## Speech presenters share personal skills and talents DEMONSTRATE

**ACTIONS OVER WORDS.** Presenting a letter in sign language, Hunter Gisi ('23) teaches his audience the American Sign Language alphabet. Students were able to present different topics based on their importance, current talents, and their impact on the world. "Learning sign is one of the skills almost no one knows," Gisi said. "So it pushed me to educate myself on it and give a voice to those that are deaf." Photo Credits: Kevyn Yuen

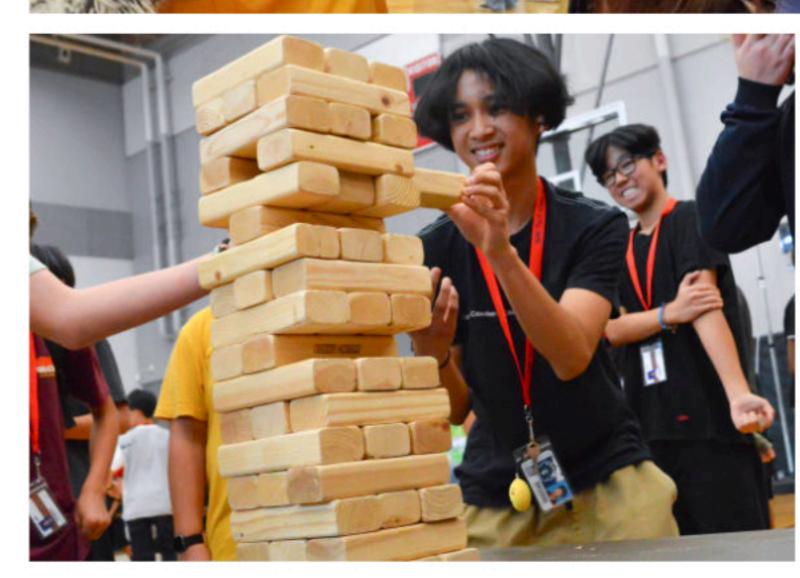
A HELPING HAND. Accompanying Carl the Coyote, STUCO member Alyssa Ramirez ('25) helps manage the event. The club spent a month making plans. "As STUCO members, our job was to make sure everyone felt included," Ramirez said. "So we did our best to hype the crowds up with Carl." Photo Credit: Kevyn Yuen







YOUR MOVE. Slow and steady, Matthew Pamaran ('26) plays a game of Jenga. All freshmen were invited to the after school event to spend time with new and old friends. "When I was playing Jenga, I definitely felt pressured," Pamaran said. "But I knew that my opponent was feeling the pressure much more. Photo Credit: Kylie Chelise Dacquel





not easy making friends. Ask anyone. But for the Class of 2026, a "Freshmen First Thursday's" event was held to help solve this ongoing problem.

"I originally came from a charter school, so high school has been difficult getting used to the new environment and people here," Tsz Ching Situ ('26) said. "And I frequently see other students that are by themselves at places like lunch and in class."

But despite the nervousness that numerous freshmen had, students played games, danced, and laughed which made it difficult to believe that they had come to the event with feelings of being awkward or shy.

"I personally am pretty sociable and outgoing, but I was still able to meet and become closer to many other students that were looking

PRESSURE'S ON. "We were playing Connect Four and I lost the past three games, so it motivated me to play much harder," Talen Leaf-Tran ('26) said. "The losses pushed me to get my first win that I had celebrated against my friend." Photo Credit: Tishie Nyitray

conclusion to the event.

to have a fun time as well," Jacob Walczak ('26) said. "I also really enjoyed playing basketball with people I never fully met before that I've been able to connect with after the event."

As for freshman Jonathan O'Connor ('26), leaving the event with stronger bonds with previous friends was a solid

"Games like the ring toss, Jenga, and Cornhole gave me and my friend Gevorg a chance to finally do more activities together," O'Connor said. "I'm sure many other freshmen were able to become closer with each other like the way that we did."

Foods II students learn baking procedures in small groups



FLOUR POWER. In collaboration, Natnahel Tadesse, Nathan Tran, Ryder Concepcion and Angel Sanchez ('25) try baking some new pastry recipes. Students were split into groups with evenly distributed roles and tasks. "Having our teams split into different roles made it so no one would feel left out,"

FRESH NEW SET. To teach the class,

Brian Le ('23) explains the tedious and

Students in COM 101 were required to

present demonstrative acts that would

teach listeners various lifehacks, morals,

and skills. "This was what my parents did

for a living, so I wanted to show people the

efforts and abilities that are needed to do

these activities," Le said.

timely work needed for manicures.

FOOD CHEMISTRY. Vanilla extract in hand, Triana Nguyen ('24) and Zoey Henson ('25) mix their bread batter. For the two, taking on the role of cook was new territory. "I'm personally not the greatest when it comes to actually cooking," Henson said. "So instead I take on leadership roles that ensure everyone is in check."



READY TO BAKE. To prepare a pancake mixture, Anndre'a Morales ('25) sifts through a batch of flour. This activity was an introduction to baking and gave the opportunity for students to work together. "My favorite part was getting to actually bond with the people over this activity instead of us

just cooking our own dishes," Morales said.

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SETTING UP. Preparing each other's gowns, Lyssette Matos and Ellie Eckersley ('24) practice their personal protective equipment protocol. Students were tested on their skill of putting medical equipment on correctly without cross contamination. "We learned how to prevent the spread of bacteria and pathogens by correctly doing these," Matos said. "As for those that want to pursue the medical field, safety is the number one priority."

"I can count on be an honest friend whenever it is necessary. He never holds back the truth because one time, he blatantly told me that my haircut was bad and that I needed to change



rely on Ashton when I need extra help with things like school and general advice. He is younger than me, but can still be pretty wise at many times."

"I can always

Nathan Ly ('24)



since elementary school so I've had so many years to build that trust. She has always been there when I needed a ride home or a little extra support."

"I've known Mya

. What makes your friend reliable and someone you can always count on?

Mya Brown ('25)

Ashton Yim ('26)

Brianna Scherschel ('25)