

Presentations, Poetry & PROSE

Seniors Pablo Gomez, Matthew Acosta, Destini Garner and Xiaotong Chen test their potion-making skills in Mrs.

Jennifer Caprara's class by following directions to create the potion poster. Students had to add items ranging from legs of lizards and a burrowing worm's stinger in order to embody the three witches from "Macbeth."

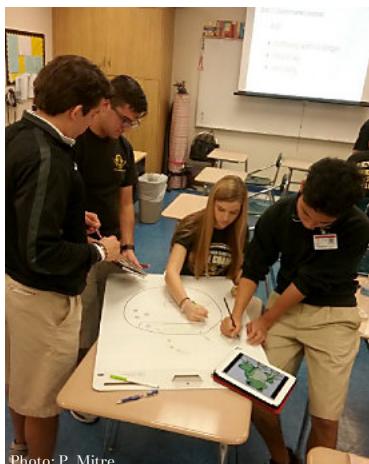


Photo: P. Mitre



Photo Submitted: A. Hendricks

Mrs. Eppie Astudillo's students gather in groups to edit and comment on the Daniel Keyes short story analysis. The students wrote their praises on sticky notes ranging from "Love how you include other characters besides Charlie," to "All of your reports have such great descriptions, and your word choice is phenomenal."

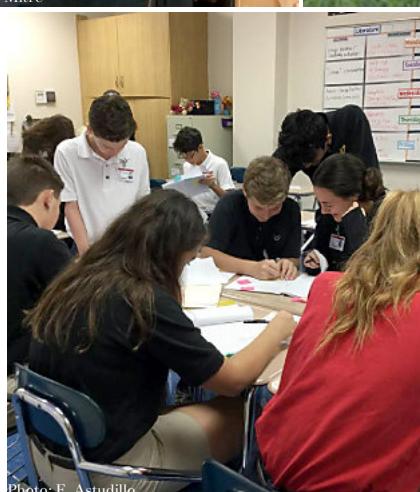


Photo: E. Astudillo



Photo: P. Mitre

Sophomores Vivianne Diaz and Catherine Gomez-Thompson display contrasting emotions in reaction to the commentary in the weekly fishbowl featuring four students analyzing assigned chapters from English II Honors. Mrs. Jamie Betancourt chose the novel "Who Fears Death?" by Nnedi Okorafor because there were no summaries of it online.

Amber Bhutta recounts her dive into the English language

Junior Amber Bhutta has been immersed in the English language since her youth. As Co-Assistant Editor-In-Chief of the "Patriot Post" and treasurer of the English Honor Society, she finds herself at an advantage in college applications even though she participates out of passion for the subject rather than for an admission committees' approval. "English is special because it is something I do because I want to. At this school, there's this culture of participating in activities just to bolster college applications, and while I definitely am guilty of that as well, English is something I enjoy without college in mind. Also, people who share my love for English definitely make it special as well because most of them tend to be incredibly passionate," Bhutta said.

She realized her love of English around eighth grade when Mrs. Dina Amata commented on her writing ability. "Taking inspiration from her, I entered a national essay contest freshman year and ended up winning an award. That made my love for English feel validated," she said. Embracing her writing side has also helped improve her confidence and realize the importance of language. "Language is super important in how people carry themselves. The right words can sway opinions and change minds. I think especially

in today's political environment, in which our president tends toward inflammatory and unpresidential language, English really influences how we view the world and can alter our perception of the world around us," she said.

Bhutta decided that the key reason she was able to improve her writing so quickly was due to her involvement in reading literature in fourth grade and beyond. She was a "bookworm" who favored modern day classics such as the "Harry Potter" series by J.K. Rowling and "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini. Despite being immersed in reading before writing, she could not pick which aspect of English affected her more. "Both have impacted my life. I have always tended to be a more science-oriented person because I have felt that science is a bit more of a secure thing to study and pursue as a career. English has taught me that I can do something I love without worrying about whether or not I will get anything out of it in the future," Bhutta said.

English has become a safe place for her. "English has made me more confident in myself because it's something I both enjoy doing and am not terrible at," she said.



Seniors Alec Chao, Andrew Bass, Gabriel Hinojosa, Sajiv Chandrasekaran, Sarah Mitchell and Aditya Bafna, as well as junior Emily Moon, put the "Lit" in Mrs. Ashley Hendrick's AP Literature class through their presentation of "Que Paso? Nada." The students worked the left sides of their brain in the scene, going as far as using students who did not have Mrs. Hendricks as a teacher, such as Chandrasekaran and Moon.



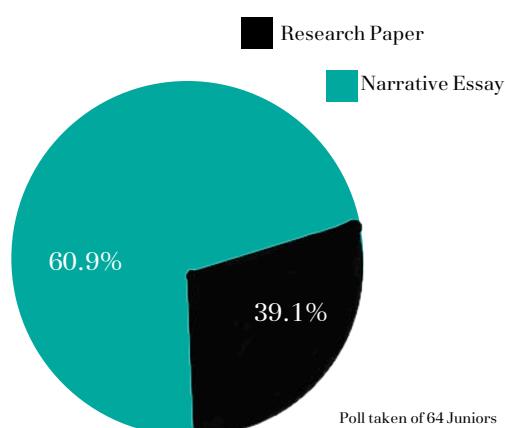
Seniors Alexander Weber, Rebecca Weber, Lauren Williams, Pradyumna Niraula and Jack Gottlieb act out a separate scene for their project in AP Literature. Students went all out on their second Shakespeare project, including wigs, dresses and pure drama.



Mrs. Eppie Astudillo's eighth grade students work on their medical analysis on Charlie Gordon after reading "Flowers for Algernon." The reports included sticky note comments on how well they analyzed the work.

Faves & Frowns

Favorite essay type as told by juniors



& there's
MORE



Freshman Montserrat De Allende Silva grins with her "Of Mice and Men" project, in which she chose to represent Lennie Small. Freshmen students chose one of seven characters to analyze in a poster using quotes, descriptions and drawings. "The drawing alone took me about four hours, and the paragraphs took me an hour. For English projects, the art portion takes me the longest, but I can write fairly quickly," De Allende Silva said.



Sophomores George Grossman, Rudy Moise and Ryan Sweet review for midterms with a story vocabulary project in Mrs. Linda Gallagher's class. The students were prompted with a story starter then needed to continue the story using all vocabulary words they learned in their units. Stories ranged from Bobo the Clown's origins to Suzie the Cop's adventurous night in the museum.



Mrs. Linda Gallagher's students, sophomores Nikolas Serrano, Paola Barraza Camara and Kelly Taylor review "Oedipus Rex" in a presentation. The students were separated into groups in which they analyzed quotes and were assigned aspects of the book. This particular group covered the catharsis section.

Hypnos Versus Kronos



"At first I thought that Hypnos was the god of hypnosis, but it turns out he was the god of sleep and dreams. I mean I value sleep a lot even though I don't get any sleep! This kind of taught me that sleep is important and helpful," freshman Riya Garg said.



"Kronos was a hard titan to cover because his history and story were the same. This was my first English project, so I was pretty stressed and wanted to prove myself as someone who was more than just good at information but also creative and good at projects," freshman Sebastian Diaz Herrera said.

By The Numbers

171,476

Words in the English Language

180

Vocabulary words learned per book

30

English teachers

3

"AP" Essay types