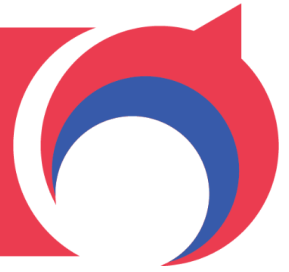


SHS MEDIA ARTS PROGRAM

WHAT'S MAPPENING?



Coordinator's Corner

Seventeen years ago, Mike Davey and Kerry Mohnike dreamt of creating an academy at Saratoga High that would bridge different disciplines, bring together cohorts of creative students, and create a setting where students and teachers could forge a more meaningful community. They successfully applied for a grant to get the program up and running, assembled a team of teachers (I'm proud to say that I was one of them!) and a student representative, and spent the next year planning to make that dream a reality. Fifteen years ago, the first cohort of MAP students boldly signed up to try this brand new program, and the Media Arts Program was born.

As we celebrate the fifteenth year of the program, it is a joy to behold MAP thriving, with MAP course offerings at every grade level, over 300 students enrolled in the program, and a team of MAP faculty who are dedicated to both innovative teaching and to student well-being.

It's been a great fifteen years: MAPpy birthday!

Jason Friend, MAP Curriculum Coordinator



Design for this year's MAP Senior Shirt



[Watch the MAP Launch Video from 2008](#)

MAP Teacher Spotlight

MAP received a couple of wonderful gifts for its fifteenth birthday: two exciting new MAP faculty members, Carla Villela and Toby Remmers. We are thrilled to have them joining our ranks!

Carla Villela: Media Arts Teacher

Q: What is your teaching and / or professional background?

A: I've spent nearly a decade teaching in the multimedia classroom, and previously worked in visual effects in the film industry.

Q: What makes you a good fit for MAP? What do you feel like you bring to the program?

A: With my background in both the visual effects industry and education, I offer a unique perspective to MAP. I believe in the ability of each student to craft something extraordinary.

Q: What is one thing that you like about MAP so far?

A: I love how the students get to know each other and their teachers. It is like a giant family!

Q: What is one fun fact about you?

A: I love to rock climb! :D

Toby Remmers: Social Studies Teacher

Q: What is your teaching and / or professional background?

A: I have been a teacher for the past 7 years in the Bay Area (Fremont), and briefly in San Diego in the communities of National City and Chula Vista. I have taught US History, World History, History in Film, Government & Economics. Prior to teaching, I worked in many different areas including as a Project Coordinator in a medium sized printing company, as a Social Worker, and as an independent film journalist.

Q: What makes you a good fit for MAP? What do you feel like you bring to the program?

A: I love bringing the past and present together and I love film. Bringing History together with Media Arts and English is perfect because each discipline can enrich the other.

Q: What is one thing that you like about MAP so far?



Carla Villela



Toby Remmers (and friend)

A: I love seeing the creativity of students already through our MAP 10 projects. Students have worked so hard and haven't been afraid to take educational risks to create a unique product for class.

Q: What is one fun fact about you?

A: I really enjoy dark chocolate, but I don't like white or milk chocolate.

MAP 9 Highlights

- This year, MAP is excited to welcome the biggest group of freshmen in the history of the program: 150 students, approximately half of the entire freshman class at SHS, enrolled in MAP 9.
- In late October and early November, MAP 9 Students welcomed Media Teacher Carla Villela into their classrooms for a primer on visual storytelling. They will apply these skills and ideas on an upcoming digital vignette project in response to *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros.
- The first quarter saw the freshies practicing collaborative problem solving and developing presentation skills during Unit 1: The Art of the Short Story, an introduction to literary analysis.



MAP 10 Highlights

- For the first time since 2019, the MAP 10 class went on the ropes course field trip, a team building day where they developed collaboration and leadership skills in a picturesque setting.
- In their Media Arts class, the sophomores worked on creating a shadow card that reflected their 'inside' and 'outside' selves. The purpose of this project was to reflect on themselves and translate it to an art project, using symbols and drawings to represent



MAP 10 Students teaming up at the Ropes Course

those different qualities. This was connected to Plato's 'Allegory of the Cave' - which was read in English - where the characters also grasp with perception versus reality. The project encouraged sophomores to explore these dual realities in a digital art format.

- Another project worked on in the sophomore's media arts class was Principles of Design presentations. This was a project designed to help students learn more about a singular principle of design, such as contrast, movement, or emphasis. Students had to teach their peers how an element of art such as color or lines helped the design in a few examples of artwork
- In history, sophomores learned about the French Revolution the past few weeks. The unit included various group discussions, projects, and simulations of the events that led up to and happened during the French Revolution.



Celina Ren's Shadow Card Project

MAP 11 Highlights

- In MAP 11 History, students have participated in several simulations to bring history to life and that require critical thinking, including: The Trial of Henry Wirz, Immigration reports, and the Sweatshop Trial. Currently they are engaged in simulating the 1912 election where 4 candidates received over 6% of the vote and brought their competing views to American voters.
- English and History have also had several collaborative lessons and simulations, including the Coming to America lesson, in which students compared two versions of the Statue of Liberty to uncover different stances towards immigration, and Hamilton Day, in which students used their historical knowledge to analyze the fictional perspective of the hit Broadway musical, and then created their own original lyrics to compete [in a rap battle](#) regarding American history.
- In English, students analyzed various American



MAP students dressed for The Trial of Henry Wirz

poets, ranging from humorous poems, to odes, to poems about American Identity. Their favorite days were love poetry day and the musical elements in poetry day. After the poetry unit, students moved into the Slavery and its Legacies unit, analyzing *12 Years a Slave* and Octavia Butler's *Kindred*. The students are also currently focused on analytical writing, particularly close reading textual evidence.

- English and Media Arts then collaborated for the [Video Poem project](#), which focused on transforming a poem into students' own film interpretation.
- As a refresher at the start of the year, MAP juniors refined their Adobe Illustrator skills and learned to use After Effects in Media Arts with the Logo Design and Animation Design projects. They applied these skills in the [America the Beautiful Animation](#), where they used assets and graphics to make compositions and animations conveying their perception of America.

MAP 11: English, Media Arts 2

Video Poem

Key Dates
Fishbowl: October 4
Due: October 17



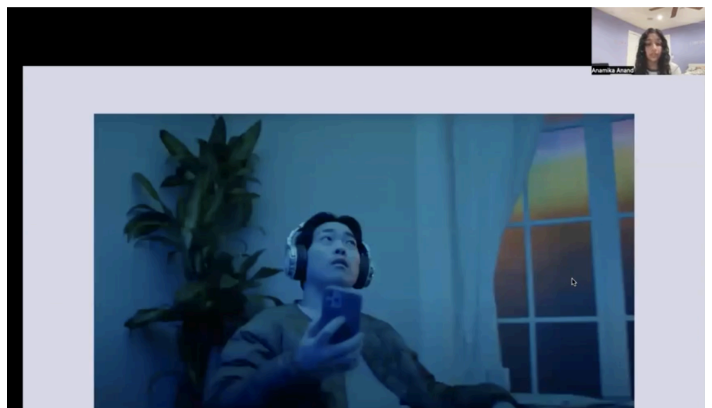
[MAP 11 Video Poems](#)



[Rap Battle from Hamilton Day](#)

MAP 12 Highlights

- To kick off their last year in the Media Arts Program, the seniors embarked on their yearlong Capstone Project, pitching their concept and then drafting out a first version of the script.
- In Media Arts, students worked on mini practice 2D projects such as the Alien Face creation, in which they transformed their own face into an extraterrestrial, in order to refine their graphic design skills.
- The seniors went on the 'MAP Amazing Race' field trip in San Francisco where they were tasked with locating various landmarks and objects connected to the history and literature of the SF area in order to accumulate points for their team. The race this year was very



[Anamika Anand's Video Essay](#)

close with Team 10 (Friend) coming in ahead of Team 3 (Torrens) with a 10 point lead.

- In English, students analyzed various advertisements and gained a more definitive understanding of how ads actually work by deepening their understanding of psychological appeals and media design techniques. They also recently completed an exciting foray into a new media format by creating [a video essay](#) in which they dissected one specific advertisement of their choice.
- In an interdisciplinary project connecting Media Arts with English, the seniors created an original 2D advertisement to market one of three generic products: chapstick, pens, or socks.
- In Economics, the seniors learned foundational principles such as supply and demand, economic shortages, and trade.
- In the 'Magic of the Markets' simulation, every student brought in an item valued at under \$5 and they had to trade with each other in order to experience firsthand how an open market can increase net happiness. Between rounds of trading, students conceptualized mini adverts and posters in order to promote their current item, and won prizes for the best overall ad concepts.



MAP Seniors trading items in the Magic of the Markets



Friendly Pens Print Ad by George Hu and Adeena Kadire



MAP Seniors making peace signs in front of the United Nations plaque in the Fairmont Hotel during the MAP Amazing Race

MAP Student Leadership

- MAP Student Leadership hosted their first meeting of the year and organized students into committees such as MAP activities, mentorship, promotion, and fundraising.
- To celebrate the new school year, MAP Student Leadership organized the annual social for all students and teachers in MAP on the upper field.
 - A wide variety of donuts were given out to all the MAP teachers and students who wore their MAP merch or had a MAP sticker.
 - Many students played dodgeball and socialized with their friends, classmates, teachers and other MAP students.
- A team of MAP student leaders from different grade levels spearheaded the creation of this newsletter:
 - MAP 12: Ivan Bijamov (Committee chair)
 - MAP 12: Kylee O'Brien (MAP Secretary)
 - MAP 11: Adrienne Chung
 - MAP 10: Viki Toram
 - MAP 9: Sandya Iyer



MAP Student Leaders hand out donuts at the MAP Social



MAP Student Leaders creating this Newsletter!

MAP Boosters

As MAP celebrates its 15th year, the MAP Boosters turns 13 years old. In those 13 years, small, dedicated groups of MAP parents have raised the money and provided the support MAP has needed to grow and provide the fantastic educational experience and sense of camaraderie MAP teachers envisioned for our students.

Parents, your donations and time volunteered in the MAP Boosters over the years have helped make this possible. But, if we're lucky, the job of the MAP Boosters will never be finished: We need to raise money and give some of our time to support MAP for all current and future students. For that, we ask each MAP family to make a suggested donation of \$175 per student each year and seek corporate matching, if you can. Please go to www.saratogamapboosters.com/donate.

Please volunteer! As a small group, each parent who gives some of their time to the MAP Boosters can make a huge impact in the success of MAP. The MAP Boosters needs officers and committee members to ensure that the vital work of the MAP Boosters will continue to be done for our MAP students and teachers. Contact us at shsmapboard@gmail.com or go to our Signup Genius page [here](#) to volunteer now or ask how you can help.

