

Photojournalism
Statement

NSPA Photojournalist of the Year Submission - 2022



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Photojournalism



Caption: Visual senior Sauvenson Cadet tries to maintain a speed that keeps the parachute suspended. Team members had to run to the end of the field and back while keeping the parachute straight and in the air.

Description: I wanted to show the physical labor that goes into track, especially when it is something uncommon like running with a parachute. I wanted to not only focus on the intensity in the subject's face, but also get a wide angle by increasing my shutter speed. This froze the action and put the parachute in focus as well. I tried to keep the parachute on the rule of thirds line to show movement and how he is running through the photo.

Caption: During the Jan. 28 Hairy Details performance, communications junior Eric Levine weaves his arms under theatre junior Karma Carr for a game of Helping Hands. The student-led improv troupe incorporated audience members, who were "very exuberant" during the performance, Carr said.

Description: As I snuck into a mini theater lunch performance, I watched as actors chose students from the audience for a game. I not only liked the dramatic lighting and warm tone of the theatre spotlights building contrast against their bright outfits, but I also liked the contrast in emotions. The photo exemplifies different personalities.



Caption: During the dress rehearsal of "La Bayadere," dance sophomores Eva Vukusich, Lily Sandor, and Josephine Chase perform an attitude turn. The classical ballet piece incorporated multiple arabesques, technical ballet steps, and dancing on pointe to highlight the skills they have learned in class. "On stage, it's almost like a fever dream, and it's kind of magical because you don't get to experience it a lot especially since we haven't been on stage in two years," Sandor said. "It's also cool to see everyone collectively working together to put on the show."

Description: Sitting in the corner of our school auditorium during the first dance show of the year, I saw three ballerinas backstage waiting. As they came on stage I noticed the red lighting which created a beautiful contrast with the blue backdrop. The white tutus picked up some of these colors and added more dimension. I tried to focus on the dancer in the center and wanted to express the concentration that goes into the art.



Caption: Book banning seems to be having a domino effect in 2022 and the past decade as a whole, as more and more states push for censorship legislation.

Description: Since this story was centered on books being censored, I took some creative liberty and tried to mimic almost a domino chain of books to illustrate books being taken off the shelves one by one. I think something that was also interesting was that instead of having people be the subjects I used objects, which allowed me to work with stacking them or placing them in a way that is appealing. I also liked the contrast between the grey background and various colored books.



Caption: After playing in science teacher Kendra Huff's room, strings junior Sofia Plaza, along with the rest of the mariachi band, celebrates as they make their way to the next class. Students from the Latin-Hispanic Heritage Club played their instruments and danced during third period on Oct. 7 and 8 for those who bought mariachi grams. "Being in the mariachi band was so much fun," Plaza said. "I'm so glad I had the opportunity to be a part of it. I would definitely do it again next year."

Description: I tried to capture the emotion of this moment which is especially needed and difficult during the pandemic as everyone was wearing masks at this time. I loved the excitement in their faces and they were running so fast that they all needed to adjust their masks. As I waited for them against the wall they rushed out of the class and I focused on the face of one of the players while blurring the background to give a sense of movement.



Statement

From the moment my parents handed me my Pink VTech Kidzzoom digital camera I knew that photography was my passion. Experimenting with the camera's funky filters and frames, I would run around the house and stop others just so I could get a photo of them. However, my true interest in photography began on my fifth-grade trip to Washington D.C. My parents had handed me a point-and-shoot Nikon so I could take photos at the capital and the various museums I would visit. Through the years I have slowly upgraded; saving each penny for my current camera, the mirrorless Canon R. My dedication to photography has grown immensely, leading me to become a photographer for my middle school paper and eventually leading me to become the Photo Editor for *The Muse*, my current publication, where I would learn the true intricacies of a camera.

My days have transformed into late nights editing photos just for pleasure. Cropping a photo the perfect way has never been so satisfying. Running around campus, and frantically clicking in a new SD card after the last one got full has added to my experience as a photographer this year—making me conscious of the importance of always being prepared.

This year, I have been able to produce multiple pieces of content while experimenting with new angles, lighting, framing, cameras, lenses, subjects, and editing software. Photography has allowed me to advance my eye for good photography and gain experience in the field. I have pushed myself beyond my camera's auto mode and have never stopped learning new tricks to maneuver it in manual. I have been able to take the foundation I have built on scholastic media and continue to grow and try new things.

I have learned as a student journalist the importance of dispersing information to the public and putting in the time and effort necessary to create quality content. This is a statement I continue to hold myself and this past year I aimed to take on different assignments and go out of my comfort zone. I have seen how a single photo can tell a powerful story.

Beginning from my childhood, I have built a passion for the amazing world of publications and journalism because that work can impact the community, but has also contributed to my personal growth. Each Photoshop and Lightroom file, each camera lens, each caption I have written, and each friendship and mentor I have had has led me to continue pursuing journalism on *The Muse* staff. Looking at the work I have accomplished this year, I am proud and can't wait for my future in photojournalism.