

From Another Perspective

By: Audrey Austin

Jeffrey Goodman may be known to many students as just a history teacher at Perry High School, but what many people may not know is he's a phenomenal photographer. In fact, he didn't even know that he was good at taking pictures at first. He is actually a self-taught photographer and has never attended any type of photography class. He's just constantly trying new things and taking pictures about every other day.

When Mr. Goodman first started taking pictures, he started off just using a disposable camera. He said the only problem was "it was harder to do because you didn't get to see what the actual image looked like, you had to wait until you actually got it processed." This is why he didn't realize that he was so interested and good at taking pictures until later on. He started off taking pictures of just sunsets on his disposable cameras until he realized he wanted to continue his hobby. He enjoyed going down to the lake to get good pictures of Lake Erie. A lot of the sunset pictures he took were also taken when he would go on vacation to places such as Florida, North Carolina, and California.

Taking pictures eventually became a good hobby of his. He got more serious with taking pictures. He said, "I didn't really know that I liked even taking photos or that I was even good at it until I had my first iPhone." Since then he's gotten really good at using different types of angles and perspectives while taking pictures. He is most interested in taking pictures of different things in nature. "If I saw something that looked interesting in nature I had a camera on me at all times." This is when he began to realize he had a lot of skill in his picture taking.

A few of his favorite pictures that he has taken of nature were pictures of snowflakes, stars, and the Milky Way. After checking his phone, he could confirm, "I have 43,000 photos that

I've taken on my iphone.” With all these pictures, he normally uploads them onto social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram. A lot of these posts have started to become recognized by people who are more than just his friends or family. He shared that “some of them have been good enough to where they have been posted by National Geographic and Apple and some have been published in magazines and newspapers.” There are also many people who have bought some of his photos off of him. Companies including Apple have actually paid him. Apple also sent him gifts as well so that they could post things of his. One thing that they have posted on their Instagram is his video of a snowflake. He took a faster speed video of a melting snowflake that was actually in reverse. You could really see a lot of the detail within the snowflake because of the angle he used.

Eventually over time, he got a fancy smaller camera that could take nicer pictures instead of his phone. He still continues to take more pictures on his phone just because he always has it with him. One word he would use to explain the impact that photography has had on him is “perspective.” He shared “When you look at people and nature and kind of see life through different perspectives, lenses, and angles, I think it has taught me to do that when I don’t have my camera.”