

FEATURES

Interim Literary Arts Magazine

By Randy Czuba '25'



The Interim Literary Arts Magazine is a yearly publication featuring art and literature made by the students of Wyoming Valley West. The magazine is put together by its club, the Interim Literary Arts Club, led by Karin Ulitchney, one of the school's English teachers.

The magazine has at least one work of art and at least one work of literature per page. Most of the artwork is provided by the teachers or students, and anyone can submit to Interim to have their art reviewed.

"The art and literature submissions come from the high school student body. We also request work from the Art and English teachers to be submitted," Ulitchney said. "Any student is welcome to submit artwork, photography, or writing to our email which is interim@wvwsd.org."

There is a lot of art and writing done by

the students of WVW. As such, not all submissions can be added to the magazine. The club members make unbiased decisions for what will make the final cut.

"Our club members go through the pieces one by one, discuss them and make an ultimate judgment of yes or no," Ulitchney continued, "All names are removed from work so when judging or discussing nobody knows who had created any given piece."

While the included pieces are chosen by the club, they also have to create the rest of the magazine, including each page's arrangements, covers, layout, and more.

"We design everything from the palette to the fonts and backgrounds for each page. Individual students are given a piece of writing and 1 or more pieces of art, then given creative liberty

for the page based on the current year's theme," Ulitchney said.

After the magazine's creation, copies of it are made and sold at the annual Spartan Arts Festival. While some funds for the magazine are given by the school, the students and staff participate in different fundraising events to be able to completely finish the magazine.

Though the creation of the magazine is funded, the art must first be provided. Most artforms are accepted: pencil and paper, digital art, paintings, poems, stories and more.

The magazine summarizes many of the talented students of Wyoming Valley West's artwork from the current school year. The Interim Literary Arts Magazine is one of the best ways to get your art shown to the school community.

What Does it Take to Play an Instrument?

By Darcy Kizis, '25

As many of us know, playing an instrument requires a wide array of skills. Some say it's intelligence, while others say it's motivation.

However, what skills exactly does playing an instrument require? To figure this out, we must start at the roots of what exactly an instrument is.

So, what is an instrument? The definition of instrument is an object or device for producing musical sounds.

However, it is much more than just its definition. It is a way to express human emotions and feelings, a way for someone to express themselves through music.

Many artists and bands use instruments to express their feelings. From the music you hear on the radio, to your favorite music, music is used to portray different emotions and feelings to the listener.

Even classical artists such as Mozart conveyed emotions through their music. Lyrics are not even needed for people to show such emotions through their instruments.

But what does it take exactly to do this? What does it take to play an instrument?

Is it the emotional aspect of it, or perhaps

the logical aspect of it? To really understand why, asking a musician themselves would be insightful.

When asking Peter Kizis, a percussionist, what he thinks it takes to play an instrument, he gave this response.

"I think you have to first of all, love music, which guarantees that you'll stay with the instrument. It also guarantees that you will follow through with it," Kizis continued, "Most people can do well with an instrument if they find a good teacher, stick with it, and practice regularly. However, there are people that have a natural aptitude for it that will pick it up quicker."

When asking Victor Nahata, a violinist, what he thinks it takes to play an instrument, he gave this response.

"Motivation and passion are key aspects in playing an instrument," said Nahata. "You can have innate talent, but if you don't have the passion for your instrument, you won't make it very far. Music is art and all art requires love, drive, and the ability to grow."

Overall, both musicians seemed to agree that playing an instrument requires some sort of determination. They also agreed that some people are just naturally talented, but what it really takes to play an instrument is the passion and energy that you put into it.

