



# THE DEVIL'S HERALD

Sports

Girls Swimming

Page 2

AG Life

Holla

Page 5

Inside

News Page 2

Sports Page 3

AG Life Page 4

Holla Page 5

Avon Grove High School, West Grove, Pa.

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## COURSE SELECTION

# New AP courses coming to Avon Grove next year

By  
**Maddie Butler**  
Editor

Although there are months left until the final bell, students have started selecting courses for the upcoming school year.

This can be a tedious process for everyone as the miles of options that can be worked into one's schedule are not only overwhelming, but with the addition of new classes, it is hard to find out what to expect from each course.

Anyone planning on taking AP classes faces a particularly hard challenge during this round of course selection because of the following new courses: AP Comparative Government, AP Precalculus, and AP Seminar.

While it can be a breeze to learn more about the content and structure of courses that friends have taken, the job only gets harder when contemplating a freshly added class for AGHS.

Those heading into AP Precalculus, however, are lucky as they can expect this class to remain "consistent with what Honors Trig/Precalculus was" in that

it "is tough" but "prepares students for AP Calculus" according to Mrs. Stevens, the math department chairperson.

That being said, Honors Trig/Precalculus will no longer be offered as Mrs. Stevens, the AP Precalculus teacher for next year, explained that both courses share the "same content" and a matching "pool of students that would be interested in the class."

Mrs. Stevens ensures that, although there is definitely a "different line of thinking" and a more in-depth "level of thought" required for an AP class, students will be prepped for this all year in order to ensure their success if they do choose to take the AP Exam.

Another possible benefit from "training students to think in that way" a year earlier is that they are better prepared for taking AP Calculus the following year.

AP Comparative Government has also been added to the curriculum for next year, and will be taught by Mrs. Polin.

Through her review of the course material and content, Mrs. Polin believes that this class is best fit for anyone interested in "international relations or law" as well as people who took "AP Human Geography or AP World" and enjoyed them.

SEE AP COURSES PAGE 2

## AG LIFE

# The wait is over: Holiday Holla returns



-Photo courtesy of the AGHS Yearbook

Cionie Parchment sings "Perfect," by Ed Sheeran and Beyonce, in front of a crowded gym during the Holiday Holla. Since school was cancelled on December 23, the Holla was pushed back to February 3. Read more about the Holla on page 5.

## AP Exam Overviews

### AP Seminar

Part 1 - Group project and presentation

Part 2 - Individual essay and presentation

Part 3 - Exam with 3 short answer questions and 1 argumentative essay

### AP Precalculus

Multiple choice with 48 questions

4 free response questions

### AP Comparative Government

Multiple choice with 55 questions

4 free response questions

# President Biden updates the country, Governor Huckabee responds

By  
**Jackson Morris**  
Senior Editor

At around the beginning of every calendar year, the sitting president gives a speech about the state of the country they lead known as the State of the Union.

On February 7, President Joe Biden gave his second State of the Union address as he began his third year in office, following in the footsteps of the 45 presidents before him.

Biden started his address by praising the bipartisanship legislature he and Congress had passed into law since his last speech, including one of the cornerstones of Joe Biden's 2020 campaign: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which was passed in November

2021.

Biden discussed many issues facing the American public as the year began: the war in Ukraine, gun control laws, police, reform, and the need for more American manufacturing.

Biden also called once again for bipartisanship in the new 118th Republican-majority Congress, stating, "There's no reason we can't work together and find consensus on important things in this Congress."

Biden also tried to level with Americans about the trying times the nation has gone through recently, but remained optimistic. "Today, though bruised, our democracy remains unbowed and unbroken."

Biden had guests join him at his

State of the Union to further punctuate the points he was trying to make to the American people.

His guests included activist and singer Bono, the parents of Tyrie Nichols, a man who was killed during a traffic stop by police in Memphis, Brandon Tsay, the man credited with stopping the gunman from Monterey Park shooting, and Paul Pelosi, husband of former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and victim of an assault in his own home in the fall of 2022.

After Biden delivered his address, Arkansas governor and former White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders delivered a recorded speech from her office in Little Rock that is credited by CBS News as the official Republican response to the State of

the Union.

In her address, Sanders proclaimed that it is time for a "new age" of Republican leadership and that Americans have to choose between "normal and crazy" when voting in the 2024 Presidential election.

Sanders focused her response on cultural issues raging in different areas of the United States, such as the debate of teaching critical race theory and other controversial issues inside and outside of the classroom.

"In the radical left's America, Washington taxes you and lights your hard-earned money on fire, but you get crushed with high gas prices, empty grocery shelves, and our children are taught to hate one another on account of

their race, but not to love one another or our great country," she said.

Sanders is not the first Republican to create a GOP response to Biden's address. Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina delivered a response to last year's State of the Union, and in 2016 former U.N. ambassador Nikki Haley gave a response to President Barack Obama's final State of the Union Address.

Haley announced her bid for the 2024 GOP presidential nomination on February 15, 2023.

The next election for Avon Grove community members is on May 16, 2023, for the local municipal primary election.

## AG LIFE

# New semester brings new connections

By  
Erin Harrington  
Staff Writer

One of the many great things about Avon Grove is the amount of intriguing electives that students can take. Students can learn how to create a video game in Computer Game Design, or they could learn about criminal law, civil law, and individual rights and responsibilities in Street Law.

Course material is not the only thing that is different between these electives. Some classes, like Ceramics, last for only one semester, whereas other classes, like Psychology last the entire year.

There are benefits to both year long electives and semester long electives, but there are disadvantages to both course lengths as well.

"I feel that by the time Ceramics 1 has ended, many students have just started to fully develop their skills. When I have students in Ceramics 1 and then Ceramics 2, you can really see their learning and creativity develop, which is really fun to see," said Mrs. Mercer, who teaches art classes including ceramics.

In only one semester, most students are not able to get nearly as

far as they would be able to get in a full year. In the one semester classes, students are able to start to get good at whatever they are learning, but in order to excel, a full year is sometimes necessary.

Imagine how much farther students would be able to go if their one semester courses lasted the entire year. There would be more time for students to practice their

other classes like Creative Writing and Poetry, that is not an option.

While the short time-span of these semester-long classes can have some disadvantages, they also allow students to try more electives to find what they really enjoy doing. The semester-long electives allow students to try more courses than they would be able to try if they were bound to

the opportunity to find something they love than they would if they were bound to electives that last the entire year.

Another benefit of having electives that last for one semester is the shorter time frame helps keep students engaged.

"I think it would be hard to hold student's attention and interest for a full year," said Mrs. Nichols, who

Furthermore, electives that last for one-semester allow both students and teachers to meet new people and make new friends.

"I miss my fall semester students but there is always an excitement to start anew with another group of amazing students during the spring semester," says Mr. Atkinson, who teaches history classes and electives.

"The bonds made during high school are very important to teenagers' lives, and the more classes that students can go through, the more connections they can make."

By switching electives at the start of the second semester, teachers are able to connect with a new group of students, and those students are able to connect with both their new teacher and their new peers. The bonds made during high school are very important to teenagers' lives, and the more classes that students can go through, the more connections they can make.

Given that Avon Grove has so many electives, it would be a shame if students did not have room on their schedule to experiment with new topics to find activities that they like, which ultimately helps to determine the career path students choose to follow.

new skill and build on what they know, and there would be so much more time for students to learn more information and lessons.

By cutting the semester courses off at the end of the first semester, students lose all of this time.

In some electives, there are multiple courses you can take to get this time, like how students can take Journalism I, Journalism II, and Journalism III. However, in

year-long classes.

"I like semester-long classes because it lets me switch up my schedule and find what I actually like to do," says freshman Eva McGrath.

With electives that last one-semester, there is more opportunity to try new classes so that students can learn what they like to do and what they are good at. By cutting electives into semester-long classes, students have two times

teaches Baking classes. By the end of the year a class can run out of material or get repetitive, to the point where students no longer feel intrigued in the class.

By cutting electives into semester-long courses, the class seems to keep students interested throughout the entire course, therefore getting more out of the class in a semester, than they would if it went through the entire year.

## COURSE SELECTION

## New AP courses offer new opportunities

AP COURSES FROM PAGE 1

Mrs. Polin also shared that AP United States Government is another good course to take beforehand as it will allow students to obtain a better understanding of "how our government works," and make it easier for them to "compare effectively."

Additionally, Mrs. Polin included that the exam for AP Comparative Government follows the "exact same format of the exam" for AP U.S. Government in terms of the "types of multiple choice and open-ended questions."

AP Comparative Government is set to be a year long course, instead of one semester.

Even if these don't apply to you, Mrs. Polin draws on the significance in learning about the government of other nations as it can give people a "greater appreciation for the American government," and promote more political participation.

A better understanding of other forms of governments can also teach students about what "works better in certain situations," and decide "what elements they can bring in" to our current democracy as they have access to more informed information.

AP Comparative Government isn't the only real-world applicable AP course being added next year as AP Seminar is expected to teach skills that can be "used in every subject" and "even after college," according to Mrs. Brennan, the teacher for AP Seminar next year.

These skills include the ability to "argue a point" effectively within one's writing, shares Mrs. Brennan, as well as students' public speaking ability.

Although the "presentation

component" may scare some students, this class is perfect for anyone that either "likes doing [presentations] or needs help doing [presentations]," shared Mrs. Brennan.

Mrs. Brennan assures that there will be plenty of "practice leading up to the College Board graded presentation" and ample practice for the "argumentative writing" aspect of the exam.

After completing AP Seminar, students then have the option to take AP Research, which Mrs. Brennan described to have more emphasis on "physical research" and "using sources in writing."

Those that complete both AP Seminar and AP Research as well as four additional AP Exams with a score of three or higher graduate with an AP Capstone diploma.

While all AP courses hold value for students and their futures, new courses mean expanding opportunities for broadening one's scope on academics and the world.

These additions also provide an increasing chance that students' interest will be reflected in an educational setting.

Therefore, those that are considering taking an AP level class should focus on what interests them as a learner, and allow for their capabilities to grow through that experience.

## Local Polling Locations

Christian Life Center, 125  
Saginaw Road, Lincoln  
University

Avondale Borough Hall, 110  
Pomeroy Ave., Avondale

West Grove Fire Co Station 32  
1517 New London Rd., Landenberg

Chatham Methodist Church, 3215  
Gap Newport Pk, West Grove

London Grove Twp Bldg., 372  
Rosehill Rd. West Grove

PLUS



# HERALD SPORTS

● **Today**

**Boys Ice Hockey**  
vs. Haverford, Skatium,  
8:40 p.m.

**Girls Ice Hockey**  
vs. Shanahan/D'town East,  
Ice Line, 9:50 p.m.

● **Feb. 26**

**Indoor Track & Field**  
PIAA Indoor Track & Field  
State Championships,  
Penn State University,  
1:00 p.m.

● **Mar. 6**

**Spring Sports Start**

Friday, February 24, 2023

Page 3

## GIRLS SWIMMING

# Lady Devils go undefeated

## Swim team takes Ches-Mont National Division title, says goodbye to Lincoln University

By

**Cailin Maley**  
Staff Writer

Avon Grove's girls swim team swam their last ever meet at Lincoln University on February 7 and defeated West Chester East, 97-89, to win the Ches-Mont National Division title.

The Lady Devils went undefeated (8-0) and brought home their first title since 2018.

The team was led by junior Lily Perrin, who won the 100 backstroke; sophomore Kaitlyn Burk, who won the 200 individual medley and 100 butterfly; junior Ava Pfaff, who won the 50 and 100 freestyle; freshman Cailin Maley, who won the 200 and 500 freestyle; and freshman Anna Hammerschmidt who participated in the first place winning 200 medley relay along with Perrin, Burk, and Pfaff.

The AG 400 freestyle relay of Burk, Maley, Perrin, and Pfaff also earned first.

The only two events that the Lady Devils didn't get first in was the 200 free relay, and the 100 breaststroke.

Anna Hammerschmidt pushed till the end in the 100 breaststroke getting a third place for the Red Devils.

The 200 free relay of Hammerschmidt, Melanie Bylik, Catie Weingarten, and Maley got third place as well, just getting out touched by West Chester East.

"I was immensely proud of all of the girls. This title was even more special to me be-



Junior Lily Perrin swims the butterfly.

cause I coach all of the swimmers both for high school and club," said head coach Kelly Burk, who has been coaching the swim team for 15 years.

"When we won the Ches-Mont, the team came together and swam their hearts out to achieve this honor. I was also proud that the swimmers were all coached by Kelly and I. Much different from when we won the previous time," said coach Chic McNelly.

Although this meet was amazing, the girls had an all

each other," said McNelly.

"I was most proud of several girls who went out there every meet, swam their hearts out and gave 200% and fought to beat the girls next to them in all of their races," said Burk.

the season and the last meet at Lincoln University, but it was also the senior meet. Seniors Keira Giacometti, Jason Reuter, and Jacob Texter were recognized.

"It feels amazing (to win the Ches-Mont). Freshman year, I had been told there was a very slim chance we were ever going to win the Ches-Mont again—at least while I was here. To win it at my last meet ever—and our last meet at Lincoln, well, it was beautiful," said senior Keira Giacometti.

Keira plans to go to the University of Pittsburgh to study political science and English.

"The best part is the people. You have a lot of fun at meets, mostly away meets. Everyone is always supportive," said senior Jason Reuter.

After high school, Jason plans to go into the Army and be a Black Hawk helicopter repairman.

"I've learned a lot from this team and I am going to miss it," said senior Jacob Texter.

After high school Jacob plans to continue his swimming and academic career at West Chester University.

-Photo courtesy of Ainsley Holman



Captains Keira Giacometti and Catie Weingarten

-Photo courtesy of Ainsley Holman



Sloane Whitton takes flight after only two weeks of practice.

-Photo courtesy of Ainsley Holman

around great season.

"The season made me smile thinking of all the different parts and personalities that came together to form a unified team. Everyone cheered or consoled

Diver Alena Kurtz also won the diving competition. She has been a huge asset to the team all year, scoring points with her diving at every meet.

Another swimmer, Sloane Whitton, stepped up to dive for the team and scored an extra point, after practicing for just two weeks.

"The training was frustrating when I couldn't get a dive, but sometimes you just have to close your eyes and jump," says Whitton. She stepped outside her comfort zone to help the team earn extra points.

Not only was it the last meet of

Although this was an amazing season for the girls team, the boys team also had a great season with sophomore Nate Kidder and senior Jacob Texter qualifying for districts.

For the girls team, Kaitlyn Burk, Anna Hammerschmidt, Alena Kurtz, Cailin Maley, Lily Perrin, and Ava Pfaff will also be moving onto districts.

Next year the team will swim elsewhere. According to PaPrepLive.com, Lincoln University will be filling in the pool as they renovate Manuel Rivero Hall.

### AG LIFE

# Senioritis solidifies in second semester

By  
**Gaby Bellaver**  
Column

I've seen how the disease takes over a person's whole body.

Slowly at first.

They begin to lose all of their motivation.

They start to lose their minds.

They just go through the motions, day in and day out.

The sight? Emotionless slugs.

I've seen how the disease changes people.

Bubbly personas gone. Blank stares from tired eyes. Less effort everyday.

I've seen how the disease rips people away.

At first it's only an hour or two.

Then once a month.

It builds up until they're never here at all. Gone without a trace.

I've spent the last twelve years convincing myself I was immune. It could never reach me. It would never infect me. But as I sit here and type this article a good 20 minutes before it's due, it's evident that the inevitable has reached me.

The wave of Senioritis-2023 has struck.

Each year it seems we hear the same old story. Kids reach their senior year and stop caring about classes. They procrastinate and put in noticeably less effort.

There's quite a few reasons for this, a study from Southern New Hampshire University found. According to the article, it all bubbles down to the fact that students realize they don't have to work as hard to reach the finish line.

So here I was supposed to get some great interviews and perspectives from other seniors. They were going to tell you their input on how once they've been accepted into college, the grueling mountain they've had to climb, nothing else really mattered.

They were going to tell you that there's no point in trying anymore.

They have nothing left to achieve.

Their only goal now is to pass. Not because they've given up, but because they feel as if a great burden has finally been lifted off of their shoulders.

You were truly going to be moved to tears by how insightful and thought provoking these interviews were.

But alas, finding people to ask and actually conducting these interviews slipped my mind. So instead, you're stuck with me and what I think.

For me, I truly love my classes. Every day for the last 12 years I've sprung out of bed eager to learn something new. Whether or not I'll use it later is something for future me to worry about.

I know I'll use some things, like learning about taxes, but other things, like the molecular structure of glucose, are never going to be mentioned again other than on the test.

As much as I love learning for the sake of learning, the reality is I'm working hard now so that I don't have to work hard later.

Passing the AP test at the end of the year is my goal. This way I can obtain some college credits and not take those classes in the future.

I've paid attention.

I've taken notes.

I've gotten the grades.

I've been following these same three steps this year. There's only one thing that seemed to change:

My goal is passing.

Ask sophomore or junior Gaby

making my assignments perfectly perfect. I'd study so hard to make sure I did well on every test or quiz in front of me.

Now I'm just trying to get a three. It's good enough.

I still work to put my best self forward in my assignments, but it's nowhere near where it used to be. The most surprising thing? I'm still doing well.

I'm aware that I'm changing, and honestly I'm so okay with it.

The standard is the standard. And when the standard is mediocrity, why attempt more?

Quite frankly there's nothing wrong with just passing. After all, "Cs get degrees."

I think the problem is that kids don't realize this until their senior year. In their senior year they realize that there is so much more to an individual than their grades.

Sure, everyone's told me for years that your grades aren't a reflection of your character. And Bs are still legit good grades.

In senior year this statement became fact. I finally understood what they were telling me.

There's some self loathing with regards to "Why didn't I try this relaxing thing sooner?"

We've all worked so hard to get where we are that we deserve a break. Yet it seems like these breaks don't come, so we create them for ourselves.

And sure, our grades might slip a little bit, but that's okay! At the end of the day, a lot of us are happier after getting infected.

Mental health days, or skipped days as written on the attendance sheet, help students recharge and release stress, according to the *New York Times*. These days off help them catch up on some sleep and piled up work.

Here was going to be another amazingly conducted interview about how taking breaks has actually helped a student do better in class.

I still make time for homework and studying, but I've found that I have more time to do the things I enjoy by not prioritizing the first two.

Old Gaby would work so far ahead in advance that it didn't even come up on the Schoology calendar. New Gaby is taking it one day at a time.

Page by page. Honestly, I'm really liking this new Gaby.

Now, on the other hand, the other half of me is screaming and slapping new Gaby across the face.

We're so close to the end!

We're in the end game!

The homestretch!

The final countdown!

It's all right in front of us!

Why start to give up now?

I need to make it clear. No one is giving up.

We are all so excited to finish. Day by day we get closer as we eagerly anticipate our next journey.

Sometimes we just want a taste of this freedom.

As I close out this article there's only one thing left to say: 103 days until graduation!

103 days until we're all finally cured.



### TESTING

# SATs go digital starting Fall 2024

By  
**Ella Bartnik**  
Staff Writer

The SAT (Standardized Assessment Test) is an exam used by universities and colleges to assess the overall merit of applicants and the administration dates are right around the corner—starting as soon as March 11, 2023!

Through the endless amounts of coursework that accompany most students in rigorous courses and the steady approach of AP testing season, the last thing students need is another academic challenge looming over them.

Most students find the idea of these upcoming tests to be nothing short of an never-ending abyss of stress.

However, there are a few reasons as to why students really shouldn't place their educational self-worth into just one exam.

The SAT is just one of the many factors that will go into your application: your grades, essays, extracurriculars and even just your

own personal interests are going to play a much bigger part in your acceptance letters than you think!

A lot of colleges aren't placing as much emphasis on a perfect SAT score as they used to. It is no longer as exceedingly important to make that 1600 as it is to create your application in a way that represents your personality. In fact, more than 1,800 four-year colleges announced plans to go test-optional as of Fall 2022, according to FairTest.org.

Your ability to do well on the SAT has no relation to your academic performance outside of it. Some people are just not good test takers and most universities understand that.

Even if you still aren't content with the idea of not having that perfect SAT score, one of the most convenient aspects of the standardized test is the ability it gives you to retake it.

Most colleges won't care how many times you take the test. More importantly, they will see that you have taken the initiative

to try again and perform better.

Students planning on taking the test in Fall 2024 also have some changes to look forward to on the exam. It was confirmed by *US News* that "the new digital test will be adaptive, which changes the level of question difficulty for subsequent questions based on a student's performance."

This digital option was piloted in 2021, and according to College Board, "80% of students responded that they found it to be less stressful and 100% of educators reported having a positive experience."

Seeing this, most students here at Avon Grove can assume that this updated version will be similar to that of the CDTs (taken in biology and English classes), which makes the exam process seem a lot less daunting, and more famil-



iar.

By implementing an exam that works to acknowledge the unique progress and knowledge of each test taker, students will most likely have an easier time navigating the questions.

However, it is important to recognize that the SAT exam is just that—an exam.

Your score does not define who you are or place any sort of

emphasis on your worth or intelligence.

It is your personal story that schools will find the most intriguing, and that is something that cannot be measured on a scale of 1600 points.

# Better late than never

## Avon Grove's annual winter-themed talent show, The Holiday Holla, finally hits the new gymnasium floor after a two month delay

By  
**Riley Wiercinski**  
Staff Writer

December 23, 2022: Swooping gusts of wind slapping against windows and car doors, a thunderous downpour of rain, small bits of snow resting delicately on otherwise bare trees, a heaping anticipation for winter break, a day of boredom rested among the student body.

It would have been a half-day, full of excitement and holiday cheer, yet the hallways remained dark and clear.

49 days later music streamed throughout the new gymnasium. Roars of excitement were restored into an otherwise mundane February morning.

Seniors Kalina Dolan and Kaitlin Oberdoerster headlined the Holla with their rendition of Taylor Swift's classic, "You Belong With Me."

"It's really hard to pick a song that we both know and love, and that everyone else knows," says Dolan. "No one wants to sit there listening to a song they haven't heard before."

This dynamic duo has been performing together for the past two years and has built fantastic chemistry through singing in choir since middle school. Dolan, however, is slightly more seasoned as she kicked off the 2021 Holiday Holla with a solo interpretation of "Teenage Dirtbag" by Wheatus.

"There's just a musical connection between us, like Kalina can just start playing and I'll jump in, or she'll start singing and I can harmonize right with her," says Oberdoerster.

This connection was shared between junior Jason Klein and senior Dan Ciccone. With Klein on guitar and vocals and Ciccone on drums, the pair played "The Thrill is Gone" by B.B. King, "Don't Lie to Me" by Albert King, and the Better Call Saul theme song.

"Both of these are super easy to solo over, so they really allowed me to showcase my guitar prowess," says Klein. "I've already performed all three in the past, so there wasn't much extra practice to do."

ess," says Klein. "I've already performed all three in the past, so there wasn't much extra practice to do."

Klein's interest in guitar peaked during COVID as he spent most of his time learning and practicing.

"My grandmother had a guitar that she bought intending to learn it, but she gave it to me and I promised that I would take the time to better myself through learning to play the guitar," noted Klein.

Ciccone, on the other hand, has been drumming for almost four years. He performs in Kennett Square with his younger brother and his band, Sicko.

"I want to continue drumming, whether as a teacher, doing session work with kids who want to learn, playing gigs, or whatever else it may be," says Ciccone. "I just want to hold onto this piece of me as long as possible."

Ciccone also partnered with Matthew Moerder to enlighten the crowd with two staples of Weezer's self-titled album, "Buddy Holly" and "Say It Ain't So."

Cionie Parchment was showered in applause after her first-ever Holla performance. Her powerful, confident voice boomed throughout the gymnasium and was awarded a standing ovation from her fellow freshmen.

She channeled her inner "Queen B" as she performed "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran and Beyoncé, which left the room in awe.

The only non-musical act of the morning was performed by Ainsley Rutherford. She read a dystopian, science-fiction short story titled, "The Grayve."

The eerie, spine-chilling, attention-grabbing story was written by freshman Andrew Perry.

However, the talk of the morning revolved around Dylan Raymond's return to *AG Speaks*. Dressed in a Santa suit, Raymond promised the student body to return for his final season of the morning announcements segment.

"With the postponement of the



Jason Klein

-Photo courtesy of the AGHS Yearbook

original Holla, we took the time to soft launch my return with a trailer. I'm really happy with how our first episode turned out," says Raymond. "I actually didn't know the Santa suit was happening until I walked in, so I hope for more spontaneous shenanigans from my crew."

While *AG Speaks* might not be as frequent as it was last season, Raymond kept his admirers in mind as he scripts and reuses some fan-favorite questions like, "Out of 37 states, which one is the 12th?" and "What is your second favorite color?"

Students now have the opportunity to scan QR codes from around the school to participate in the filming of new episodes, in hopes that the segment will become more compliant with the new e-hallpass policies.

"I will have someone replace me in *AG Speaks* next year. I do have a few candidates in mind, but I have a very special plan for announcing their takeover," added Raymond.

In order to engage the audience and introduce the acts, Mary Kate D'Ambrosio and Adriana Buck served as MCs.

"At first, there was supposed to be some other girl doing it, but she ended up backing out. Adriana and I committed to MC-ing about 12 hours before the Holla began," says D'Ambrosio.

D'Ambrosio hopes that her spontaneous spirit and can-do attitude will allow her to jump into a broadcasting career.

"I really just tried to go out there and have fun with it, since the whole thing was thrown together," noted D'Ambrosio. "I just tried to keep people involved and not let them fall asleep on the bleachers."

Unfortunately, four of the Holla's acts this year were composed of seniors, meaning next year's showing has a possibility of bleakness.



Ainsley Rutherford performs the short story, "The Grayve," by Andrew Perry.

-Photo courtesy of the AGHS Yearbook

"I really hope that participation in the Holla increases. I want more people to be comfortable showing off their talents," says Oberdoerster.

"I think there's a lot of people who think showing off what you can do is lame or embarrassing, but it's what you make of it," added Dolan. "Being confident and having fun makes your peers interpret whatever you do as entertainment."

"Instruments are a great hobby to have, yet sadly, there aren't very many people that are willing to play them anymore. There's no harm in sharing something that you're passionate about with your

classmates," noted Ciccone.

There seems to be a consensus. In order to keep our Holla grand and enjoyable for all, involvement needs to increase.

Hopefully, there won't be another 49-day delay.



-Photo courtesy of the AGHS Yearbook

MCs Adriana Buck and Mary Kate D'Ambrosio