

IN-DEPTH

The Oracle investigates gender disparities in STEM and humanities classes

PAGES 12-13

SPORTS

Social Media Editor Ellie Yuan takes a shot at water polo

PAGE 15



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Henry M. Gunn High School
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Palo Alto, CA 94306

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SERVE & CELEBRATE OTHERS




INNOVATION



EQUITY & EXCELLENCE



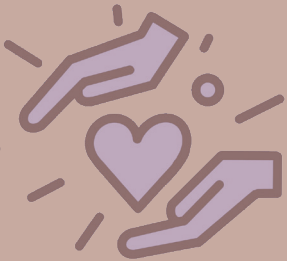
EARLY LITERACY



MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

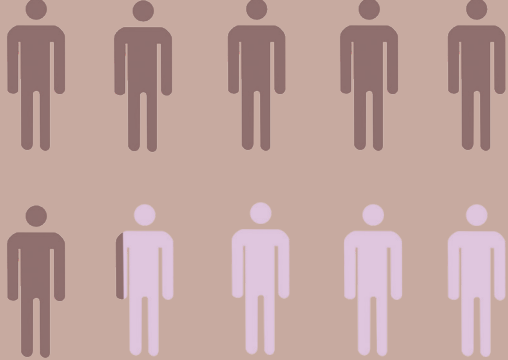
74%


OF 6-12TH GRADERS REPORTED FEELING PHYSICALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY SAFE AT SCHOOL



61%

OF STUDENTS LEARNED ABOUT RACE, ETHNICITY AND CULTURE IN FALL 2022





100+

COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES WERE TRACKED DISTRICTWIDE

Michelle Koo

Source: PAUSD Board of Education

Students, counselors grapple with schedules

Dan Honigstein
IN-DEPTH EDITOR

This year, Gunn students were met with administrative announcements about schedule changes during their first few weeks of school. Although many students perceived more difficulty in changing their schedules, this year’s scheduling complications paralleled past years’, according to data provided by the counseling department.

Since the 2020-21 school year, the counseling department has enforced a “no email” and “no drop-in” schedule-change policy for the first two weeks of school. They instead provide a Google form for students to specify which classes they wished to substitute others with, drop from or add to their schedules.

“Last year the process was faster for me, and my request was basically identical this year.”

—Junior Jonah Weinstein

Some students went several days without a response from the department, and various upperclassmen — such as junior Jonah Weinstein — were surprised by the difficulty in changing or dropping courses this year. “Although my request was an exception because it did not fall under the form-request reasons, I didn’t expect to wait a week to get a face-to-face meeting,” Weinstein said. “Last year the process was faster for me, and my request was basically identical this year.”

Assistant Principal of Counseling Harvey Newland did not notice a major difference between this year’s scheduling complications and preceding years’. Lead Counselor David Leftwich confirmed that the number of requests this year was not an outlier and that requests were denied or accepted based on the same parameters as past years. Thus, students’ perceived difficulty most likely depended on personal experiences

► Course scheduling—p.2

District identifies five priorities in updated PAUSD Promise

Kaitlyn Chen
LIFESTYLE EDITOR

In May, PAUSD identified the following PAUSD Promise priority areas for the 2023-24 school year: Innovation, Serve and Celebrate Others, Mental Health and Wellness, Early Literacy, and Equity and Excellence. The result of detailed reflection on annual reports and feedback from community members, the Promise defines the district’s strategic plans to achieve identified goals and key performance indicators to measure progress in each area.

“I’m very appreciative of students who come and speak because I take the words of every student into account and find it very meaningful.”

—PAUSD Board Member Shana Segal

Although most of the priority areas carried over from last year, Innovation replaced Healthy Attendance in this year’s Promise following more consistent attendance and increased interest in new artificial intelligence tools. Key subgoals include incorporating technology into curriculum and instruction, increasing students’ access to postsecondary opportunities. Because these goals are recent and constantly evolving, PAUSD Board Member Shana Segal explained the importance of engaging students. “We’ve been hearing that

it’s hard for students to attend after-school committee meetings, so we’re trying to hold more meetings during lunch and use the feedback to guide teaching practices and improve learning experiences,” she said. “As a board member, I’m very appreciative of students who come and speak because I take the words of every student into account and find it very meaningful.”

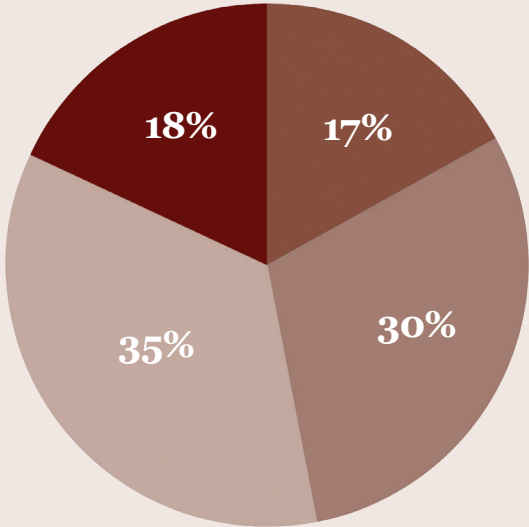
“We’re trying to move from doing (community service) for credit to doing it because it’s a worthwhile thing to do.”

—PAUSD Board President Jennifer DiBrienza

Serve and Celebrate Others, defined in the 2022-23 annual report as “building people up through positive interactions and acknowledging those who invest in others,” has been a long-standing priority of the district. Still, Board President Jennifer DiBrienza noted that it continues to adopt new meanings. “We have a long history of expecting kids to do community service and then putting it on their transcript,” she said. “But we’re trying to move from doing it for credit to doing it because it’s a worthwhile thing to do. There are so many amazing things our staff does — we’re trying to recognize those.” Examples of this recognition include the traveling builder helmet, awarded to employees who are

► PAUSD Promise—p.2

2023 schedule-change requests



- No schedule-change request forms
- 1 schedule-change request form
- 2 schedule-change request forms
- 3+ schedule-change request forms

Source: Self-selected survey sent out to Gunn students by The Oracle from Sept. 8 to Sept. 15 with 158 responses