

# Only 400 make it

By: Alan Ju

They made it.

After practicing between 20-30 minutes 4-5 days a week, seventh grader Andy Yu and eighth grader Daniel Ma were pleased to learn they had earned places in Michigan's All-State band, a band that consists of highest-level players from all over Michigan.

"The hardest part to get into All-State is rehearsing four pieces for only a short amount of time," Ma, who made the decision himself to sign up, said.

Yu, who was encouraged by both his parents and his clarinet teacher to audition, said, "All-state is a great opportunity [and a] great experience."

According to Yu, an average of 2,000 students from 450 schools audition for the All-State Band each year, but only 400 instrumentalists make it. During the auditions, students are scored on a scale from one through five. Five being the lowest rating, and one being the highest rating possible.

"The performance in front of the judge is the hardest. There were students from the upper peninsula as well as other parts of Michigan," Yu said.

After his first All-State Band rehearsal in Grand Rapids, Yu said, "When you get in, you have conflicted feelings, but after you rehearse it's not too bad at all. [I] cannot wait for future rehearsals and concerts.

Looking forward, both Yu and Ma agreed that they are grateful for the experience. "It's one of the biggest bands I've ever seen in my life," Yu said.



**PLANTING TIME:** When the composting initiative began, students were provided the opportunity to use compost soil when planting a seed in a terra cotta pot to take home. Photo by Atharva Modi

## Composting at Cranbrook

By: Atharva Modi

Graphic by Atharva Modi

There's something new in the cafeteria.

"Food Waste is about 45% of the material that is taken to the landfill in the state of Michigan. It should not go in the landfill," explained Maria Marin, who founded Unlimited Recycling back in 1999 and has been working with Cranbrook Schools to implement this new program. "We should take that material and take it to a compost facility.

Around January, 64-gallon compost bins were seen on campus. According to Allison Mitchell, Resident District Manager, students have been instructed to put any compostable food and trash in these bins, as an effort to change our environment for the better. Signage by the bins

### How to Compost

Saving your planet one meal at a time.



provide instructions to assist students and staff in seeing what is compostable and what is not. Along with the signage, each grade was provided a demonstration on how to use the bins. They're really easy to use," sixth grader Kanav Kalmadi, who is happy that Cranbrook has started the composting program, said. "It's cool that we are finally composting on campus. I'm proud to be able to be part of the inaugural program."

After lunch, students had a chance to see the result of their efforts in the lobby outside the dining hall. Students were given a small terra-cotta pot and planted a seed into compost soil to take home.

Mitchell shared that prior to Cranbrook's new composting initiative, food not consumed would make its way to the garbage and then taken to a landfill where it is processed. This procedure created greenhouse gases and produces water

pollutants. Contaminated air and water are some of the causes of climate change and are also harmful to the health of all organisms "[Now], instead of waste going to the landfill, it is made into compost and is then re-used by farmers as enriched soil or even in your home gardens," she said.

At the end of every lunch, the compost bins are emptied, and Unlimited Recycling takes the waste where it will be mixed with organic matter that results in compost to their composting farm called Tuthill Farms located in South Lyon.

Excited about the composting on campus, Mitchell shared that she hopes the entire Cranbrook community, "support our initiatives. Be aware of waste. Take only what you can eat (there is always more) [and] follow the rules for composting."

## Sixth Grade First Off Campus Field Trip Success

By: Charles Delzer



**MATH FUN:** 6th graders Dylan Popat and Jackson Ober participate in the math activity station at Lyon Oaks Course. They are measuring the arc of a sand trap. Photo by staff

Sitting on the school bus they were all were looking forward to an awesome field trip.

"I was excited," Sixth Grader Eli Rosen said. "We haven't done a field trip off campus in a while," added sixth grader Jackson Ober.

To celebrate Earth Day, April 22, 2022, the Sixth-Grade class traveled to Lyon Oaks Golf Course to complete several STEM activities and, of course, to have fun.

"We wanted to do something outside for Earth Day" explained Sixth Grade Science teacher Karen Campbell, who collaborated with Sixth Grade Math Teacher Shelia Cohen on planning the experience. "Everyone would get a chance to learn something they

didn't know [and] would enjoy doing math and science in the real world."

Prior to traveling to the course, the sixth graders were divided into four groups. Upon arrival and after a quick snack, these groups listened to a short introduction by Mike Mausolf, the Lyon Oaks Assistant Golf Course Superintendent and then the four groups circulated through four different stations.

"My favorite part was where we learned about the machines and tools used to dig out the holes," Ober said about the station which students were shown the various equipment used on a golf course and how they create the holes in

the greens.

Other stations included learning about the soil, water conservation, and the math involved in a sand trap.

"I learned a lot of things," Rosen said. "Learning about how they measure how much water is in the grass really opened my eyes to see how much water we are really using."

"It is a lot more complicated and there is a lot of math that goes into it," Ober added.

MSB Counselor Lesley Rodriguez, one of the day's chaperones, said that her favorite part of the day was seeing, "those 'ahh hah' moments that students have."

"Sports are full of science and math," Campbell said.

"Experiential learning or place-based learning is really important to me. I like to get out in the world and teach."

Campbell said she will always remember seeing the students, "sitting on top of those giant tractors. I am always proud of the way our students represent our school," she said.

Mausolf added that, "the day was a success. It looked like everyone had fun. The weather cooperated, and it was a good day for everyone."