



JANUARY, 2026 A.G.B.U. ALEX & MARIE MANOOGIAN SCHOOL SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN

WELCOME BACK

From the editor's desk:

Hello everyone. It has been an exciting year and the eighth-grade writers are excited to share what's been happening in our school. The class and I would love to hear your feedback and any suggestions you have in developing a newspaper that reflects you and our school. This edition brings a guest writer from high school who introduces a new club that interacts with all the grades in our school. There is also a few Photo Stories - a story that's told in pictures. Happy reading!

IT'S A PBIS SCHOOL YEAR!

By Mrs. Pupa

This year we have embarked on a new program in the middle school: Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS). This framework promotes positive behavior.

How does this work? Throughout the day teachers and staff hand out PBIS coupons when a student is found doing something positive. This might be picking up garbage left on the floor, helping a fellow student solve a problem, or for doing a random act of kindness that reflects the school's values.

The coupons are turned into the office. Every month a drawing is held where the winner receives a \$20 Target gift card. All coupons are then placed up on the middle school bulletin board according to grade. At the end of the quarter, the grade with the most coupons earns a class reward.

The seventh-grade class earned the most coupons during the first quarter and received a day of free dress and an afternoon movie with popcorn.



Aren Andonian wins a PBIS Target gift card,



PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Summer

By Cameron Jappaya

It's the last day of school and summer break is going to start in one hour. Everyone is yelling in excitement. You leave school and get home; you don't care about school anymore.

It's SUMMER! You call all of your friends to have a sleepover and hang out every day playing video games.

You have three months of free time; fun all day long and it is going to be a blast. You could go swimming every day, maybe go to some water park around your city, or maybe even go to some amusement park to ride roller coasters. You could go on a trip like Florida, Mexico, or another place around the world.

But then, summer starts to come to an end. You have to start school shopping. And then, just like that, summer is over, and we have to go back to school.

Ode to My Pen - Anne Frank Style

Editor's note: Based on the writings of Anne Frank, students were asked to write an ode honoring a writing utensil.

Not only a pen but a best friend.

Being with me till the end.

Bringing my mistakes to the light of day,
Showing me the rights and wrongs of the
day.

Without it my work has no value
until my friend comes and evaluates.

Being with me till the end,

And being used in the end.

-Oleh Ginko

My First Day Back

By Emilia Jamardova

It's my first day back at school, Fall 2025. I felt weird, from a combination of being nervous and excited. I saw new faces, new classes, new teachers. I still saw my old friends, and I was glad to see them, but I also noticed how we all changed during the summer.

Over the summer I grew up; I became more mature. I realized what's important. I felt more confident about myself becoming better at two sports that I love: soccer and volleyball.

Stepping into school, I knew that everything was going to change. There would be more focus on getting good grades, less drama, and stronger friendships.

I have a new schedule with some of the classes in the high school, specifically History, Armenian, and Algebra 1. It is nice because I get to see my sister sometimes. During lunch we go to recess and play volleyball outside.

I'm more focused on getting good grades and playing volleyball - which makes me more than happy for beginning of this school year.



SCHOOL CLUBS, SPORTS TEAMS AND COMPETITIONS

NJHS's Field Trip To Forgotten Harvest

By Laura Ashkarian

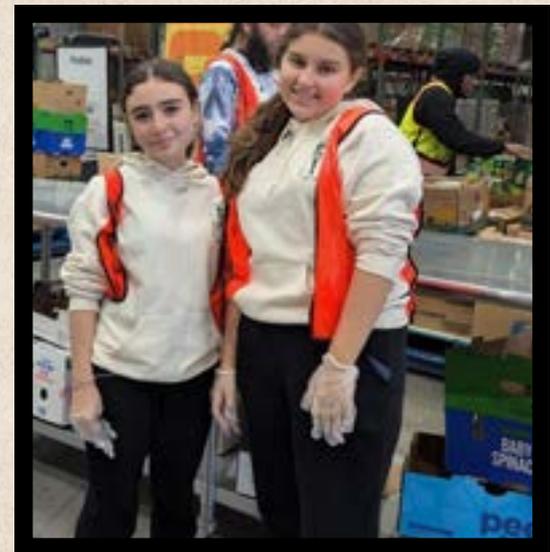
On Thursday, November 19, the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) along with their sponsor Mrs. Joanna Holsinger, and with Mrs. Marlene Pupa went to Forgotten Harvest. This organization fights hunger and food insecurity by delivering 144,000 pounds of surplus food per day to local charities five days a week to provide families in need with fresh and nutritious food free of charge.

The students arrived at 9:00 am and split into two groups. One group separated boxes of food into the main food groups to be sent out to the people in need. The second group broke apart bulk pizza and frozen mozzarella sticks and then packaged them in sealed bags.

NJHS was very lucky to have a chance to give back and help out the community and people in need. They returned to school at noon and enjoyed a lunch from Savvy Sliders.



Nareg Kevorkian getting ready to start.



Laura Ashkarian and Eliza Matusinski taking a break.



NJHS Members

CLUBS, TEAMS AND COMPETITIONS, 2

Middle School Basketball

By Olivia Francis

Middle School Basketball has for the first time ever developed a competitive basketball team. Students in grades 6-8 have been given the privilege to play, practice, and learn basketball techniques each week.

Mr. Novak and Mr. Berry are the team coaches and lead a great season, helping players improve their game. Captains, Cameron Jappaya and Olivia Francis, led the team.

The captains both did their best to support the team and lead them through the games, overcoming some tough moments along the way. The team might not have won as many games as they wanted, but throughout each game, they all improved little by little.

Let's see what Mr. Novak and Mr. Berry have to say about the team. According to Mr. Novak, he is proud of the team, even though for most of them, it is their first time playing competitive basketball. He is happy with the way things turned out and that no matter what, he does not care about the score, but how well the team works together and, if we can, improve more.

For next year's team, Mr. Novak wants to work on many things starting with the jerseys. He wants to make the team official and that begins with the jerseys. He also wants to work on strengthening the size of the team. He says that next year, all are welcome to play and practice, but during games he would like to focus on limiting the team number to twelve.

Now, let's see what Mr. Berry thinks. Mr. Berry says that the team did as well as he thought they would do. He is proud of them too because with players that had no experience, they played as hard as they could.

He wants the team to practice passing and shooting more over the summer and hopefully by next year, the team will do much better. One thing he loves about the team is their positivity. No matter how bad they did, the team always cheered on each other, made jokes, and learned their mistakes.

I would agree with Mr. Novak and Mr. Berry. The team could improve by next year and if they practice over the summer, they can do much better. The team did an excellent job this year, and I cannot wait to see what happens next year.

Here is a list of the Middle School Basketball Team:

8th Grade:

Cameron Jappaya
Olivia Francis
Stella Shina
Zaven Andonian

7th Grade:

Armen Avedissian
Aren Bassmagian
Arseniy Hurko
Arshak Sahakian
Christian Yalda

6th Grade:

Aren Andonian
Liam Atikian
Luca Atikian
Prince Brewart
David Dakissian
David Ohanyan
Vartan Karapetian

CLUBS, TEAMS AND COMPETITIONS, 3

Middle School Robotics

By Olivia Francis

Middle School Robotics is a fun club here at Manoogian where students can learn how technology works and build things like robots. In robotics, students work together as a team to design, program, and test robots that can move all around and do whatever commands the person says. This gives students a chance to learn about programming, working as a team, and solving problems.

In robotics, you must have patience because you usually don't get it all right on the first try. You must test out new ideas to see what works best. Middle School Robotics is a great program that helps young students learn so much, and it is incredibly fun and cool to see the things you build come to life and do the things you ask it to do.



Cross-Country

By Katya Hordieieva

Every Wednesday runners meet at the gym for a cross-country practice. The coaches, Mr. Novak and Mr. Maxwell, meet us there and lead us outside to run. You are allowed to bring headphones, phone, and earbuds. Middle schoolers are expected to run 1-2 laps around the school perimeter while high schoolers are encouraged to run 3 laps. Races only happen in the fall! They are 2 miles long on average. If you enjoy running or simply want to exercise, you should join cross-country!

My Michigan Hero Essay Contest

By Oleh Ginko

During the months from September to October, the 8th grade students had the opportunity to enter the My Michigan Hero essay contest. They had to write about their personal Michigan hero who inspired, helped, taught, or guided them. The essay had to be a maximum of 500 words, and the person that they decided to write about had to be a resident of Michigan.

The number one essay from the school will be sent to the statewide contest where the top 10 contestants will win a \$1,000 cash, a plaque, a medallion, and the contestant's school will get a \$1,000 check.

These are the following people that decided to enter their essay into the contest:

Hailey Abdal
Laura Ashkarian
Joseph Elias
Olivia Francis
Oleh Ginko
Aleksandra Ilchyshyn
Eliza Matusinski
Mark Mykuliak

Good luck to all who participated!



CLUBS, TEAMS AND COMPETITIONS, 4

The Manoogian Singers

By Angelina Bagdassarian

While A.G.B.U. has great intellectual extracurriculars, it also has clubs for creative minds. One of these clubs is the choir club, the Manoogian Singers, who meet every Wednesday during fourth period to practice.

This year Mrs. Apakarian, our choir director, decided to combine the middle school with high school group to make it a more fabulous choir. Together they are working hard to prepare for their performance. Apart from singing altogether, every person has a solo or a duet of their own to show off their individual talent.

The Manoogian Singers is looking forward to their upcoming performance.

Student Council

by Zaven Andonian

This year the Manoogian School Student Council (made up of officers and representatives) is full of creative, open-minded kids who are very kind and thoughtful towards their community. These ten Student Council members are mentored by Mrs. Alenush Telbelian.

The officers are:

- Treasurer - Liana Slewa, seventh grade
- Secretary - Laurayna Najor, seventh grade
- Vice President - Armen Avedissian, seventh grade
- President - Mourad Bagdasarian, eighth grade

The class representatives are Dzia Hamakorzian and Landon Shina from sixth grade; Lara Ajemian and Nora Ourlian from seventh grade; and Zaven Andonian and Laura Ashkarian from eighth grade.

Just recently our student council planned a dance which went well, and our middle schoolers really enjoyed it. Overall, it is a great club to be in, and our Student Council members really enjoy doing their part.

Future City

By Oleh Gingko

Future City is a competition where schools have to plan and model a futuristic city based on a specific global problem. For example, in 2024 it was to build a floating city to deal with rising water levels. This year the topic is Food to Table. We are tasked with planning a city that aims at getting stable and healthy food to people while reducing the cost and waste in transporting food from a farm to a dinner table while removing packaging waste.

If this sounds interesting to you, then you should join the Future City team when you are in seventh or eighth grade. It requires good writing skills because we have to write an essay, and creativity for producing the city plan, ideas on how to make the city futuristic and building skills for making models of buildings and machines.



Future City team working on their project.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Middle School Spirit Week

By Zabelle Mastropietro

Do you feel that? That's the feeling of Christmas coming, and Middle School is feeling it too! It is the week before Christmas and Middle School is buzzing with excitement.

Students, teachers, and the rest of the school are all feeling the holiday spirit with their free dress. On Monday, the middle school started off strong by dressing in Christmas colors. Tuesday's theme was Soccer Mom vs. BBQ Dad, pitting the two groups against each other to see which group would have the best costumes. On Wednesday the Middle School dressed according to our grade: for eight graders, it was grandmothers and grandfathers, the seventh grade dressed as middle-aged people, and the sixth grade were toddlers! Thursday's Christmas theme was to be dressed up with Christmas accessories; and to allow some rest and relaxation on Friday, everyone came to school in their pajamas!

All and all, it was such a fun week, and I wish everyone a Happy Holiday!

Family Night

By Joseph Elias

Family Fun Night was held on October 10, 2025, for the entire school, and it turned out to be a really exciting day for everyone who participated. There were many activities available, including an open gym where you could play and be active, along with food, drinks, and music. Many of the people who went said they had a great time. Lots of students wore Halloween costumes, which made the night even more enjoyable.

During the event, I interviewed Oleksii Vintoniak. He said that one of the main reasons he went was to play with his friends, and he mentioned that the food was delicious and something he really enjoyed. Oleksii also spent time in the open gym, where he played football with his friends and had a lot of fun. Overall, he said the night was very enjoyable, and he would definitely go again if he could.

Newspaper Contributors

Thank you to the following contributors:

Zaven Andonian

Mourad Bagdasarian

Peter Bolis

Olivia Francis

Katya Hordieieva

Cameron Jappaya

Denys Lysohir

Eliza Matusinski

Diran Rasho

Yuliia Zaiats

Laura Ashkarian

Angelina Bagdassarian

Joseph Eliias

Oleh Ginko

Aleksandra Ilyshyshyn

Emilia Jamardova

Zabelle Mastropietro

Mark Mykuliak

Oleksii Vintoniak

Guest Contributor: Lavan Yatooma

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, 2

Halloween Mask Decorating

By Denys Lysohir

Throughout the years, the middle school has had different Halloween projects including pumpkin decorating and scarecrow making, but this year we took a different approach with mask decorating.

In total, the middle school was divided into 48 teams, and each team consisted of two partners. Each team had two days to work on their own idea for their mask. The first day, October 20th, teams were handed out a sheet of paper to plan and brainstorm their unique ideas. Then on the second day on October 21st, they were to bring in their items and work together to create the most creative mask.

Once the masks were submitted, they were judged based on creativity, uniqueness, and design. There were three team winners. One team, Yuliia Zaiats and Lola Suleymanov, whose mask had three different parts: purple flowers and sparkles, orange, and spiders. Savana Kachi and Sarine Cherbetjian created a bat mask. The third team, Dzia Hamakorzian and Emilia Stepanysko made a bunny theme mask with long paper ears.

Each winner won a free homework and free dress pass. PBIS tickets were handed out to students who displayed positive behavior during this project.



Lola Suleymanov & Yuliia Zaiats



Dzia Hamakorzian & Emilia Stepanysko



Sarine Cherbetjian & Savana Kachi



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, 3

Halloween Mask Decorating



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, 4

Middle School Spirit Week

By Yuliia Zaiats

The middle school had their first Spirit Week from October 28 to October 31 which was organized by the Student Council. Each day we had a fun theme that showed our school spirit.

Monday, we had no school so our spirit week actually began on Tuesday which was Halloween colors like black, orange, and purple. Wednesday was Twin/Triplet Day: students wore matching outfits with their friends. Thursday was a day when students could wear anything they liked since we had a field trip to a theater to watch a play. Finally, for Friday, it was PJ/Costume Day where students could wear comfortable pajamas or their Halloween costumes.

It was a great week and full of fun.

Hot Lunch!

By Mark Mykuliak

At A.G.B.U. Manoogian School, we usually bring our own lunches to eat. Most of us bring boring food like sandwiches, apples, and other things. But once a month, on the first Friday of each month, we get something special: It is called Hot Lunch. This is when our wonderful school cooks a special meal just for us!

It is special to us because it breaks our boring routine. Instead of pulling out the same lunch from our lunch box, we run to line up and be served warm food. We also get to share conversations and have fun eating together, so it is not just lunch, it is a special event that we have every month.

Even though it is held once a month, it is a tradition that we share, and it teaches us that little things matter.

Secret Santa

By Eliza Matusinski

Our middle school did a Secret Santa Exchange on December 18 and December 19. This is how it worked: kids blindly pick names out of a bag. Every grade picked people from their own class. Then they had around two weeks to buy the gift and secretly give it to Mrs. Pupa. Then on December 18, sixth and seventh graders got to open their gifts due to the school schedule while the eighth grade opened their gifts on December 19.

Everyone participating had an exciting time and enjoyed their gifts. It was a fantastic way to get to know the person you got better.

Seventh Grade Bake Sale

By Peter Bolis

The Seventh Grade Bake Sale held a bake sale to help raise money to offset costs for various school activities. Because of the split lunch schedules, the sale was held during both lunch and recesses. The sale offered candy, chips, sodas, and other various snacks to enjoy. Not only did the seventh-grade class bring in the treats, but they also had a fun time working the sale.

The middle school can't wait for their next bake sale for more enjoyable treats.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, 5

CMU Field Trip

By Diran Rasho

The field trip to CMU was one of the best field trips the eighth graders have had at Manoogian School. The trip was only for 8th grade, and we got to take a charter bus since we had to travel two and a half hours away.

We arrived at the John G. Kulhavi Events Center where we found our name tags and grabbed a CMU shirt to put on. A snack breakfast was also offered. Then our tour of the campus began. On our way to the Student Activity Center (SAC), we heard some sounds; it turned out it was their football stadium blasting music. Apparently, the university does this to help determine the stadium sound for their football game which was taking place the next day. At the SAC houses a swimming pool, gym, E-Sports room, soccer field, and courts for basketball, badminton and volleyball.

We then went across the street to see what a dorm room looks like and a school store where students can pay with their own school currency. We then saw some biotic science buildings and a center for people that want to join the military but are too young. We finally took a break to rest at a patio located next to a pond. We then headed to a cafeteria where all-you-can-eat delicious food was offered.

CMU also invited all the charter schools who attended to a classroom lecture hall to talk about the university. We played a team cooperative game where we had to flip a carpet without touching the ground. Then we had a short PowerPoint slide and video about the college, and we even had to participate in a quiz.

Sadly, after all that fun, we had to leave and go back to school. This was a super fun CMU trip!



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, 6

CMU FIELD TRIP, 2



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, 7

Administrative, Honor, and Citizenship Awards

By Aleksandra Ilchyshyn

Report card time is an anticipated time for Manoogian Middle School students. Depending on a student's grade point average (GPA), a student can earn an Administrative Award or Honor Roll Award. Another award, the Citizenship Award, is given to all students who display outstanding behavior throughout the quarter. Not only are students recognized for their outstanding achievement, but they also receive appropriate free dress every Wednesday for the quarter.

The Administrative award is given to students who earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher. For Honor Roll, students need a GPA between 3.0 and 3.4. Students need grades mostly in the A's and B's.

The Citizenship Award is about behavior more than grades. It is following classroom rules and expectations, other rules, having good behavior, and respecting school properties. There are four levels of citizenship: 1 is excellent, 2 is acceptable, 3 is needs improvement, and 4 is poor. To receive the Citizenship Award a student needs to get all 1's in each class.

Students who earn any of these awards are students who follow classroom rules, study hard, and are respectful towards their teachers and classmates.



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, 8

Catch Me If You Can

By Oleksii Vintoniak

The entire middle school went on a field trip to watch the play ***Catch Me If You Can***. The play was very enjoyable with an unexpected ending. There was a lot of interesting characters, each one trying to figure out who killed the main character's wife. Everyone's favorite character, including mine, was a guy named Sydney. He was a cute chubby guy who owned a store, and he was known for his famous and his delicious sandwiches. I asked many classmates if they all enjoyed the play. They said they did, some even said it was their favorite field trip so far. In my opinion, it was a great experience, and the play was fun. Thanks to all the teachers, especially Mrs. Twal who organized this field trip.



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, 9

Middle School Dance

By Mourad Bagdasarian

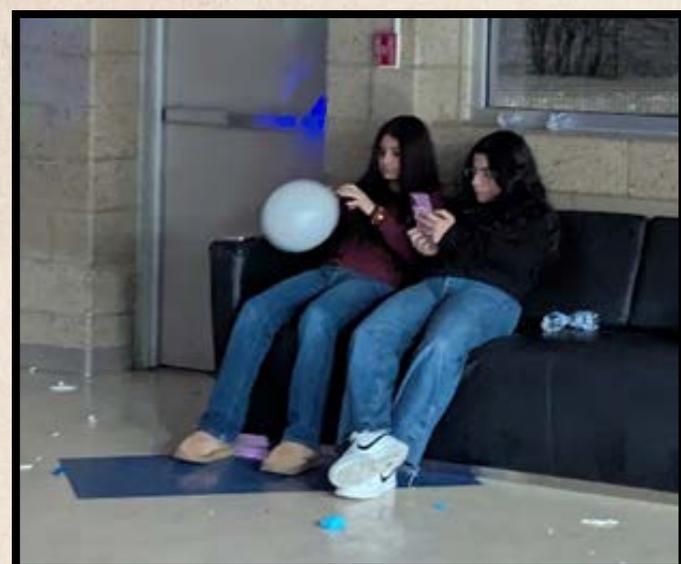
The Middle School Student Council hosted a dance on Friday, December 5. It was from 6-9 pm in the high school auditorium.

The caterer was 8th grader Zaven Andonian's uncle. Chicken wings, pasta, salad, and brownies were offered to everyone, including parent/teacher chaperones, to enjoy.

The Student Council hired DJ Esso, who is 7th grader Armen Avedissian's father, for entertainment. We were very glad and appreciative to have him there because he did a great job playing songs that everyone enjoyed.

The theme of the dance was Winter Wonderland. There were many winter themed decorations around the auditorium. There were many blue and white balloons around the auditorium, blue foil fringes in the entrance doorway, snowflake centerpieces on all the tables, and a winter themed backdrop to take pictures in front of.

The middle school students had a wonderful time at the dance. We would all love to do it again!



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, 10

Middle School Dance, 2



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, 11

Middle School Dance, 3



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES

AN
AFTERNOON
OF
CHRISTMAS
ACTIVITIES



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES, 2



**AFTER AN
CHRISTMAS
AFTERNOON
ACTIVITIES**

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES, 3



**AN
AFTERNOON
OF
CHRISTMAS
ACTIVITIES**

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES, 4



*Thanksgiving
Feast!*



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES, 5

Xmas Door Decorating Contest



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

There's a New High School Club: HOSA

By Lavan Yatooma

Exciting news! As we commence this year, we would like to announce a new club available to high school students: Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)-Future Health Professionals. HOSA is a global student-led organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and several federal and state agencies. HOSA's mission is to empower future health professionals to become leaders in the health industry. With the support of Mrs. Nayiri Karapetian and our president Kayleigh Yessayan, we will explore various aspects of healthcare, develop leadership skills, and engage in community service. Creation of campaigns and through competitive events is how we will ensure this. By joining HOSA, students not only gain a competitive edge, expand their understanding knowledge of healthcare, but will be a part of something bigger.

HOSA Members Bring Handwashing Fun to Preschoolers

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) members recently visited Manoogian preschool classes to share an important lesson in a fun, engaging way: proper handwashing. Combining education with entertainment, the members created a skit to promote safe clean handwashing skills. They then read a book relating to this topic, which left the preschool students smiling.

The HOSA members started with a kid-friendly demonstration on how to properly wash hands. Using colorful visuals, songs, and various learning techniques to explain how strongly students must wash their hands. Glitter "germs" were used to show how easily spread and how effective soap and water can be to getting rid of them. The preschoolers were engaged singing songs, dancing, and scrubbing as hard as they can. Following the demonstration, HOSA gathered the children for story time, which left them with many questions. The day was an impactful experience for both members, students, and teachers. Students were left with new ways to remember how to properly wash hands.



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL, 2

Learning About Germs Thanks to HOSA

HOSA's Freshmen girls recently visited Manoogian's kindergarten and first grade classrooms to educate young students about germs and the priority of taking pride into hand hygiene. The HOSA members prepared an engaging educational activity using pepper, soap, and water to demonstrate how germs spread and how washing hands can prevent germs from spreading. When kids know how and when to wash their hands properly, they can protect themselves and others from getting sick. This is especially essential in schools where many kids are close together, making it easier for germs to pass on. Good hand hygiene also builds healthy habits that can last a lifetime, keeping everyone healthier overall.

During the activity, HOSA members sprinkled pepper onto the surface of water in a bowl, representing germs on hands. When a finger dipped into water without soap, the peppers stayed close, showing how germs stick around. But when the finger with soap touched the water, the pepper quickly scattered and moved away, illustrating how soap helps remove germs from hands. The kindergarten and first grade students were excited to participate and enjoyed seeing the "germs" move away. This hands-on activity helped them understand to regularly wash their hands. The HOSA members were proud to share this valuable lesson and hoped to create good hygiene habits for kids.

Fighting Germs, One Wash at a Time

Last week, Manoogian HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) students hosted an engaging educational event that left a lasting impression on high school students. This event consisted of a combination of a handwashing education session and bake sale. This drew in a large crowd of students eager to learn about proper hand hygiene while enjoying delicious treats.

The highlight of the event was the "Glo-germ" demonstration. Using a special lotion that simulates germs under UV light, students were able to see just how effectively they were washing their hands. Many were surprised to find that their usual handwashing routine left behind significant effects such as germs. HOSA members guided participants through the recommended handwashing techniques, emphasizing the importance of soap, warm water, and thorough scrubbing for at least 20 seconds. The visual impact of the Glo-germ left a lasting impression on the high school students.

To go along with the educational aspect, HOSA members organized a bake sale featuring a wide selection of bought and homemade goodies. Overall, the HOSA handwashing event and bake sale was a creative and effective way to promote health awareness within the school community, leaving students informed.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL, 3

There's a New High School Club: HOSA

HOSA Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Arsen Melkonyan Speaks on his Journey from Manoogian to Dentistry

On December 1, Manoogian HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) welcomed Dr. Arsen Melkonyan, a Manoogian Alumni and practicing pediatric dentist, for an engaging lunchtime discussion. Dr. Melkonyan shared his personal journey from his days at Manoogian to his current profession, offering insights and advice for aspiring healthcare professionals.

Dr. Melkonyan captivated the students from his experiences and challenges he faced. He shared examples such as his undergraduate studies, internships, and embracing opportunities for hands-on experience. His experiences were a huge hit on Manoogian students, many of whom are interested in this profession.

His visit provided a reminder that dedication and perseverance can achieve dreams of working in the healthcare field.
