

Digital Graphics builds new skills

Winter Formal changes

Digital Graphics is an art class where students are taught to use Adobe Photoshop to create art. The classroom atmosphere is different than most classes and electives.

“Digital graphics is two things, goofy and focused. Goofy because it’s Emmert, and focused because unlike in some classes [like] math class, people actually want to work on the projects they are assigned,” said senior John-Michael Zalberg.

Digital Graphics is like any other art or elective, it’s a chance to escape from the taxing classes of the day. Digital Graphics offers students a chance to relax and have fun while learning future skills. The class teaches students things that they can use in their jobs like how to use photoshop.

“Photoshop can be, and is, used in every profession. Students should be using it to create better reports for other classes as well as improving their own personal photos. I think photoshop should be taken by every student in the high school,” said Digital Graphics teacher Jim Emmert.

According to Emmert, he doesn’t grade a student on the quality of their project. They are graded on whether they understand the instructions and how to use the tools.

“To be honest his class can be either an easy A or difficult to pass. As long as you have fun, be creative, and have a grasp on the concepts of art, you will do well. If you slack off, and don’t put in the effort, you can expect to get a bad grade. It all depends on how hard you are willing to work, and if you view the art as work or fun,” Zalberg said.

The students that are looking for a career in art or just want to improve their talent and creativity tend to take multiple art classes because they want to understand the elements and principles of design better to enable them to produce better works of art and better graphics.

Digital Graphics, although an art class, is different than other classes taught by Emmert.

“In all other art classes, we stress the importance of, and encourage creativity from the student,” said Emmert. “In Digital Graphics, I do not want creativity used on the projects. I want the student to replicate the project example as close as possible, so I can understand if the student knows how to use the tools.”

Most students are taking Digital Graphics for fun or to learn a new skill, but a few students are taking the class to expand their portfolio.

“As an artist, building your portfolio is very important, and digital graphics helps artists do exactly that,” said Zalberg. “Understanding how to edit and create images on a computer will help you even if you don’t get in an art career. In addition, Emmert teaches the class, which makes the class an immediate must.”

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Although Winter Formal is a Pella High tradition, this year it was just a little bit different. This year, the student council representatives in charge of the Winter Formal made changes in the hopes of making the experience of the dance better and more appropriate for those who attended.

The committee decided to have a no grind policy. Grinding is essentially when one dance partner bumps into their partner in a suggestive manner.

“The idea was sparked by a desire to make the dances more fun for everyone and to stop ignoring the bad things we allow to happen and instead believe that change is possible,” said Cameron Blom, a member of the committee.

It was decided that those who were caught grinding would be given a warning, and if they were caught again, they would be removed from the dance. Students who entered the dance were given a mark on the hand to show that they paid to get into the dance.

“Overall, we’re attempting to make a better environment at Winter Formal, so more students will be comfortable attending. The no grinding policy will definitely help with that,” said Paloma Mate-Kodjo, another member of the dance committee.

Games were also added to provide an alternative to dancing for those who attended.

“We wanted to have some games provided in the gym for those that didn’t want to dance or got tired of dancing, so they could have a place to go to continue having fun,” said Mate-Kodjo.

These games included Family Feud which was played with 4 separate teams from each class. Isaac Zeimetz, a member of the committee, led and organized the game.

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Trump speaks to Pella

The atmosphere of the auditorium was one of anticipation and excitement. Everyone in the audience was waiting for Donald Trump to come and give a much anticipated speech. Eventually, the moment the patient Trump supporters had all been waiting for had come. As soon as Trump’s famous hair peeked out of the curtain, all were on their feet, some clapping and some chanting, “USA, USA.” It is fair to state that the people of Pella, Iowa, were ready to hear what Trump had to say.

On Saturday, January 23, Donald Trump spoke in Douwstra Auditorium at Central College. The address was set to start a 2:30, but to get inside, attendees had to wait almost three hours just to get a seat. The Douwstra Auditorium soon filled, so as a result, Graham Hall was set up as an overflow area. Graham Hall also soon reached its capacity. Any leftovers after that were forced to watch the speech outside on a television. During his approximately one hour long speech, Trump covered a variety of topics like building his wall and his thoughts on other Republican candidates.

“His bold statements kept me interested throughout the entire speech,” said freshman Rebecca Bonham.

Of course a major topic that the hopeful president talked about was how he wanted to “Make America Great Again,” which is the tagline of his entire campaign. His goal is to stop America from being the “laughing stock” of the world. Trump claimed that he and the voters were “angry at the stupidity and incompetence of our leadership.” He urged potential voters not to take it anymore, but to stand up and make a difference.

“We want to make America great again. The country is a mess right now. The country is in such trouble.” declared Trump. This resonated well with those in the crowd, who applauded generously at these comments.

Another topic that Trump focused on was how his knowledge of the business world will help him to lead his country. He claims that he has the kind of think-

ing that has not been seen previously in the White House that is needed to help to improve the government. In addition, Trump pulled attention to his ability to budget. He compared his campaign budget to others that are currently running and claims that he is far more under budget than any of them. He promised that he will “spend less but get the best.” Senior Emily Dux attended the rally and reacted to these comments.

“I would say that a good business man does not allow his company to go so low that it is forced to file for bankruptcy. He wouldn’t get a second chance when running a country. Mistakes would have real, lasting effects for too many people,” said Dux.

Furthermore, Trump also looked at some smaller topics like the importance of Eminent Domain, the Keystone pipeline, injustice in reporting, and the Common Core in schools. Of course he, like any other politician, talked down his competition.

To finish off his speech Trump expressed his need to win Iowa’s vote and that he does not want to settle for any less. He urged Iowans to vote for him, so that they can make a change in the country.

“We are going to win, win, win! And we are going to make our country great again.” And with that, Donald Trump exited to the sound of thunderous applause in the background.

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