

## TIPS TO TAKING A GOOD PICTURE

- With today's digital cameras, it's hard to take a bad picture as long as you're paying attention to: 1. The camera settings are what they should be; and 2. You're paying attention to your subject.
- Most cameras give you the option of using them on an auto setting, which means the camera does all the work, or you can use the manual setting, which means you set the camera's aperture and f stop so you get the picture you want.
- Some cameras allow you to set your camera on AUTO but you have the choice of either using auto focus or manual focus.
- If you're not comfortable with using special settings, it's best to leave your camera on AUTO. You can also get about the same results with your camera set on landscape.
- Crop in your camera before you take the picture. That will save you a lot of time in cropping during editing and give you a better quality photo to edit. If you're taking a picture of a group of people, zoom in shoulder to shoulder from the person on the left to the person on the right. When you get your final results, you will have 10 percent more in your picture than what you see when you look through the viewfinder or at the LCD.
- Also, when taking a group shot, be sure you can see everyone's face before you take the picture. If you have people in two rows, put shorter people in the front and taller ones in the back. Stagger the back row so they are standing between the shoulders of those in front of them, rather than directly behind them.
- Watch your light sources. When your camera is automatically set, it will meter on the lightest area in the viewfinder. That means that your subject may be too dark. You can compensate for that by being sure your subject is not standing in front of a light source or you can use the backlighting setting (sometimes called fill flash) on your camera. This forces your camera to use the flash when normally the flash wouldn't go off because the camera thinks there is enough light.
- Backlighting can be used to take pictures of people whose faces are shaded. If you're taking a picture out of doors, be sure the sun is behind you. It's not a good idea to take a picture when the sun is directly overhead.
- Fluorescent overhead lighting can produce poor lighting conditions because it casts the light on the heads of your subjects and leaves a shadow on their faces. But it's hard to compensate for fluorescent lighting except to be sure you are using flash and, if possible, use an auxiliary flash that will add more light.
- You don't have to put your subject directly in the center of the picture. There may be something in the background that you would also like in the picture. In that case, auto focus on your subject, gently hold the auto focus button down and move your camera so that the background will be seen as a background. Then take the picture.
- Digital cameras are improving when it comes to taking action shots. Some cameras will have a CONTINUOUS setting, so that, after you focus, you can push the button all the way down and it will take several shots, depending on what you have the camera set on.
- Be aware that with digital cameras there is a shutter lag between the time you push the button and the time the camera actually takes the picture. If you are buying a digital camera for the first time, research online and see which cameras have shorter shutter lag time than others. If you are taking pictures of your children or grandchildren and they're moving, they might just

possibly already be gone when your camera actually gets around to taking the picture. That's when you might want to consider a camera with the CONTINUOUS setting. The other option you have is to just keep taking pictures until you get the one you want. Remember: You can delete images you don't want when using a digital camera.

- Be aware of what's in the background before you take the picture. If it's a set up picture, choose a background that will be appropriate to whatever your subject is. Sometimes this is something you don't have any control over. With a high end editing program, you may be able to change the background if you don't like it.
- Redeye: If your camera has the redeye reduction, use it before you take the picture. If not, in the editing process use the redeye tool.
- Use the editing program that came with your camera, unless you want to buy a better program. These programs will allow you to make adjustments before you print your pictures. You can remove the red eyes, lighten faces, adjust the brightness and contrast, and you can crop if necessary. I always use my editing program, then burn my finished pictures to a disk and take them to a photo shop to have prints made.

## **Website**

### Outside of School System

<http://www.hardemancountyschools.org/technology/DigitalPhotography.html>

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