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# STUDENT LIFE

## LGHS STUDENTS EXPLORE A VARIETY OF ELECTIVES

### GRAPHIC DESIGN : ADVANCED SCIENCE RESEARCH

by Austin Yung

Editorial Editor

The Graphic Design class provides many students with an opportunity of a lifetime as they learn how to effectively operate Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. Graphic Design teachers **Alex Czech** and **Joseph Espinoza** give students the materials to print stickers and create custom clothing. While Mr. Czech started the program years ago, its popularity has grown so much that in order to accept more kids into the class, Mr. Espinoza joined LGHS's staff. Currently, Mr. Czech teaches five periods while Mr. Espinoza teaches one class and also substitutes for other teachers around campus. Overall, both teachers create a positive environment for their students and constantly encourage them to think outside the box in order to better their designs.



by Wilma Wei

Culture Editor

ASR, or Advanced Science Research, is an elective that allows students to pursue and explore their passion for science by conducting their own experiments. Students begin with a question or hypothesis about a certain topic, create their own procedure, gather data, and present their project at the Synopsys Science Fair at the end of the year. Science project topics range from testing chemicals on microscopic worms and coding projects to predict patterns, to testing the effects of pollutants on sea-life. The class is led by **Cathy Messenger**, who guides the students through their projects. During the class, other mentors from varying fields of study help students develop procedures or gather data. Through ASR, students have the ability to investigate various topics in science, improve their writing abilities, and develop researching skills.



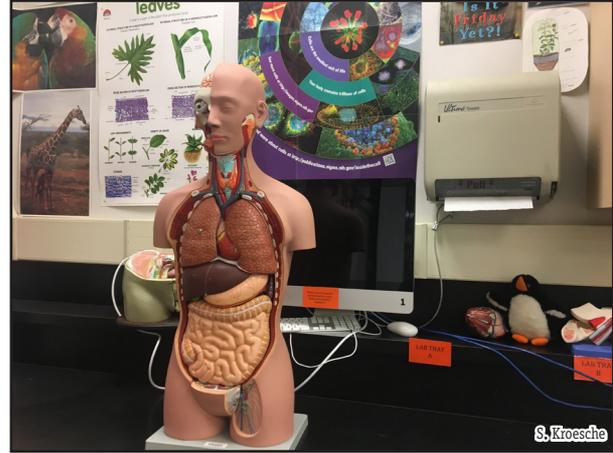
## Creative Writing

by Sami Elizondo

Humor Editor

Los Gatos High School added Creative Writing to their ever-growing list of electives. According to junior **Elizabeth Duvall**, "The objective of the class is to improve our own writing skills, as well as gain an appreciation for author craft. We work a lot on exploring different genres through our own writing and creating new, and innovative media." The class typically starts with a 15 minute quick write and then the students share their work with their peers. Along with their midterm and final projects, they will have an open mic night on Jan. 17 at 6 PM in the school library.

## ANATOMY



by Sophie Kroesche

Editor-in-Chief

Taught by **Monica Minson**, Anatomy and Physiology was started this year as a laboratory-based science elective for students curious about life sciences or medicine. Students learn about the human body systems and how they function, with an emphasis on health. The class is divided into units about different systems of the body; students began the year learning about basic histology and tissue functions, and have since progressed to hands-on labs, dissections, and even virtual surgeries. Senior **Olivia Purohit** stated, "We do a dissection at the end of every unit that ties into the systems we learned about." LGHS students interested in going into medicine are able to use their knowledge of biology to learn practical skills that will benefit them in their future careers.

## CERAMICS

by Ashley Hagar

People Editor

Starting freshman year, students have the chance to join the Ceramics class at LGHS. Once a student has taken Ceramics 1, he or she can enter the advanced classes, which include levels 2, 3, and 4. With over 30 years of experience, Ceramics teacher **Leah Aguayo** started teaching at LGHS only two years ago. She teaches students in their first year how to shape and mold clay into different projects, using techniques like slipping and scoring to attach two pieces of clay to each other. Once a student passes this or her first year and is in the advanced class, Aguayo teaches her students how to use the wheel, where they learn to throw and trim their pieces. She also teaches all of her students the different vocabulary used in the ceramics world and how to paint and glaze their amazing pieces of art, including bowls for the Souper Bowl in the advanced class or a hand carved pumpkin just in time for Halloween.



## Fine Arts



by Sami Linden

Graphics Designer

Students from all grade levels have the opportunity to express their creativity through the fine art classes at LGHS. Run by **Thad Smith** and **Augustina Matsui**, students in the art program explore many different mediums and concepts, including still life drawings, pen and ink, watercolors, acrylic and oil paints, and mixed media collages. Both teachers bring their fun personalities to each class, creating a bright atmosphere that encourages learning and experimental designs. While the classes teach specific techniques to improve art skills, they also provide a supportive community for aspiring artists across campus.

## MUSIC PRODUCTION



by Charlotte Brezoczky

Graphics Designer

Music Production is an exciting and interactive new course offered at LGHS, in which students can write and record their own songs while learning the technological aspects of music production. **Matthew Holm**, the advisor of this seventh period class, worked with LGHS to create a small recording studio on the bottom floor of the new building over the summer, and students in Music Production are able to use it every odd day. Holm is "so ridiculously excited" about the unique opportunity. In music production, students try to understand what it is they love about their favorite songs, working to replicate those aspects in their own artistic writing style.

## Agroecology



by Madeline King

News Editor

The Agroecology course, offered to students in grades 10 through 12, allows students to work in the school garden, learning both leadership and business skills with a scientific application. A majority of the class is spent in the garden, located by the lower fields, where students can learn and apply their knowledge hands-on. The course treats the LGHS garden as an ecosystem and raises the crops from "seed to harvest" while studying the interactions between aspects of the environment, including the resident rabbits. This class satisfies both the practical arts and one science course required for graduation, as well as counting as a UC and CSU approved lab science course.