



Intermediate Algebra is getting AMPED

By Melia Carvalho and Daniel Main

Amid piles of snow and inside of a nondescript temporary building is a new curriculum and business: the Intermediate Algebra and AMPED program.

"I've always loved Intermediate, but the math department, the administration, and I felt that it could be better. The solution was the AMPED program," Kendra Weiss, an Intermediate Algebra teacher, said.

AMPED (Algebra in Manufacturing Processes, Entrepreneurship, and Design) is a math program that is designed to

teach students Algebra through the lens of a business, making T-shirts and selling them. This answers the commonly asked question of, "Why do I need to learn this? When will I ever use it?"

"I've learned a lot about the process of starting a business and a lot about legitimate businesses," senior Collin Sedillos said.

The class functions as a business, taking orders from groups in the community, designing/customizing logos, and heat transferring the designs onto T-shirts.

"I'll give a task to a student and then

Pressure's on | Seniors Mayson Oakley and Shannah Brass wait as they press a design onto a T-shirt, using a heat press transfer machine. The process takes about five minutes, and the students in the class have nearly mastered their use of the machine. Photo by Riley Patton

step back and watch the process. I love watching them throw out an idea, try another, watch it bomb, then have them go back and say, 'Ok, well that didn't work; let's try something else'" Weiss said. "That process of trying and failing and being willing to keep trying is a huge skill for students in general."

The class even took on the project of making roughly 40 T-shirts for Conifer's marching band, the Lobo Regiment.

"We thought the T-shirts turned out really really nice," Sean Cartner, the director of the Lobo Regiment, said. "Some students submitted artwork from

the class, and we picked the one that we thought was most appropriate for our group. The T-shirts were really high quality, and they had great pricing. It's nice to know that our students in this high school made everything, too."

The money students make from selling T-shirts goes toward a general fund that students vote on the use of.

Although the curriculum is different from most other high school math curriculums, there is still homework and tests, the bane of any math class.

While most classes are student selected, *Cont. on page 3*

XBOX in the air

By Parker Jones

Relaxation can be difficult for students to find as they navigate through the many obstacles that high school poses, from participating in extracurricular activities to working jobs to preparing for finals. In order to help students get their daily dose of fun, campus administration made the decision to repurpose an XBOX console from last year's prom in the school cafeteria.

"The venue we had for prom last year

had TVs, so we decided to do video games on them," senior Kelsey Helmick, student body president, said. "We were looking into renting an XBOX, and it was really pricey compared to just buying one, so we bought one."

After the XBOX proved to be a hit at prom, student government decided to give the console to the school, and principal Wesley Paxton agreed to setting it up in the cafeteria.

"Since I came to the school, I've been trying to find things to do for the students

who are here during lunch time," Paxton said. "We open the gym up, we have the ping pong and foosball, and we thought the XBOX would be a nice thing to add to that."

Now that students are finding out about the new console, there have been a few mixed reactions. On the one hand, the new XBOX could serve as a fun and stress-relieving break for kids, but some students worry that it could act as a distraction.

"This is supposed to be a place where you focus on school, not your video

games," sophomore Megan Stahnke said. "Say you have A lunch and you play video games, and then you have study hall when your friends have B lunch; then, you can come back down to the cafeteria and play video games again."

Because the console is an XBOX One, it can support up to eight wireless players for some games, but there have been some concerns about arguments arising over who gets to play next.

"There's definitely going to be people trying *Cont. on page 3*

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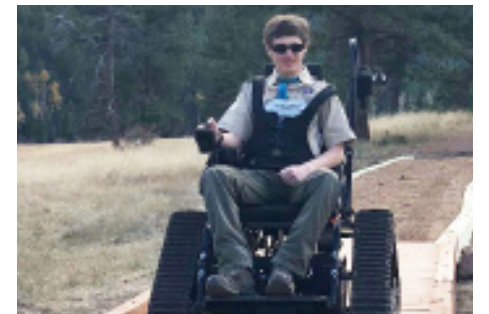
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