



Junior Xavier Zamora brings action figures to life, using vivid colors to showcase their interesting poses. "Taking the photography class with (teacher Craig Godderz), I was like 'hey this is pretty cool' and decided to use my interest in action figures to take pictures of them to make hard photos," Zamora said about finding his passion in photography. Top left: Zamora poses at Homecoming dressed as Spider-Man. Photo by Lolana Gutierrez

ZAVIER ZAMORA DERBY HIGH'S PETER PARKER

Junior Xavier Zamora uses Spider-Man as his muse when creating art

Story by Lilly Macormac

The first time junior Xavier Zamora came to school dressed as Spider-Man in February 2022, his image quickly turned up all over students' social media.

Now, though, Spider-Man has become a part of his life, turning an obsession into art.

"I was inspired by the movies and how they were able to take Spider-Man and create different stories with him," Zamora said. "I wanted to try and make my own stories with photography and bring together different Spider-People and have them tell a story."

Zamora loved superheroes and all things fictional growing up, but Spider-Man stuck with him.

"He's the definition of a hero, you know," Zamora said. "He doesn't get any fame, recognition or reward. He's just a normal person who gets nothing out of it and just does it to do it."

Discovering art

Art is a natural passion for Zamora, whose dad is also an artist.

While Zamora grew up drawing, photography is his newfound passion. Instead of taking pictures of the sky or taking pictures of nature, he focuses on action figures.

"I've always been collecting (action figures), and they're just really cool," Zamora said.

His pencil drawings are usually of Spider-Man, and he has recently started taking photos of the action here in real-life situations.

There is some self-induced pressure, though.

"It's a little scary because my dad is really good at tattooing, so I'm worried that I won't be able to get to his level or be any better, so I have to live up to that expectation," Zamora said. "I can't disappoint."

But his creativity continues to expand.

"I just have a bunch of ideas with action figures," he said.

"Every time they release something new, I want to get it so then I can start thinking about different ways I can shoot it to make it look super cool and realistic and stuff."

He has a plan.

"I'm hoping to get to the point where I can have businesses reach out to me and be like 'hey, take photos of our toys for us, so that way I can promote their toys and stuff.'"

For more art:



Eye-catching art

Zamora's art has a unique subject, but that's not what stands out to junior Haven Wirsig. The bright colors and the placement are what caught her eye.

"I like his editing. He makes it really nice and saturated, so the colors pop really well. He places the figures to make them look really cool and human-sized," Wirsig said.

Starting something new can be nerve-racking, but Zamora has gotten lots of love on his account.

"The art he makes is just insane. It's so beautiful," freshman Morgan Thompson said.

Zamora gets his inspiration from the figures.

"Whenever a character has really cool designs and come with different accessories you can do

a lot with them and create different moments and scenes with photos and just manipulate it into your own story," he said.

He inspired junior Kooper Weaver, who posts photography of his bird.

"Without Xavier I would've never made my account. He is truly an inspiration," Weaver said.

Zamora has his own style with

photography and it can be similar to his drawing.

"I like seeing the progression that he makes with them and how he can bring them really into life and seeing all the different Spider-Mans being drawn instead of just the basic Spider-Man," sophomore Jamie Lever said.



NAHS springs into art

Story by Brielle Gilliland

A group of hard-working and devoted students keeps art and Derby's community connected.

The members of National Art Honors Society have painted eye-catching murals around the school and even in public places. They entwine the community with art.

"National Arts Honor Society is an honor society that is dedicated to the promotion of the arts, and making them more visible within our community," said Natalie Brown, the NAHS sponsor and clay teacher.

"We've done different things from murals ... to face painting and kids activities for different events."

Holding art events is a staple of NAHS. On April 20, members were part of Spring into Art! at Madison Park.

NAHS had a station set up for kids to come and make their own flowers, made from tissue paper and dyes. There were many other activities at Spring Into Art! to participate in, but the station that

NAHS set up definitely caught the kids' attention.

The members of NAHS got to interact with kids and teach them how to make their own special flower. Some even made many to give to their friends and family.

"Spring Into Art was an event in order to bring art into the community of Derby for everyone to enjoy," junior Haly Washburn said. "It was just for everyone to be able to get together and have a good time."

NAHS members have to be devoted to the club. There are certain requirements and expectations to make sure that they take it seriously.

"NAHS requires its members to participate in the club," Brown said. "Members have to have a 3.5 in their art classes, a 2.75 GPA overall. They have to complete 15 hours of service a year, 10 of which have to be art-related, the others can be open-ended. The members have to attend 10 meetings regularly."



Photo by Brielle Gilliland

Senior Haley Washburn gets a balloon animal at the Spring Into Art event at Madison Avenue Central Park.



Photo by Brielle Gilliland



Photo by William Henderson
Sophomore Trinity Smith was inducted into NAHS during the ceremony held on March 7.



Photo by Maggie Elliott
Sophomore Amelia Barger, right, and sophomore Jacob Sanford work on touch-ups and details in the K-Hall mural.



Photo by Maggie Elliott
Sophomore Amelia Barger and junior Charlise Nadeau mix paint and prep brushes while working on the K-Hall mural.

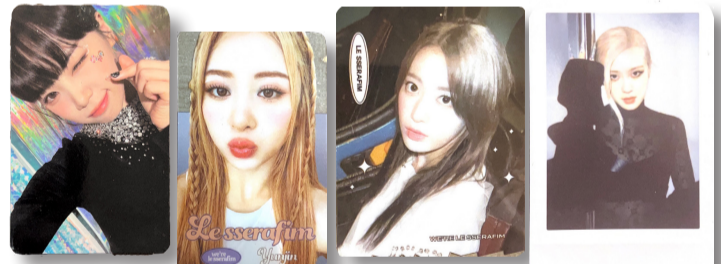


Photo illustration by Nik Shay

Photocards of the group members are hidden inside physical albums.

K-POP's world domination

Story by Nik Shay

Whether you are a K-POP stan or not, you have probably heard of BLACKPINK or BTS.

The trendy beats and sounds have become recognized by media and social media users alike, and proven that it's expanding globally. Its choreography has a very unique touch that fans go crazy about.

"K-POP is way different from other music because of its fanbase and how they market," said junior Ayanna Wright, whose favorite artist is SEVENTEEN. "K-POP fanbases are crazy ... about the artist a lot and will defend their favorite artist 'til they die."

During marketing promotions, companies of the artists will provide teasers, music videos, dance practices, and social media promotions of their members.

Western expansion specifically


has seen a rise in the industry, with BLACKPINK headlining Coachella and being the first K-POP group to headline.

"I'm really happy to see the expansion of K-POP into western culture because I feel like both K-POP and western pop can be bettered by learning from each other," said senior Noah Yon, whose favorite artist is LE SSERAFIM.

The industry continues to break boundaries.

"I really like what BLACKPINK and BTS are doing for western audiences and Korean audiences both because it shows that foreign entertainment can thrive in culturally dominate America," Yon said.

One thing for certain, entertainment is entertainment.



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