

WISE: The Senior English Experience option at Miramonte

By Nee-Sa Lossing

WISE is an in-depth interest project, focused on any topic of the students' choice. Seniors who elect this option are enrolled in English 4 for the first semester, and use the vacated time in the second semester to complete their projects. Students collaborate with teacher mentors, whom they choose, to complete reading and research in their area of interest, and work towards their final presentation at the end of the program, which is evaluated for a grade.

"WISE students gain independence, communication skills, organization and planning skills, problem solving skills, and most of all a connection between academic learning and real world experiences in a field they are passionate about," said Miramonte teacher Steve Pol-

ing.

Students are evaluated frequently, to ensure that they stay on track with their project, which, in turn, ensures them the best possible WISE experience that they can have.

"[Students] are often investigating a career path, developing existing talents, or giving back time and energy to the community. At the end of the semester, students typically have a clear idea of how their interests will play out in their college education or career plans," said Poling.

"Be ready to have a powerful and independent learning experience," said Poling. "Be prepared to work hard, make smart choices, and create your own success."



After Yom Kippur

Photo by Julia Zucker

WISE student Julia Zucker

Striving to capture the essence of her subject through the lens, Miramonte senior Julia Zucker tries to create very real and honest messages through her photographs, while still incorporating her own personality. Choosing photography as the subject of her WISE project was a natural decision for Zucker.

"I really like art a lot," said Zucker, "but I don't have the patience to create something like drawing or painting, or even crafts. I think they're just way too hard for me to focus on, but photography lets me capture what I think is attractive to the eye or what I think is moving or important."

In order for her to create photographs that are distinctive and different, Zucker tries to convey her own emotions through the image.

"How I feel at the moment is always in my photographs," said Zucker. "I like to think I'm very removed from my subjects, which is kind of who I am, in a way. I usually just stand off, and analyze the situation more than actually engage in social activity, I just kind of watch."

To further distinguish her photographic style, Zucker draws inspiration from her life and the world around her.

"My friends influence me a lot, and people around me influence me. Also the other photographers that I take classes with influence me," said Zucker. "I hate to define who I am, but I think that if I can define it in any way, it would be through my photography."

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