Merivale High School is the home of the OCDSB's Communication and Design FOCUS program.

Each year, in semester two, students wishing to take a concentrated semester of applied design courses come to Merivale to add to their skill set and build portfolios suitable for entry to post secondary animation, interactive multi-media, graphic design and photography programs.

The demanding summative FOCUS Yearbook project is a collation of the skills they learned during their semester at Merivale. Each student is responsible for a layout in the book that includes samples of their artwork and a reflective piece.

Students decide on a theme for their yearbook, and then are responsible for arranging props, costumes and lighting and taking a suitable portait that sustains the class theme which will be used in their two page spreads. These critical image making activities were supervised by Jaclyn Cañas.
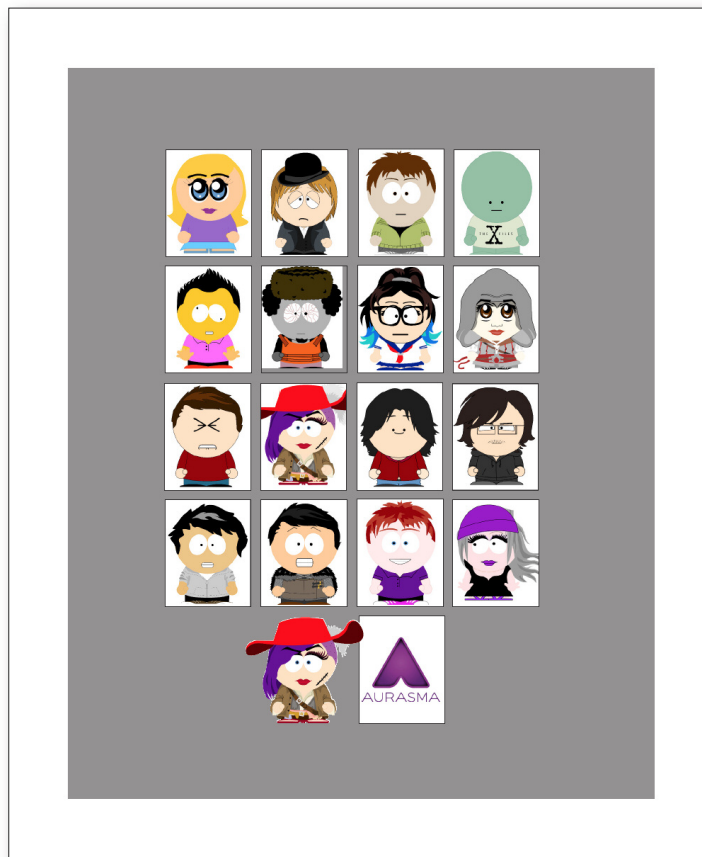
This year's project intoduced a new wrinkle to the traditional printed yearbook. FOCUS students prepared animated clips using Adobe Flash in Scott Hughes' class, and through the magic of *Aurasma,* made selected parts of their layouts interactive. The Aurasma App when installed on a smart phone, and held over live parts of the layout will sync with the internet and play a short movie.

The project is printed each year by OCDSB Print Services, and once again they did a great job.

The interactive component is in its infancy — but this is clearly a direction that print materials will be taking to sustain a younger demographic and to take advantage of Smart Phone technology to promote products and services.

Cudos to Scott and Jaclyn for directing this effort.

Irv Osterer
Department Head
Merivale Fine Arts

See and interact with our Focus yearbook in a **whole new way. We have embedded video projects directly into this year's book using the Aurasma app.** *Simply follow the directions below to make this year's book come to life!*

STEP 1: Users need to install the Aurasma app on their mobile device. *You do not need to create an account with Aurasma, simply install the app.*

STEP 2: Launch the Aurasma app.

STEP 3: Tap the Menu button (the small Aurasma symbol on the bottom – center of the screen).

STEP 4: Tap the Search button (magnifying glass icon) and search for an Account by name.

STEP 5: Enter the name **mhsfocus**

STEP 6: Tap the Account to see the detailed account page.

STEP 7: Tap Follow once you have reached the detailed account page.

STEP 8: Tap the viewfinder button to scan a trigger image and see the "Aura" in action. All character images, like the ones above, have videos linked to them. Some students have chosen to link other videos on their page. Scan the images to find out which ones and be pleasantly surprised

STEP 9: Enjoy! *For more info – www.aurasma.com/aura/*