



2024-2025 Trimester 3 Report Card

Luke Lacilla

Grade 10

Graduation Year: 2027

Address: 114 North Street
Litchfield, CT 06759-2504

Advisor: James Simboli

Course	Teacher	T1	T2	T3	Final
Algebra II	Trudy Pzynski	A	A	A+	A
Chemistry	Charlie Strauss	A-	A-	A-	A-
Modern World History Honors	Douglas Stiffler	A	A	A	A
English: The Writer's Journey	Morgan Moody	A+	A+	A+	A+
Spanish III Honors	David Barrutia	A+	A-	A+	A
Woodworking	Roger McKee '72			A	A

Algebra II - Ms. Pzynski

Comments:

Luke continued to crush Algebra II this year. He pushed himself daily to master all topics and was often found helping his tablemates further their understanding of the strategies. I could not have asked more from Luke this year. He and his partner did a lovely job preparing for and presenting their final exam review unit. He once again demonstrated his full comprehension of the material presented during the final assessment. Luke is well prepared for Honors Precalculus next year. It was a joy teaching him.

Chemistry - Mr. Strauss

Comments:

Luke was great to have in Chemistry this year. His positive approach to learning, as well as his sense of humor and energy that he brought every day was infectious and led to a lot of success for him. Luke is a tremendously bright young man and has a ton of potential as student, and that potential flashed throughout the year with his ability to regular understand even the most difficult concepts and material throughout the year. What held Luke back at times was his rushing to complete assignments. By rushing his work, he often made simple errors through his poor handwriting or just missing a step because he just wanted to finish the task, rather than being thorough to make sure he finished it well. For him to find exceptional success he is capable of, Luke needs to work more slowly to allow him to fully think through what he is doing. While he certainly improved in this area throughout the year, this is certainly Luke's weakness and as he continues to grow in this area he will continually rise as a student across the board and continue to find more and more success. Another area Luke can still improve for next year is in his self-advocacy and seeking out extra help. He is very independent in his work, but by asking for extra help he can better focus on areas he is weak in and can more efficiently prepare for labs and assessments. While he did seek help did complete corrections, seeking extra help before submitting assignments and to better prepare for assessments will allow him to find much more clarity in the material and to grow as a student. I look forward to following Luke's continued growth as student and will miss having him in class.

Modern World History Honors - Mr. Stiffler

Comments:

In Modern World History Honors this year we completed a Mongol unit by mid-October, and then read Robert Marks *Origins of the Modern World* through the Great Depression in the rest of Fall and Spring trimesters. While Fall trimester and Spring trimester grading were mostly quizzes and test-based, in the Winter grading was less stringent and based on participation and performance in "The Great Debate." The question: why did some countries and peoples prosper in the modern world and why did some remain, or become, so poor? In the last weeks of the year we read Part I of E.B. Sledge's classic WWII Pacific memoir, *With the Old Breed*.

Luke had a very good year in history, turning in a solid A performance every trimester. Luke is a quiet fellow but "held his own" in a class of super-talkers. Luke was always engaged in class, paid attention, and tried to answer any question I threw his way. He occasionally missed an important detail, but always self-corrected when given the opportunity. He was a solid performer in The Great Debate. Well done, Luke.

English: The Writer's Journey - Moody

Comments:

We finally made it to the end of our last trimester of The Writer's Journey! The material this term involved more nuanced and modern work, but the boys navigated it impressively overall. We started with creative compositions centered on science fiction tropes and humor as our first major project, which yielded some hilarious stories that were highly entertaining to grade. Our main text this trimester was Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams, so we explored absurdity, existentialism, camaraderie, cultural perceptions, and bureaucratic frustration in the class discussions and analysis activities. The class activities for this term were more focused on assessing comprehension and interpretation of the text in order to nurture the boys into becoming more engaged and critical readers.

Luke managed the changes this trimester well. Navigating the allegories, metaphors, and creative language of science fiction based humor was a big ask, but he never hesitated to ask for clarification and performed strongly on the reading assessments. Luke was one of the stronger students I had all year. He obviously enjoyed the creative writing assignment and enjoyed the humor of our main text. I am proud of his progress this year and will miss having him in class!

Spanish III Honors - Mr. Barrutia

Comments:

Luke's Spanish unfolded and bloomed in a stunning way this year and I congratulate him for the fruits of all his hard work and growth mindset. In our grammar and vocabulary, Luke performed at the highest levels and was diligent in checking his mistakes, showing his devotion to learning. During our circle discussions, he evolved from a good listener, but hesitant speaker to an engaged, inquisitive speaker ready to jump in with a relevant and interesting question. It was a noticeable change. He was already a great student by written measures, but now with this newfound comfort and ease speaking his mind, he developed not only a new skillset, but a Spanish-language persona with a go-getter attitude that has been unleashed. Finally, Luke prepared a fun and humorous independent project in which he wrote the script, hosted and directed a Spanish-language Youtube video taste testing popular snacks along with a classmate from Mexico. It was well done, and certainly to be a fond, collaborative memory with his fellow knight and Quail dorm mate Cayo. I wish Luke a great summer with a lot of fun and muchos Taki's!

Woodworking - Mr. McKee '72

Comments:

This course is an introduction to hand and power tools and traditional wood joinery techniques. Safe use of equipment and craftsmanship are key elements of the course, along with an appreciation of "low tech" tools such as hand planes and scrapers. The woodshop is unfamiliar territory to most, if not all, of these young men, and I therefore have a 'basic woodworking '101' mindset, when it comes to grades. Nevertheless, I strive for everyone to have a safe and complete introduction to basic woodcraft. This means that in the initial stages, they operate under close supervision and are 'walked through' the processes in a very step-by-step fashion. As the trimester progresses, they have more autonomy.

We have recently been alternating between making two medium-sized (imagine a small loaf of bread) decorative boxes or a small side-table. This is often driven by the difficulty of getting the project home for students living far away. This spring, the boys all live relatively close by and chose the latter option. The project is in Cherry and the results have been particularly good. The finish is Osmo Polyx Wax Oil, should he ever want to renew or add additional coats.

Luke did a wonderful job. He was prompt, attentive and a careful worker. I believe he made some real progress in his skill and comfort level with the tools and has a good foundation, should he ever wish to pursue woodworking further. It is a craft that can take years to master, but he is off to a good start, and I hope he enjoyed the experience.

Advisory 1 - Mr. Simboli

Comments:

Luke truly finished the year on a high note, saving his best academic performance for the final trimester. Despite the added challenge of taking on a sixth class this spring and managing the physical and mental demands of the crew season, Luke delivered his strongest academic showing of the year. He raised his numerical grades in four of his core classes and maintained an A average in the fifth—a clear testament to his work ethic and determination. Luke earned High Honors recognition with a 4.21 GPA.

What stands out most about Luke is the simplicity and effectiveness of his approach to learning. He shows up, completes his work on time, engages respectfully with his teachers and peers, and isn't afraid to ask for help when needed. There is no pretense—just honest, consistent effort—and it works. Luke represents himself, his family, and Salisbury with thoughtfulness and integrity, and that foundation will serve him well as he enters the Fifth Form.

His teachers speak highly of him not only as a strong student but also as a delightful and motivated young man. In Algebra, Luke demonstrated mastery and supported his peers through collaborative learning. In Chemistry, he tackled complex material with confidence, and in English, his analytical skills and reading comprehension were evident. His woodworking teacher praised his attentiveness and craftsmanship, and I must admit—I should have asked him to build me a table!

Luke's academic strengths are increasingly shining through, but it is his approach and growth mindset that truly set him apart. He is both an independent and collaborative learner, always willing to contribute positively in class. Going forward, I encourage Luke to continue developing his self-advocacy—especially seeking help before assessments rather than only after. His Chemistry and History teachers noted that his tendency to rush can sometimes lead to avoidable mistakes, and pacing himself more deliberately will lead to even greater success. In preparation for next year, the Math Department requires that all students complete short, targeted math training assignments prior to the first day of classes. Students can find their training materials on the school's website in the Academics menu, beginning on June 15th.

This has been a fantastic year for Luke. His positive attitude, humor, creativity, and humility make him a joy to work with. Luke understands that he is a work in progress, and more importantly, he embraces that reality with maturity and purpose.

I'm incredibly proud of Luke and feel lucky to have worked with him closely this spring. He is growing in all areas of school life, and Salisbury is better for having him in our community. I wish him a restful, well-earned summer break.