

AP exam updates conflict with unpreparedness

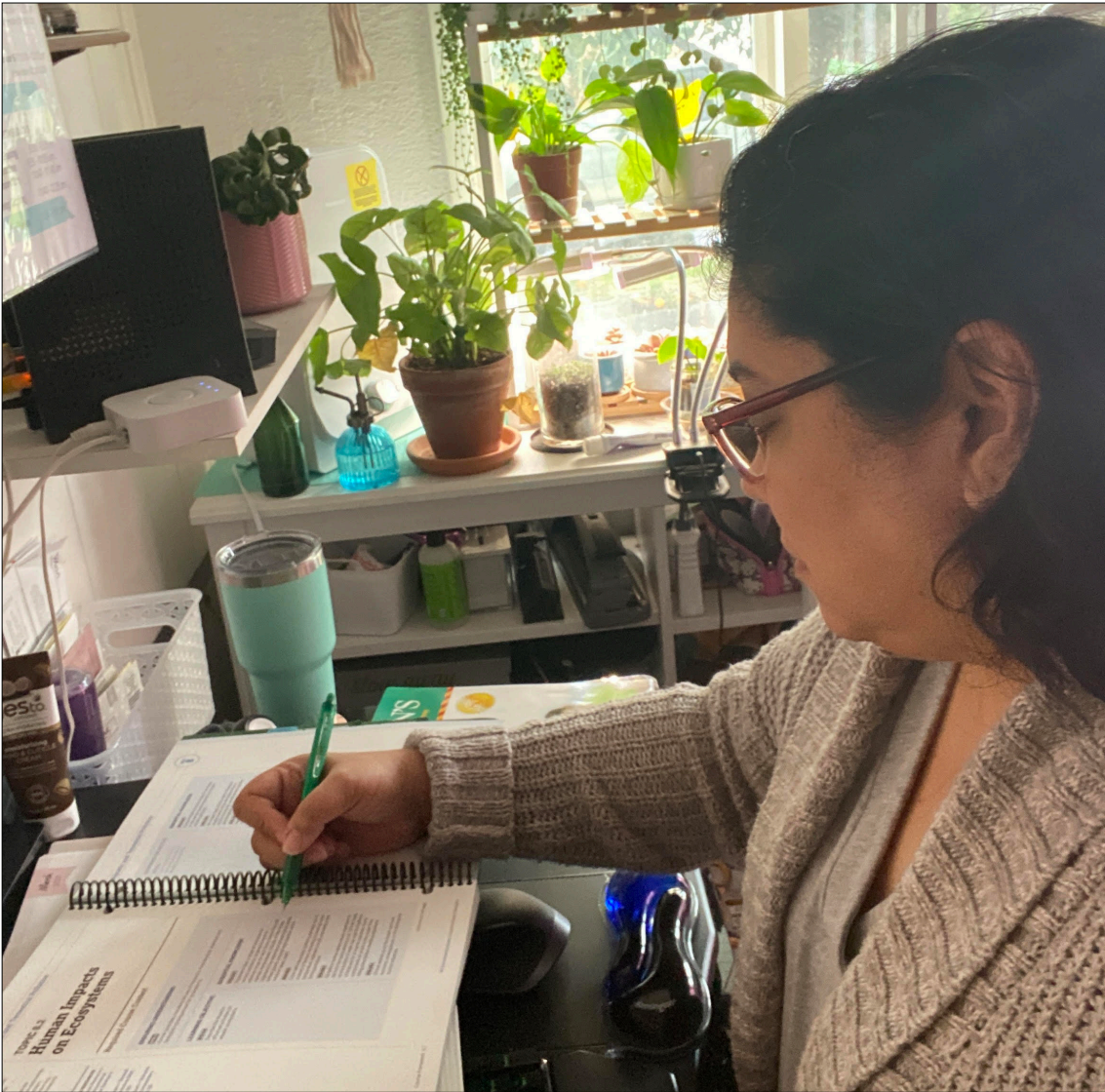


PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER WRIGHT

AP Environmental Science teacher Jennifer Wright arranges her day's lesson plans. Since the Environmental Science test content will remain the same as traditional exams, Wright aims to cover as much material as possible.

Students find themselves distressed due to the repercussions of block scheduling.

BY KELLY MA
NEWS EDITOR

In response to apprehension surrounding the AP exams, the College Board announced revised testing procedures on Feb. 4. Reviewing the updates, students and staff cited the setbacks of distance learning as their main concern.

Depending on the subject, students may take the exams at school, in paper format, or at home, in digital format. Colleges will only provide credit for full-length AP exams, so shortened exams, such as the redesigned tests from last spring, will not be administered this year.

"I don't feel prepared at all for AP exams this year," senior David Nhan said. "Because of all the distractions at home, I'm having trouble paying attention in class and understanding the content I'm learning. If I want to have a chance of doing well on the exams, I'm probably going to have to review almost everything that I have learned this year within the next two or three months."

To provide students more flexibility during the pandemic, the College Board waived all cancellation fees. Refunds for students who decide not to take the exam will be processed two to three weeks after their request.

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"Although I plan to take the World History exam, I'm really grateful that the option of cancelling

is risk free," sophomore Tina Dang said. "My teacher has done a great job teaching the material, but this will be my first AP exam. I wish it was under better circumstances where I could be more prepared."

While considering the lessened instructional time and difficulties of online classes, teachers have also adjusted their lesson plans to account for students' emotional well-being. AP Environmental Science teacher Jennifer Wright said that she tries to "balance what needs to be covered with supporting students emotionally."

"It's been a struggle to make sure that I'm giving students work that will allow them to practice key concepts and critical thinking skills while not overwhelming them with too many different assignments," Wright said. "With only seeing students twice a week instead of five times, this year has been much more difficult. I've tried to listen to feedback regarding the amount of work that I assign and pacing."

The AP exams will be administered from early May to mid-June, but specific dates will vary by subject. Students can refer to their teachers for further information.

BRIEFS

Student Voice Webinar ignites distance learning reassessment

BY TIFFANY NGUYEN

Sixteen students anonymously shared their perspectives on how the pandemic affected them and teachers' role in their success at the Student Voice Webinar on Feb. 22. Student panelists, nominated by the school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports team, agreed that changes should be made to enhance their distance learning experience.

"It's always a powerful opportunity to reflect on what we can do as educators to help," English teacher Virginia Vasquez said. "I learned that teachers could be doing more to support students academically and emotionally. As a result, instead of starting with the agenda, I start with a fun check-in and music because I know that we are connecting by creating a calming environment for students to feel safe, even if we cannot see each other's faces."

The next Student Voice Webinar will be in April.

Adventurers' Guild provides haven for tabletop game enthusiasts

BY KEN YU

Formed by a group of friends who share a common interest, the Adventurers' Guild offers students a place to gather and engage in their tabletop roleplaying game passions through group sessions. The club enables students to build collaboration and critical thinking skills as they traverse puzzles and fictional scenarios.

"We act as a gateway for new players to get introduced to 'Dungeons & Dragons' as well as a hub of creative roleplay for anyone to freely express themselves with the characters they tailor to their liking," junior President Ivan Yu said.

The club meets every Monday, excluding the first Monday of each month. Game playthroughs, adventures, and meetings will be held over Discord.

Workforce Development Workshop Series cultivates communication skills

BY LEANE CHE

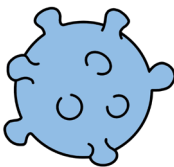
Workforce Development Workshop Series, a five-week workshop to assist students in building communication skills, will be held every Wednesday from 9:30-10:15 a.m. beginning today. Each week, students will learn different methods to effectively engage with others, including email, phone, and text etiquette.

Students who attend all five workshops will receive a Certification of Participation. To register, attendees must complete a Google Form, which closes at noon the day before the workshop. The Zoom link will be sent to students' district email a day prior to the workshop once registered.

To read the full articles, visit www.thematadorsghs.us.

News around the globe

BY WALLY LAN



COVID-19 VARIANTS RISE

After weeks of decline in cases across the nation and the world, the more contagious COVID-19 variants are beginning to exponentially increase. Scientists are working to learn about their side effects and whether currently authorized vaccines will be effective against them.



CHINESE LEGISLATURE SESSION

The National People's Congress is voting on legislation regarding public health, foreign relationships, and climate change. Because industrial and national security prove pivotal to economic growth, more emphasis will be placed toward self-sufficiency in technology than ever before.



STRIKES IN MYANMAR

Following a series of protests against the military's seizure of power last month, the police detained hundreds of those involved. In the largest movement since the last military dictatorship, labor unions are now calling for a total strike, where there are thousands defying curfew rules.