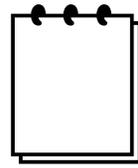




Welcome To The Machine



-Pink Floyd
(of course they also sang "Teachers leave those kids alone")

Hey!! First of all congratulations!! You have signed up for a really fun class next year which means someone thinks you are a really cool person or there has been a horrible mistake and you need to go talk to your counselor right now. Communication Graphics (AKA **Photography**) is one of the most creatively challenging classes you can ever take... but the work starts now.

We're #2

This past school year we were recognized as having the **#1 Academic Program** and tied for the **#2 Overall Program** in the entire state (and this ain't no UIL award either – we were competing against private schools too). We work hard and you should be warned that if you have the dull stare of a dairy cow instead of the eye of the tiger or are a couch-potato-slacker-bum-whiney-too lazy-excuse-giving-type who is going to cry all summer because Carley is leaving General Hospital and was looking for a blow off class (which this is not) then you want start looking elsewhere right now!! The good news is that we have a lot of fun and if you consider yourself a creative-innovative-problem-solving-quick-on-your-feet-can-take-a-joke-think-different type of person you will do well. That covers all of you right?



So here's the low down:

Start shooting now. The schools that tied us and beat us out do that and I really don't want to hear next semester that you went to _____ and didn't shoot a thing. Shoot things you find interesting this summer and photograph them in interesting ways. **Shoot color or black & white film.** Most of the contests we enter have categories like **portraiture, landscape, cityscape, nature, abstract, architecture** (can be an interesting detail of a building or some manmade object), **still-life, sports, photojournalism** (news)...if you shoot something that is cool we will find a category for it. Look at the details (a picture of stairs can be boring if it is just straight on but if you shoot it from a different angle and capture the broken distorted shadow of the old hand rail then maybe you might have something). Go to the library and look at photo books. Usually they are in the 770's area and you can get some inspiration for shooting. **Stay away from the boring** (Ooo-eee look-e thar...a squirrel. I bet it would make a reel-lee neat picture. I will take a picture of it and turn it in. It is the most bee-hue-tiful creature I have evah seen.) and look for lines, shapes, and patterns which can make exciting pictures.



The straight talk about your camera can be boiled down to this: use it, learn it, master it (read the manual). If you can get your hands on a **Single Lens Reflex (SLR) camera** (pictured above...on the left, brainiac) then you will be ahead of the game when class starts. You don't need to buy a new camera. There is a SLR camera somewhere around you that your neighbor's son/daughter (even they themselves) used and is in their attic begging for you to use it. All you have to do is ask nicely and write a thank you note). Ask your parents to ask their friends if they have one. If you want to get one check the want-ads in the paper, pawn shops and camera stores for used cameras. Tell them you need a manual SLR camera for a high school photography course and they should be able to hook you up in a basic outfit for about \$200. The school has about 4 cameras per class to share among just under 200 students so obviously it is to your advantage to get your own camera.

I know that some of you have a **Cap'n Crunch point-n-shoot camera** that you got free for sending in five box-tops. Dat's cool. If you have a point-n-shoot camera try turning off the time/date stamp (those never look good in competition) so that your images don't have that I'm using a **Cap'n Crunch point-n-shoot camera-that-I-got-free-for-sending-in-five-box-tops** feel to them. Look for creative angles and get close to your subjects and fill the frame. Robert Capa (you'll learn about him next year) always said, *"If your pictures aren't good enough then you aren't close enough."* That's good advice coming from a man who eventually got so close he stepped on a land mine and blew himself up (but that's another story).



Stay away from cameras that have the Advanced Photo System (APS). This is a different type of camera which uses a type of film we can't process in the school darkroom. Also stay away from APS film, and C-41 Black & White Film (if you didn't understand the last sentence take this to a current photo student and ask for an explanation...if they can't tell you then come to me and give me their name so I'll know who to fail for the semester. Obviously, (as Anne Robinson says) some village is missing their idiot.



Get up on that soap box

When it comes to winning:

Five percent of the time people will have better equipment than you.

Five percent of the time people will have more talent than you.

Ninety percent of the time the person who puts forth the most effort wins.

Take Me 2 Your (Film) Leaders

(it's a photo joke, you'll get it later)

Come see **Mr. Regalado** or **Mr. Simper** in room 260-C if you have questions about the class or want to introduce yourself. Talk to your friends who are in the class now or talk to the new photo club officers: **Hazel Sappington** is the President, **Raquel Pando** is the Vice President, **Courtney Addison** is the Secretary and **Caitlin Cozad** is the Treasurer.