

As a nine-year-old, I was introduced to the arts by watching YouTube video tutorials on caricature drawings. I especially loved to dramatize portraits of my favorite NBA and NFL athletes. I quickly learned that not only are artists allowed to portray an image in an imaginative way, they sometimes need to in order to clearly express their vision. As I studied these tutorials and practiced repeatedly, my hobby grew into a passion. Since then, I have refined my drawing skills within Delbarton's arts program and broadened the scope of my artwork. In eighth grade, I learned the basics of shading three dimensional shapes, and in my sophomore year, I was exposed to an array of media including oil paint, oil pastel, printmaking, and scratchboard.

In my AP Studio Art class, I am currently experimenting with oil pastels to make vivid, colorful impressions of portions of vintage pinball machines. My vibrant color pallet causes graphics to radiate light across the page, stirring feelings of excitement. For some, classic amusement arcades are strange places, either because of the lack of natural light or the noisy environment. Nevertheless, they possess a myriad of exciting creative games. After visiting the Morristown Game Vault for the first time, I knew that I had found the subject for my Sustained Investigation. I was mesmerized by the variety of graphics on display in each pinball machine. The movement of the pinball careering off bumpers and the sounds of buzzers being activated, both linked to sporadic light bursts, served to create the overall visual atmosphere of the Game Vault. It impressed me greatly. I have always wanted to work with a subject matter rarely portrayed in the art world, and in these arcade games from the 80's (somewhat antiquated among today's youth due to the spread of video game consoles), I saw an opportunity to focus attention back to the glory of those machines and perhaps in my own quiet way, create future fans of the arcades.