

# Hudson finds solutions for overcrowding in P.E. classes

by junior Abby Gaudian

Increased numbers in P.E. classes have resulted in the hiring of new P.E. teacher mid-semester.

Olivia Andrea was hired in October to co-teach with 7-12 P.E. teacher Sean Leonard.

In past years, average P.E. classes at Hudson have been about 26 students. But this semester, due to fewer students opting out of P.E., an increase in the student population, and basic scheduling issues that come with a smaller school, Period 7 P.E. class has 50 students.

Overcrowding has resulted in less participation because of the lack of space and equipment for students. Hiring Andrea has already improved the situation.

While Leonard teaches team games and lifelong activities with half of the class, Andrea takes the other half to the weight room to oversee strength and agility workouts.

"(Because we can split the class into smaller groups), we now have enough space and equipment for students to participate safely and productively," said Leonard.

Adding the new part-time P.E. position has also given Leonard the chance to be more engaged with every student as well as their personal fitness goals.

Students have also found that the solution has improved their P.E. class experience.

"The split P.E. class gives us more space and equipment

and gives us a chance to do a variety of activities," said freshman Madison Michael.

Although hiring Andrea has fixed many of the initial concerns, one new problem has developed. Winter-sport athletes and coaches were concerned about lifting on game/meet days.



9-12 P.E. teacher Olivia Andera shows students their lifting workout.

photo by junior Lexi Bergmeier



7-12 P.E. teacher Sean Leonard teaches sophomore Joe Culham and freshman Aiden Zook about ping pong.

photo by junior Harley Schley

Andrea and Leonard have collaborated to find a solution. When the class was split into groups, one included basketball players and the other included wrestlers. Wrestlers go to the weight room on basketball game days, and basketball players do the same on wrestling meet days.

As of mid-December, it was unclear if overcrowding will still be an issue Second Semester. Of the 216 students in the high school, approximately 64 students this past month turned in P.E. waiver forms which are about the same as last year. Guidance counselor Ashley McCaulley anticipates around 150 students to be taking P.E. Second Semester.

Whether or not they'll be split

evenly to avoid overcrowding remains unknown.

If section numbers remain high, there is a plan in place that involves extending Andrea's .25 contract.

High school principal Jeff Dieken said, "Our goal for second semester is to alleviate the high numbers by offering more class periods of P.E. throughout the day."

## Igniting passions: Student and teacher start clubs

by sophomore Emilee Steimel

Hudson High School has its fair share of passionate people. Both sophomore Amber Waters and choir teacher Casey Tecklenburg want to share theirs with others.

### Listen to Your Art

Sophomore Amber Waters has decided to take her passion for art to the next level and hopes to ignite that passion in others. With the help of 7-12 art teacher Laura Angove, Waters has started an art club at HHS.



Waters

Waters wants the club to be a relaxing environment for students to create, judgement-free. She hopes this unstructured, open-door type club will

help it to act as a stress reliever rather than an actual class.

She plans to have a type of art style, prompt, or fun activity each Thursday after school. This way, students will have the ability to teach others, gain new skills, and have fun doing it.

### Speech Your Mind

Choir teacher Casey Tecklenburg has been contemplating the idea of a speech team since he started teaching at Hudson in 2016.

Since Hudson will not participate in show choir this year due to lack of participants, Tecklenburg realized he had more time to make it a reality.



Tecklenburg

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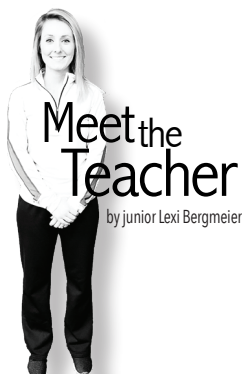
has always seen it as a beneficial activity for students to be involved in.

"Out of all of the things I did in high school, speech was what I benefited from the most," said Tecklenburg.

Since Hudson is rather small, Tecklenburg would rather focus his attention on the basics of speech, such as speaking clearly, persuasively and emotionally, "the bread and butter" as he calls it.

## Did you know?

A poll of 1/3 of the student body was taken, 15% said they would be involved in speech club, and 24% said they would be involved in art club.



What do you love most about teaching?

**"What I love most about teaching P.E. is being with kids and teaching them how to live an active lifestyle."**

Why did you choose Hudson?

**"I was a long-term sub at Cedar Falls, and Hudson came to me because the principal at Cedar Falls knows our principal's wife. (Principal) Dieken said they needed help, so I applied."**

What do you love most about teaching at Hudson?

**"At Hudson, what I like most is the sense of a smaller community and how you get to know your students more."**