

Co-yearbook photo editor Josie Torres knelt on the damp football field, black turf pellets impaling her torn up knees. The lens cupped in her hand, she raised the camera up to her eye, Torres adjusted her shutter speed, ISO (sensitivity to light) and aperture as she calmly clicked the shutter button to capture the perfect moment, as the football team rushed the field.

Photojournalists attended every school event to get photos for the yearbook and newspaper so they can produce their publications.

"We go to events, assemblies, sports (fall, winter and spring), dances, everything like that," Torres said.

There are different ways for the photographers to get the photos they want. Photographers had to sit down, kneel on the ground, stand up, walk around to capture the perfect shot. It is not as simple as most people think.

"Usually [when I take photos] where I need to stand still, or for sports, most of them I sit down if I can," sophomore Ashley Broils said. "It's a better angle to get them jumping up and doing stuff. For events like assemblies I am usually walking around and everything so I usually stand and most things happen in the middle so I can stand to get [the photo]."

"Watch yourself" Torres heard in the distance. She quickly took three steps back right before the swarm of sweaty football players approached the sideline. Torres was blinded to everything around her due to the view only seen through her lens.

Photographers are the people that see things from a different lens that fans or students might not recognize. They get splashed in the face with water from swim meets, criticized for taking pictures in a "heated moment" and accidentally get hit in the face from an air ball at a basketball game.

"We give people a different perspective on the different events because they can't get the angles we can," sophomore Anna Torres said.

Photojournalism isn't just taking a regular picture with a smartphone. Much more thought and work is put into it than just any other photo. Photographers have to make sure everything is set to the perfect setting before taking every photo.

"It takes practice," Broils said. "For sports, you need to get the peak of action [which is the moment when they're doing the action]. Then you need to know when to [take the photo]."

People don't realize the amount of hours a photographer spends at school. Editing photos, making cut outs, coloring correcting spreads all go into making the photos picture perfect.

"It is a lot of work, and a lot of commitment," Highlander said. "It is stressful at times when there are deadlines because without photos you wouldn't have a yearbook. It all kind of falls on us if we don't have photos we need or if the yearbook or newspaper people change stories at the last minute."

Co-yearbook photo editor Erin Dory keeps her eye out for future students who have exactly what they are looking for in a potential photojournalism student.

“They just try to capture a good moment using their own skills, then we can see if they have a good eye,” Dory said.

Photojournalists get to be at events and on the sidelines of every game. They get to remember those things and carry what they learn with them for the rest of their lives.

“One thing that I tell people is you're going to get a high school experience that no one else gets because you get to be so close,” Dory said. “You sit right on the court, you stand with the football players on the field. You get to see things in a way that no one else does.”

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People don't recognize that without the special moments captured throughout the year they wouldn't be as memorable if they didn't get to look back on them.

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The photos that are taken are truly a gift. A return ticket to a moment otherwise gone.