

# Comics “R” EMHS: art club’s comic book for kids



**By Savannah Savage**  
*Memorial Staff Writer*

Memorial’s Art Club is constantly thinking of new ideas to better the community and incorporate the arts in everyday aspects of life. Using the Edmond Public School Foundation Grant, the Art Club was finally able to put these plans into action.

They constructed their graphic novel, “Comics ‘R’ EMHS”, within a four-month period and delivered the novels successfully. There were 1,800 copies distributed to approximately 15 schools, distributing one copy to each second grader in the Edmond Public Schools district.

“I think it’s absolutely fantastic because it will increase my son’s artistic talent and strengthen his overall writing and creativity skills,” said AP Language and English III teacher Regan Killackey who has a son in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

The novel fit perfectly into the category for understanding story telling through narrative art because of the characters emotional faces.

With Comic Life Software, Art Club member Jeremy Lebs, was able to create the comic book and leave the pages colorless, providing the 2nd graders with the option to color in the comics.

“I was able to design the graphic novel by taking everyone’s own comic and scanning them into the computer using the software, arranging the artwork so that everything would flow together nicely,” Lebs said.

The novel also includes empty dialogue bubbles associated with different character’s facial expressions that allow the young students to fill in the blanks and write a story based on the emotion they interpreted.

“What’s neat is that every child writes a different story and has the chance to be more expressive while learning,” art teacher Jime Wimmer said.

The featured artists were sophomores Jeremy Lebs, Amber Summers and Caitlin Gaither, as well as juniors Erin Hensley and Natalie Vorel, seniors Sarah Cronin, Kaolin Porter and Ladaryn Lockett, with graduates Salley Finnegan, Maya Perkins and Brad Robinson. Each artist was able to incorporate their own style and imagine different worlds for the young children receiving the books to explore.

“I really like to make art and I wanted to have something in the book to showcase what I could do,” junior Erin Hensley said. “I was really happy to see my name on the book.”

Because of how successful the comic book proved to be, the club plans on continuing to use this type of art media in the future.

