Thirty-two (32) Spanish students were inducted into the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (SHH). SHH is an honor society for high school students enrolled in Spanish courses and is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP).

The mission of “La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica” is to recognize high school achievement in Spanish and to promote interest in Hispanic studies. Any student who has maintained an honor average in the study of Spanish or Portuguese for a minimum of three semesters and is in the 10th grade or higher is eligible to be a member of the SHH. The SHH is an honor society for those students of high academic achievement.

During the induction ceremony, the students enjoyed the company of Dr. Debra McMahon, President, and Dr. Judith Reyna, Treasurer, of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in South-West Pennsylvania. As representatives of the national organization, Dr. McMahon validated the induction of the new students and spoke words of encouragement to the students and the parents. Dr. McMahon’s message to our students was to pursue their dreams in supporting the Hispanic culture and promoting the language throughout their time in high school and their future college experience.

The SHH also recognized FRSH teacher Mr. Jeff Stanczak for his past work in the Society. Mr. Stanczak works as an adviser and has given support to Mr. Juan-Pedro Reyna, the current sponsor of the Society.

New Members Cecilia Petrush and Lea Wesolowski performed a Spanish song from the Chilean group “La Ley” (The Law); the name of the song is “Mentiras” (lies).

The following students are the current officers of the Society: President Anika Behnke, Vice-President Jessica Reabe, Secretary Henry Lin, and Treasurer Caiden Dietz.

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B.A.R.K. Program Inspires Reading

Once again this school year, students at Heritage, Newlonsburg, and Sloan Elementary Schools will have the opportunity to spend time with local therapy dogs and their volunteer handlers. During their visits, handlers and their “furry friends” work with students to practice a variety of literacy skills including vocabulary development, phonics, writing and reading fluency. Founded in 2015, B.A.R.K. (Bettering All Readers with K-9’s) is an all-volunteer Franklin Regional program that promotes literacy skills along with the development of self-confidence while reading. The registered therapy dog teams who serve the B.A.R.K. program also serve the community in other capacities such as visiting nursing homes and colleges, senior living facilities, veteran’s centers, airports, and some even serve as court dogs.