



# Alexander Bobadilla

Time ceases when the camera's all-seeing eye swings open. All that matters is that one fraction of a second where more than a thousand words are captured with the snap of a shutter. The process never ceases to amaze me. I have always found photography to be a powerful form of expression. While others may express themselves with a pen and paper or a paintbrush, I have this mechanical marvel capable of capturing millions of pictures or words.

As a photographer, you learn from the basic to the complex details that take your work to another level. Whether you are a beginner or have been doing it for many years, you always seem to find something new to learn, and that's the only way I have been able to get to the level that I am today. I honed my skills and learned to steady my hands, transforming my artwork from jittery jumbles to stationary serenities.

I've honed in on my skills as a photographer and spent countless hours covering events and editing pictures, and I am honored to have been the photo editor for the yearbook and our school newspaper for my last two years of high school. Managing others taught me skills that not only help my photography but my everyday life as well. The impact that photography has had on me made me realize that it's not just a hobby, but a part of my identity.





**CAPTION:**

She won't say it, Sophomore Steven Gutierrez performs "I Won't Say I'm In Love" from the animated movie Hercules at the annual Miscast Musicals production. Gutierrez is being held back by the Muses, played by an ensemble of theater boys. "Playing this role made me excited not only to have an opportunity with friends to do this but also try something I have never done before," said Guitierrez.

**REFLECTION:**

This picture came towards the ending of the performance. It was the moment where everyone was interacting on stage, and the emotion of the performance was most evident. The hues of the lighting led me to frequently adjust my settings so that the pictures didn't come out dark or blurry. I was able to finally capture a moment where you could see what was happening through the image, as well as make the lighting and setting pop.



**CAPTION:**

Calculating the answer, sixth grader Lucas Lue solves the equation at his school's first-ever Brain Bowl. Lue and his team work on making their way to the next round. "Brain Bowl was a great event to have fun while doing math, and it was so exciting to solve the problems and move to the next rounds," said Lue.

**REFLECTION:**

During this event, I wanted someone that was working hard and focusing on what they were doing. It was difficult to find someone that wasn't closely huddled with their team or someone who was reflecting the difficulty of the work. Locating a subject was challenging due to the intense, competitive, and highly-focused atmosphere. But I found one person that I was able to frame with his teammates, while also showing his own perspective.

**CAPTION:**

Full of Emotion, Junior Empress Celine Hurtado strikes the final pose of her solo in the Spring Showcase. Hurtado explains: "Dance is a way to express my feelings and emotions. I leave everything on that stage and I always remember that feeling."

**REFLECTION:**

When it came to covering the Spring Showcase, I knew that all movement would be hard to capture, especially with low lighting. I truly tried to focus on the performer and the story they were telling through their dance. I used a 50 mm lens to closely capture the emotion the dancers gave the audience, which gave a closer look at their story. The color contrast between the salmon she is wearing and the blue in the background makes her and the moment stand-out, not only in the picture but also to the audience.







**CAPTION:**

An eye for detail, Senior Sophia Porras applies her makeup for her school's debut of its original one-act play. "Theater taught me how to express myself. I look forward and I see how it has opened up my life to a thousand different possibilities," said Porras.

**REFLECTION:**

This photograph was challenging to capture due to the lighting in the room. I was using a 50 mm lens, so my positioning in the room was very limited. I noticed that several students were using the flashlights on their phones to aid with lighting, so I used the technique to my advantage. Not only did that help me get better lighting on Porras' face, but it also led me to capture a moment where you can see how much attention she has for the most intricate details.

**CAPTION:**

Head in the game, Seventh-grader Veronica Demoya participates in a game at the Live Like Bella Sock Hop. Demoya had the opportunity to participate in her favorite activity from the sock hop. "It's important to raise awareness while meeting new friends and having fun," explained Demoya.

**REFLECTION:**

When it came to covering the sock hop, I didn't know what would happen and when, so I always had to keep an eye out for the action. In addition, the event was inside the school cafeteria so I had to keep my shutter speed as high as possible, to account for the lighting in the space. At this moment, I had five other teams around me, but I saw the yellow balloon get kicked high and Demoya getting in the position to hit it. I wanted to capture the moment right before the action so that you can see the intensity of the game and Demoya's determination to win.







**CAPTION:**

Setting the tone, Senior Benjamin Eisenberg practices on his baritone saxophone in front of the Jose Milton Performing Arts Center. Benjamin is a jack-of-all-trades when it comes to wind instruments. “My favorite thing about playing is playing in all sorts of honor bands that are affiliated with Colleges and Universities,” explained Benjamin.

**REFLECTION:**

While capturing this photo, I really wanted to show off the contrast of the bright yellows with the grays of the clouds. I wanted to capture the various setting details, so I had to play with different types of lenses, as well as the perspectives I was getting the shot from. I found that the solution was getting close and low with a wide lens to present an elongated effect in my photo. As soon as I found the perfect balance, I was able to capture the emotion Eisenberg had while playing his instrument.

**CAPTION:**

On pointe, Senior Paola Albuquerque performs her solo during the dance magnet’s annual production of the Nutcracker. To Albuquerque, it was an honor and a dream come true to play such an iconic role: the Sugar Plum Fairy. “I performed in the Performing Arts Center with a huge audience and all of my teachers supporting me. It is a memory I will cherish forever,” said Albuquerque.

**REFLECTION:**

For this photograph, I used a 75-300 mm lens to capture each detail of the performers on stage, since I was a bit further away from the crowd. Due to the lighting and how fast they were moving, getting pictures became a mission of finding the correct timing. Listening to the beat of the music and analyzing the dancers’ movements is what led me to anticipate their next moves. This strategy allowed me to capture the stillness of this moment while Albuquerque did an arabesque for her final number.







**CAPTION:**

Giving out hugs, Eveleen Lorton greets the other teachers of the Glazer and Lorton Writing Institute. The Glazer & Lorton Writing Institute is a joint professional development effort of the University of Miami and Miami-Dade County Public Schools." Giving out a hug at the start of the week really was a highlight and I am happy to bring a little bit of joy to others." stated Lorton.

**REFLECTION:**

When it came to taking pictures for this event, I gave Lorton and the other teachers their space, while still discreetly capturing the emotional moments. I used an 18-55 mm lens to give off the appearance of being close while working from a distance. I also used the bright color of her fuschia top to my advantage. I captured the picture in an angle where the green in the background was prominent and contrasted well with what she was wearing, in order to make her stand out.

**CAPTION:**

Pursuing pages, Mrs. Sylvia Ferrer teaches a class on her last day. She had been teaching there for four years and decided to pursue a higher level in her career. The impact she left at the school is immeasurable. "Whether it's teaching them about kindness, or teaching them about Shakespeare, I love their presence. I think they made a bigger impact on me though," stated Ferrer.

**REFLECTION:**

On this day, I wanted to capture the amount of emotion everyone was feeling. I aimed to capture this bittersweet moment: while she was sad about leaving a family she had built at the school, she wouldn't let that stop her from teaching her students one last time. I ensured that she was the most prominent subject of the photo, so she would stand-out. My overall goal was to convey the emotions she was feeling and make them obvious just by looking at the photo.

**CAPTION:**

Lost in the strings, sixth grader Evan Santos fills the auditorium with harmonic tunes while performing at the Bahama's Relief Concert. "Attending the Bahama's Relief Concert, overall, was a heartwarming experience. It gave me the opportunity to realize that there is still something I could do to help them out," said Santos.

**REFLECTION:**

I had the opportunity to cover this event at my own school, so I already knew where the good spots for pictures were. My goal was to use the reflection of the lights on the floor to add an element of foreground and create depth within the photo. I used a 75-300 mm lens to capture the performer up close, while also maintaining flexibility with the spacing around Santos.

