

The art of handwriting

Kevin Holten



What does your cursive handwriting look like? Is it good, bad or maybe nonexistent?

After all, for a time it was not being taught in schools. Instead, they prioritized keyboarding skills for our completely digital world. So, perhaps you don't even know what cursive writing is.

Which is too bad because, let's face it, handwriting is an art and one that everyone who attended grade school used to practice diligently.

Fact is, everyone's handwriting is unique and different, just like fingerprints, your ears and your walk. No one can write like you do, good or bad. And you can't write like anyone else unless forgery is your profession and then that's a completely different story.

I bring it up because my dad's handwriting might have been some of the best in the world, for whatever reason.

It was beautiful yet manly. Written with thick callused hands, not the soft hands of a college English teacher or an executive secretary.

His signature was like that of a physician yet legible. Like that of a president, yet more unique.

You'd think I might have inherited some of his artistry. After all, I majored in journalism, excelled in English class and I also majored in art. My handwriting should be exquisite and yet, it's horrible, I think, because my hand can't keep up with my impatient thoughts.

I've drawn cartoons since I was a grade-schooler, graduated to then producing line-drawings, paintings and doing graphic design. And yet, when it comes to handwriting

ing. Thus, had my father been around at the time, George Washington might have asked him to do the "engrossing" onto the parchment for that historical document that is now housed in the National Archives Museum in Washington, D.C.

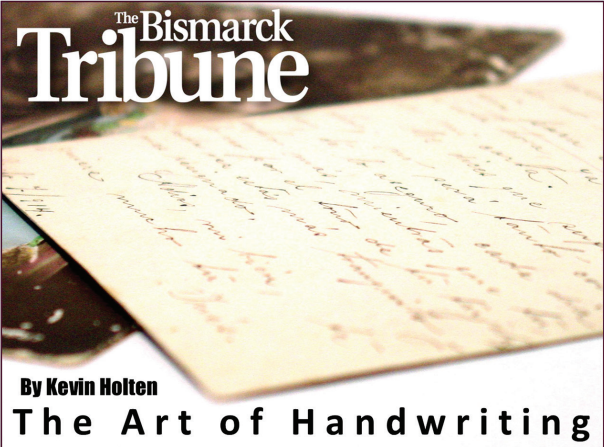
Of course, your handwriting style can indicate various personality traits, according to the field of graphology.

For example, large letters may suggest an outgoing personality, while small letters might point to an introverted nature. The slant of your writing might reveal your emotional expressiveness, with a right slant indicating openness and a left slant suggesting more reserve.

Wide spacing between words may indicate a need for freedom and a dislike of being crowded or overwhelmed. Narrow spacing may suggest that you don't like to be alone and may crowd people.

John Carter Cash, the son of country singers June Carter and Johnny Cash, said that seeing his father's handwriting put him in contact with the man his father was at each stage of his life.

As for my handwriting, it reminds me of writer Stewart Stafford who once said this: "If you dipped a spider in ink and then let it breakdance on a clean sheet of paper, you'd have a fair approximation of the state of my handwriting".



it's like my artistic gifts immediately go on vacation, completely fade away and render me sulen and puzzled.

For me, I thank God for keyboards. They've saved me. For my father, using a keyboard would have been a great injustice. Like a gold mine never being discovered or quitting a marathon race just before crossing the finish line.

In early America, government documents were produced through a combination of handwritten manuscripts and mass-produced printed materials.

Important documents like the Declaration of Independence were first "engrossed" by hand onto parchment for signing.

BLOOMS: Junior High Ag Week

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that hands-on environment while learning about all these different things. It's not all plows, cows and sows when it comes to agriculture."

New England FFA adviser Ben Krebs echoed those sentiments. His school brought 22 students to the event. "I thought it was a very good day, to be honest, and it's a good day for the younger kids to get exposure to different elements," he said. "It's good for the big kids, too, because they're the ones who put on most of the mini-sessions ... and it's a good leadership event for the older kids."

FFA officers and instructors from NEPS were on hand along with representatives from many other schools. Krebs added, "You get to meet other people and touch base with the other Ag teachers, and it's good for the kids to get to know the teachers from other towns. ... It's a good promotional day and kind of a recruitment day for the younger kids. It's for career exploration and a good excuse to get kids out of school to show them that school is more than just sitting in a classroom all day."

For more information about Belfield Public School and its activities, please continue reading the Billings County Pioneer and/or visit their website at www.belfield.k12.nd.us.



photos | Belfield Public School

During Junior High Ag Day at Belfield Public School on Friday, Nov. 14, area students were able to participate in educational sessions about food science and woodworking, among other offerings.

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