

# END OF AN ERA

## students say a bittersweet goodbye to the arts magnet program

As the 2022 graduating class races to finish high school, seniors in Arts Magnet brace for a bittersweet ending. An end not only to their high school careers, but the program as a whole. Being that it is the last year of the program, seniors completing their capstone projects are feeling more connected than ever. Emotions are running high as students prepare for their final showcase.

For generations, students of the Arts Magnet program have taken advantage of the benefits of finishing high school along with the program. For Carley Glad '22, it was a relief to be able to end her high school career in the program. Underclassmen won't be able to have the same experiences as the students before them.

"Going into high school was very nerve racking as it is for most and the program helped me so much to be with my friends and meet new people that had similar interests," Glad said. "I seriously don't know how I could have gotten through high school without Arts Magnet. It makes me really sad that other kids can't experience it."

Meeting other students in the program creates life-long friendships. However, having a great teacher to guide them along can really make their experience worthwhile. Amy Sparks, Arts Magnet teacher, helps students discover their creative process.

"It's very student driven. It's driven by their curiosity. I'm not telling them what to make," Sparks said. "I'm asking them questions like what is this going to look like? and do you have the materials that you are going to need to be successful?"

In Arts Magnet, students aren't afraid to get real. Brynna Pachan '22 attributes vulnerability through art by getting to know her fellow students. As artists, they have the same mindset when it comes to creating things, so it was easier to come together that way.

"We're all artists and we're all creators, so we all know that special desire to make something that speaks to us," Pachan said. "We share all of our art at the end of the year, so there's a connection you can't force when you share the innermost parts of you with other people."

The Arts Magnet program made it possible for all types of students to learn creatively. A program for students to learn with an artistic focus turned into a community of artists in a school where that is not quite normal. The program provided students with the opportunity to make art and memories that will last a lifetime.

-Avery Vrieze



*Brielle McLearn*  
Brielle McLearn '22

"My capstone project consists of photography. I'm making a website with my favorite photos, then I plan on learning how to properly edit photos."

Photo by Avery Vrieze



*Ella Hickman*  
Ella Hickman '22

"I'm doing four paintings of the four seasons. Painting is probably my favorite art form, and it's one wish I could do more. That's why I'm focusing on it." Photo by Avery Vrieze



*Samantha Solots*  
Samantha Solots '22

"I'm doing a poem about Arts Magnet and graduation. The program means a lot to me and I realized how little time we get in high school."

Photo by Kohl Borski

OUR  
element  
capstone

MY  
ELEMENT  
IS...  
Annelise Becker '23

"When I am with my three close friends. We've been friends a long time and we've grown up together."

Photo by Avery Vrieze

