

I've always loved observing what happens around me and I've always been fascinated by people and their quirks. So it wasn't surprising to learn that taking photos for my school's yearbook came naturally to me. Becoming a photographer was a practical outlet for habits of observation I already had, and I've never been too afraid to get a little weird with my photos. Shooting can be awkward, because you don't want to disrupt the moment and be an intrusion. But personally, I've always loved placing myself right in the middle of things. You get to do things as a photographer that you otherwise wouldn't be able to, and that's where the fun lies. From unconventional angles, to moments of great emotion, to places the normal eye doesn't get to see, I enjoy searching and hunting for moments that can go by unnoticed.

While I've only been on my yearbook staff for two years, I'm proud of the work that I've accomplished. I've loved the reward of getting to see my work printed big with bright ink in my school's yearbook. Initially, I joined staff only to fulfill a required credit for graduation, but I soon realized that I had fallen into something deeper. I've learned more about myself and my artistry, but I've also learned so much about my school and community that I would've otherwise never known. Being a photographer has given me the opportunity to know different people beyond just the classes I took, and I've interacted with people I didn't even know went to my school. Photography has been my main way of contributing and being involved in my school community. But the community that helped me grow the most was that of my staff. It's an environment that's equipped me with interpersonal skills, from sharpening my ability to communicate to learning how to handle criticism, and I'm grateful to them for that. I've gone from grappling with the learning curve that comes with joining a publication to using my experience to guide and give advice to younger photographers. I've truly enjoyed participating in photo critique sessions and being an example of what taking an artistic risk looks like. Having been able to help my staff and publication to continuously grow and improve has been a source of motivation for me.



Description: Because this photo was taken at freshman orientation, I could get incredibly close to the band members performing. Only a fraction of the entire band was there to perform and they weren't packed like sardines like they typically would be in the stands at a game. I took the opportunity to have some fun and play around with a dramatic depth of field.

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Caption: Expressing excitement to the audience, junior Declan Franey performs in the school musical “The Mystery of Edwin Drood” Feb. 8.



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Caption: For the fall play “Epitaph,” junior Emily Roswald gets ready to perform by doing her make-up in the theater dressing room. “For [my] character it was definitely a more basic look,” Roswald said. “My character is supposed to be very emotionless and calm, because she turns out to be an angel in the end.”



Description: I was walking down the hallway during lunch when I saw these three boys, and I immediately went to grab my camera. I was absolutely fascinated with the symmetry and lines they created, from the backpacks to the lunch trays, to the varying heights of both the boys themselves and where they held their phone. It made for such an interesting shot of such a mundane activity that could have easily been glossed over and missed.

Caption: In the Flex Spaces area Sept. 3 juniors Dylan Shroyer, Maverick Foster and Joe Chen play Brawl Stars on their phones. “[The Flex Space] is a lot quieter than the lunch room, and it has furniture that’s comfy,” Foster said.



Description: This science classroom was structured so that all the students were working facing the wall, and I found it difficult to shoot. My solution was this: I layed down so my torso was on the counter, I pulled out a chair for my legs to support me on, and I was essentially lying horizontal as I craned my neck up to take the shot. The light of the microscope was a welcome surprise, and I'm happy I was able to catch such a clear expression of shock from the girl.

Caption: Learning about genetics, seniors Meiko Pearson and Lauryn Garlington look at fruit flies through a microscope to determine the flies' sex during a lab in an AP Biology class Jan. 15. "I have never done anything like that before," Garlington said. "I was mesmerized and disgusted at the same time."