

That's Going To Be Me

Canon EOS 80D with Canon EFS 18-135mm lens f/4.5, 1/250, ISO 400

During graduation week in the spring, the high school seniors in Crowley ISD were welcomed back to their elementary campuses to walk the halls in their caps and gowns to a parade of cheers and handmade signs from the younger students.

The focal point of this image is a group of elementary students lining the hall with purple caps and handcrafted signs. The excitement and inspiration they received from graduates they had never met was amazing. While they were chanting for 2017 seniors that had once walked their halls, they were also seeing their futures play out in front of them.

This image served as our district's cover photo from graduation week for both high schools and over the summer until we began promoting back-to-school information in August.



All Eyes on Honor Choir

Canon EOS 80D with Canon EFS 18-135mm lens f/10, 1/125, ISO 100



When the Texas Rangers approached our district to host a Crowley ISD Night at Globe Life Park in Arlington last fall, one of the many perks was allowing a someone from CISD to sing the National Anthem. Knowing that singing this prestigious song in front of 40,000 people would be intimidating to the most experienced veteran performers, we marched our brightest and best from across CISD, the Honor Choir.

Trying to show the scale of the moment, and in an attempt to fit the entire ensemble in the image, I shot extremely wide. This allowed me to include the team's mascot, Rangers Captain, and the huge video board showcasing the teams.

This picture speaks to how 20 fifth- and sixth-graders had the undivided attention of an entire stadium with only their voices to be heard. For about 90 seconds, all eyes were on Crowley ISD's students.

We published the photo on the first page in the <u>inaugural issue</u> of the district's magazine in fall 2016.



Welding Power

Canon EOS 80D with Canon EFS 18-135mm lens f/8.0, 1/200, ISO 100

Our office is in the district's Career and Tech Center and we never know what student activities we'll see as we travel the building. I snapped this photo on my way out to lunch, while students were crafting their welding skills near the parking lot.

It's a great image of the collaboration and training that occurs in our schools, as well as the real-world job skills that are offered to our students.

We recently used this image in promotional materials for our CTE showcase event to the community.





Driving the Lane

Canon EOS 80D with Canon EF Zoom Lens 70-200mm f/2.8, 1/250, ISO 2000

Sports photography is amazing and challenging at the same time, especially when shooting at the high school level. Dark gyms, tight spaces and the need for expensive equipment can make it difficult to snap the professional level images that we have all become accustomed to seeing in *Sports Illustrated*.

This photo showcases three-time District 4-6A MVP Jordon Myers, a senior from North Crowley High School, driving to the basket against Wollforth Frenship in the area championship game at Abilene High School. As eight other bodies were flying across my face, I was able to capture his penetration into the lane with enough light to get the play in full focus.

There is not enough time in the year to shoot every athletic event in the district, but I always enjoy capturing our athletes in action and showcasing their skills on a different stage than the classroom.



Future Focused

Canon EOS 80D with Canon EFS 18-135mm lens f/5.6, 1/60, ISO 6400

It's easy to take an engaging photo when you have an emotional event or thrilling action in front of you. That's not always the case when you are shooting a class of intermediate students as they listen to their teacher or a guest speaker. They often sit there with a blank stare that appears to look mad or bored in photos.

In this image, one of our Young Women's Leadership Academy students is doing an exercise on the first day of school. This is not only her first day, but it is also the first day for the academy itself.

I love this photo, because you can see the student's eyes and she is focused on the message from the speaker. She is giving her undivided attention and you can tell she is deep in thought about this new campus, new classmates and new possibilities.

I justified her to the left side of the photo so that she is looking across the photo. Over her shoulder, you can softly see other girls in the classroom doing the same activity, but their attention is not fixed on the presenter. While they are all dressed the same in their uniforms, you can catch a touch of personality in her colorful watchband.



That Accomplished Feeling

Canon EOS 80D with Canon EFS 18-135mm lens f/3.5, 1/100, ISO 1600

Graduations are the perfect storm for a photographer. You have the traditional regalia, purpose, emotion, movement and most importantly, a fixed program where you know where everyone will be and the direction they will face. There are countless predictable positions and a timeline that help you get the photos you need. However, when you are in the right place at the right time to capture a spontaneous reaction like the one shown in this photo, it is priceless.

The graduate above had just walked across the stage and I happened to be standing between him and his family as he returned to his seat and posed with his newly acquired diploma. The look on his face is sheer joy and relief that he had completed the mission. In an arena with more than 500 classmates and thousands of attendees, he wasn't afraid to show himself beaming with pride with his accomplishment.

This photo is a symbol of why we are all in public education. This captured moment is something that every teacher, from elementary to dual credit, should have pinned beside their desks. This is our why.

The image was recently utilized in the branding for Crowley ISD's College and Career Night. The marketing materials included 18x24 posters, 5x7 cards, event signage and web graphics.

collegeisfo

COLLEGE FAIR

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Crowley ISD College and Career Night Tuesday, Oct. 24 | 6-8 p.m.

EXPLORE CTE NIGHT

TRANSPORTATION



Planting A Future

Canon EOS 80D with Canon EFS 18-135mm lens f/6.3, 1/160, ISO 100

Our cover story for the <u>spring issue</u> of the district's magazine, *Crowley ISD Connections*, highlighted afterschool programs that gave students a chance to enjoy creative activities such as piano, robotics and gardening. The good news is the programs are free of charge, thanks to federal grant dollars.

This photo shows a fourth-grader holding a plant, preparing to embed it into the garden in front of the school. As the sun is shining on his face, you can see he is intently working to make his mark in the school garden. The contrast of rich colors and textures really help this image to pop off the screen.





I Know What You Can Be

Canon EOS 80D with Canon EFS 18-135mm lens f/5.0, 1/30, ISO 800

A connection. A starting point to a relationship. That's what teachers like Alma Hills look to build with their students from the first day of school. It's also a photographer's hope to capture a connection when they walk into a classroom.

The expression on Hills' face is a warm invitation for knowledge and wonder. It lets her student know that any question is welcomed. It tells her this classroom is a safe place for failure and a tremendous opportunity for growth. Hills is a tenured veteran that has seen almost every situation that could come in a classroom. She's unshakeable. Her quiet and humble confidence is something our students embrace and cling to when they get confused or frustrated.

In a short-term, impatient, microwavable world, Hills can look down a long road to see a bright future for her students. She knows they can be anything they put their mind to and it is beyond their wildest dreams. Every day, little by little, she pulls another layer back to reveal the possibilities.