

Lena Smith's introduction to "Totally Failing Calculus" by Charlee Cate Cardot

"We are very excited to present our art selection, *Totally Failing Calculus*, by Charlee Cate Cardot. What drew us to this piece was its genuineness and playfulness. We loved the relatability of this piece, especially during the start of school and the stressful crunch to the release of progress reports. The little details in this piece like the calculator, Joan of Arc's eyeroll, the papers strewn on the floor in the background, and the note to see the teacher after class, stood out and emphasized the overall message, which for us, was about questioning why we learn and what we learn for. Do we learn for school or for life? I will hand it over to Charlee to share her process and reasoning."

Molly Caesar-Kim's Introduction to Kat Nelson's poem "Yellow"

"I want to introduce "Yellow" written by Kat Nelson, which is a beautiful, part poem, part personal manifesto illustration of how writing can hold so many different parts of a life at once. It moves through family, memory, and identity with a sense of humor and honesty that feels both intimate and universal.

What made this piece stand out is how it shows writing as more than just a skill and shows how it's more of a way of making sense of the world. For some, writing is a tool for reflection. For others, it's a way to claim space or hold on to a moment. This piece reminds us that a single voice can carry many layers.

What we also loved about this piece is that it speaks directly to our school's motto, "not just for school, but for life." It perfectly illustrates that writing isn't confined to an assignment or a classroom, but it's something we take with us, something that grows and changes as we do.

We all mentioned when discussing this piece how it reminded us of the magic of sitting down in front of an empty page and claiming it as your own, and our hope is that it encourages you all to reflect on what writing means to you — how it can be a space to explore, to claim your voice, or to simply create. And maybe, it'll even inspire you to create pieces of your own to submit to the next Dispatch...!

As you listen, notice how the tone moves between lightness and depth. That balance is what makes the piece feel alive, and what makes writing such a powerful way to tell our own stories."