

GVHS library shows creativity

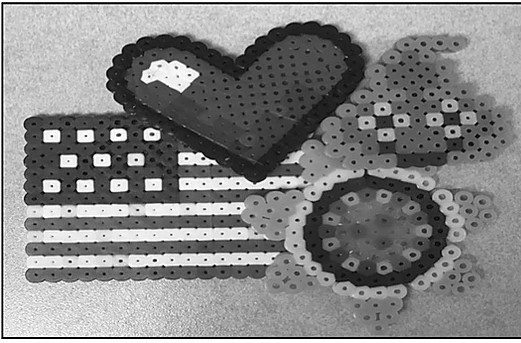


Photo courtesy of Kelsey Bogan

Some of the impressive work done by Great Valley students at the Perler bead station in the library.

By Shi-Chiao Tsao

In the beginning of this school year, the High School librarian Kelsey Bogan applied for and received a grant of about \$3000 from The Foundation at Great Valley.

The Foundation is an organization run by community members that hosts fundraising events throughout the year, and the money raised supports programs and teacher initiatives that are approved through the application process.

With the grant, the library has been adding "maker space" activities for students to have a break from heavy school works and technology. These designated spaces provide students an opportunity to have hands-on experience, strengthen so-

cial collaboration skills, and get a break from technology, academic work, and stress.

So far, there are several stations for crafts such as: friendship bracelet making, embroidery, Perler beads, which Ms. Bogan says is the most popular. Students can arrange Perler beads of different colors on plastic pegboards to form patterns and then fused together with a clothes iron. Perler beads can be strung into necklaces and keychains. She also has included stations like Lego design, which fosters engineering skills, and a "mindfulness" or relaxing station where students work on what is called a Buddha board. It is a board where students draw with a brush pen and water, which appears like black ink,

to alleviate any stress that they may have encountered that day.

"We drastically underestimated how many Perler beads we would need. We've gone through 100,000 beads in one month!" said Ms. Bogan.

The maker space has definitely been a success for high school students.

"It's very nostalgic because when I was in elementary school, I used to play with rainbow loom and used to make lots of things like bracelets and what not. I like it a lot," said Junior Osagie Anetor.

"One day I saw the crochet materials in the cabinet and I learned how to do that!" said junior Leah Lockhart.

"I like that it's a calm and relaxing environment," said sophomore Jazmin Ramirez.

Currently, the library switched the Perler beads with rainbow loom, where students use plastic tools to weave colorful rubber bands into decorative items such as bracelets and charms. Unfortunately, rubber bands from the rainbow loom have created a mess on the floor and have been breaking the janitors' vacuums. Now the rainbow loom has been moved to the front of the library near the entrance where it cannot be moved around anymore.

For now, Ms. Bogan is constantly planning on adding different activities for the library and applying for the grant next year.