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### **PULLOUT PAGES A-D**

In an exploration of objectivity, transparency and community values, the Midway team has covered a variety of people outside of the Lab community, and the diverse lives they lead.

## **PAGE 9 • SPORTS**

As captain of the boys swimming team, junior Jeffrey Wang is a valued leader. Having led them to an ISL victory, his hard work is admired, and his dilligence is constantly growing.



### PAGE 10 • ARTS

Reality dating shows, aimed at drawing in viewers with romance and drama, are beyond exaggerated. Despite their deceptive drama, viewer numbers continue to rise, U-High students included.



# Multiple thefts reported this month

## Cash, cards stolen from unattended backpacks in halls

by SAHANA UNNI Editor in Chief

Throughout the hallways and outside of classrooms, backpacks can often be seen lined up on the floor, their owners nowhere in sight.

However, in the past few weeks, several students have returned from classes to find the zippers on their backpacks left open, the contents rummaged through, and worst of all — their wallets emptied of valuables including cash and debit cards.

School officials are alerting the community to the thefts and warning students to take precautions. Dean of Students Ana Campos announced in a Schoology message on Feb. 12 that in the previous week, six students reported thefts from their unattended backpacks, prompting feelings of concern, confusion and suspicion in the Lab community.

"This is a real breach of our community trust, and it's disappointing and upsetting," Ms. Campos said in a Midway interview. "I hope that it doesn't happen again and that whoever was responsible understands that.'

Based on student interviews, many of the thefts have happened during choir classes, when students were required to leave their backpacks outside the classroom. Since then, the choir teachers have

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Dean of Students Ana Campos

instructed students to bring their belongings into the classroom.

Ninth grader Sadie Ellis left her choir class on Jan. 30 to find that roughly \$35 had been taken from her wallet, which she'd left on top of her backpack.

"Usually I tuck my wallet behind my backpack, kind of hidden, just for precaution, but this particular day I left it on top of my backpack," Sadie said. "Then I got out of choir and it had been unzipped and all of the cash was taken, but my credit cards, my library cards and my ID, they were all still

After speaking to her parents, Sadie reported the theft to Ms. Campos, who suggested she, as well as any other students who have had their belongings stolen, file a police report.

Ms. Campos said she is running her own investigation but still asks students to file police reports so the police can start their investi-

Like Sadie, sophomore Maya Livni and one of her classmates each had cash stolen while in choir class. While Maya didn't report to



Midway photo by Danny Baeza

UNATTENDED BELONGINGS. At least six students have reported thefts from their unattended backpacks. Items like cash and debit cards have been stolen, and school officials are alerting the community to take precautions.

Ms. Campos the \$40 she had taken from her, she said she's changed her behavior to prevent anything else from being stolen.

"I now make sure my locker is completely closed. Anything of value I keep in my locker," Maya said. "I carry my wallet in my pocket now, I don't put it in my backpack. I make sure that my backpack is on me almost 100% of the time, and when I can't, I'll take out the things I hold of value."

other areas of campus. Sophomore Daniel Wu had \$65 and his debit card stolen while he was in P.E. class, after leaving his backpack in a U-High hallway.

"I was a little annoyed about that. Like, that's not very nice to do obviously. But I was grateful I didn't keep that much cash," Daniel said. "It wasn't a huge sum of cash in my wallet, or it could have been worse."

While Ms. Campos hopes these Thefts are also happening in thefts don't continue, she advises students to be constantly aware of their belongings, and take precautions to keep their valuables safe.

"There's no reason to have large sums of cash, nothing that is valuable beyond I know everyone has phones and a laptop," Ms. Campos said, "but it's really important that if your things aren't in your immediate supervision then put them in the lockers. That's why we have them. They're a secure place to store your things and we've got two for each student."

## Program of Studies adds classes, grading standards

# Six new classes released across six departments

by TAARIQ AHMED

Digital Editor

The 2024-25 Program of Studies features new grading purpose statements and new course offerings in six departments.

Grading purpose statements x how each department defines success and achievement in its cours-

For example, the history department's grading purpose statement reads, "Grades reflect and communicate our ongoing formative and summative assessment of students' analytical abilities, including historical methods and habits of mind," while the science department's says, "Grading encourages students to engage actively in the learning process and meet their responsibilities as

Several educators in the community had been reading the work of Dr. Thomas Guskey.

Mr. Gueskey is a renowned Chicago-based professor and former



Midway photo by Delaney Connell

NEW PROGRAM. The 2024-25 Program of Studies includes new grading purpose statements and both year and semester long courses.

public school educator who studies learning and teaching struc-

When Dr. Guskey visited Lab last fall and met with faculty members, he explained the importance of defining respective grading philosophies for students. The statements, crafted by each department individually, came from these discussions.

After carefully working to figure out how to best explain grading at U-High, assistant principal Zilkia

English: English Seminar (fall/spring semesters), a class for students interested in more advanced explorations of literature in addition to current English 3 and 4 courses, and changing themes for existing English 3 and English 4 courses

Fine arts: SewCalled Studio (spring semester), an introductory class teaching principles of sewing and fashion design

History: Advanced Topics Native American Histories (year-long)

Math: Computational Introduction to Combinatorics and Number Theory (year-long)

Science: Science of Sound (year-long) and reactivation of numerous semester-long elective courses

World language: Chinese for Heritage Speakers I (year-

Rivera-Vazquez said the statements were a result of hard work behind the scenes.

"We want grading to be seen as feedback telling you where you can grow and where you are glow-

ing already," Ms. Rivera-Vazquez said, "and we wanted to give each department a chance to tell students what they see beyond just the letter grade. These are less grading policies and more philosophy statements."

Ms. Rivera-Vazquez said that helping students and their families understand grading was key.

"The ambition was to help students understand there are additional reasons why grades exist," Ms. Rivera-Vazquez said. "It was about sharing with the whole high school community what faculty members believe is the purpose of

Sophomore Luka Vegna-Spofford said he believes the statements may not change how most students perceive their grades.

However, as a rising junior, he said he will find them beneficial in understanding his academic performance.

"It can sometimes be ambiguous what a grade represents, so this explains things better for me," Luka said. "There are ideas at Lab about how each class is supposed to be graded, but this puts into writing what is expected of stu-