



MORE THAN WORDS Lost in her music, senior Jamie Canales reads a magazine while listening o her favorite artist. Demi Lovato. "Demi's been my idol since eighth grade," Canales said. One of the main reasons I love her is because her music encourages me not to be afraid to embrace who I am. I also just really love the type of music she makes. I've been to two of her concerts, and both were mind-blowing.



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by eliana jaime & celeen atkins

ool water dripped down to the floor leaving a trail behind her as she walked across her cousin's now slippery living room tile. After wrapping herself in a warm towel, she noticed her cousin reading a comic book with the words "Superman vs. Batman" written on it. It immediately caught her attention. With a bit of whining and pleading, her cousin agreed to lend her the book as long as she took great care of it. After reading just a few pages, senior Alekka Hernandez was hooked.

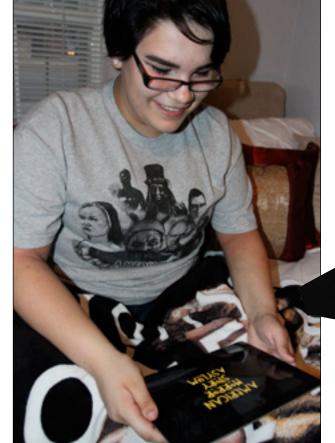
"It's been one of my dreams to go to Comic-Con since I first started reading comics in third grade,"Hernandez said. "I had heard that EPCON was coming up at the Marriott. EPCON is a little bit like Comic-Con but on a much smaller scale. After months of planning, it was finally the day of the actual event. I was speechless when I walked into the hotel. Everyone was playing games and dressed up as their favorite characters. My day was completely made with \$75 of new items from the merch table. It's a bummer that 2015 is the last year it'll happen."

Joining the mainstream circle is Korean popular music, or K-Pop. With unique music, fashion, and choreography, it is the second most popular music genre in the world and

continues to bring new culture into the U.S. "It caught my attention for the same reason a lot of teens like boy bands," freshman Jamile Flores said. "The boys are cute. Once I stopped 'fangirling' about their looks, I started listening to the music more regularly and ended up falling in love with it. My friends and I spend all of lunch watching music videos and learning the dances. We even started a club in school called K-Club, so we can find people who share the same love for K-Pop we do." Korean music culture has left a permanent mark in the lives of "fangirls." To keep a lasting memory from his travels, freshman Aaron Carranco collects a crystal everywhere he

visits.

heart."



14 student life

bread

I have to save everything...

"I have a ton of different things in my scrapbook. I like going back and looking through them to relive memories. Whenever I go see a good movie or a fun theme park, I save the tickets and put it in there."

amanda rosskopf-12

Listen to it, watch it, wear it, collect and obsess over it. It's a way to express yourself in a manner people might not understand. It's your thing, and you can't live without it.

> "Boba Fett isn't that much of a recurring character, but he's just such a cool bounty hunter. The first 'Star Wars' movie I saw was the fifth one when I was six years old. Since then, I've accumulated 'Star Wars' stuff." jonathan castro-12

"I was eight years old the first time I ever left town," Carranco said. "We went to a museum in Albuquerque, and I was in a gift shop looking for something I could take home. I ran into a cool looking crystal. After that, I started collecting them in different cities I visited. Each one came along with a different memory from the trip. My favorite has to be from the second Albuquerque trip. It reminds me of the last time I saw a lot of my friends. We were all going to different schools the next year. They'll always hold a special place in my

15