

PORTRAIT

Pots

Junior Payton Thompson picks up a pencil and lays a sheet of plain white paper in front of her. She taps the pencil on the table a few times, thinking, then starts sketching. She draws a few bowl-shaped objects and sketches some coils coming out of them. Although it barely resembles a person, Thompson has drawn herself.

In the Essentials of Art class, teacher Emily Slattery-Phillips asked students to create an abstract self-portrait made out of clay. "Not in a figurative sense, but symbolically," Slattery-Phillips said. "I picked this project because it not only pushes students' thinking about the sculptural form, but also about their identity as a human being and how that can connect to art making."

Students observed and discovered the functions of art in the world. They studied techniques in drawing, painting, print making, ceramics and sculpture.

For the project, students started off by writing a paper to help them brainstorm ideas. After that, they were able to start molding and shaping their clay.

Thompson thought the bowls she sketched on her paper would become five separate pinch pots, all different sizes. They would resemble the different parts of her. "They represent all of my support in life, but they're all connected to show my faith,"

Thompson said. "I did swirly pieces coming out of the bowls to show the crazy ideas I come up with and my happiness."

She set the bowls together and then laid down a slab and cut out lines in it to make her base. "I wanted to do something pretty open because I think I am an open person," she said.

Thompson planned to explore other art classes in the future.

"I really like clay, even though it can get pretty messy," Thompson said, "but I am going to take Clay II next year."

Another student, senior Deepthi Akella, also created a bowl to symbolize herself. It was small, meaning she is an independent person who does not rely on others much. "The outside of my bowl is rigid, but the inside is very smooth," she said. "This reflects how I may seem weird and unstable to other people who don't know me well. However, I'm actually easy-going and just have a unique personality."

At the end of first semester, the students glazed their clay. Akella chose a faint green to cover her bowl. "I painted it that color because I'm nice and friendly, and I think green is a down-to-earth kind of color," she said. "I really enjoyed reflecting myself through art."

Spread by Megan Buckallew & Swathi Somisetty

background

Working on the wheel project for clay, junior Katie Merritt touches up her bowl with glaze before placing it in the kiln. "This class lets me express myself in the projects we create and helps me relax and get my mind off other things and create cool sculptures," she said.

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1. Flipping through Good Notes, senior Zainab Tanveer finishes homework and reviews material for A.P. Psychology before taking her semester final. "I like to stay in the commons during my free periods to catch up on homework," she said. "I procrastinated the night before. It's a place where I can stay focused and not get distracted talking to others."
Photo by Swathi Somisetty



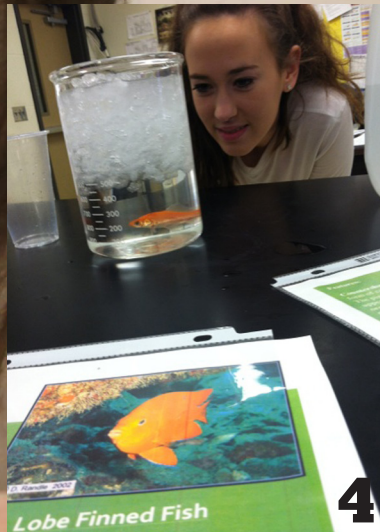
2. Sophomores Alison Warnell and Allisha Giesselman glue two pieces of wood together to construct a trust bridge. For the Principles of Engineering final, students were challenged to build their own choice of bridge and see the highest amount of weight it was able to hold.
Photo by Swathi Somisetty



3. Glancing down at his iPad, sophomore Rohit Akella works on his health PSA final created in iMovie. Students chose between different topics including eating disorders, environmental issues and diseases.
Photo by Swathi Somisetty



4. Senior Alison Kretzinger observes how many times a fish's gills flap to see how its speed varies based on the water temperature. As part of the cordate unit in Animal Science, students also learned about amphibians, birds and reptiles. *Photo by Swathi Somisetty*



5. Excited to see what her Secret Santa gave her, senior Natalie Parker reaches inside her brown paper bag. In Sarah Wessling's A.P. Literature class, students brought two literary gifts and three other gifts through the course of a week for the holiday exchange. *Photo by Swathi Somisetty*

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