

Coordinator's Corner

When people tour the facilities used by the Media Arts Program at Saratoga High, the Multimedia Center usually takes center stage. With its impressive filming studio, control room, audio room, and computer lab, it's not hard to see why.

The Annex, on the other hand, doesn't make as much of an impression: what's so important about a big room filled with tables? And yet, the Annex is every bit as important to what we do in MAP as the Multimedia Center is, since it gives us a space to hold a wide range of dynamic collaborative activities, and the portable furniture allows us to reconfigure the room for very different purposes.

Take, for instance, the last weeks of the fall semester at SHS. In this short time window, the Annex featured the MAP 12 students delivering their Shark Tank presentations to Silicon Valley executives, a 1920's simulation in MAP 11 that had the students up on their feet performing dances from the time period, the lively MAPLandia political rally in MAP 10 in which students were representing different ideologies of the 19th century, and a tutorial visit and talk to MAP students from a current US diplomat.

So while others might just see a big room when they look into the Annex, I see a space that is essential to making the magic happen.

Jason Friend, MAP Curriculum Coordinator



The Annex rearranged for a MAP simulation



MAP 12 students participate in "The Magic of the Markets"

MAP Mentors Spotlight

This year, the MAP Student Leaders created a committee to develop additional ways that MAP upperclassmen could support MAP underclassmen. They have crafted a series of workshops that they will be offering during tutorial to help MAP freshmen and MAP sophomores further improve their media skills. Kudos to these student leaders for taking the initiative to create this new opportunity for MAP underclassmen!

Below is the schedule of the workshops, which will all be held during tutorial in room 501:

- Adobe Illustrator: January 30th, February 1st
- Photoshop: February 26th, February 28th, March 1st
- Film Techniques: March 5th
- Premiere Pro: March 18th, March 20th, March 22nd
- MAP 9 Breaking Away Project: March 26th, March 28th, April 1st, April 3rd

MAP Mentorship Presents:



The MAP Student Mentorship Committee

MAP 12 Highlights

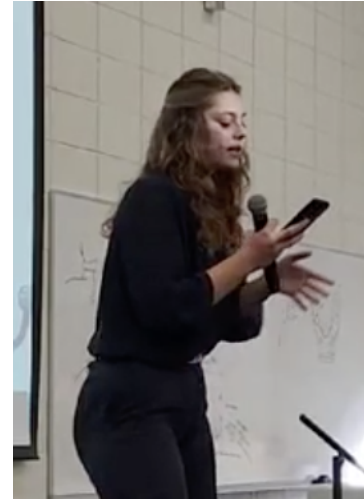
- **Media Studies:** MAP 12 English students dove into a unit entitled “The Medium is the Message,” in which they considered the merits of competing arguments as to how different media technologies have impacted the way that individuals think and interact with each other.
- **AI Conference:** Near the close of this unit, the MAP 12 students participated in the first ever “MAP vs. Machine,” a conference on artificial intelligence that pulled together all three of their MAP 12 classes. To prepare for the conference, the students first researched the impact of AI on various sectors of society such as democracy, media, and the job market. They then served on various panels about



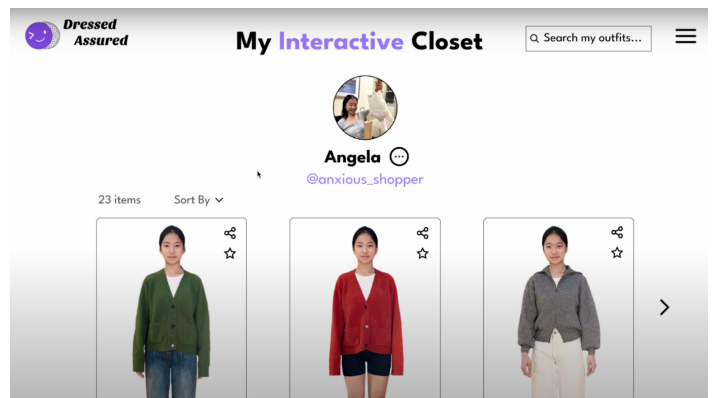
A panel of MAP 12 students debates the future of AI

these topics where they discussed and debated the many boons and woes that could occur with significant advancements in AI.

- **MAP vs. Machine:** As part of “MAP vs. Machine,” the MAPsters were pitted against AI in a series of creative challenges to see whether human beings could outperform platforms such as ChatGPT. While humans emerged the victors, the AI gave them real competition.
- **MAP Shark Tank:** The MAP 12 study of Economics culminated in the Shark Tank project, in which the Seniors worked in teams to develop new innovative products and services supported by a business plan and an introductory advertisement. They then pitched their concepts to a group of four Silicon Valley executives with backgrounds in venture capital, operations, and marketing. Remarkably, every team received at least one offer of investment from the Sharks!
- **Capstone:** The Seniors completed pre-production work on their Capstone Projects as they finalized their scripts, developed initial storyboards, and mapped out their production schedules to prepare for successful shooting during the Spring semester.
- **10 Second Film Contest:** The MAP 12 class wrapped up their first semester with a 10 Second Film contest: the student teams had only one hour in which they had to randomly draw a topic for their film, and then to write, film, and edit their entry.



[Watch Ange Delacroix perform her rap from MAP vs. Machine](#)



[Watch a MAP 12 Shark Tank advertisement](#)



[Watch the winner of the 10 Second Film Contest](#)

MAP 11 Highlights

- **Oakland Trip:** On November 1st, MAP juniors visited the Rosie the Riveter museum and learned about Richmond as a prosperous center of job opportunity during WWII. After lunch, they toured the Oakland Museum of

California to look at historical artifacts and learn about California's different eras and local artists.

- **Documentaries:** To wrap up the semester, MAP 11 filmed documentaries focused on American Issues. Split into groups, the students first submitted research papers and treatments to explore their topics and narrow down ideas, before writing scripts, emailing interviewees, and filming b-roll. After a fishbowl to receive feedback and rigorous editing, they spent their final period in Media Arts watching each teams' documentaries. [Final documentaries can be viewed here.](#)
- **History:** Meanwhile in US History, the MAP juniors were studying the Gilded Age and Progressives Era, and then discussing American imperialism with the metaphor project. They then moved on to WWI and put Woodrow Wilson on trial to debate his decision to join WWI.
- **English:** In English, students finished the first semester with their unit on *The Great Gatsby*, complete with persuasive speeches and a Socratic on the American Dream as it relates to us.
- **Interdisciplinary Lessons:** The whole group participated in several interdisciplinary 1920s days, analyzing music and performing skits.
- To kick off this semester, the students have had several lessons bridging English and History, including a 1930s day and a trial of FDR on the charge of creating false hope with his New Deal program. The class also had a co-taught lesson with Mr. Tarbox and Ms. Ritchie on screenwriting to prepare for the upcoming American Story project.

MAP 11 Projects

MAP 11: History, English, Media Arts 2

American Issues Documentary

Key Dates
Research Paper to Davey: November 9
Open Lab: December 1
Fishbowl: December 7
Project Due: December 18

Tasks: While America has many positives, there are numerous challenges we grapple with in American daily life. Narrowing in on one topic, research and analyze:
1. How can we create a portrait/historical analysis of an issue of American life that both explains the historical roots and the contemporary complexities present in modern society?



See what all the 'buzz' is about: [Watch the MAP 11 documentary "Why America is Saving the Wrong Bee"](#)

MAP 11 East Bay Trip Photos

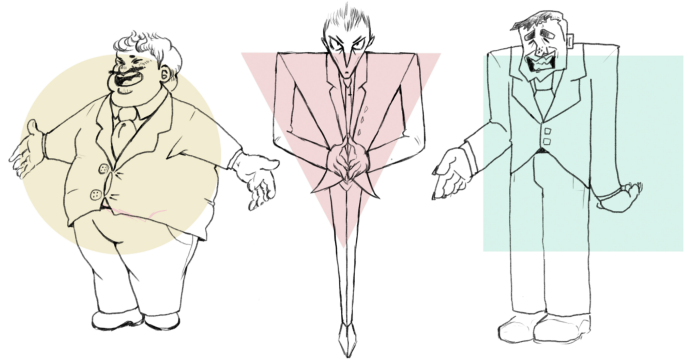


MAP 10 Highlights

- **MAPlandia:** MAPlandia is the culmination of the fall semester in MAP 10 and is structured to be a showcase of all the skills MAP sophomores developed. Each group of students was assigned a political “ism” such as utilitarianism, socialism, capitalism for which they created an 8-10 minute political rally aimed at persuading the audience to vote for their candidate. There was music, speeches, videos and dances. The students had a great time watching peers perform, and enjoyed the creative liberty and opportunity to embody different political personas.
- **Julius Caesar:** This was a project in MAP 10 where teams chose a scene to perform from *Julius Caesar*. Students created their own themes, names and costumes for the scene to put their own twist on Shakespeare’s play.
- **Adobe Illustrator Trace Project:** This was a fun Media Arts project in which the sophomores learnt how to use illustrator by selecting a character to trace, ending in a very satisfying project. It lead up to the class competing the Bezier Game, which put the students’ new Illustrator skills to the test.



The MAPlandia Political Rally



Politicians: Geometry of Character by Eli Kline



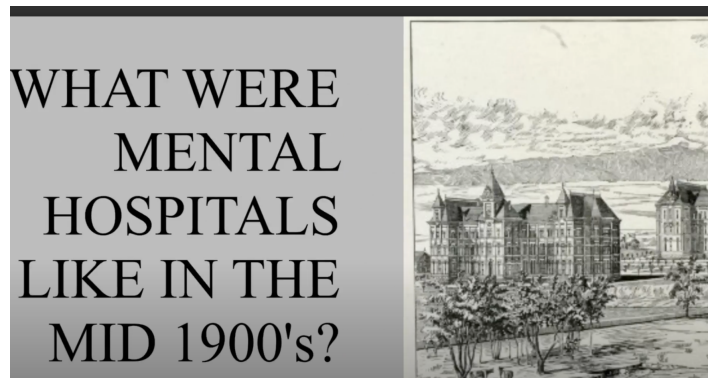
Alien Face by Anjali Sahni

MAP 9 Highlights

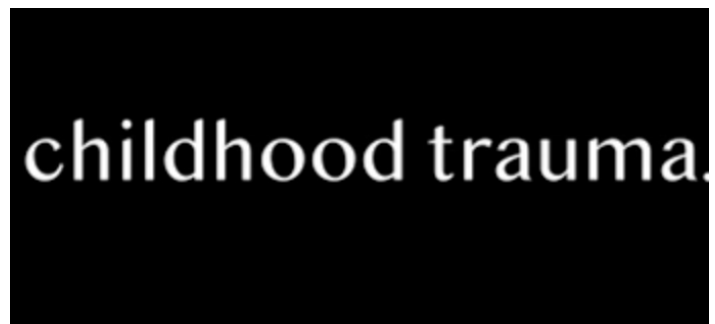
- **Inquiring Minds:** In this final project for the first semester, MAP 9 students came up with a question based on the nonfiction book they chose to read, conducted research related to it and assembled a presentation for their class. Project types included TedTalks, videos, infographics, and animations. The freshmen sometimes worked with older MAP mentors who helped them with programs such as Adobe Animate and Premiere. It was a great across-grade collaboration that allowed older students to share their knowledge with younger students as they begin their MAP journey.
- **House on Mango Street Vignette Website.** Freshmen wrote three original vignettes and then presented them in the form of a website with photos they took themselves. The vignettes gave students the chance to practice creative writing and photography skills they learned while reading the Sandra Cisneros novella.
- **Of Mice and Men:** The freshmen began their study of the John Steinbeck novel in early January and will be writing their first full literary essay at the end of the unit. In April, they will go on a field trip to Salinas to visit the Steinbeck Museum and spend time at a demonstration farm.



MAP 9 students working with MAP mentors



[Watch an Inquiring Minds Project: Mental Hospitals](#)



[Watch an Inquiring Minds Project: Childhood Trauma](#)

MAP Student Leadership

- MAP Student Leadership organized and held their annual Pielooza fundraiser in the MAP Annex.
 - Students who wore a MAP shirt were able to select a slice of their favorite type of pie along with whipped cream
 - Jars were set out that students could add money into in order to get certain MAP teachers to do entertaining things during their MAP classes, such as two teachers being handcuffed while teaching an interdisciplinary class period.
 - Students were also able to bid money against other students for a chance to do bonding activities with the MAP teachers, such as touring Santa Cruz with two MAP teachers.
- As a present to the MAP Freshman, MAP Student Leadership created candy grams that were handed out to the MAP Freshman.
 - They designed a holiday themed sticker with the MAP logo and tied it to candy canes with a ribbon, which were then passed out to the Freshman in their English classes.
- MAP Student Leadership voted on a design for a new MAP hoodie which will be distributed to all of the students that purchased one.



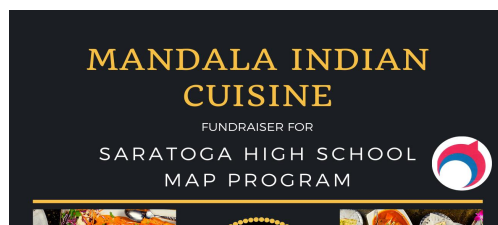
[MAP Pielooza in Action](#)



MAP Student Leaders put together candy canes for the MAP Freshman

MAP Boosters

Watch for Our Fundraisers! Thanks to Wai Chan, Sandra Cheng, Cecile Cohen-Jonathan, and Shirley Ng, the MAP Boosters have had more fundraisers this year. We held a boba tea fundraiser during fall semester finals week that helped raise money for MAP while providing students a nice treat during finals. On January 17 and 18, our community supported MAP by ordering takeout or dining in at Mandala Indian Restaurant in downtown Saratoga. There'll be more fun and tasty ways to support MAP to come, so please watch your emails and WhatsApp for announcements!



We Need You! We're already planning for the 2024-25 school year and we need your help to keep up the vital work of the MAP Boosters. Several serving officers are parents of seniors and will be

graduating out of the Boosters at the end of this year. Like all SHS parent organizations, the MAP Boosters relies on new parents stepping in to keep things running. If you are interested in the MAP Boosters or know that you'd like to volunteer as an officer, please contact us at shsmapboard@gmail.com or feel free to attend one of our monthly meetings.

Our January monthly meeting took place on Thursday, January 18th. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2024 from 2:45pm to 4:15pm in the MAP Annex. Interested parents can join us in person or via Google Meet. Meeting announcements are generally sent by email, WhatsApp, and included in the PTSO Newsletter the weekend before the meeting date.