

Fine Arts at LHHS

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Change is afoot at Lake Havasu High School Fine Arts Department, and the results have been remarkable. With new faculty, a revitalized curriculum and a dramatic increase in involvement it has brought new vitality to the fine arts program with more student engagement.

This was a very busy and successful year in art for Mr. Bangsund and Mr. Robertson. The art department had shows at the district office, Java Rush and the annual March Art Guild show. There was tremendous positive feedback about the students' quality and creativity in their work. They hope to continue to increase the students' ability to prepare for the future by implementing more technology into their classroom curriculum.

In band this year five instrumental music students auditioned and were accepted into the All-Regional Honor Music Festival held in Flagstaff in February. In April the jazz band participated in the prestigious Highland Jazz Festival in Gilbert. The students were completely amazed by the professional performance by internationally known trumpet player Byron Stripling. The students were so fascinated by the performance that they reported later it felt like they were only in the auditorium for about 10 minutes, when it was actually an hour performance!

To start the Choir year, twenty students travelled to Willow Canyon High School to participate in FAME's Annual Arizona Show Choir Summit. These student performers joined forces with nearly fifty other teens as well as nationally recognized choreographers: Damon Brown of Stagevisions Choreography, Sjaan Trowbridge of Disney Show Choir Workshops, and Marcus Ellsworth who owns Phantom Tree Productions. A small number of students attended AzMEA Solo and Ensemble in January. Two of these students brought home top ratings from the event. Students also sang in the Parade of Lights on the Kontiki, with Thunderbolt Choir for the Veterans Day ceremony, and took solos to community events such as the Regional Bass Fishing Tournament, sporting events, Havasu Speedway.

One more exciting development for LHHS

Performing Arts was the addition of a new class – musical theatre. The course is team taught by Ms. Stephanie Geuy (music) and Mrs. Carroll-Jackson (theatre). Twenty-five talented students involved produced two shows this year: 13: The Musical and Red, Hot and Cole. Both shows were well attended and well received by parents, students, faculty and the community at large.

This year drama students participated in the Northern Arizona Acting Festival (NAAF) winning a top spot in the state and qualifying for the State One Act competition. In the area of One Act plays, these students received superior ratings from all of judges. Also, Chancy Valencia, was awarded "All-Star Actor" for his work as a lead actor. At NAAF, Tianna Crawford was recognized for her superior acting skills, giving the opportunity to compete at the International Thespian Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska this summer. This is the first award of this kind for LHHS's performing arts program.



Lake Havasu High School drama students.

We thank everyone in the community who supported us throughout this year with donations, event invitations, and participation in the Tax Credit program.

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