

## **Freshman teachers introduce Interdisciplinary Boneyard project**

Adapted from an Online Gargoyle story by Mallika Luthar ('18)

This year, the freshman teachers came together to create an end-of-year interdisciplinary project based on the many aspects of the Boneyard Creek.

Teachers hope this project will encourage their students to pursue their passions, think about how the subjects they are taught connect, and have fun.

The first day of the project included informational sessions about different aspects of the Boneyard, such as public policy, writing about nature and more, to give students an idea about what they could focus on for their project. After those information sessions, the students headed out to Boneyard Creek to explore and get a further idea of what interested them. At the end of the day, they filled out a form to convey what they wanted to do for their project, and with that information, the teachers paired students with similar interests.

The second day of the project, a week later, was designated to work on their projects with help from teachers and ask questions. Subsequently, they continued working on the projects in and out of class until finals. Finally, the students displayed their projects so their peers, parents, and teachers could see the results of their work.

For some classes, the ungraded final interdisciplinary project substituted for a final exam.

Freshman History teacher Ben Leff wrote, "The wide variety of topics included animal life in the creek, proposals for Boneyard redevelopment projects, art inspired by the Boneyard, and more. The project culminated in a "Boneyard Fair" on May 23, akin to a science fair in that all the groups presented their "findings" on tables throughout Uni Gym. The medium of output varied considerably: while many groups produced the traditional tri-fold poster, there were also video documentaries, an app, a podcast, a website, interactive visual displays, and even Boneyard-inspired fashion. Even though the project was ungraded, the student produced creative, high-quality work that surpassed the expectations of their teachers.