

# year of the selfie

## Photo trend takes over

In a bustling hallway during passing time, two friends lean together, smile brightly and tap an iPhone. *Click.* Within seconds, the selfie is uploaded to Instagram, where their faces are on display for everyone to see.

"I honestly think the trend is kind of annoying, but it's become so socially accepted I really don't notice it," Alex Aaberg '15 said.

Students have mixed feelings about the phenomenon. Some embrace it, capturing every moment of their day on a smartphone, while others think the selfie is misused, especially when it interferes with school or exposes the subject to ridicule.

"I think it's dangerous to put yourself out there; selfies kind of encourage that," Neil Wu '15 said. "But I think most people, especially at West, use it appropriately."

Some simply take selfies to have fun with friends, cause a ruckus or to share a snazzy new shirt. Instagram even encourages the act for its "Selfie Sunday" and it's the perfect shot for a Facebook Profile.

"The only time I [take selfies] is when I steal someone's phone. Then it's the prime time to strike fear into the hearts of Snapchatters everywhere," Anthony Pizzimenti '16 said.

Since most students have access to their phones 24/7, selfies can be taken anywhere: at home, at school, at restaurants or in the bathroom for the "classic mirror selfie."

"One time I took a selfie on a mountain just for kicks, but you can hardly see me or the mountain so it really didn't work out," Aaberg said.

Girls, it seems, take the prize for snapping the most selfies. Some girls have up to 50 selfies on their phones.

"It's probably because [girls] do stuff with friends that's more selfie-able," Ebony McKeever '16 said.

Transforming how people are portrayed, selfies can hide imperfections and flaws.

"I just feel happy when I see myself in the pictures because they look better than the real me," Sarah Lee '15 said.

—By Jasmin Gu and Hannah Kim



HAYDEN BEVELACQUA '14

PHOTO BY KENNEDY SMITH



ABBY BURGESS '14 & BETHANY ZIMMERMAN '14

PHOTO BY KENZIE GREINER



CLAUDIA TAIT '16 & ABBEY LIND '14

PHOTO BY NIDHI PATEL



PHOTO BY KENZIE GREINER

**BEFORE PRACTICE**, dance team members Alex Walton '17 and Chanel Vidal '17 pose together Jan. 29. "I have so many selfies with Alex it's not even funny," Vidal said.

PHOTO BY KENNEDY SMITH



**CASUAL SELFIE**, Michael Krupp '15 snaps a picture during his fifth hour open Jan. 31. "The only time I take selfies is when I'm with my bros," Krupp said.



**SMILE FOR THE CAMERA**, juniors Gretchen Elmer and Bella Lozano-Dobbs take a selfie after school Jan. 29. "I usually take selfies for Snapchat, but it's always good to capture a moment with a friend," Elmer said.

PHOTO BY KENNEDY SMITH



BRECKEN PEDEN '14 & KALEB GREINER '14

PHOTO BY KENZIE GREINER



MACKENZI MARSH '16

PHOTO BY KENZIE GREINER



REAGAN GRIESER-YODER '17 & MOLLY HOWES '17 & KENNEDY POSEY '17

PHOTO BY NIDHI PATEL



RYLEE VILLHAUER '15 & COURTNEY FITZHARRIS '16

PHOTO BY MIKINNA KERNS



PHOTO BY KENZIE GREINER

**PREPPING FOR NATIONALS**, Mackenzie Bonner '17 and Holly Manternach '15 visit a salon Jan. 27. "I love the duck face because it really shows off cheek bones," Bonner said.