

Humanities Department
May 1, 2017

Fine Arts:

Last Wednesday, a contingent of ten adult chaperones and thirty-six Wamogo high school students of the visual and performing arts spent a full day in New York City immersed in cultural experiences. Upon arrival in lower Manhattan, the day began with a guided tour of *The Whitney Museum's* 2017 biennial exhibit. It is a survey of current American Art featuring the work of sixty-three individuals and collectives. Engaging with the artists' work facilitated thoughtful discussion, incited feelings of discomfort and confusion, and broadened our understanding of the artist's voice. Upon exiting The Whitney, we immediately engaged in a new experience as we walked *The Highline* toward midtown. Built upon the foundation of the old railroad tracks, it is a raised walkway structure with hardy landscaping and sculptural installations along the way. For many of us, the highlight of the day was an amazing new Broadway musical, *Dear Evan Hansen* starring Ben Platt. Both poignant and humorous, it is an emotional journey through the lives of a few high school students and their parents, who each express their feelings of isolation. The show addresses struggles and realities of mental health, personal relationships, and self-awareness. Our day in The City concluded with an enthusiastic, interactive, musically-infused dinner at *Ellen's Stardust Diner*. It was an uplifting end to a heavily scheduled day of arts' exposure.

- Robin Christopher

Social Studies:

AP Psychology classes have wrapped up their unit on social psychology and have spent the last few classes preparing for their national exam on May 1. Students spent time analyzing famous social psychology experiments including Zimbardo's Prison-Guard experiment, Milgram's study on obedience, and Solomon Asch's study on conformity. Students were asked to analyze the effects of social pressure on individual behavior and make global and personal connections. Students will begin work on individual projects and experiments after the exam.

- Lori Pepler

English/Language Arts:

As the end of the year approaches, 12th grade Creative Writing students will be working on building their final writing portfolios. This is an exciting time of the year when students have the ability to demonstrate all of the writing skills that they have built throughout the year. The class will be revisiting short stories and screenplays that were written in the fall and in the winter, and students will be work-shopping them as a class again, in order to immerse new skills into old work. Students will also be furthering their poetry unit, as students are currently learning how to write effective and impactful sonnets. Creative writers have been able to take full control of their writing, discussing topics and themes that are relevant and important in their lives, while demonstrating their growth within specific sets of skills. Students will also be writing a reflection essay about the pieces within their portfolio and about their growth throughout this year.

- Carly Tutolo