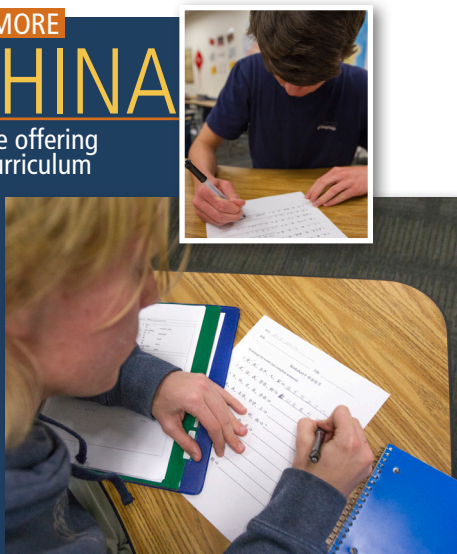


BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE

FINE CHINA

New language course offering added to the LOTE curriculum

In Chinese class, juniors Reid Johnston and Danny Maclean write Chinese characters. This was one of the most difficult part of learning Chinese. "We start off by learning Chinese characters then we learn how to pronounce them and what they mean," Danny said. "All the symbols and characters are difficult to write." Reid and Danny are the presidents of the Chinese Club. "Being vice president, people look up to me," Danny said. "They expect me to be a good example."



THE MORE YOU KNOW

TECH SAVVY

Freshman registration for sophomore year

1. With the help of counselor Jennifer Akins, freshman Spencer Neal registers for his core classes, JROTC, choir and French II. 2. With her father and counselor Mrs. Melissa Howard, freshman Kaitlyn Glenn selects classes for her sophomore year. 3. For the first year registering on laptops, freshman Micah Wilkin picks out his classes for the upcoming year with counselor, Mr. Jeff Cranmore.



1
Isaac Monroy



Isaac Monroy



3
Nathan Roberts

"It's just so much more convenient to register on laptops than turning in a piece of paper. It was really beneficial for people like me that are unorganized and just shove papers in their bags."

Spencer Neal, 9

A LITTLE MORE BREAK A LEG

Traditionally, when teams make it to playoffs, the athletes gather at the McKinney logo where Dr. Logan Faris gives a brief speech to the team. After, the team touches the marble lion for good luck.



"I got to be with my teammates, and it made a lot of people come to the game. It was really cool having everyone around and having so much support."

-Alex Vilarino, 11

IN WITH THE NEW

Criminal Justice Club succeeds despite the odds

As they walked toward the car, Criminal Justice members prepared to do anything necessary to get the criminal out, well if it were real.

The Criminal Justice Club was created to not only teach kids the basics of the system, but also debunk stereotypes.

"It's not all about kicking butt and being trigger-happy. In fact, that's not really close to the majority of it," freshman John Huterson said. "It relies heavily on your ability to communicate with people, actually."

Members learned how to resolve situations that police officers typically are called out on.

"In a sense, it's like a mini police academy," junior Andrew Harper said. "We learn anything from weapon safety skills to hostage negotiation."

Over the course of a few months, the team worked to not only learn the material but also build chemistry.

"We're all just a bunch of goofy kids with similar goals and personalities," junior Zach Vernier said. "I've enjoyed getting to know these kids."

As the members became a team, they enjoyed each other's company.

"I love all of our mess up moments," freshman Angela Singacore said. "It's fun when you can learn and laugh at each other all at the same time."

The students received help from officers who specialized in certain events.

"We had Officer McGee from McKinney PD come to our school to help us with our traffic accident event," Andrew said. "He's the main reason we got first place in that event."

Despite having only one returning member, the club placed in many events at the regional competition held at McKinney Boyd High School such as, Traffic Accident, Felony Traffic Stop, Intoxicated Driver Investigation and Domestic Crisis Intervention.

"It's because Ms. (Kina) Vinson is so nit-picky about everything," Zach said. "She believes in all the little details."

The Explorers all had high hopes for their teams regardless of the odds.

"We are the underdogs due to the huge gap of time between this team and the one's we've competed against," John said. "But when we win it's the greatest feeling. That sense of pride is something you can only get from being on a team like this."

by Kendra Murphy

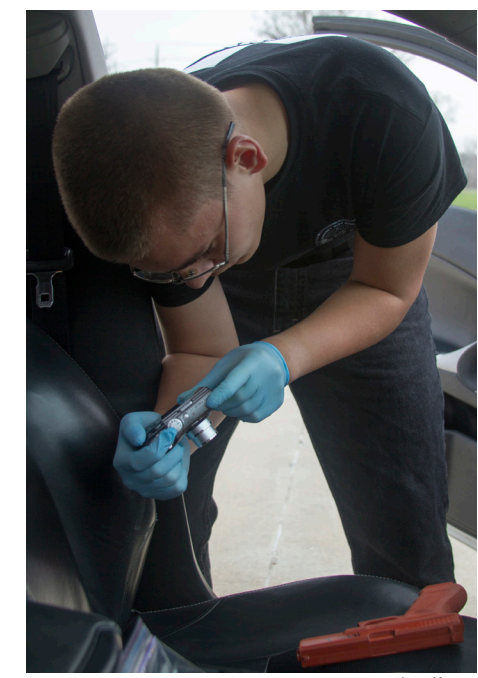


While acting as a rear guard in an active shooter training exercise, senior Christopher Fierro makes sure no one approaches the team from behind. The point of the exercise was to simulate a school shooting and eliminate any threats. "I really wish I had joined the club sooner," Chris said. This is something I'm passionate about."

Giovanni Sabala



Giovanni Sabala



Isaac Monroy

EYES UP

In front of junior Zach Vernier, senior Maya Erneas performs a Standardized Field Sobriety Test. An expert in DWI's gave the club members a lecture on how to do the tests properly. "I think it's a great way to learn about policing," Zach said. "It could be used as a stepping stone towards becoming a police officer one day."

CHAIN OF CUSTODY

While at Criminal Justice practice, freshman Nick Keregyarto photographs evidence during a felony traffic stop. The students were preparing for the regional competition that determined if they would advance to the state competition. "I really enjoy the investigation side of police work," Nick said. "I get to play detective."