

I was a member of the photography staff within Francis Howell North's media program for 3 years. I took on the role of Editor-in-Chief of Photography during my junior and senior year and taking on this large role helped me enhance my photography skills. While working as Editor-in-Chief I wanted to try a lot of different styles and techniques with my photos.

I began finding a huge interest in taking photos of political events during my sophomore year. I shot several different marches, rallies, and protests around Saint Louis. One thing I learned from these events is how crucial timing is and really focusing on your surroundings. Timing is something that I stressed to my photographers during my time on staff. I realized early on that as a photographer you have to think ahead and anticipate the action. It goes along with focusing on your surroundings. If you pay attention to what is going on and learn to think one step ahead it can really help you getting your perfect shots.

I also tried a lot of different set-up photo illustrations in this past year. I worked to convey our monthly newspaper's main focus with interesting and unique photos. We covered topics like depression and vaping within schools. For the depression issue I researched liquid flow photography and worked to recreate it. I spent several hours after school on multiple days to reshoot these photos. I would then bring them back and work to figure out how exactly I could do better. With our issue about vaping in school I brainstormed with my adviser and Editor-in-Chief of the North Star newsmagazine to figure out what photos would capture eyes but also accurately portray the topic. For this I set up different shoots on multiple days to work with different lighting and different settings to find what looked the best. I didn't feel confident about my photo illustrations coming into my senior year but by the time I was finished I felt confident enough in my skills to achieve the photos I want by researching and trial and error.

During the past year I had become very visible to the student body by being a photographer. I made connections and talked to students at events and slowly they knew that if I was there that photos would be on our website not long after. I was frequently approached with questions about our site and when photos would be up and that really showed me the importance of being visible to the audience. They connected me to the photos online and therefore were visiting the site knowing that the photos would be there. This was a really large lesson I learned since I was at a lot of school events during the year. I was also then eventually hired for taking portraits and doing various photo related things for other clubs around the school because I had built up a network around my photography which I think is something that is very important even outside of the publications program.

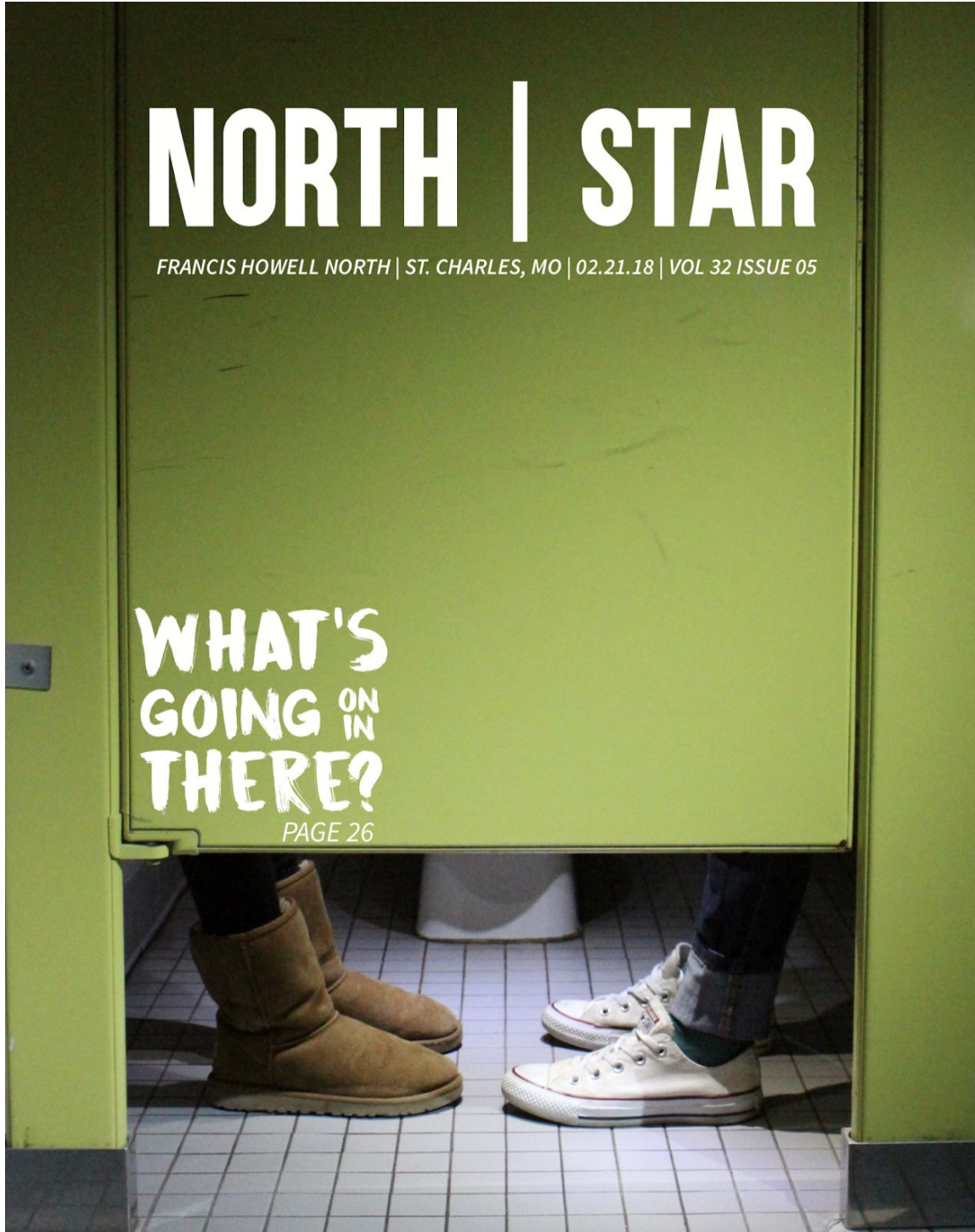
Overall, during my senior year I really pushed myself to go out and return with the best photos I could to not only support newspaper and yearbook but to be amazing photos on their own.

# NORTH | STAR

FRANCIS HOWELL NORTH | ST. CHARLES, MO | 02.21.18 | VOL 32 ISSUE 05

WHAT'S  
GOING ON  
IN  
THERE?

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Two people pose in a bathroom stall at FHN to represent the frequent use of e-cigarettes in school bathrooms.



Junior Nathan Tatum wrestles an opponent from Holt on Jan 31 during their last meet of the regular season before districts. The varsity wrestling team lost to Holt with a final score of 18-49.





A woman dressed in Mardi Gras themed clothing carries her dog during the Beggin' Pet Parade on Feb 4. in Saint Louis. The pet parade is one of several events held before the annual Mardi Gras parade in the neighborhood of Soulard. The parade was free for spectators but \$10 to actually participate in the parade. The registration fee was also a donation to benefit Open Door Animal Sanctuary.



During the second Saint Louis Women's March on Jan. 20, two marchers carry homemade signs as they march down Market Street. Many of the signs at the march covered the recent #MeToo and Time's Up movements. Both issues cover the topic of the sexual assault and harassment of both men and women. They also covered other issues like global warming, wage gap, and America's involvement in foreign affairs.



Art Teacher Denise Maples looks up at the solar eclipse through her eclipse glasses on Aug. 21. The district provided the eclipse glasses to all of the students at the school. The full process of the eclipse lasted approximately 90 minutes. The eclipse reached its peak of 99.9% totality at FHN at approximately 1:18 p.m..