

STITCHERY CLUB

When junior Mia Crowder arrived at this year's Movie Night, she only expected dinner and a movie. Instead, she stumbled upon an idea: the stitchery club.

"During our movie night, I saw two freshmen girls crocheting, and I realized that there were other people with the same interest as me," Crowder said.

The freshmen were Claire Gemmell and Morgan Hansen, both veterans of the crochet scene.

Thus, when Crowder founded the stitchery club a few weeks later, both were excited to join.

"I didn't expect there to be a club like this, and I really didn't feel like starting one. So, it was really great seeing that there was a club that aligned so closely with our interests," Hansen said.

The stitchery club is an open community for people of all skill levels to explore yarn- and thread-based crafts.

"Embroidery, sewing, cross-stitch, knitting, they are all welcome," Crowder said, encouraging students to attend one of the weekly Thursday meetings at flex in Room 5.

At a typical meeting, calming music plays from a phone in the center of the room as students whisper to one another. There is a ball of yarn and a needle in every pair of hands, and Crowder functions as an instructor, switching from person to person to help anyone with questions.

Crowder learned to crochet as part of the curriculum at Waldorf School, but said she never really loved it. Because crocheting was required, it felt less like a passion and more like an obligatory assignment.

This summer, however, one of Crowder's elementary school friends began to crochet again, inspiring Crowder to also take up the craft.

"She made this really cute purse," Crowder said. "Then, I realized that I could make fun projects and

clothing like that too."

For Crowder, fashion, unlike crochet, has been a life-long passion.



"I think I always dressed very interestingly in my childhood," she said. "My mom gave me a lot of freedom in what I wore, so I would always just wear whatever." In elementary school, Crowder used that freedom

to experiment with different patterns and colors, but today, she has settled into her style: a combination of her mom's old clothing and thrifted finds.

However, this summer, Crowder adapted her style to incorporate her new crochet creations: a hat, a top, a vest and a pair of little gloves.

"My friend helped me a little bit with the top because that was the first one, but since then, I have mostly just followed YouTube videos," Crowder said.

That was until her most recent creation, the vest.

After learning the basic stitches and how to take measurements, Crowder began to freehand crochet, meaning she followed no directions.

"I sort of just tried different things out until I found something that worked. I had to redo a lot over and over again, but eventually, I figured it out."

To a non-crafter, this process of trial and error might be infuriating, but for the creatively-inclined Crowder, it is just a part of the craft.

"I always have some sort of project going on," she said. "It keeps me sane and gives me something to work toward."

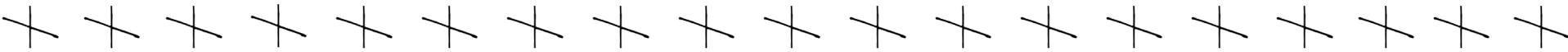
Crowder's friend, fellow junior Juliette Zúñiga, describes Crowder as a "very crafty person."

"I think it's always been a part of her personality, and I would like to be able to share that with her."

For this reason, as well as her own interest in exploration, Zúñiga decided to join the stitchery club.

Despite her lack of experience, Zúñiga has been pleasantly received.

"Through the stitchery club, I am hoping that I can find other people who also like to or are interested in different forms of stitchery so we can come up with different ideas for projects together," Crowder said.



CROCHETED CREATIONS

GLOVES



GRANNY SQUARES



HAT



STORY BY SIMONE DEBERRY;
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VEST

