

# Science and Social Science Curricula Allow Flexibility Within Students' Schedules

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News Editor

AHS' administration continuously makes decisions that affects the school's curricula. Changes are made where deemed necessary, and this school year has been no exception.

This year, the Science Department has blended its Honors Biology classes with its regular classes. Students can still earn honors credits on their transcripts by completing two out of the three options listed below.

For one of the criteria, students must receive at least an 85 percent or higher in their regular class. They could also complete and present a biology research project each quarter. The last alternative would be for students to demonstrate Honors competency on the Biology CST test by earning a Proficient or Advanced score.

If Biology students successfully complete two out of three of these options, then

they can receive honors credits.

"These changes were made to improve the quality and rigor of science education at Alhambra High School," Science Department Chair Daniel Hyke said.

Starting next year, freshmen will only be allowed to take three years of science at most, starting in either ninth or tenth grade.

In the social sciences, Classical Ages has been eliminated due to budget cuts, so freshmen will be able to take World History, but not AP World History.

"I'm fine with having World History this year, but it means that I don't get to take Biology," freshman Kristie Sham said. "[...] I wish that freshmen could take WHAP be-

cause we don't have that option now."

However, the students who have completed World History their freshmen year will not be allowed to take U.S. History or AP U.S. History sophomore year. This change was made in order to make sched-

ules more rigorous for freshmen, and to open up room in their schedules for the following year. Currently, about seventy freshmen are enrolled in the class.

"The

goal is to get [freshmen] more core classes," Social Science Department Chair Javier Gutierrez said. "In their sophomore year, freshmen get hit with [core classes], it will allow them extra flexibility by having them

[take] World History now."

Another major change in the school curriculum is how teachers are now trying to link curricula together across different subjects, especially in the English and Social Science departments. Traditionally, schools are designed to keep divisions between subjects so it has been difficult for teachers to coordinate curricula and find overlaps.

In the 2014-2015 school year, California's academic state standards are going to be replaced with national standards, which will be geared more towards writing and English. This change influenced the making of this decision, and standards between English and other departments will be closely linked.

"There is overlap between disciplines, and it doesn't serve students well to keep them separate," Gutierrez said. "This will allow students [to understand] a more global view of society and prepare them for life beyond high school."

## In a Nutshell

- The Biology Honors class has been cut, but students can still earn honors credit.
- The Classical Ages class has been cut, and freshmen can now take regular World History.



OLIVIA CHEUNG  
News Editor

"We want to create and sell products all over the world that are stamped with three simple words: 'Made in America.' That's our goal."

President Barack Obama made that statement last December, but data released in September from the U.S. Census Bureau proved otherwise.

Employment between ages sixteen to twenty-nine stood at 55.3 percent, down 12 percent compared to 2000 when employment was 67.3 percent and the lowest

## Outsourcing Jobs: Young Adults Without Employment or Futures

it had been since the end of World War II.

Young males without a college degree were most likely to lose their jobs due to lowered demand for blue-collar jobs in construction, manufacturing and transportation.

"It's unnerving to think about adulthood when all of these facts are considered," sophomore Gavin Chao said. "With jobs becoming a scarcity, competition is only going to become tougher."

Just as millions of American manufacturing jobs were lost in the 1980s and 1990s, white-collar American jobs are also disappearing today. Almost 500,000 white-collar American jobs have already been transferred offshore to the Philippines, Malaysia and China, with Eastern Europe expected to follow.

"These people will be scarred, and they

will be called the 'lost generation' [since] their careers would not be the same way if we had avoided this economic disaster," Richard Freeman, an economist at Harvard University, said.

Overall, the employment-to-population ratio for all age groups recorded from 2007-2010 dropped at the fastest rate in comparison to similar three-year periods since the government began recording data in 1948.

"I worry that after all the education I have received that I will not be able to get a job [...] as the economy worsens," junior Nicholas Oda said.

Within the past year, 43 of the 50 largest U.S. metropolitan areas continued to decline in employment, with Charlotte, N.C. in the lead followed by cities like Jacksonville, Fla and Los Angeles, Calif. These cities have reported experiencing housing busts, budget deficits or meltdowns in

banking or manufacturing industries.

Without jobs, young adults are not able to start careers or live independently.

Among adults from ages eighteen to thirty-four, long-distance moves in the nation fell last year to roughly 3.2 million people. A total of 5.9 million Americans between ages twenty-five through thirty-four have opted to refrain from relocation, which is an increase of 25 percent since the recession.

"Many young adults are essentially postponing adulthood and all of the family responsibilities and extra costs that go along with it," Mark Mather, an associate vice president at the private Population Reference Bureau said.

Without stable income after graduating college, young adults are facing more challenges compared to previous generations.

MOOR GRAPHIC by Sharon Trang

## No-Shave 'Movember' Raises Prostate Cancer Awareness

DEBORAH CHEN  
Staff Writer

November is considered a very important month, not only because of Thanksgiving, but also because it is the month-long celebration of men's health which has been christened 'Movember'.

What began as a joke between friends in Australia in 2003 soon became a force in educating the public against prostate cancer. In the beginning, it was just about growing a mustache. However, the following year, Movember founder Adam Garone suggested to make it benefit a real cause instead.

Participating in Movember is simple. All that is required is a mustache and a month without shaving. Fake mustaches are also available for women and men at all Movember events and parties.

"We never want to lose the essence of Movember, which is to grow a mustache and have some fun," Garone said, according to a New York Times article.

The ultimate goal of Movember is to inform the men in our lives of the dangers of prostate cancer and the importance of prostate health.

**"We never want to lose the essence of Movember, which is to grow a mustache and have some fun."**

- Adam Garone

to be very effective in spreading [awareness of the] risks of prostate cancer to men," sophomore Tiffany Huang said.

Due to the high risks of prostate cancer, men are highly encouraged to live healthy lifestyles. This includes frequent trips to the doctor to increase prostate cancer prevention.

MOOR GRAPHIC by Allison Tran

"It's great that more attention is being drawn towards the issue of prostate cancer. Movember seems

## VAPA's Winter Concert Spreads Holiday Spirit

DEBORAH CHEN  
Staff Writer

Concert Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra and Choir performed together at the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) concert in the auditorium on Friday, Dec. 9.

The concert showcased what the VAPA groups have worked on throughout the year.

During the concert, the Concert Band used wind and percussion instruments, while Choir sang some Charlie Brown excerpts.

Orchestra had a variety of music prepared for the concert, consisting of both holiday and other music that were educational and fun to play.

"I feel that the kids work[ed] very hard. We have a great orchestra this year [and] it will be very enjoyable for everyone," Orchestra Curtis Richardson said.

Weeks prior to the concert, Concert Band, Orchestra and Choir had prepared daily after school.

"We practice[d] every day during class and after school," the Mighty Moor Marching Band Director Mark Trulson said.

A raffle was announced to take place after the concert and tickets were purchased weeks before the concert for \$1 each.

**"I felt that the concert was a blast and [...] it's great that everyone tried their best."**

- Ilya Hack

Third place winner Mari Diaz won a \$50 dollar gift card to Alondra's, while second place Danny Gloria won two tickets to Disneyland and first place winner, Lisa Dewi won the grand prize of an iPad 2.

"I felt that the concert was a blast and [...] it's great that everyone tried their best," bass clarinet player Ilya Hack said.

MOOR GRAPHIC by Allison Tran