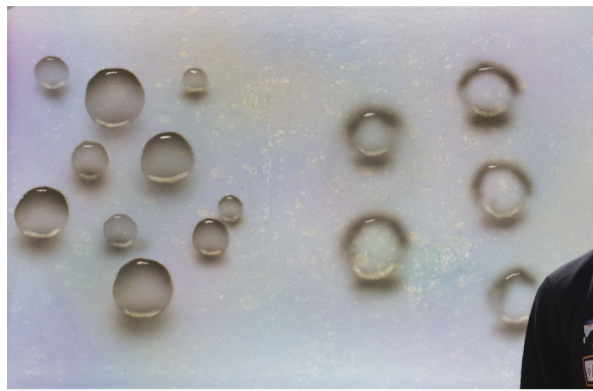


Masterpieces



"The creative freedom like just getting it to be how we wanted it to be is probably the best part of it," junior Kourtney Rogers said.



"I like how we got to free hand it and use the template, and having the chance to use different techniques, which I thought was fun," junior Brandon Koziar said.



"I was inspired by drawing people at first, and right now I am drawing a bunch of different ethnicities, not by drawing the color of their actual skin, just from using every type of color that I can for the skin," senior Audrey



"I really liked learning how to do anatomy a little better, like the skeleton areas by just making it look more abandoned ... with the veins and organs is what I liked the most," junior Briley Ferguson said.

— Samantha Perez



Too many people, public shyness are all issues with using restrooms at school.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ZYLER PRICE

Bathroom times are awkward times at Derby High

STORY BY LAUREN MILLER

A teacher's voice reverberates throughout the classroom during a lecture. All is still except for the sounds of note-taking, scribbling of pencils on paper along with the tapping of keys.

A hand pops up into the air. All eyes turn to the student as the taboo question rolls off the tongue. "Can I go to the bathroom?" Going to the bathroom is a quiet topic, largely due to the unexplainable embarrassment that comes from it.

"Sometimes it feels like an invasion of privacy," sophomore Mikayla Cleveland said. "It's something that you usually do at home and it's awkward in a public bathroom."

Bathroom anxiety is common. Even worse, students take advantage of bathroom trips, ruining it for others.

"People go in the bathrooms and just hang out in there, and it can make other people in the bathrooms feel self-conscious," Cleveland said.

Trouble arising in bathrooms is usually students committing vandal-

ism and vaping, which is why all bathroom doors are kept open.

Others simply use the restroom as an opportunity to skip class, get on their phone, or roam the hallways.

Sophomore Caiden Harris doesn't use the restroom at school.

"I think it's annoying when I go into the restroom and there's like 10 people in there just hanging out," he said. "... They'll go into the bathroom and then scold you just for using it."

Sophomore Jaycer Smith had even more reasons to wait until he gets home.

"It resembles something like a Mad Max movie, honestly," Smith said, whose mom, Dena, is the custodian in K hall. "Half of the time, you have people vaping in the bathrooms, and the other time, it's just a mess of trash."

"... It's nerve-racking. It's a risk because there's a bunch of kids, sometimes there's fights.... A lot of the time you just don't feel safe."

Smith says that quite frequently, there will be toilet paper hanging from the ceiling.

"How should I say this?" he said. "Being artistic doesn't stop at the classroom door."

This is why some teachers have restrictive bathroom policies.

"(The embarrassment from asking) is part of why my policy is where people don't have to ask

"I've never had a problem because there's respect between myself and my students."

— teacher Shelby Kraus

me," said teacher Terri Moore, who teaches junior and senior English. "I just have bathroom passes up front. If you need to go, take it.... It works out well that way they don't have to get embarrassed."

Moore trusts them.

"I think it's a good idea to give teachers the discretion to have (bathroom policies)," Moore said. "There are certain classes and certain age levels that it might really be a problem to learning, so those teachers need to have the ability to limit."

Other teachers set policies based purely on trust and how well their students respect them.

"I'm going to trust my students until they do something to make me not trust them," history teacher Shelby Kraus said.

About halfway through class, Kraus gives students a three-minute break to use the restroom, get a drink and get on their phones. Outside of that break, she doesn't see a student needing to use the restroom as a problem.

"I think each teacher is entitled to their own policies," Kraus said. "I've never had a problem because there's respect between myself and my students, and they don't violate that."

"Half of the time, you have people vaping in the bathrooms, and the other time, it's just a mess of trash."

— sophomore Jaycer Smith

Bathroom issues increase for trans students

STORY BY ZYLER PRICE

There are so many difficulties with going to the bathroom for trans students. That includes figuring out where to go, being comfortable going to staff bathrooms — even if teachers give you weird looks — or just deciding to go to the student bathrooms.

"I just don't like public bathrooms," sophomore Kaitlyn Simpson said. "But also, you know, (being) trans is a whole different thing and going into either one can cause its own range of issues with people."

Since a Derby Board of Education decision in 2017, trans students must use bathrooms that match their gender assigned at birth or gender-neutral staff bathrooms.

Along with that decision, the Derby Board of Education also created a document called "Gender Transition Support Plan" for students who wish to be called by a preferred name and pronouns and have accommodations to use staff restrooms.

Trans students who haven't gone through this process continue to use the bathrooms that match their gender assigned at birth.

"Going into the men's, you have the whole wide option of being made fun of," Simpson said. "Go in women's, it's very possible someone gets offended or yells or something like that."

"I do think general announcements to students that there are individual restrooms available to students

across the building could reduce some stigma associated with asking about access," principal Tim Hamblin said.

The gender neutral staff bathrooms are in short supply.

Senior Charli Campbell, who went through the transition support plan, believes the school should have more gender neutral bathrooms and for not only transgender students.

"It helps not only people who are trans, but people who just don't feel comfortable around other people in the restroom," Campbell said.

The lack of gender neutral bathrooms not only causes issues for trans students but anyone who doesn't identify as their gender assigned at birth.

"I do not believe that there is support within the community to spend tax dollars making renovation or adjustments to current bathrooms after renovations have been made in the recent bond issue," Hamblin said.



That One Guy's Grub: Ghost Pepper Nuggets

REVIEW BY KYLE DEVAULT

It seems that many fast food restaurants such as Wendy's, Arby's and Kentucky Fried Chicken have recently been releasing their own boneless hot wings and nuggets. Burger King recently jumped on the train with their new Ghost Pepper Chicken Nuggets.

The chicken nuggets themselves were nothing special. They were bland and unexciting. However, I did like the crunch on the outside of the nuggets.

But the nuggets themselves aren't what is important.

The gimmick of these nuggets is that they are supposed to have ghost peppers in them. However, I can tell you they are really not that hot. Is there a little bit of kick? Yes, there is but it is



★★★★☆
nowhere near ghost pepper levels.

The spice doesn't hit you right away, it takes a few seconds for it to burn.

Then, it burns for a few seconds and quickly fades away.

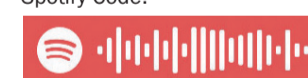
Overall what you are getting are bland nuggets that are kind of spicy for a few seconds. I would really only recommend the Burger King Ghost Pepper Chicken Nuggets if you are going to Burger King and you don't like your chicken on a bun.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALYSSA LAI

Underrated music embraced



Senior Charli Campbell's Spotify Code:



Teacher Audrey Allen's Spotify Code:



STORY BY MATTHEW PATTERSON

Most students likely have their favorite famous songs, such as Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit," Eminem's "Lose Yourself," Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" and even Bruno Mars' "Just the Way You Are."

These are enduring songs and have been favorites of listeners for decades, in the case of Queen and Nirvana.

But some students have their own personal songs that might not be recognized by the general public.

"Tony Rice was a really good guitarist," senior Vance Denton said. "He played 'Salt Creek' and 'Blackberry Blossom.'"

Salt Water and Blackberry Blossom bluegrass songs were released by Tony Rice and Norman Blake in 1988.

"He sadly died last year on Christmas day, but he made some really good songs, most of them I don't know if they were written or if they are covers," Denton said.

For Charli Campbell, the song of choice is "ADHD"

by Truslow. It's an alternative/Indie song that was released by Truslow in 2014.

"They talk a lot about mental health and just being in it really gives you that feeling of a teenager," Campbell said. "The thing I like the most about it is just how relatable it is. Like, I can just listen to it and be like, 'yeah, that's something I feel and I get.'"

For teacher Tonia Stoehr, "anything by Mat Kearney," she said. "He's not somebody that's on the popular radio or whatever, and I really like his music."

The pop and rock singer was known for his song "Come Home (Oregon)," which was released in his 2015 album called "just kids."

"His songs are inspirational, I think they deal with real life, and it's also kind of mellow and relaxing," Stoehr said.

Teacher Audrey Allen added: "Cult of Personality" by Living Colour and 'Lola' by the Kinks is one of my favorite songs ever."