



2024-2025 Trimester 1 Report Card

Luke Lacilla

Grade 10

Graduation Year: 2027

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Advisor: Collin Shapiro

Course	Teacher	T1	T2	T3	Final
Algebra II	Trudy Pzynski	A			
Chemistry	Charlie Strauss	A-			
Modern World History Honors	Douglas Stiffler	A			
English: The Writer's Journey	Morgan Moody	A+			
Spanish III Honors	David Barrutia	A+			

Algebra II - Ms. Pzynski, Winkler

Comments:

Luke is a bright, responsible young man and mathematician who takes his learning seriously. He comes to class ready to engage, ask questions, and make connections between concepts. Luke has been able to demonstrate mastery of most concepts on assessments and will use office hours or X block when needed. As we move into more abstract concepts throughout the year, I encourage him to keep digging in and asking questions.

As we prepared for our final exam, Luke remained engaged in the review process working well with his "study buddy". He utilized his resources and practices outside of class as well. Luke's hard work paid off as he was able to exhibit a solid grasp of the various topics being assessed. I look forward to his continued effort throughout the year. Enjoy the break!

Chemistry - Mr. Strauss

Comments:

Luke had a solid trimester in Chemistry this fall. I appreciate Luke's consistent focus and preparation which allows him to regularly engage in the material in class. He openly asks questions during activities and discussions and has a solid foundation due to his thoroughness and effort while completing the homework. The biggest area where Luke can make improvements next trimester to take the next step in class and as an overall student, would be in his preparation and execution in taking assessments. There are two ways that can best help Luke to begin this growth.

First, Luke can seek extra help prior to assessments to help organize his thoughts and outline what topics to focus his studying. Doing this in a one-on-one setting would give Luke the opportunity to really focus on the areas he can use some extra practice and teach him best practices for approaching assessments. Second, Luke can take advantage of completing assessment corrections. Not only would completing corrections improve his grade, but more importantly, it gives him an opportunity to gain a better grasp of the material needed for future topics while reflecting and implementing where to improve his study habits for the next assessment. Luke began to see the benefits of this after the mid-trimester break, but more consistency next trimester will allow for greater growth. Overall, Luke has been great to have in the classroom, and I am looking forward to helping him to take the next step in the winter.

Modern World History Honors - Mr. Stiffler

Comments:

This fall trimester in Honors World History we started out with fairly lengthy units on Chinese history and the history of the Mongolian empire. In both we read foundational primary sources: readings on Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism and *The Secret History of the Mongols*. The boys wrote a short paper on the Chinese philosophy, and took brief content quizzes and longer multiple-choice quizzes to incentivize and reward the learning of this material. In the final weeks of the trimester, we switched to our course textbook, Robert Marks, *The Origins of the Modern World*, which makes a surprising argument about the sources of Western economic power and dominance in the modern era. In these weeks the goal was for the boys to understand Marks' arguments on their own terms and in their own words. In the winter trimester, the class will be divided into thirds, with each third assigned either Harari's *Sapiens*, Diamond's *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, or Ferguson's *Civilization: the West and the Rest*. These prize-winning works all disagree with each other on the sources of Western power. We will try to make sense of these arguments by staging classroom debates on the key issues!

Luke had a great fall term in World History Honors! I am really proud of him for "getting over the bar" to earn an A in this class: this is a testament to Luke's dedication and hard work. He is in a small class of eight high-performing, talkative history students. I sensed Luke might be a bit under-confident at the beginning, but he's got grit. He remained engaged, asked questions, and made contributions to class discussions. His test scores have been very good: B+/A-. An area of growth for him would be strengthening his performance on tests to the solid A range, and a good way to do that would be for him to come to X Blocks before tests to go over material with me. Overall, great job Luke!

English: The Writer's Journey - Moody

Comments:

Luke had a great first trimester with us in The Writer's Journey. We spent the first few weeks analyzing short stories like Roald Dahl's "The Great Automatic Grammatizator", "The Sniper" by Liam O'Flaherty, and "The Veldt" by Ray Bradbury. These works encouraged us to examine some heavier themes like technology's dark side and the unintended consequences of warfare. After the boys settled into the rhythm of the trimester, we began *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe as our main text for the grading period. After some necessary reading comprehension and vocabulary exercises, the boys ultimately wrote their term papers based on our in-class discussions on masculinity and its role in family life, society's expectations, and controlling one's emotions.

Luke has already shown signs of growth in his writing and reading comprehension this trimester. In the class discussions, he's always chiming in and bringing insights that enhance the quality of our analysis of the texts. The quality of his writing assignments has gained ground since the beginning of the year already, showcasing a greater depth of analysis and a clearer, more confident writing style within his personal voice. His final paper was among the strongest in all of my classes, so he is clearly organizing his thoughts well and showing signs of college level organization and analysis. He is always prepared for class and always ready to get to work each day. I am looking forward to seeing how much he grows as a writer this year!

Spanish III Honors - Mr. Barrutia

Comments:

Luke's position as a top student in our class is well-earned through his dedicated approach to language learning. His serious and studious nature has served him particularly well as we've tackled the challenges of irregular verb conjugations in both present and preterit tenses. What sets Luke apart is his proactive student-teacher communication style - he never hesitates to seek clarification when needed, demonstrating a maturity that will serve him well in all his future academic and professional endeavors. His mastery of complex grammatical structures has been impressive to witness, as well.

While Luke's academic performance is outstanding, I would love to see him embrace a more relaxed and assertive approach to speaking exercises. His knowledge is solid, but sometimes his desire for perfection can make him appear slightly hesitant, almost rigid during conversational practice. I encourage him to remember that our classroom is a safe space for making mistakes and learning from them - even with those challenging irregular verbs! His contributions to discussions are always valuable, and with a bit more spontaneity, he could help create even more dynamic conversations in class. He inspires me to organize more improv activities in T2 that will help break the ice. With a forthcoming Latin dance party as well, I am excited to watch Luke continue to develop both his technical proficiency and conversational comfort in Spanish language and culture.