagers largely to a “culture of acceptance” around drugs. “I’m concerned with students seeing [the drug] culture as acceptable... as the only way to be popular or accepted by peers,” Parise lamented.

The view that adolescent drug use is merely a rite of passage, or typical teenage experimentation, contributes heavily to this culture. Casual representation of drugs in the media (like in Netflix’s *13 Reasons Why*) and mental health problems do not help the problem either.

This culture showed itself earlier in the year after multiple female athletes were suspended for substance use in the summer. Sending a mixed message to all students, the school board decided to cut back on the typical 60-day suspension from extracurricular activities to only two weeks.

Though the recent drug abuses were taken more seriously, at the time of the incident in the fall, many students described the punishment as unfair because it happened in the summer.

Mr. Parise, though, is particularly interested in helping these groups of students – not only those who hang around “Smoker’s Corner”, but the student athletes who party hard and get away with it.

Faced with the multi-layered drug problem, the school district is actively looking for solutions. Though Mr. Parise believes that the school district can improve, compared to other schools, Selinsgrove has done more to tackle the problem.

The district holds forums, brings in speakers, and works with the police department to conduct searches for drugs. At every level, there is also preventative education to persuade students from partici-

pating in drug use. The Student Assistance Program, a group of teachers and administrators, also aids at-risk students. Mr. Parise encourages any student with a friend in need to submit an anonymous tip to the guidance office.

Now more than ever, the district is seriously encouraging parents to be more aware of their students’ lives. With police and the school taking preventative measures in the wake of the incidents, with even students aware that they need improve themselves, the pressure is on parents to better supervise their children.

Mr. Parise is genuinely hesitant to tell any parent how to do their job, but when asked what he would do as a parent, he responded: “It comes down to supervision, knowing your child’s friends, keeping up with current trends, and [a mutual understanding that adolescents are not entitled to complete privacy to social media.]”

In light of the negative publicity, though, Mr. Parise and all of the staff tries to stay positive. “We have students recognized in music, academics, National Honor Society, the arts, athletics... they excel at every level. It’s sensational to talk about the negative, but there is much to celebrate about our school.”

For certain, though, the drug problem will continue to be a major issue at Selinsgrove.

**Are you or a friend seriously struggling with school or home life?**

**Send an anonymous referral to the Student Assistance Program**

**Forms available in the guidance office**

## Class of 2017 to Graduate Next Week

By Liz Whitmer

With the end of the year rapidly approaching, the class of 2017 prepares for graduation, which will take place at 7:30pm on Wednesday, May 31, at the Susquehanna University Field House.

To reduce the amount of time spent at the ceremony, a senior awards program will be held at 9:15am the morning of graduation, recognizing those in Honor Societies and earning scholarships.

During graduation there will be many speeches delivered, including those by senior class co-presidents Alexis Hoffman and Sara Arbogast, the class valedictorian, the salutatorian, and the student and faculty appointed speakers.

Along with the aforementioned speeches, concert band and honors choir, who will be joined by any seniors in mixed chorus, will perform.

A baccalaureate service, a sermon-like farewell to the senior class, will be open to all graduating seniors and their families on May 28, at 5:00 pm in the SAHS auditorium.

For many, graduation is an emotional experience, as the seniors will be saying goodbye to the people they’ve grown up with, the teachers who have impacted their lives greatly, and the town in which many of them spent the majority of their life.

# Seniors Impact SAHS

By Maegan Bogetti

As graduation quickly approaches, time in Selinsgrove Area High School is coming to a bittersweet end for the class of 2017, and as they look both forward towards the future and backwards on the time of their high school careers, the impact they will leave behind can clearly be seen.

Not only for the seniors, but also the underclassmen, faculty, and staff, the value of the class of 2017 will have a lasting effect. While the achievements of the seniors are plain to see, what is harder to encompass in words is the moral and emotional effect the group has had on the high school.

This class has been extremely prosperous in the realm of academic achievements, athletic victories, community outreach, and school-wide success. The talents and gifts of the seniors have led to great progress and development for Selinsgrove High School and its legacy.

First of all, the *Grove Gazette* would not be a reality without the senior class, as it was started by seniors Isabel Bailey, Dan Napsha, and Savanna Foor when they were freshman.

In the academic realm, seniors Sydney Reibschied, Nate Moyer, Keyana Zellers, and Dan Napsha made it farther than any other Scholastic Scrimmage team, advancing to the CSIU finals.

Student creativity and achievement was on display at numerous art shows. Senior Brandon Walters sold art on the side and was even featured as an “Artist of the Month” through a local news outlet.

Seniors Lauren Rowe and Amelia Fouts also qualified for nationals for forensics speech and debate while performing in duo interpretation. They will travel over the summer to the competition in Louisville, Kentucky.

In the athletic realm, the senior class brought skill, dedication, and talent to the table, helping to achieve victories and titles galore. The Girl’s Lacrosse team beat Danville for the first time ever, the Football team made it to the state competitive level, Girls’ Soccer placed second at districts, Olivia Fravel and Savanna Foor made it to district semifinals in doubles for the Girls Tennis team, Girl’s Field Hockey made it to the state quarter finals, and the Girl’s Track team placed first in the district with an undefeated regular season.

Throughout the past four years, the seniors have faced a variety of challenges and obstacles on their path to graduation. During both times of triumph

and tribulation, each and every member of the class has in some way left behind their everlasting mark.

Through kindness, success, growth, and even struggle, the students have each exhibited their own unique ways of coping with challenge. Their growth has been proven as a valiant example to the underclassmen who have looked up to them and also encouraged their peers to push them onwards as well.

Senior Will Lapetina explained how it feels for the seniors who are so quickly approaching their graduation, saying, “I think it holds true for everyone that the past twelve years have been a pretty long journey, and I think we’re all super excited to go on to what’s next. What I’ve valued most about my peers are the friendships that I’ve made throughout the years, and especially now that our senior year is almost over, it’s a

really melancholy feeling that now after so long it is almost over. It really makes you appreciate what you go through in primary schools, whether it be the friends you make, the activities you do, or the achievements you reach.”

Senior Hannah Domaracki expresses what the end of this journey feels like: “One thing that I appreciated about my peers is that although many classes had some of the same people in them, each class had a different dynamic that promoted mental and emotional growth in new ways, strengthened old friendships and built new ones, and led to the creation of each person as an individual, as well as our class as a whole.”

Senior Lauren Rowe explains how impactful her experience as a member of the class of 2017 has been, saying, “I think what I appreciate most about the senior class is how much I’ve seen and experienced relationships develop over the past four years. I feel that as each of us has become more confident, and through shared classes, activities, and extracurriculars, we have been able to grow from a disorganized group into a more connected unit. Our shared experience has allowed us to become closer.”

Throughout the years, as each of the seniors have grown individually and as a class, their experience has matured and shaped them into a group of people seen as an example to the underclassman, as well as a respected group of now near-adults to the staff and faculty.

Though their time in the high school is now nearing its end, the impact they are leaving behind them is never-ending.



Senior friends who stick together: Lauren Rowe, Hannah Domaracki, Amelia Fouts, Olivia Fravel, and Markie Reiland prior to Prom



# Seniors Unique Post-Graduation Plans

By Anna Piecuch

As many seniors are preparing to graduate and leave Selinsgrove Area High School, several students' plans will take them far away from Pennsylvania.

Seniors Sydney Reibschied and Amelia Will, for example, are both headed overseas after graduation to experience life in a foreign country— or in Sydney's case, a foreign city-state.

Sydney will be attending YaleNUS in Singapore, which is Yale University's collaboration with the National University of Singapore that has an acceptance rate of less than four percent.

"Fifty percent of the national population in Singapore is not originally from Singapore," Reibschied explained. "The combination of professors from all over the world will give me a great global education there. I think people in Selinsgrove need to realize that there are opportunities all over the world that can be pursued. Don't be afraid to explore what's out there and learn about other cultures."

Amelia Will is looking forward to staying in Belgium for ten months through an exchange program after graduating from high school in Selinsgrove— in order to experience high school in Belgium.

"I'm going to high school there and I'm hoping to improve my French so I can become more fluent in the language," says Amelia. "I'm doing a thirteenth-year kind-of-thing with no age limit, so it will be almost like a gap year. I'll be staying with

two or three families throughout the ten months that I'll be staying in Belgium."



Instead of leaving the country, senior Jacob Bodinger is preparing to travel across it to attend Cal Polytechnic School, a California state school, in San Luis Obispo, to major in architecture and minor in music.

"(Cal Poly) is three hours north of Los Angeles on the coast," explains Jacob. "The architecture degree is a five year program. I'm excited to be traveling and to have new opportunities ahead of me outside of Selinsgrove."

All of the seniors who are graduating and taking on new journeys would agree that it's important to be knowledgeable about the world outside of our Selinsgrove community. As Amelia said, "Don't limit yourself to the basic path of college. Look around and expand your other options."

## All Spotlights on Grease Production

By Kiana Brubaker

Selinsgrove Area High School students performed their own rendition of *Grease*, the musical, from May 12 through the 14, starring seniors Jonah Roth as "Danny" and Isabel Bailey as "Sandy".

One surprise standout in the cast was junior Kya Porr who played "Marty". Kya received an award for "Most Memorable Supporting Actress" at the Valley Musical Celebration.

Kya confessed that "I actually wasn't expecting to get that award, being that it was my first year in the musical and I didn't have very good experience in acting. When I won the award I felt like I achieved what I was going for, bringing my character to life!"

The Valley Musical Celebration was hosted by the *Daily Item* and was an

opportunity to award students from the valley for their hard work. The celebration included students from thirteen different schools within the area that performed musicals.

In addition to the award Kya received, Selinsgrove High School also received the award for best prop. Students changed alum Harold "Pap" Hummel's golf cart into the iconic red and white "Grease Lightning" with some of their artistic skills. The golf cart even survived through a mini crash a few days before their opening night.

Sophomore cast members Hannah Doll and Zach Frey were proud of the show they pulled off, saying, "We definitely exceeded the expectations of our directors and the community."



The entire cast of *Grease* during their first performance on opening night

# 15 Things To Do Before Graduating From Selinsgrove Area High School

By Sydney Reibschied

1. **Keep an open mind.** Become aware of new ideas, other cultures, and be open to change.
2. **Appreciate your education.** Thank your past and present teachers for the work they have put into each lesson. Always remember to be thankful for the education you are given, because people all over the world would give anything for the same educational opportunities we take for granted.
3. **Positively affect someone else.** Talk to the new student. Join the kid sitting alone at lunch. Try to spread positivity in any way you can.



4. **Learn to form your own ideas and opinions.** Become informed on the world around you so you are able to form your own opinions.
5. **Find something you're passionate about.** Whether it is agriculture or astrophysics, begin to understand what drives you.
6. **Buy an iconic big chocolate chip cookie from the cafeteria.** You won't regret it.
7. **Never limit yourself.** Not only think and dream big, but act on those dreams to pursue what makes you happy.
8. **Get involved.** Involvement in a sports team or club can help you meet new people, find an interest, and

share that same interest with others around you. You will form a bond that can't be found anywhere else.



9. **Explore the world outside of Selinsgrove.** Adventure. Explore. The world is vast and meant to be questioned and explored.
10. **Never stop being curious.** Curiosity drives innovation.
11. **Learn a new language.** Selinsgrove is fortunate enough to offer three languages, all of equally important status, which help to increase the productivity of your brain, the quality of your learning, and your ability to interact with other cultures.
12. **Watch a musical or play.** The theater department always puts on wonderful productions each year.
13. **Find one good friend.** Throughout high school, I've learned a lot about who has been there for me and who has not. Life is meant to be shared with others around you, and once you find the people who you really connect with, life seems more meaningful.
14. **Try something new.** Learn how to play an instrument, paint, or dance hip-hop. Get out of your comfort zone because learning how to be comfortable with the uncomfortable is essential to your future.
15. **Never forget where you came from.** Selinsgrove will always be your home, no matter where in the world you end up.



Take an afternoon walk down the "main drag" of Selinsgrove to visit the unique shops and eateries.

# SPORTS

## Lacrosse Looking for Two District Titles

By Marley Sprenkel

After both winning their district semi-final matchups, the Girls and the Boys' Lacrosse teams look to bring home two district championship victories after successful regular seasons tonight.

The boys' team beat Danville 14-4 in the district semi-final, and the girls' team was able to knock off Midd-West on their home field 20-4.



Sophomore Joe Kahn fights for the ball against Danville

Key players for the boys' side include seniors Ryan Bucher and Cross Kantz, junior Connor Vanzijl, and sophomores Joe Kahn and Charlie Hayes. Finishing the season at 9-5, the team is ready to take on Lewisburg, the reigning district champions, in this year's championship game.

When asked about the season, sophomores Charlie Hayes and Jake Hoover had nothing but positive comments about their teammates and the season, as Hayes stated, "The highlight of the season [for me] was all of Bucher's

face offs". Hoover added, "It has been a great season with a great group of guys, so far".

The boys will take on the Lewisburg Green Dragons in a double header with the girls on Tuesday, May 23 at 7:30pm at Midd West High School.

With an astounding record of 17-1, the girls' lacrosse team is heading into the district championship game with all the confidence in the world. Their toughest game of the season came against Danville, who they will face in the championship game.

Key players include seniors Megan Kahn, Megan Keeney, Veronica John, and Savannah Bucher providing the firepower on offense. Senior Savannah Foor continues to anchor the team defensively game in and game out.

The girls will take on Danville's team at Midd West high school (right before the boys game) tonight, May 23, at 6:00pm for the district gold.



Freshman Katie Bucher races towards the ball, attempting to win possession

## Seals Tennis' Season Comes to a Close

By Dawson Klinger

Falling one match short of qualifying for the team district playoffs, the Seals Tennis team's season has ended with a record of 7-9.

Everyone on the team, especially the seniors, were disappointed at how they finished. Steven Pomykalski, a senior leader on the team, summed up the team's mentality: "Honestly, I was upset to not make team districts my senior year. After having great team success the past few years, I thought this year would be the same. I can't blame anyone, as everyone played and practiced their hardest. I would like to thank my coaches and teammates for a great four years of tennis".

Seniors Steven Pomykalski and Noah Wise

qualified for district singles. Pomykalski finished the regular season with a record of 11-5, and Wise finished at 8-8. Pomykalski ended up winning one game in district singles before being knocked out of the tournament.

Key team wins this season came against Jersey Shore and Mifflinburg, as well as winning two against rivals Shikellamy.

There is hope for the future for the Seals' Tennis team though, as three freshman were able to get quality varsity experience this season. Freshman Connor Shaffer, Nick Thompson, and Liam Finnerty were all able to play on varsity this year and get an understanding of what it takes to compete at that level.



Senior Steven Pomykalski works through his service during the final practice.



# Track and Field Continue to Dominate

By Megan Keeney

The Girls' Track team had an incredible undefeated season which included a PHAC Division I title, the Breslin Relays, the Lock Haven Invitational, and which culminated in a District IV championship title this past weekend in Williamsport, with several athletes qualifying for the State Championships.

At the District Invitational several Seals athletes qualified for States including: senior Ashley Blair by winning the 1600m run; senior Brittany Carnathan earned the gold in the 3200m run; sophomore Megan Hoffman won the 100m, 200m, and 400m sprints; junior, Katie Bond broke the school record and qualified with a pole vault of 11 feet; and junior Piper Klinger won the discus gold.



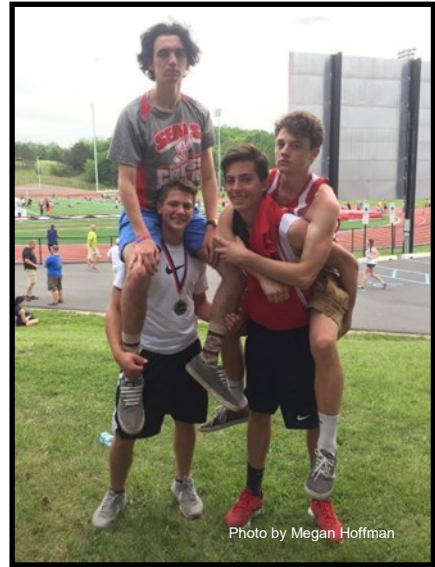
Junior Katie Bond pole vaulting at districts in Williamsport.

Additionally, two girls relay teams qualified for States: 4x400 team consisting of Senior Sara Arbogast, and sophomores Megan Hoffman, Skyler Maurer and Hannah Grove and the 4x800 team consisting of seniors Sara Arbogast, Brittany Carnathan, Ashley Blair, and sophomore Hannah Grove. The 4x800 team has a very good chance of making the finals at States based upon their current times.

The girls track team worked hard all season, and as sophomore Hannah

Grove stated, "The district medals that we won made all the hard work worthwhile".

The boys' track team, primarily coached by Ryan McGuire, had a very young team.



Freshman Izzy Showers, junior Patrick O' Malley, sophomore Thor Britton, and junior Kole Miller clown around at districts .

McGuire stated that, "We competed with heart and were not afraid of the more experienced teams. I look forward to coaching this group of athletes over the next few years".

Junior Keith Dreese, the most valuable field athlete, had a record-breaking season. He broke the school record in shotput with a throw of 58 feet and 7 inches earlier in the season. Keith (shot and discus) will be joined by junior Brennen Wolf (discus) as the lone Selinsgrove boys competing in the State Championship next week.

Other standouts for the boys include freshman Izzy Showers who broke the freshman school record in the pole vault, with a jump of 11'9"; sophomore Evan Gaugler won the coaches' award; and sophomore Gray Catherman who was selected as the most improved athlete.



Photo by Mike Piecuch

Congratulations to Mr. Gessel and Mr. Switala for taking Second Place in the "Mallet Madness" Charity Croquet Tournament on May 20, at the Selinsgrove Rotary Fields. They played for the SAHS Forensics team and donated their \$500 winnings to the organization.

# A Bittersweet End to Seals Baseball

By Keanan Wolf

The Seals Baseball team played their final home game Thursday, May 18, against Shamokin Area High School and suffered a 9-5 loss, which knocked them out of playoff contention.

After the loss, senior Evan Poust was asked for his opinion on the season: "I really enjoyed my final season of baseball, I just wish we could've won a few more games and made a playoff run. It was still a good season though".

The Seals finished the season with a record of 8-11, which was not good enough to allow them to qualify for the district playoffs because

all qualifying teams must have at least a .500 record.

As the Seals' season comes to an end they say goodbye to some key players that have made contributions to the program over the last few years. Senior players such as Jake Nylund, Evan Poust, Brandon Day, Morgan Fisher, and Kyle Mertz will all be missed as they helped in winning the district championship in 2016.

Even though the Seals are losing some great players, their young and talented pitching staff, including sophomores Logan Hile and Blaise Zeiders, should set them up for a rebound year in 2018.



Senior catcher Jake Nylund meets at the mound with sophomore pitcher Blaise Zeiders

## Softball Ends Season on a High Note

By Sam Rodkey

The Selinsgrove Softball Team finished the season with a record of 4-14; however, they defeated Lewisburg High School's team in the season finale at home last week to end on a positive note.

After 11 innings, and 19 total runs scored by both teams, the Seals pulled out the win against the Green Dragons 10-9.

A key to the season was strength on the mound. Junior Hailley Grenfell and sophomore Ashley Naugle combined for 68 strikeouts this season.

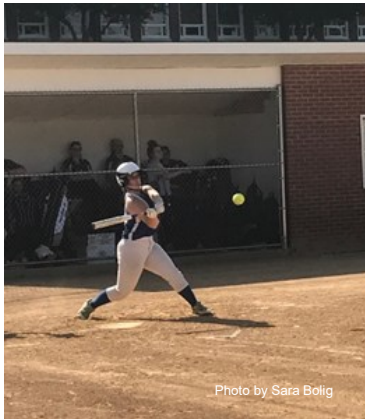
Along with the pitching, the team played good defense as a whole and was able to limit the other team's scoring as often as they could. Sophomore Paige Smith got injured early in the season, which was a major setback, but the team did not give up and continued to

play hard in her absence.

On the offensive side, sophomores Brooke Longacre and Elise Hessek swung the bat efficiently and were able to contribute to a lot of the teams' scoring. Longacre had a batting average of .451 on 32 hits, as well as 31 RBI's on the season. Hessek, with a batting average of .417, had 25 hits and was very aggressive on the bases, stealing six times.

This year's softball team was very young and was able to acquire valuable experience this year in order to be more competitive for years to come. The underclassmen on this year's team

have the talent to turn the program around next year, and Selinsgrove Softball team will be one to watch in years to come.



Sophomore Ashley Naugle mid-swing during a game

**Don't forget to see your  
Fall Sports Coaches  
before leaving school  
for the summer**



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Student Profiles

### Izzy Walter, Senior

**One day, what do you think global warming will do to Selinsgrove?** *It will start melting things.*

**Would you like to see Trump impeached by the end of this summer?** *No.*

**What will you do this summer that you've never done before?** *College visits.*

**How will you earn money this summer?** *Working at a summer camp.*

**What will you miss about school?** *The people.*



### Ethan Muller, Junior

**One day, what do you think global warming will do to Selinsgrove?** *Some bad things, it will destroy the environment.*

**Would you like to see Trump impeached by the end of this summer?** *Hopefully yes.*

**What will you do this summer that you've never done before?** *Go sky diving.*

**How will you earn money this summer?** *Working at Hilsher's General Store.*

**What will you miss about school?** *The school cookies.*



### Logan Heimbach, Sophomore

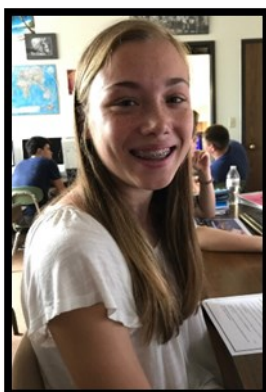
**One day, what do you think global warming will do to Selinsgrove?** *It will make it really cold.*

**Would you like to see Trump impeached by the end of this summer?** *Yes.*

**What will you do this summer that you've never done before?** *I'm going to Myrtle Beach.*

**How will you earn money this summer?** *Babysitting.*

**What will you miss about school?** *Seeing my friends every day.*



### Blake Shellenberger, Freshman

**One day, what do you think global warming will do to Selinsgrove?** *Make it hotter.*

**Would you like to see Trump impeached by the end of this summer?** *No.*

**What will you do this summer that you've never done before?** *Go to Florida.*

**How will you earn money this summer?** *I'm getting a job at Wendy's.*

**What will you miss about school?** *My friends, teacher, and school.*



# Standardized Testing: An Impractical Process

Becca Fogle

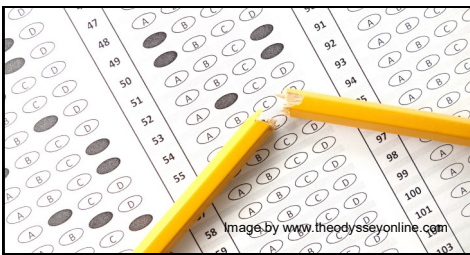
*(This editorial has been adapted from an essay submitted to Mr. Gessel's English 2 course)*

Standardized testing is a major controversial issue that affects the education of all the schools in the United States, including the Selinsgrove Area High School.

The government mandates these tests so that specific exams have to be passed to move to a higher level. Students answer multiple choice questions, sometimes along with a few written responses, to test their knowledge on a particular subject.

Schools keep the results and often use them for purposes such as teacher evaluations, responding to individual needs, and funding money. Those who are in favor of standardized tests recognize that, if used correctly, these tests can provide helpful information about an individual's educational needs, prepare students for college, and also allow teachers to make improvements to their class based on the scores.

Those who do not agree with standardized testing feel this way for the children's sake, with anxiety and loss of childhood, but also for the school's educational system as a whole so that it can reach its full potential covering ranges of information.



Standardized testing is not valuable to schools and is a process that should be removed from education because it negatively affects children's mental and physical health, eliminates time for non-tested ideas, and is an unreliable measure of intelligence and understanding.

One reason many people disagree with standardized testing is that it is responsible for harmful mental and physical health issues. A widely known repercussion of standardized tests is anxiety.

The *Sacramento Bee* announced that "test-related jitters are so common that the Stanford-9 Exam comes with instructions on what to do with a test booklet in case a student vomits on it" (ProCon.org). A wide range of children experience test anxiety and the hurtful physical effects that come with them.

Students also obtain negative mental effects from standardized testing. Pediatrician Wendy Sapolsky talks about the view on anxiety mentally: "I mean, it's incredible. Sometimes, these kids get so worked up as early as third grade with having to pass the FCATs (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test) to pass third grade, that this time of year we have some children...that have such severe anxiety that we can't get them to school at this time of year. Literally, they will not get out of the car" (Carla Mooney).

School is no longer a comfortable or safe environment where they can learn, but instead a threatening environment that reminds them of their anxiety day after day.

Standardized tests also affect children's self-esteem or how they view themselves. Natasha Segool, a psychology professor at the University of Hartford,

says, "If students aren't achieving to their highest potential as a result of anxiety...it clearly has the potential to not only affect children long-term, in terms of their achievement, but also in terms of self-concept, what they think about themselves" (Carla Mooney).

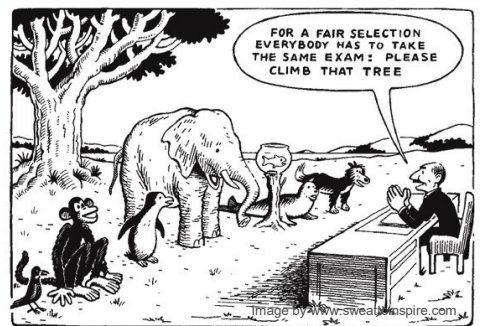
Many students struggle with self-worth because of their scores on standardized tests since standardized testing is stressed in schools. They often determine whether someone can graduate to the next class or even grade, and when a child does not reach the acceptable score, he or she is held back and experience feelings of embarrassment and loss of confidence or self-respect.

Standardized testing also removes time for many of the fun activities that teachers use that do not directly pertain to the tests. A recent study showed that "teachers lose between 60 to 110 hours of instructional time per year because of testing and the institutional tasks that surround it" (ncte.org). They lose their freedom to be able to choose the methods they believe are the most productive in teaching the children and instead have to "teach to the test," or teach the exact information the students have to know for the test.

However, some believe that standardized testing is beneficial to education systems because it prepares students for the expectations of college. In January of 1998, a study by Public Agenda released that "66% of college professors said "elementary and high schools expect students to learn too little

Similarly, the SAT is viewed by some to be a fair standardized test that helps colleges know if an individual is ready for college. A study shows the percentage increases of six-year graduation rates in multiple schools that began evaluating students by SAT scores ranges from 10 to 90 percent over just a four-year interval (Peter Salins).

This suggests that the SAT is a reliable source to assess somebody's probability of success in college. When this test was used as a greater evaluation tool, graduation rates increased, which means the students who did well on the SAT did well in college and went on to graduate.



The process of standardized testing is unnecessary and should be eliminated from schools because it causes harmful mental and physical health issues, removes time for non-tested ideas, and is an undependable way to calculate a student's knowledge and understanding. The issue of standardized testing is seen in every school across the United States and is a requirement for all students as a result of government decisions.

# Then and Now... How We've Changed

By: Savanna Foor

High school is a huge time of personal growth for everyone, not only in a physical sense, but mentally as well.

The majority of people leave high school looking completely different from when they started. These four years are years of change not only physically, but mentally, socially, and emotionally.

High school is a time to form your personal foundations before you enter the diverse and exotic world after high school. Everyone becomes accustomed to their surroundings and the "social norms" accepted in their personal location.

The time between freshman and senior year brings much self-discovery. Situations are faced in which we learn a lot about self-character and the person we want to be at such a young age.

Social situations change greatly throughout these four years as well. For example, your biggest worry freshman year might be what style of homecoming dress to wear. Compared to junior year when it might be... 'So after homecoming should I go to that "cool" party? Or study for mid-terms? I mean, college matters too right?'

We've all had our fair share of meltdowns whether it be over homework, girlfriends, boyfriends, or just the overall stress of being in such a transitional time in our lives.

Freshman year, the seniors seemed like giants and we never understood how people could mature so quickly in a few years. We couldn't wait to get rid of the braces and disproportional figures. Without realizing it, everyone suddenly grew up physically and we came back to school sophomore year and hardly recognized the grade above us.

The same type of change can be seen emotionally and socially. Friends change peer groups, attitudes, and situations. It was always fascinating to see who befriended whom over the past summer.

Eventually, we found our way. With changing times and good friends, things levelled out.

Senior, Amelia Fouts stated "I'd say what changed most about me is the way I perceive the people and the world around me. I'm a lot more open minded and interested in new opportunities and experiences. As a freshman, I was set in my ways of what I believed was "right" and "wrong", but I've been exposed to situations and people who have helped me become more understanding of the world around me."

Each person experiences their own personal growth, whether it's sooner or later. As Pablo Picasso once wisely said, "don't waste your youth growing up."



Veronica John



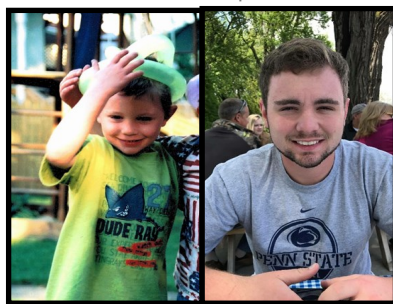
Amelia Fouts

Seniors:

From the  
Start to  
the  
Finish



Sean Stumph



Morgan Fisher

## "This summer I would like to..."

By Nina Yang

"...go to the beach and hang out with my friends."

"...travel and relax."

"...go to Italy and go to the pool at least five times a week."

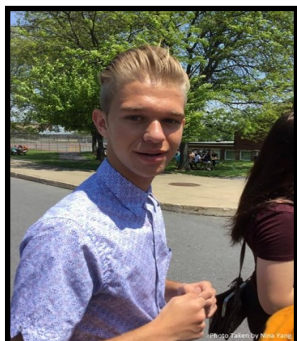
"...go to Mexico and visit the Great Wall of China."

"... finish a book and join marching band."

"...go camping and go to a drive-in."

"... go kayaking and go to the beach."

"...go swimming and eat good food."



Luke Kantz, Freshman

"I would like to get a tan and get in shape over the summer."





# My Turn by Isabel Bailey

It's no secret that our school has a drug scene, and right now it's the talk of the town.

Parents are confused, kids who aren't involved are startled, and we are all a little bit helpless as to what to do next. Perhaps if we take the time to try and understand why students do drugs in the first place, we can be more helpful in trying to solve the problem.

The first obvious reason kids try drugs is to be rebellious. Teenagers are tired of being told to come home at a certain time by their parents or sign out on a pass to go to the bathroom by their teachers.

For some, these rules add up and become oppressive. They've been told that drugs are wrong from their first Red Ribbon Week, so what better way to rebel than to smoke weed, do crack, and pop pills?

A sense of maturity factors in as well. You buy the drugs yourself or you might be the one selling them, and suddenly, you feel you've crossed into a whole new world of independence. Your parents don't know, and you're making your own rules.

Next comes boredom. Perhaps you're getting tired of doing the same routine every day: waking up, brushing your teeth, going to geometry, waiting for the bell to ring in fourth period, riding home. You begin to wish you had something more, and drugs do offer something different. For some people, drugs serve to break up that routine.

Risk is a big one. Some people thrive on risk and the adrenaline rush; they like to take chances, and drugs are a chance. No matter what, drugs aren't safe and they do pose a threat.

To the risk takers out there, that is all the more reason to get involved. A lot of people find taking risks to be thrilling and essential to living life to the fullest. Maybe for some it's the risk of buying the drugs, for others it's the risk of selling, and for many it's the risk of actually taking the drug.

There's also a strong sense of glamour associated with drugs. Doing and selling drugs becomes romanticized, and the experiences that people have and tell are appealing to some. The students who do drugs seem like they hold some sort of secret, and that in itself is glamour.

For others, it is a form of escapism from difficult personal circumstances at home or at school. Drugs offer a temporary, but false relief to hardships.

Drugs are available. It's not too difficult to find drugs in our town if that's your desire. We all know who to ask. If we really want it, and have some money or friends willing to share, it's not hard to get.

Perhaps what keeps students coming back to drugs is the identity it gives them. Many kids that deal and take drugs have a reputation associated with drugs, and thus, they have an identity. In a time where we're all trying to form and find our identities, they seem to have found theirs quite easily — it is seemingly cool and secretive.

Consider this an abridged listing of why some kids do and sell drugs. What is most important is that even though some of these motivations make drug users and sellers seem like they haven't gotten their priorities in check, these kids are just as special as anyone else.

They have been dubbed "the bad kids" by adults and students alike. They are doing something illegal and dangerous, and at times, wrong, no doubt about it, but that doesn't make them "bad." Many of the students I know that are involved with drugs are some of the sweetest kids in their class. A lot of them are smart and have great insights.

Often times, these kids just want something more exciting, and don't know how or where to find it other than in drugs. But knowing some of them, I wish I could tell them that they're limiting themselves.

They have so much potential to do something beyond selling or using drugs. They may think drugs provide them with all that I listed, but in the end, what they provide most is an artificial time.

The experiences that kids are having while they're on drugs aren't sustainable. Drugs cannot carry a person through life, and a person cannot expect to rely on drugs for their experiences.

There is an amazing world out there, one that is begging these kids who do drugs to be a part of. Perhaps that's why doing drugs isn't fair to oneself: it shelters them from the real world—from the science there is to discover, the books there are to be read, the pieces to be written. They're missing out on a world that needs them to be coming in.

To those currently involved in drugs I have to ask—aren't you the least bit curious?

I'm graduating in a week and then I'm leaving. I feel a little bit like there's not too much I can do to change my classmates' minds about drugs. But I can say this: it's important to know what you are worth, to know that there is a life waiting for you to access.

Perhaps this access takes time, patience, and thought. It's not going to happen overnight, but nothing does that is important and meaningful. If there is any message I can leave it is that drugs aren't going to lead you into the world you really want.