

Most High School students cherish sleep and any extra minute of it they can get. The students of CASHS National Art Honor Society, however, made the ultimate sacrifice and departed the CASHS bus ramp at 6:45 am December 3rd for their trip to Philadelphia. After the long three-hour haul, the group finally reached their destination. As the bus emptied, the kids, along with chaperones Mr. Zoeller and Mr. Martin began their trek and walked a short distance to the Rodin Museum. The exterior of the building, slightly under construction, provided an early view of what would become the fountain and Garden Landscape. Once the group walked up the steps to the Rodin Museum, they came upon "The Gates of Hell", a sculptural masterpiece depicting scenes from Dante's Inferno, which Auguste Rodin worked on until his death in 1917. After hearing the history of "The Gates of Hell", the group entered the museum and viewed the rest of his 127 sculptures in bronze, marble, and plaster and a few drawings, including one version of "The Thinker". Following the Rodin Museum, the students of NAHS walked a few blocks to the Whole Foods Market, a natural and organic grocery store- a new experience for many of the students! After eating a healthy balanced lunch, we walked to the Philadelphia Museum of Art and climbed the famous steps that many may recognize from the movie Rocky. There was plenty to see in the museum, featuring 225,000 objects, divided into collections. Favorites of the group were the armor and arms collection, the modern and contemporary art sections, and the stone passageways. After roaming the huge museum, we boarded the bus to head to our third stop, the Brandywine River Museum. This unique museum, located inside a grist mill is home to the works of three generations of Wyeths, an unprecedented Christmas display, and a distinctive collection of critters, or little animals made solely of natural objects. As we split up into groups we wondered at the huge Christmas trees, handcrafted jewelry, and the beautiful view of the river. All the artists of the Wyeth family differ in subject matter and palette and complement each other nicely. We ended our stay at the museum by visiting their large train display. Next, to refuel and regain our energy, we rode to the ever exquisite Wendy's for a meal, and immediately headed off to our last target, Longwood Gardens. Now, the name is misleading, for Longwood Gardens isn't just your vegetable garden in the backyard. Longwood Gardens is home to an indoor emporium of a myriad of different plants and fountains. The indoor section also includes a play area for children (and the young at heart)! Bundled up in hats, scarves, and the thickest gloves, we trekked through the outdoor gardens as well, wondering at the beautifully lit Christmas trees in the maze of the garden. Off in the distance, our favorite Christmas songs could be heard; we stumbled upon a striking water fountain and light show that was timed with the music. Noses running and bodies exhausted as ever, the group was ready to head home. Without a doubt, the CASHS National Art Honor Society had a great day seeing the works of American and European artists in Philadelphia. Hopefully in years to come, future NAHS members will have the same opportunity.