

VIBRANT BY DESIGN

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FEATURES

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THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT going to a concert, watching live music and letting the energy from the artist flow through you, that brings a peculiar sense of calm. The stress from school or life seems to melt away, becoming irrelevant when the rhythm of the song takes the place of your own heartbeat. For Kyra Siegel (11), music is more than just a subscription to a music streaming app. It's an outlet for expression, a connection to family and a way for her to escape from the inevitable stressors of life.

"School, especially for me, can be so draining and stressful, but when I'm at a concert and seeing live music, it's like my soul is revived," Kyra said. "I get so caught up in thinking about the future, but when I'm at a concert and I'm seeing music, nothing matters anymore."

Kyra grew up in a rock 'n' roll household and her dad introduced her to music when she was young. As her love for music progressed, Kyra took a liking to one band in particular: Phish. While she loves their music, the band has also served as a key connector between her and her father.

"Every year, I get a Phish shirt for Christmas, and that's just been a running gift from my dad," Kyra said. "Those always mean a lot to me because I love the

Kyra Siegel (11) expresses herself through fashion and music

band, and it's brought me really close with my dad, and I just love their designs and all their shirts."

Kyra's personality is one that is also shared with her father. She's a fervent optimist, and her uninhibited approach to life is passed down from her parents.

"[Music] got me closer with my dad because at a concert, I really like to dance, and he dances too, and it's just something we've always had in common," Kyra said. "Being weird, being weirdos in public, is one of our favorite things to do."

Because Kyra is so open about her love for music, she's able to make connections with strangers. In her mind, music is a universal language that everyone can speak.

"I love talking to people about music," Kyra said. "Sometimes I'll just see people wearing concert shirts, or when I'm shopping for CD's, I'll just talk with random people. It's so easy to talk about music because it's something everyone likes."

Kyra's love for music is only part of vibrant self expression. She derives a ton of happiness from creative fashion.

"Almost everything I wear is second-hand or handmade by myself," Kyra said. "It's better for the environment, and it makes me feel better when I wear something I've made."

Aside from the beaded work and embellishments Kyra adds to her clothes when they need something extra, she creates a lot of the jewelry that she wears daily.

"I usually do more beading but I'm slowly learning metal work," Kyra said. "It's kind of hard, but I love it."

Kyra extends her talents to her peers as well. As president of Ladue's Beading Club, she's able to share this creative outlet and help others make pieces they love.

"When they smile and they're so proud of their piece, it makes me feel proud too," Kyra said. "I was able to teach someone how to do [beading] and teach someone something they love."


After Kyra's mother passed away a few years ago, Kyra chose to carry on her legacy of making and designing jewelry.

"She's amazingly empathetic of others and caring of others," Peter Siegel, Kyra's father, said. "When she's creating, whether it's art or jewelry, she loves to share. It's always just super fun to see."

Kyra's style, love for music and personality set her apart from many as a truly bright and positive force in the world. She fills her life with things that bring her joy, and ditch the things that don't.

"[I love] her bubbly personality, her beautiful personality," Cam Chen (11), one of Kyra's friends, said. "She's purely and authentically herself. I feel like these days that's really rare."

Just as music connects Kyra with her father, and her personality brings her closer with her friends, her love for creating connects her with her mother. Kyra bears her mother's creative torch with pride.

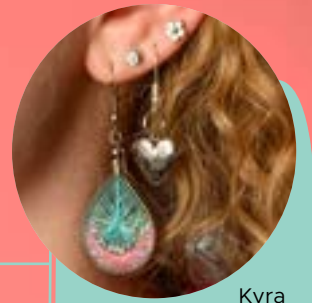
"Jewelry has always been very close to me," Kyra said. "Especially now, because my mom taught me how to make jewelry. When she passed away, I knew I couldn't give it up, because it was one of my closest ties I had to her." 

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Kyra Siegel
(11)



Kyra made these two buttons on her tote bag. One is a collage of her favorite musicians, and the other is a collage of Lisa Frank's art. Frank serves as a huge fashion inspiration for her.



Kyra made the silver heart earrings as an homage to her mother. Her ashes are kept inside them.



CURIOUS?
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Kyra hand makes all of her necklaces. The long silver chain is one her mother used to wear every day. The blue one took a lot of time and effort to make, and she's especially proud of it.



The charm bracelet features charms all the way back from Kyra's childhood, with some being as old as she is. Each charm holds special significance.

