

Full AP Classes

Miin Choi
News Editor

If you are in an AP class, you may have noticed the large number of students around you. There are about 30-40 students in an Otay Ranch High School AP class, depending on the subject. The College Board recommends a class size of 25 students. So why are the AP classes at ORHS so crowded?

"There are so many students because what the state funds is different from the recommended class size," said Teresa Kramer, assistant principal and AP Coordinator.

Ms. Kramer also notes that it's not only the AP classes that are full, but almost all classes.

As an AP student, the large classes don't particularly bother me. It's great that more students are challenging themselves to take AP courses, and that they all have an opportunity to do so.

More students taking AP classes may also help to achieve the high standardized test scores that the administration is always emphasizing.

With their rigor and focus on independent learning, students must be especially motivated in order to survive an AP class.

However, we are less than a month into school and more than a few students are bound to drop classes.

As for now, I don't feel it necessary for the administration to attempt to control the class sizes, unless there is a significant shortage of materials or teachers. That is not the case at ORHS, yet the class sizes are still being controlled.

"The state and district fund at 182 students per teacher," said Ms. Kramer. "It's a difficult balance between state funds, teacher contracts, and accommodating student demand."

Large classes are clearly a more complicated matter than they seem. But as long as students are not denied the classes they want, especially AP courses, I don't see large class sizes as a bad thing.

"It's good that the school is continuing to offer AP courses, but it's unfortunate that the classes are so large," said Kramer.

Closed Campus

Leilani Luna
Photo Editor

"Excuse me." "Can I get through?" "Watch out." "I'm sorry, can I get by?" These are just some of the few things students find themselves saying walking through crowds on campus. It has come to several students' attention that our school is very large; the campus is large but so is the number of students that attend Otay Ranch High School.

Students walking down the Ranchway find themselves stopping several times just to try to move through the crowds of people. Usually, such situations tend to happen at the beginning of the year, but this year, it appears as though this phase is dragging on a bit longer than it should. Our school has grown remarkably since its opening in 2003, but is that such a positive thing?

Many of us find ourselves in classes of over thirty students, and this is oftentimes seen as a negative aspect due to the fact that the student-to-teacher ratio is a bit off. Teachers can't always offer one-on-one help and that means that students aren't getting the grades

that they have the potential to receive. Many AP and honor students have the ability to work independently but for those that are barely learning how to study on their own, they might need a little more assistance. Fortunately, for ORHS, tutoring opportunities for certain classes are offered.

"Teacher contracts only allow a certain number of students per teacher," said Jose Brosz, principal.

This ensures that full classes will be evened out to fit teacher contracts. One-on-one time with teachers shouldn't be too difficult to attain and if so there are opportunities to fix this problem.

Having such a great number of students does mean higher test scores. Better test scores, however, mean that more students will want to transfer to ORHS, thus increasing the student population.

"Every student has something to contribute so there is an opportunity for kids to integrate their culture and talents, whether it is in fine arts, athletics, or academics. I think that's what makes our school one of the top schools in the nation," said Mr. Brosz.

Letters to the Editor

How to submit a letter to the editor:

The Ranch Review provides an open forum for members of the school community. Please write to tell us what you like and dislike about the paper and to express your opinions on topics of current interest.

Limit your letter to 300 words. All letters must be signed and dated and identify the writer by grade level (for students) or address and phone number (for community members) and will be published as space is available. The staff reserves the right to edit any letter without changing its content. Names may be withheld only if the editors determine content is worthy of printing but might cause harm to the writer. All letters are the sole opinion of the writers.

Editorial Policy

The Ranch Review is produced by the newspaper class of Otay Ranch High School and is a public forum. The content of *The Ranch Review* is determined by the editorial board and does not necessarily represent the opinions of the Otay Ranch High School administration, Sweetwater Union High School District administration or the newspaper adviser. It will work to be a vital part of Otay Ranch High School. In order to meet these goals, *The Ranch Review* aims to:

1. Report news accurately, objectively, fully and in-depth.
 2. Meet professional journalism standards.
 3. Provide editorial leadership.
 - A. Staff editorials will represent a majority vote of the editorial board and will not include a byline. We will not comment on programs or actions by persons or groups which affect Otay Ranch High School without checking all the facts within reason.
 - B. Opinion articles which do not represent a majority vote of the editorial board will be signed.
 - C. Cartoons are a reflection of the artist/author's opinion and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board.
 4. Provide a forum for the free interchange of ideas.
 - A. Letters and reader contributions will be accepted as space permits. The right to edit the letter is reserved, although every attempt will be made to preserve the original content. Letters must be signed.
 - B. *The Ranch Review* staff members will refrain from responding to a letter in the same issue that the letter appears, unless a clarification or a response is requested in the letter.
 - C. When a letter, editorial or viewpoint critical of an individual or organization is submitted for the last issue of the school year, *The Ranch Review* will request permission of the author to share the general comments of the article with the individual or group being criticized in order to encourage a response in the same issue. If the author does not grant permission, the article will not be published.
 5. Publicize school projects and give honest evaluation of such projects.
 6. Give full credit to any material that is not original.
 7. Acknowledge mistakes and correct any major errors which are brought to the attention of the staff.
 8. Create a valid impression of the concerns of the students and the faculty of Otay Ranch High School.
- No advertising will be accepted which is libelous, irresponsible, advocates an activity illegal for students or is judged to be in poor taste by the editorial board and community publications committee.
- The editorial board will interpret and enforce the editorial policy. The editorial board and community publications committee are responsible for final decisions about what stories, advertisements, artwork and photos are to be used and where and how they are placed. The editorial board will consist of the editor-in-chief, managing editor, department editors and as a non-voting member, the adviser. In case of a tie in voting, the editor-in-chief will cast a deciding additional vote.
- In addition, a five-member community publications committee will be appointed by the editorial board. The committee will consist of the adviser, the superintendent or his/her designee, the principal or his/her designee, a member of the faculty and an outside journalism professional. The committee will meet when needed to:
1. Advise the editorial board concerning issues either the board or committee members feel are sensitive or questionable in nature.
 2. Serve as a sounding board for the concerns of readers, forwarding concerns and recommendations to the editorial board.

2011-2012 Ranch Review Staff

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An Evolution of School Culture

Juan Carlos Hernandez
Staff Writer

School spirit hasn't always been the best here at Otay Ranch High School. As a senior here at the Ranch, I've had three years of watching both the previous seniors and past underclassmen show their school spirit.

In the class of 2012's freshman year, not many showed school pride. Also, the famous "booing" of the freshmen was not allowed at assemblies, and anyone who tried to boo the freshmen would face severe consequences.

As the class of 2012's sophomore year approached, the seniors of 2010 were determined to set an example as one of ORHS's finest classes. Summer Bash was a success and with Mick Buencamino as BMO, Homecoming was a success as well. The same could not be said for the Homecoming game—not as devastating a loss as the previous year's 50-0 shutout by the Chula Vista High School Spartans, but still a loss nevertheless. Not many showed up to the game and the majority of the attendees were alumni, literally outnumbering the current students. The Winter Formal was cancelled.

However, students began to look at class spirit as a sort of challenge, as the assemblies got a support boost from Dan Kray and Carla Ecklund through KORTV. With a new Dean of ASB, Dean Nafarrete, the

ASB started to put more emphasis on school spirit in the assemblies. Big Blue Day and the phrase, "GO BIG BLUE," added to our school culture. The glow in the dark assembly (although banned today) saw the freshman class of 2013 take a stand to the booing; many freshmen even retaliated and began chanting, "We can't hear you!" whenever the other classes

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make the culture even
more sophisticated is
you.**

yelled, "Go back to Rancho!" The class rivalry had begun. The year ended as the seniors graduated and the class of 2012 became upperclassmen.

As ORHS's culture continued to evolve, the class of 2012's junior year began to truly see a push for class spirit. The class of 2011 showed up to the assemblies ready to "rep" its seniority. What caused the senior class to band together and show some spirit? It had mostly to do with Mr. Kray's push for spirit. At the first assembly of the year, he announced, in conjunction with the ASB, that there would be a spirit banner, a prize to the class who earned

the most spirit points throughout the year. Spirit points would be rewarded by participating in spirit weeks and by being the loudest during roll call. In addition, the unique "Big Blue Wave" was put into motion by Mr. Kray, who ran all over the gym and initiated waves of varying speeds.

Class elections, a representation of democracy, also added to the school's culture. Students elected their leaders and began to plan for the future of their own classes as well as the future of ORHS's culture. The Multicultural Fair that replaced the Summer Bash showed a decline in attendance but Homecoming proved successful. The long awaited rematch between the CVHS Spartans and the Mustangs was, what many teachers stated, the most attended football game in ORHS's history. The spirit showed by the attendees was incredible and the school ran with it for the rest of the year.

School culture evolved greatly last year. The Senior Lawn was built, a championship volleyball team drew a humongous crowd of supporters, and the "I believe that we will win" chant was born.

So I leave you with this, Mustangs: be proud to be a part of an ongoing legacy, always remember the banners that you helped put up on the gym wall, and help your class succeed in winning this year's spirit banner. As we all add to the culture, pride, traditions and spirit here at the Ranch, the only person that can make the culture even more sophisticated is you.

You know you go to Otay...



OUR VIEWS: *Serving a Purpose*

What is journalism for? According to Kovach and Rosenstiel, writers of *The Elements of Journalism*, the primary purpose of journalism is to provide citizens with the information they need to be free and self-governing. The news media serves as a "watchdog" over public officials, pushes people to take action, and gives a voice to those wanting to be heard.

For the last seven years *The Ranch Review* has provided the students and the ORHS community with news, calls to action and stories to both inform and entertain. It is with pride that we bring you the eight volume of this student produced newspaper.

The Ranch Review is a co-curricular class that meets during 5th period in room 155. Stop by the room and see the history of this publication on the walls of the classroom. Often a small staff, we student journalists accept the responsibility of providing credible and objective information to the Mustang community.

Our 2011-2012 goals include:

- Publishing 7-8 issues of *The Ranch Review* including a 2012 Senior Edition.
- Provide students with information about student activities and events
- Push students to participate in school activities and functions
- Giving a voice to students wishing to be heard by encouraging students to letters to the editor
- Contribute to the evolving school culture

News is not always sunshine and flowers, but the newspaper staff will work to bring you the news you need in as unbiased and objective way as possible. We encourage you to provide us feedback to complete the communication cycle. Write letters to the editor, submit ideas for articles, bring us your club news, let us be your voice.

STREET TALK RD

If you could bring a dead musician back to life, who would it be and why?



"Michael Jackson because he's cool and he could have had his own concert."

- Neil Toledo
(Freshman)



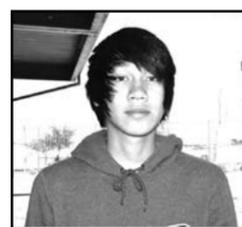
"Michael Jackson because he kept pop culture alive and influenced people to pursue their dreams."

- Jaqueline Myers
(Sophomore)



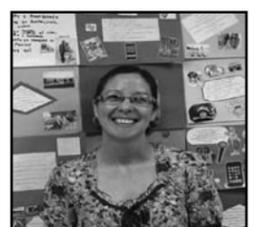
"Amy Winehouse because I think if she hadn't gotten herself in the wrong things, she would have been even more successful as an artist."

- Courtney Cummins
(Junior)



"Jun Seba, a.k.a. Nujabes, because the beats and rhythms he created just awakened this sense of serenity. To hear his originality and progress grow would be amazing."

- Ian Garcia (Senior)



"Jimi Hendrix because I love how he plays guitar. I would've asked him to lay off on the drugs so he could've lived longer."

- Patricia Ulloa-Mallett
(Faculty)