



Library Media Center Newsletter

April 2019

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Students' views of LMC

Nearly 200 students come to the LMC on a typical day. To find out what motivates them to do so, students were recently asked to fill out a brief survey on the LMC, and approximately 250 students responded. Here are some of the findings:

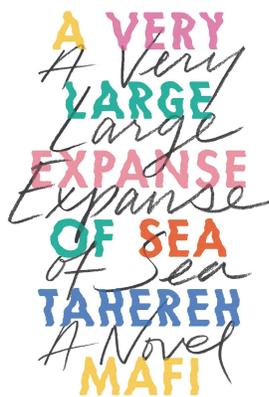
Most students who come to the LMC during study hall do so to do schoolwork (71 percent) or to hang out with friends (64 percent). Only 3 percent come to check out a book, and 80 percent of students never check out books from the LMC. Nearly two thirds of the students said they don't read books for fun.

Nearly half of the students who come to the LMC during study hall do so in order to work with other students. About 20 percent said they come to the LMC because their study halls are too noisy, while about 20 percent said they come to the LMC because their study halls are too quiet!

Many high schools have rebranded themselves as Library Learning Commons, which often includes incorporating a Makerspace, with hands-on activities. About 40 percent of students said that might be something they would be interested in.

The survey also asked students about their electronic devices. Almost 97 percent own a smartphone, while 77 percent own a laptop. Their most popular social media platforms are Instagram and Snapchat, with over 85 percent of them saying they use both of them regularly. About two thirds of the students also use YouTube regularly, while one third use Twitter.

English Department starts a monthly book club



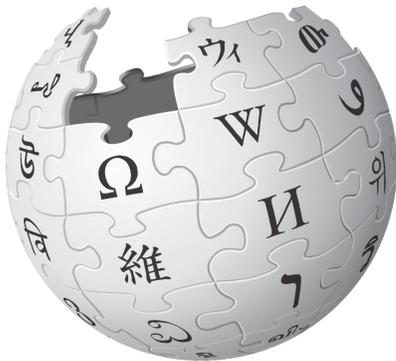
As evidenced by the results of the LMC survey, there isn't a strong culture of reading among the student body at OHS. In order to get students more enthused about reading, the English Department is starting a book club which meets once a month during Advisory in the LMC. A total of 23 students participated in the first session in March, discussing *The Chalk Man* by C.J. Tudor, a book chosen by Mr. Merole. In April, the students and staff will be discussing a Young Adult book, *A Very Large Expanse of Sea* by Tahereh Mafi. The book talks about the experiences of a Muslim high school student shortly after the events of 9/11. Not only do English teachers participate along with the students, they also provide yummy snacks! For more information, see Mr. Merole. The LMC also has a copy of this book.

Meanwhile, the Nutmeg Book Club always welcomes new members. You don't have to have read that month's book in order to participate, and snacks are provided. The club meets once a month after school. Interested students should see Mr. Bilmes for more information. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 9, after school in the LMC.

FAKE NEWS FRIDAY

Fake News Fridays a big hit with freshmen

Ms. Dzienkiewicz's freshmen students have been having Fake News Friday lessons on a regular basis with Mr. Bilmes, who even found a Fake News Friday song to play at the



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

beginning of each class. Students are learning how to effectively evaluate online content. Students have learned about when is the right time to use Wikipedia. They've also taken a closer look at CNN after President Trump has consistently labeled it as "fake news." They've learned how to do reverse image searches and how to do lateral searches to confirm the reliability of a source. Students had fun researching whether the Momo Challenge was real or a hoax. The week of April Fools Day, students watched a video about people who claim the earth is flat, and then decided on their own whether that was a credible theory. Students also enjoy playing [Factitious](#), an online game where they evaluate whether a news story is fact or fiction.

A lot of the information the students are learning is also presented by well-known author John Green, who has a 10-part series of videos posted to YouTube consisting of a Crash Course on Digital Information.



American Studies students get a Spark!

Ms. Kennedy's American Studies students became the first students at OHS to use Adobe Spark to create websites for a research project. The 11th graders made presentations on the Women's Rights movement. The students incorporated images and videos into their presentations. [Here's an example](#) of one of the presentations.

Reminder about LMC hours

The LMC is usually open before school at 7:10 a.m., and four days a week (every day but Wednesday), until 3:15 p.m. Students may also come to the LMC with a signed pass from study hall.

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The Library Media Center
Follow the LMC on Twitter and Instagram at OHS_LMC

