

CLARKSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL NORTH

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024



FEBRUARY EVENTS

Monday, February 5:

- 8th Grade Parent Orientation 6:00 pm

Wednesday, February 7:

- National Honor Society Induction Ceremony 7:00 pm

Thursday, February 15:

- Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Communication via email to follow

Monday, February 19th - Friday, February 23rd:

- School Closed-Mid Winter Recess

Thursday, February 29th:

- Mu Alpha Theta Induction Ceremony 6:00 pm

Department News: World Languages

Ms. Frisbee's Spanish 3R classes enjoyed presenting their travel projects in Spanish by using the past tense and vocabulary from the travel unit. Students researched and learned about different Spanish speaking countries and created presentations that highlighted the country's location, popular travel sites, unique history and famous foods. Their creativity was showcased in the creation of their own handmade souvenirs reflecting their country's rich culture.





Ms. Beck's Spanish 2R classes practiced their interpersonal skills by creating skits about experiences in Spanish restaurants. This activity was part of the Restaurant and Food Unit in Spanish 2R. To prepare for the presentations students researched restaurants in Spain and learned about the authentic foods served. Students were able to create videos or present their skits live to the class. Students enjoyed acting the part of clients and waiters and practicing the skills needed for real-world communication.



Department News: Science

Biology-

Students in Mrs. Shields and Mr. DiGennaro's Co-Taught Biology class applied the concepts of the cell membrane by creating a "Bubble Membrane". They enjoyed testing the flexibility, self-recovery, and over fun of playing with bubbles!



Biology-

Students in Ms. Zuccarelli's Biology classes have been unpacking the Cells Unit! Utilizing indicators, microscopy skills, and student provided pond water samples, they have: created a model cell to observe diffusion, manipulated solute concentrations to cause plant plasmolysis, and charted behavior of protists and simple animals under the microscope!



Conceptual Science -

Students in Mr. Leiter's Conceptual Science class applied the concepts of the ideal gas law and thermodynamics to create (and launch) hot air balloons!



Earth Science -

Earth Science students have been investigating how dewpoint and relative humidity measurements play a role in weather prediction. Students in Mrs. Mallozzi's class used sling psychrometers to compare the dew point temperature and relative humidity of the air inside and outside of their classroom.



Science Research -

January marks the halfway point in the year! First year students are preparing for their first article presentations. Juniors are on the search for mentors and summer programs to continue or expand on their experiences and many project proposals are being finalized. Seniors are starting to get their college acceptances and we shift their work toward exploring opportunities at the next level.

[Science Research Webpage](#)

Science Olympiad Team -

The CHSN Science Olympiad team will be competing in the Lower Hudson Valley Regional on Saturday, February 10th. Students and teachers have been working hard on their building events (tower, air trajectory, scambler and planes) and studying for the competition. Good luck to our Science Olympiad Team and their coaches Ms. Torres, Mr. Grabstein, Mr. Morris, and Mr. D'Amico!





Principles of Engineering (POE) -

Students in Mr. Lofaro's Principles of Engineering (POE) classes are designing and coding robots to compete in North's third annual FTC Skystone inspired Robotics Competition taking place this spring!



Principles of Engineering



Robotics Unit

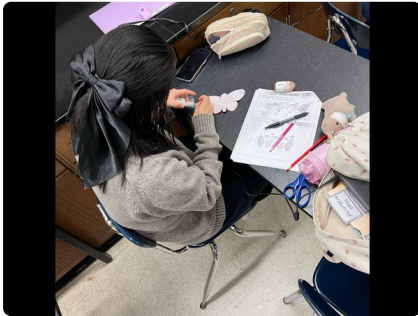
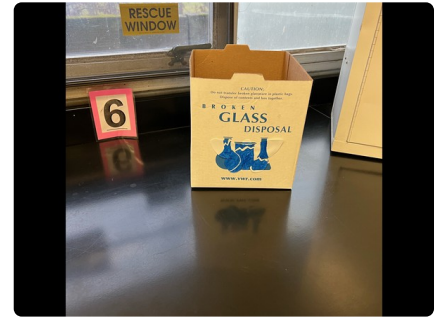
Physics -

Physics students are crafting devices to prevent eggs from breaking when dropped from the school's second floor. Applying their knowledge of impulse and momentum, they design these protective contraptions. All physics classes will then participate in our annual Egg Drop STEM Competition! See snapshots of the design and construction process in Mr. Lofaro's Regents Physics class.



ENL Biology-

Can you find the moths? The ENL Bio 1B worked on a lab about peppered moths and how they have adapted to their environment. This lab helped the ENL Biology students learn the Theory of Natural Selection by trying to camouflage their moths so they couldn't be found by "predators". They had so much fun choosing the different locations in the classroom to best hide their moths. They did such a great job!



Marine Bio -

Marine Bio has been studying the anatomy of different types of fish. They tested their knowledge on the dissection of a perch and a lamprey.



IB Sports Exercise -

SA node -> AV node -> Bundle of His -> purkinje fibers... The IB sports class has been studying the anatomy and physiology of the heart. They dissected a pig heart and was able to map out the flow of blood and the intrinsic regulation of the pacemaker.



Department News: English

Ram's Horn: Calling all writers! Ram's Horn, our school newspaper, is looking for anyone who is interested in writing articles about our wonderful school and community. See Ms. Czajkowski for more information, or email kczajkowski@ccsd.edu! [Here is the link](#) to our online news blog!

Ninth grade:

Students in Mrs. Sevastian's, Ms. Leviton's, and Ms. Riccoboni's classes created original bookmarks with important images, symbols, and words from the first half of Laurie Halse Anderson's novel, *Speak*. The students took time to plan the layout and components of both sides of a bookmark. Next, they used colored pencils and markers to transfer their designs, quotes, and patterns to a cardstock bookmark – complete with lamination and bright tassel! Their finished products became wonderful tools for review, as well as a token to keep and use as we continue reading *Speak*.

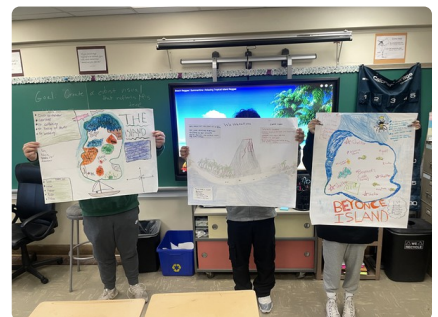
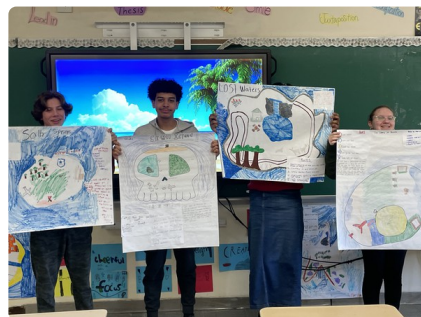
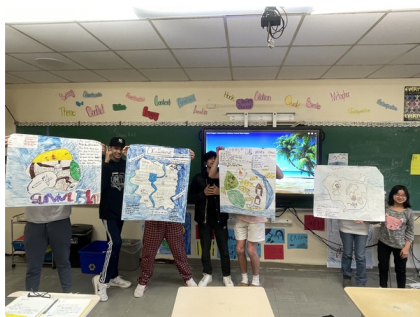


Tenth grade:

Students in Ms. Popkave's 10H class created one pagers to display their analysis of a significant moment from chapters 20-24 of *Jane Eyre*. Students chose a moment that developed characterization or conflict, illustrated a symbol, archetype, or allusion, created a specific mood, foreshadowed something, or illuminated a theme.

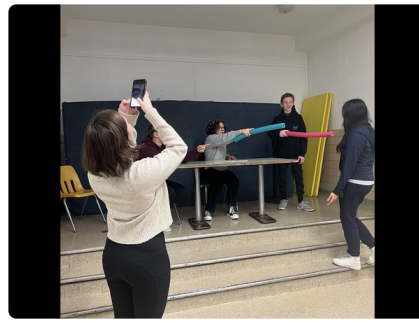


Students in Ms. Leviton's 10th Grade in English Class worked in groups to create and draw their own islands as a pre-reading activity for *Lord of the Flies*. Students not only drew maps of the islands, but they came up with sets of rules, survival lists, and determined how they would work together to survive. Each group presented their creative islands to their class upon completion. This activity helped students' see from the perspective of the characters in Lord of the Flies before beginning the book.



Eleventh grade:

Could you explain the plot of the story in only five images? That's what students in Mrs. Stein-Jackter and Mrs. Alvarenga's 11R classes had to do. Using props and the space around them (and themselves), students had to take five pictures which traced the plot of The Crucible. Each group was also assigned a specific literary technique to demonstrate in their images.

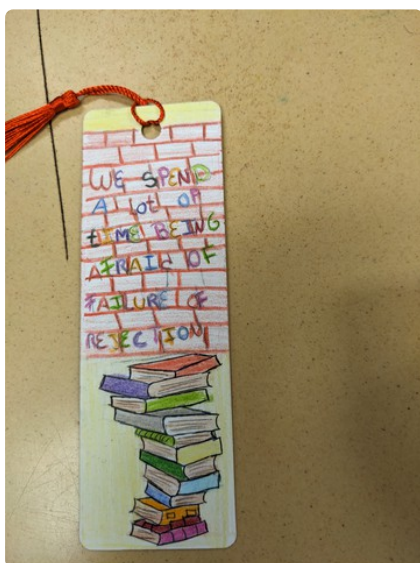
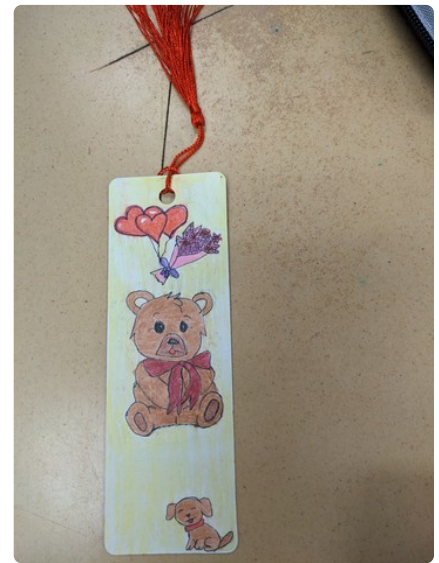


Ms. Herbst's and Ms. Fischer's classes recently wrapped up an argument unit by holding a town hall debate regarding whether their fictitious school should eliminate athletic programs. Students created characters, researched their assigned pov, and practiced persuasive techniques in their debates. Currently, students are beginning their college and post-high school research papers. They will learn about the formal research process and evaluate the possibilities for life after high school.

12 Honors: Mrs. Basciano's 12 Honors students have been working on their science fiction short stories inspired by their reading of *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells. Students took a current technological/social issue and imagined what the world would be like in the future. As part of this assignment, students were tasked with answering a central "What if" question they wanted to explore in their story. Students topics include: What if AI takes the place of human beings? What would happen if Earth was uninhabitable? What if humans become too dependent on technology? What if chips were embedded in humans? What if robots enslaved the human race? What if humans had special powers? Students really put their imaginations to work envisioning the possible future of mankind!



Intro to College English/ENL: Ms. Phalen's students are reading and listening to Trevor Noah's memoir *Born A Crime*. After a pre-reading [infographic](#) project, they paused midway to create unique designs for bookmarks.



AP Lit: Students created presentations to map out the storm, a major turning point, in the novel *A Thousand Acres*. Presentations varied from wonderful videos to posters to interactive computer programs, slideshows, and Jamboards. Students had complete freedom in how they showcased this important scene in the text.

IB Theory of Knowledge: Students in IB ToK began their unit on Knowledge and the Knower, focusing on the importance of selective attention and change blindness by taking a test of their attention. Students also discussed how their education has shaped them into the knowers they are today.

IB English Year 1: Students in IB Year 1 have been busy practicing their close reading analysis skills in a small group carousel activity. In groups, students took turns discussing their own interpretation of short extracts from the novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. After each student shared, the group members decided which words, phrases, and or lines should be highlighted and helped them develop an understanding of the author's message. Once all the group members came to a consensus about the author's overall purpose in the extract, they put all their observations on a poster. Then, each group moved to another group's poster to read their commentary. The groups added their own ideas on sticky notes and placed them on the posters. After student groups visited all the posters, they came back to their original posters and read all their classmates' comments. Through this collaborative exercise, everyone had a chance to speak, and students were well- prepared for the next step: the close reading analysis paper!

Public Speaking: In the first week of public speaking, students are participating in warm up activities to get them comfortable standing up in front of the class. First, students interviewed each other and then introduced their partners to the class. Next, we participated in a wonder hour. Each student randomly selected another person's wonder to research and present on.

Writer's Workshop: In Writer's Workshop 1, students finished the course with Ekphrastic Poetry, and responded to famous pieces of artwork through poetry. Students in Writer's Workshop 2 began their interactive food unit; the first assignment had writers connecting personally to food through poetry. Next up: a fun musical smells lesson that will have students smelling herbs and spices from all over the world and writing about the emotions that they evoke!

Department News: Art

Pottery:

With the change in semesters, we have bid farewell to our first semester art courses. It has become a tradition in Pottery to have a party on the last day that utilizes students' final projects. Students brought in food and/or flowers to serve or display in their handmade dishes. This is always a fun way to celebrate the course!

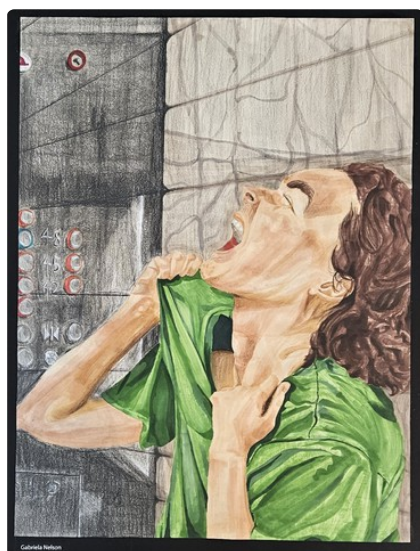
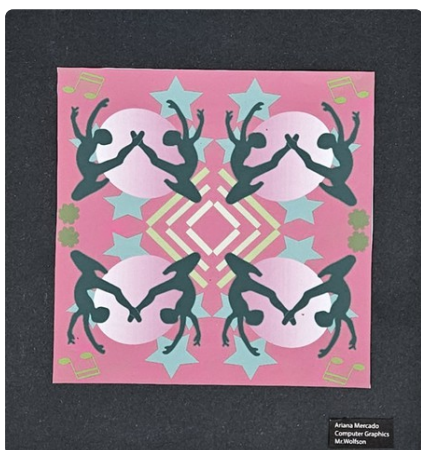


At the beginning of January, Art Honor Society students hosted a vision board workshop. Students searched for inspirational images in magazines and created intentions for the new year as they made collages. Fun was had by all!



Perspective & You

This month's student run exhibit's theme was Perspective & You. We received artwork from 26 students in a variety of mediums all of which related in some way to the overarching theme. Check out some of the artwork below!



Volunteers needed for upcoming Event--Art Career Day:

Every year the Clarkstown High School North Art Department hosts an Arts Career Day. This year's date will be Friday, March 8th, 2024.

Our goal is to have 8 visiting professionals who work in the arts.

Examples of careers we've had in the past include painters, potters, art therapists, textile designers, architects, interior designers, fashion designers, advertisers, curators, product designers, set designers, plus many more.

The goal of our Career Day is to give students an insider's knowledge of art related fields; information that would otherwise be difficult to find on the internet or in career books. It is an opportunity for these students to vicariously walk the road you have traveled and pick up some tips and tricks along the way.

This has proven to be an invaluable opportunity for our students and department as a whole!

If this is something that you are interested in, please reach out to Ms. Dunn and complete this attached [google form](#).

Department News: Social Studies

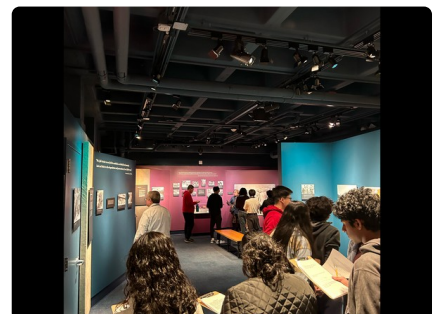
School Resource Officers Chris Woulfe and Jay Vejnaska visited Mr. Turner's and Ms. Jesnes' AP Government classes. While the main topic of discussion was the "rights of the accused" as found in the Bill of Rights, the SRO's shared a wide range of information about the role of police, the role of SRO's specifically, the variety of opportunities available as a police officer, and some interesting anecdotes about their jobs. Thank you to both of them.

From January 18-21st, Advisors Mrs. Darcy and Mrs. Macias took the Clarkstown Model United Nations Team to Yale Model UN. This was Yale's MUN 50th anniversary and it was a weekend to be remembered. Our students ate pizza from Frank Pepe's in New Haven - in the original location in our own private room. The manager gave us a tour of the restaurant that opened in 1925. We then traveled to the Omni Hotel and prepared to debate topics and write resolutions all weekend. At the Opening Ceremony we heard inspiring words from Ban Ki-moon. He told the students, "Are you ready to extend your hand and become a global citizen?" Along with going to the Yale Museum we were able to visit Yale's Library/Museum where students were able to view the Gutenberg Bible, 1 of only 49 copies in the world today. Clarkstown students debated with over 2000 students from all 50 states and representatives from 44 countries around the world. We were also able to attend a Lecture by a Professor of Psychology that really wowed the students with his studies in perception. Our next competition will be in February at Suffern and Pearl River High Schools.

DECA provides students the opportunity to prepare for careers in Business Management, Administration, Entrepreneurship, Finance, Hospitality, Tourism, and Marketing. At the beginning of January, North DECA attended the regional competition at RCC. We had several students place in the top 5! North will have 32 students moving on to compete in the state competition March 6-8 in Rochester, NY.



Starting in late January the Global History 2 classes, along with their peers from Clarkstown South, are going to visit the Rockland Holocaust Museum for their Moral Courage Workshop. In this workshop, the first of which was on January 29, students will learn to define moral courage and its importance in our society today. They will analyze examples from history and learn what moral courage looks like in practice, from a variety of perspectives across race, class, gender, age, and geography. The first group of students went on January 29 and was thoroughly engaged in wrestling with these historical and social issues.



Ms. Santiago's Public Policy class finished up their semester long project in which they did extensive research on a Societal Problem and created public policies to alleviate these problems. During the process they create professional presentations of their societal problems and policies. The presentations provide give them the opportunity to get feedback from peers. Throughout the process they Evaluate Costs and Benefits create Policy Memos. Topics this year included

Domestic Violence NYS, Overdevelopment in Rockland County, Lack of Affordable Housing in NYS and Increased discrimination against the formerly incarcerated in New York State

Throughout the process the students contacted and worked with various stakeholder and influential players and organizations such as State Senator Bill Weber, James Lloyd the New York State Association for Affordable Housing, Alyssa DeRosa from the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, and Exodus Transitional Community.

One group's Policy Memo was so well received by the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence that it is being shared with their the entire department for consideration.

Department News: Math

The Math Department is excited to announce that we will be inducting 61 new members into Mu Alpha Theta, the national math honor society, on February 29th.

North participated in the New York State Math League competition on January 18th. The top scoring students were Andrew Jeynes, Yuki Kitayama, and Alexander Frank. Our next competition will be held on February 15th at 2:05 PM in room 421. All students are welcome to participate.

Department News: Music

Band: Students recently completed their midterm solos to help prepare them for this spring's NYSSMA Solo Festival. In addition, they have been working hard in preparing music for Bandapalooza.

Music Technology: The classes are creating radio commercials in my digital music class right now. The students are creating voice over commercials for products or services of their choice then creating the musical underscore.

All-County: Four North musicians were selected to take part in the RCMEA Junior/Jazz All-County Music Festival at Fieldstone Middle School on February 2 & 3! Congratulations to the following North musicians:

Chorus: Aydin Bacharach, Celeste Thompson

Band: Ron Zharzhavsky

Jazz Band: David Silverman

Upcoming Performances:

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 – Bandapalooza – 7pm – CHSN Main Gym

NYSSMA: Registration for the annual NYSSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival is open until Friday, February 16th. This year's festival takes place May 17-18 at Suffern High School. Reach out to Mr. Andert or Mr. Reina with questions or to register.

School Counseling Department Update: January Highlights

The School Counseling Department had a busy month of January, filled with exciting activities and opportunities for our students:

Felix Festa Visit: We welcomed rising 9th graders from Felix Festa for an engaging presentation and tour of North High School. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to explore life at the high school and discover the wide array of elective possibilities awaiting them in their freshman year.





RCC Application Day: On January 18th, we hosted RCC Application Day, where nearly 70 students successfully completed their applications!



BOCES Visit: On Friday 1/26 interested students had an opportunity to visit the Rockland BOCES campus and explore various career and technical education programs.





Upcoming:

Course Recommendation Review: In the coming month, students will have the chance to meet with their school counselors to discuss and review their course recommendations for the next academic year.

Junior Post-High School Planning: We are committed to supporting our juniors as they delve deeper into their post-high school planning. We will continue to help guide them through this next phase of their academic journey.

News From the PTSA

- Our next **PTSA Meeting** is **Tuesday February 6th at 7pm** in the library.
- The **Ram's Cave** needs your help! We are looking to add new volunteers. The Cave is fully run and managed by North parents. It's a fun way to see your kids and also meet some new people. Our winter hours are 9:30 - 2:30 but we can also use some half day volunteers. We will train you. Please consider joining us...send an email to ramscave@gmail.com. Thank you!
- **Staff Appreciation Lunch** Friday March 15th 10:00 AM. We are planning the lunch and welcome any parents or guardians interested in helping to make this annual "Thank you" to the teachers and staff of Clarkstown North High School extra special.
- The **Clarkstown North Spiritwear** store is now open, but only for a limited time! Show your school pride by wearing Rams Spiritwear! Ordering is easy, the online link is <https://clarkstownnorthwinter24.itemorder.com/shop/home/>. Shipping is available for an additional fee or local pickup is available at no charge. Store closes on February 22nd.
- **9th grade Parent orientation** Monday **February 5th 6:00pm**. The CHSN PTSA will be making a presentation to incoming 9th grade parents and opening the Rams Cave for them to see first hand North's premier lunch and snack haven.

- **March Reading Festival** Friday March 1st **6-8pm CHSN Gym**. The PTSA will be supporting the Clarkstown Family Resource Center and Kindness Crew Club in hosting a "read in" for Clarkstown Families. An evening of books, reading, crafts and more.
- **Student Impact Grants**- Your PTSA has been actively supporting our North teachers with educational programs, activities and field trips. As of September the PTSA has awarded thirteen Student Impact Grants totaling almost \$7,000.
- **Senior Parents Meeting** Tuesday February 7th at the PTSA meeting. All parents are welcome. Graduation Night planning is full swing along with June Balloons. These two events are integral in celebrating our graduating seniors and keeping them safe. Please consider coming to the meeting and giving input on the planning process.

North Athletics - Winter 2023-2024 Season











MID WINTER RECESS

School will be closed Monday, February 19 through Friday, February 23, 2024.



CHSN

CHSN is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

