

SHS teachers integrate curriculum

By Sianna Flowers
Correspondent

A teacher's greatest challenge is making sure her curriculum is not simply learned, but understood.

Sometimes this is done through hands-on projects. Sometimes it takes days of discussion. Matthew Bradley and Gail Greaney, two teachers at Sisters High School, have answered this challenge in the form of American Studies. American Studies is a 10th-grade course that integrates literature and history into a two-hour block class. The goal is to help students learn history and literature in a way that is full of context — and lasting.

American Studies is new to the 2014-2015 school year, but the idea isn't new at all. Gail Greaney, who teaches the history component, says, "When Garrett Gladden was a teacher he — we — team-taught AP Government, and that's how we started thinking about team-teaching this course... We firmly believed that it was of the most benefit to students to meld the two classes together."

The curriculum is based around mixing literature and history to create a comprehensive whole. For example, while students study the Salem Witch Trials they also read "The Crucible" so they can examine the events through multiple lenses.

As Zidane Galant-Laporte put it, "I learned ... how history affects literature."

Another advantage of the interdisciplinary style is having two teachers for one class. Max Sillers says,

"Having a big class and two teachers makes the experience a lot more fun ... my favorite part is having two teachers."

Two teachers means it is easier to meet students' needs with varied teaching techniques and multiple perspectives on the students' struggles and progress. It is also a highlight for the teachers.

"My favorite part of the day is when I'm teaching with Mr. Bradley," says Greaney.

However, this class is an experiment for both the teachers and the students. For Greaney and Bradley it's been a great learning experience.

"Mr. Bradley and I are both creating this course from scratch, on our own time. We've had a lot of moral support from the administration at the high school, but we didn't get any actual time to create the course."

The students have been learning right with their teachers, and about more than just history and English. A demanding class like American Studies leaves no room for slacking or poor self-discipline.

Galant-Laporte recalls, "I had [to] learn how to time manage [and]...how to be tough if I got stressed." The skills students learn in American Studies — both academic and mundane — will continue to benefit them in the future, a central goal of all teachers at Sisters High School.

If teachers had their preference, interdisciplinary-style class would not stop with American Studies. Greaney hopes to make the integrated

history and English course a year-long program in both ninth and 10 grade.

Bradley pointed out that "students are used to studying six different subjects every single day, and they often struggle to make connections between those subjects. But [making] connections ... gives them a deeper understanding of [their] subjects."

The impact of American Studies was put to the test when students took their AP (Advanced Placement) test on May 8. Scores have yet to come in but most of the students felt very confident about the test.

"Greaney prepared us really well," said Jackson Morgan. But the combined duo of Greaney and Bradley prepared students even better. "The students who took American Studies definitely had an advantage," said Tara Greaney. "We had a way deeper understanding of the social aspects of America's history."

The teaching philosophy of Greaney and Bradley is defined by the words of America's second president, John Adams: "There are two types of education... One should teach us how to make a living, and the other how to live." In traditional Sisters High School style, American Studies does a little bit of both.

Sisters salutes...



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Open Door presented a check to the Outlaw Booster Club, beneficiary of the restaurant's Dine For A Cause program.

The Outlaw Booster Club would like to take this opportunity to give a huge thank-you to The Rickards Family and Open Door Crew for making the OBC the April recipient of their Dine With a Cause program.

A percentage of The Open Door sales every

Tuesday is donated to a selected organization. Their generous contribution of \$557 to the Booster Club will continue to multiply within the Sisters community. Thank you, Rickards family, for exemplifying the true nature of a small town and for supporting our local community.

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FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES			
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	Actual Amount 2013-14	Adopted Budget This Year 2014-15	Approved Budget Next Year 2015-16
Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	1,940,518	2,239,341	2,562,284
Federal, State and all Other Grants, Gifts, Allocations and Donations	0	0	0
Interfund Transfers / Internal Service	100,000	100,000	180,000
All Other Resources Except Current Year	72,299	71,857	74,515
Current Year Property Taxes Estimated to be Received	1,678,754	1,622,153	1,707,114
Total Resources	3,791,571	4,033,351	4,523,913

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION			
Personnel Services	1,114,266	1,197,562	1,297,805
Materials and Services	207,167	310,620	336,793
Capital Outlay	20,698	323,759	413,838
Interfund Transfers	100,000	100,000	180,000
Contingencies	0	320,000	400,000
Unappropriated Ending Balance and Reserved for Future Expenditure	2,349,440	1,781,410	1,895,477
Total Requirements			

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
Name of Organizational Unit or Program	FTE for that unit or program		
Fire & EMS Services	1,342,131	1,831,941	2,048,436
FTE	9	9	9
Non-Departmental Non- Program	2,449,440	2,201,410	2,475,477
FTE	0	0	0
Total Requirements	3,791,571	4,033,351	4,523,913
Total FTE	9	9	9

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES			
Name of Organizational Unit or Program	Rate or Amount Imposed 2013-14	Rate or Amount Imposed This Year 2014-15	Rate or Amount Approved Next Year 2015-16
Permanent Rate Levy (rate limit 1.4677 per \$1,000)	1.4677	1.4677	1.4677
Local Option Levy	1.56	1.56	1.56

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS		
LONG TERM DEBT	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1.	Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1
Total	No long term debt	No long term debt

* If more space is needed to complete any section of this form, insert lines (rows) on this sheet. You may delete blank lines.

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