

So, we really wanted to go out and spread awareness for American Sign Language and the deaf community. Usually the elementary schools around the district don't have access to ASL. We always have such a great time with the kids. They are really talkative and love learning their new signs. They remember it, and the teachers continue to use the signs in their classrooms, as well. On other volunteer trips that we've taken, we come back and they're like, "We've been using these signs," and they're excited to learn all the new ones.

— **Keirra Kernan (12)**



Photo by Roxy Garrard

HELPING HANDS

ASL Honor Society volunteers teach elementary students



Photo by Roxy Garrard



Photo by Roxy Garrard

SPREADING THE WORD Volunteering during Wednesday Access time at Louisville Elementary School, Co-President of ASL Honor Society, Keirra Kernan (12) demonstrates signs to her group. When Kernan traveled to Italy, she was able to communicate with two deaf women. "We know basic greetings in Spanish and other languages, we know how to say hi, but it's good to know that in

ASL because you can use it internationally," Kernan said. **LEARNING THE CULTURE** Connecting with her group of kids, Violet Garrard (11) teaches Valentine's signs to kindergartners at Louisville Elementary School. Garrard prepared to take her seal of biliteracy test this year and hoped that opportunities like this will help her achieve her goal. "I learned ASL because it just felt different from everything else. Like, there's just so much culture that goes into the language that I really love," Garrard said. "I think it's really important for other people to learn about that culture, too, and about how much fun it is." **NEW FRIENDS** Zoe Gonzales (11) and Sofia McFadden (11) partner up to teach and review signs with a student. McFadden, an alumnus of LES, reached out to kindergarten teacher Jessica Lawrence to set up the lesson. "Sometimes we have a scarce amount of volunteer opportunities, so I've been trying to arrange more of those recently," McFadden said. "Being able to teach ASL to people is really exciting because they get to learn something new, and we get to show them something we're really passionate about."

LOCKED UP

Faculty, students state opinions on cell phone jails during class



Photo by Janie Mae Davis

"It's a battle because students love their phones, but they're a complete distraction. So I think they're 100% necessary." — **Science teacher Rob Linnenberger**

"If someone owns a cellphone, they should be able to manage it, but if they can't, I have a cubby." — **Language arts teacher Connie Williams**



Photo by Janie Mae Davis



Photo by Janie Mae Davis

"I'm not a fan, but I see kids all day in classes just looking at their phone and not doing work, so they do really help." — **Skyler Dorn (9)**

ORDER in the COURT

Mock Trial performs well during Regionals



Photo by Janie Mae Davis

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT Practicing reading at the podium, Emma Steffi (12) prepares herself to give opening statements against the defense during the Mock Trial competition on Feb. 9. Mock Trial worked hard to make it to regionals. "Overall, I am so proud of the team, and I think we all did fantastic," Steffi said. **PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT** Quinn Tooley (9) and Toby Stein (11) go over their script before they enter the courtroom. Stein won 1st place for playing the defendant Quinn Dixon. "I was very surprised because this was my first year in mock trial, and I really am proud of what I accomplished," Stein said. **PREPARE WITH PIZZA** Harper Dunn (10), Nia Weiss (10), Ava Tidd-Morales (11), and Steffi practice while eating pizza. Tidd-Morales also won 1st place overall best witness. "I was surprised, and I felt really accomplished," Tidd-Morales said. "I also felt like my hard work really paid off."



Photo by Janie Mae Davis



Photo by Janie Mae Davis

Photoshop FUN

What is your opinion on digital art class?

"The class is honestly really nice and calming because you just get to work on your own stuff and it's all quiet and chill." — **Torry Lai (9)**



Photo by Brylie Fay

MY 2024 GIRLBYE!



"Chihuahuas. Most trainers don't train them right, so they're all just aggressive and loud." — **Ari Ortez (11)**



"I have a habit of holding on to stuff I don't need anymore, like old math worksheets and this random pile of string in my room." — **Addison Hoy (10)**



"I think procrastinating and not doing my homework and stuff. Just being able to get on top of things would be good." — **Zach Turbert (12)**



"I would say that I want to leave the first semester of school behind. I'm done with that. It's gone. It's the worst semester of school." — **Ash Ballew (11)**