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Opposites attract: Spirit Week and Homecoming overview

STORY, PHOTO AND GRAPHICS: **JULIA LORELLI, SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROMOTIONS EDITOR**

Black and White, hot and cold, day and night are just a few examples of opposites that somehow make sense together. Whether it is barbeque dads versus soccer moms or western country versus country club, Spirit Week is all about opposites attracting. Student government has worked hard to make this week fun. Once they had the general theme of opposites attract, they asked the student body for their opinions. Out of the four options that were suggested, the two that the student body wanted the most were barbeque dads versus soccer moms one day and the other being country versus country club.

Spirit Week at Mercy is more than just dress according to this year's theme of opposites attract.

Yesterday was Make a Difference Day where for the first time in years, Mercy students and staff actually went out into communities to perform services.

In 2021, adviser groups talked about how they could make a difference. Some adviser groups actually did something to help, like Mrs. Kelly Muscat's advisor who wrote letters to women and children at a homeless shelter.

Yesterday after school was also the bonfire, which was one of the few normal Mercy traditions that the students had last year. Tomorrow is field day with one of the first perks for seniors: Senior Tailgate.

During Senior Tailgate, seniors get to school at 7 a.m. and get to bond. Senior Caroline Turco is excited to spend time with her classmates.

"I think it will be a super fun and enjoyable time for the whole senior class. It will be a great opportunity for us all to bond and start off our senior year with a sense of enthusiasm and unity," Turco said. "I can't wait to wear our matching senior shirts and celebrate together. I am also super thrilled to experience senior tailgate."

A week of free dress and school spirit is followed by the homecoming dance on Sunday, September 25.

Whether you have had a dress, date and plan for months or you are rushing around to put something together at the last minute, this homecoming dance will be the first regular school dance for the whole student body since COVID-19 changed everything.

When the first wave of COVID-19 hit, homecoming was not an option. In 2021, Mercy students got a homecoming dance that was outside and required masks, but it was shut down within the first 20 minutes. It was shut down due to students not following the behavior policies.

This homecoming will hopefully last longer than last year's and it is also eight days earlier.

Senior Olivia Martinez was one of the Mercy students that experienced last year's homecoming.

"I think homecoming pictures and the party

bus I took [last year] were all fun," Martinez said. "However, the dance was a total disaster. I think the dance will be better this year. I'm really looking forward to [the dance this year] because I am looking forward to dressing up and partying with my friends and everyone."

Students have different opinions on having an earlier homecoming this year. Freshman Kate Guerin is very excited about her first homecoming.

"I feel like everyone hypes it and everyone's talking about it. I've had school dances before but no one compares to homecoming," Guerin said. "I'm just excited. I think it's a good time to have the dance."

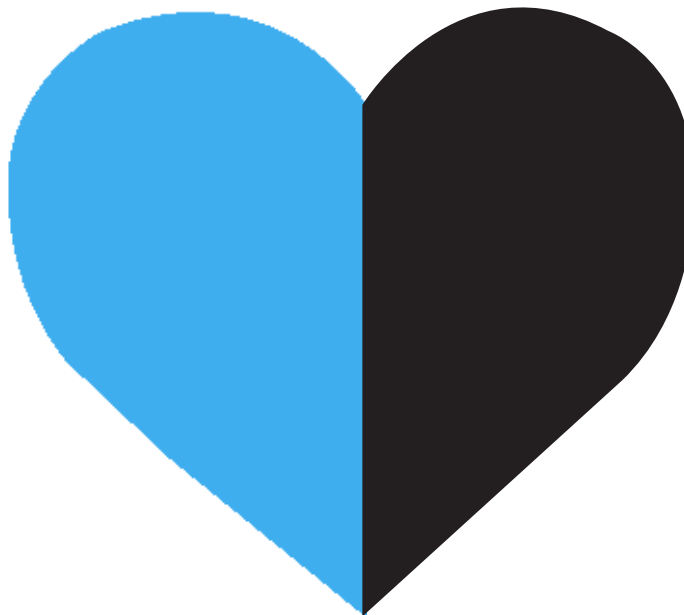
Even though junior Morgan Yono does not plan to go to homecoming, she also had something to say about the earlier date.

"I feel like a lot of schools are doing it later this year," Yono said. "But I don't really think the date matters, as long as it's late September or beginning of October."

This year's spirit week was one to remember, with it being the first normal one in years, if normal is even still a thing. This year's homecoming dance will be one to remember as the first normal high school dance for all grades.



Sophomores Evelyn Miller and Audrey Callaghan dress up for Grandparents Mass. Photo by Julia Lorelli.



Seniors Mia Leinhard and Veronica Fisher show off their country outfits. Photo by Julia Lorelli

Inflation: climbing prices during uncertain times

STORY, PHOTO AND GRAPHICS: MAURA SULLIVAN, ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Gas, groceries and Mercy cafeteria prices are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the effects of inflation in the United States. In June, the U.S. hit a 40-year annual high inflation rate of 9.1% and slowed to 8.5% by July, according to The Wall Street Journal. This change in pricing has had disastrous impacts on many U.S. citizens and can be seen in our everyday lives.

“Everyday shopping becomes difficult when the same grocery items suddenly cost so much more,” said Stephanie Rieder, mother of four. “Even using coupons or taking advantage of sales prices doesn’t seem to have to offset the increases.”

So what is inflation and what is driving these price increases now?

Inflation is a rise in prices over a period of time, which leads to a decrease in purchasing power (Investopedia). This price increase means that a unit of currency will buy less than it did in previous times. Although complicated, there are some reasons why inflation has become so prevalent in our current economy.

One reason is strong demand. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, households have gained savings as they were stuck at home, and also have received some savings from government stimulus and support, enabling them to spend more on all types of products.

Further, since the start of the pandemic there has been a decrease in supply due to shutdowns, reduced production and supply chain disruptions. Therefore, the upward pressures on demand and downward pressures on supply create an imbalance, resulting in higher prices and consumers experience these cost pressures throughout their purchasing activities.

“No one is happy about inflation, and, unfortunately, all of our customers are feeling it,” said Mac Overton, General Manager for a

local industrial company. “We hate to be forced to increase prices, but [our customers] have been surprisingly understanding because it is happening everywhere!”

Overton also attributes labor costs to the ongoing price increases.

“We don’t see prices dropping quickly,” said Overton. “Fuel prices can decrease relatively quickly, but the cost of labor does not decrease, once you give a raise it does not usually go down.”

And Overton’s business is not alone. The U.S. added 528,000 jobs in July, setting payrolls beyond their pre-pandemic levels. The jobless rate is 3.5%, matching the lowest rate in more than 50 years, according to Forbes Advisor. This high worker demand is increasing wages, and the increased labor costs cause employers to raise prices. Unfortunately, the increase in wages is not always enough to offset the increase in prices.

What can be done to alleviate the cost pressures in the U.S.?

In order to combat these inflationary pressures, the Federal Reserve must tighten monetary policy and slow demand in order to slow inflation without bringing the U.S. into a recession. Federal officials lifted interest rates in both June and July, and are considering a further increase. Therefore, as the Federal Reserve continues adjusting monetary policy to curb inflation, there is hope. In fact, the drop in annual inflation rates from 9.1% in June to 8.5% in July, though still very high, brings hope that inflation may have peaked and may signal an economic turning point. However, in the near term, the price increases will continue to impact consumers.

“Prices are up all over the place and they will stay relatively high for a while,” said Overton. “You can try to wait for prices to drop to make purchases, but, unfortunately, you might be waiting for a while!”

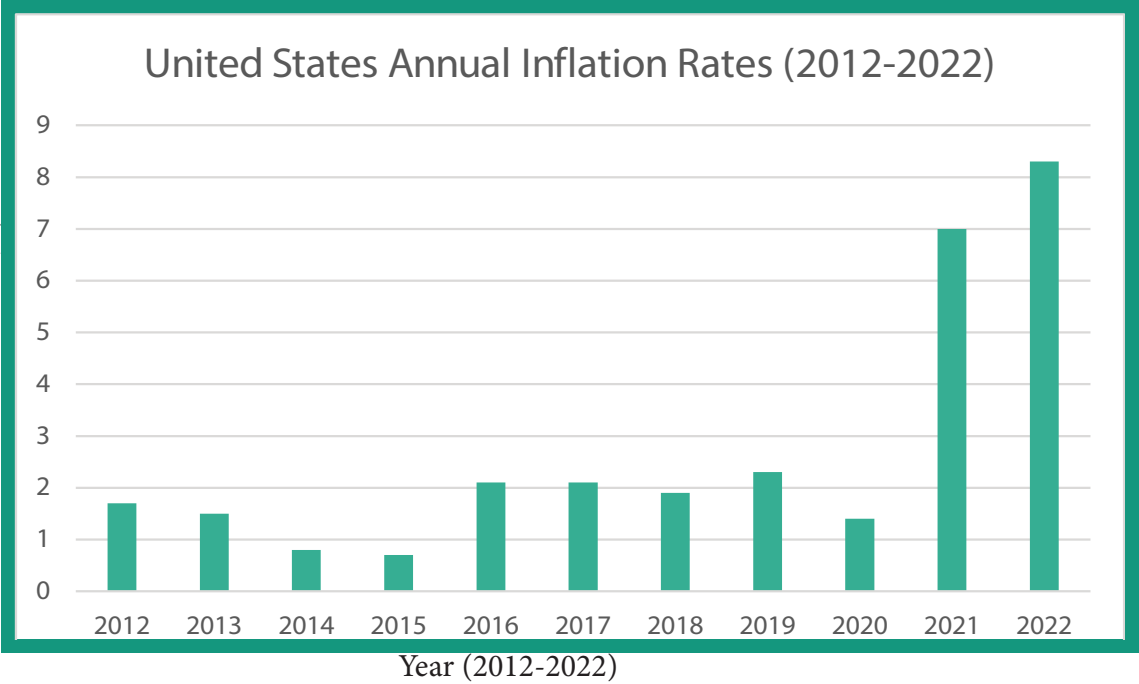
The Mercy Perspective



As a restaurant server at Novella’s Pizza in downtown Milford, senior Katie Leuker faced inflation related issues first hand. “The raised prices in good quality ingredients meant that we had to raise our prices to account for the extra spending,” said Leuker. “It made less people come in and a lot of people would get angry with me because of the high price, but I had no control over it. Everything is more expensive now.”



Junior Bella Stansell has faced many challenges due to the inflation issue. “I have run into issues involving gas prices most often,” said Stansell. “Between school, practice, hanging out with friends and driving my sister around, gas adds up really fast, especially with the increased prices.”



*According to U.S. Inflation Calculator there was a huge jump from 1.4% inflation to 7.0% inflation between 2020 and 2021. That is a 5.6% change in only one years’ difference.

Changes at Mercy

STORY AND PHOTOS: LENA LAJOY

On the first day of school, junior Alexis Rounds entered her first hour class, assuming nothing had changed. When she came into her class, looking to her right, she noticed the phone cubby which had not been there the previous year, and knew things would be different.

With this current school year at Mercy, policies related to phones have become more strict, and prices in the cafe have risen. In some classrooms, teachers have begun using phone cubbies for class. To truly understand this policy, it is important to look at both the positive and negative impacts.

In many classrooms teachers are beginning to use a cubby system for phones to prevent cell phone distractions during class.

"I believe the phone rules have a bigger negative impact on the students because it is not teaching them how to be responsible with their phones," said junior Katelyn Cronan.



Junior Maddie Raetz places her phone in her 1st hour phone cubby to avoid using it during her class. Photo by Lena LaJoy.

While the phone cubbies can be viewed as unnecessary, they do pose a possible solution to phone use during class. Phone cubbies force students to put their phones away, so teachers can ensure students are not distracted during class.

"The purpose of changes to the policy are to allow the focus to be on key areas where learning takes place and prohibit the use of cell phones as a distraction," said Mrs. Eleasha Tarplin, the Dean of Student Affairs.

Although it may feel like these policies related to phones are new, they are not. There are only slight differences between the old policy and the newly edited version. While these policies may not be new, due to COVID-19 the policies have not been as strictly enforced.

"Last year was a bit of a free for all when it came to policies in general. While the same policies were in place, enforcement was not consistent," said Tarplin.

The last couple of years, certain policies at Mercy have been less strictly upheld because of COVID-19. Due to this, there were some inconsistencies between teachers and students towards following policies.

"What I think more recently has been frustrating for teachers but also everyone at the school is some confusion about what is allowed, who is allowing what and that some of the things being permitted maybe aren't supporting the administration's policy," said Mrs. Patricia Perry.

With the policies being more strictly followed this school year, feelings of both teachers and students should be discussed to create a better school environment.

"Personally I think it's unnecessary, I guess I don't really mind doing it, but it would just be easier to keep it in my backpack," said junior Natia Szuba. "Then I don't risk forgetting it in the classroom."

On a different note relating to the topic of phones in adviser group, both the old and revised policies say that phones are prohibited during this time. As a community, we must adapt to these policies revolving around phones. By viewing both aspects of the policies, students and staff at Mercy can get an idea of why these policies are in place, and the effects of the policies.

At the end of day, no longer do students only have to worry about making it out of the parking lot, or signing out of their adviser. On her way out of class, Rounds has to ensure the phone cubby is empty, so as to avoid leaving her phone in class for the night.

At Mercy, the cafe is an important place for both students and staff which provides everyone with lunch, snacks, and sweet treats throughout the day. Because of this, the new prices in the cafe can be a hardship for students who need food, but cannot spend extra money on it. To get a better understanding of why the prices have changed and how people are affected, the pros and cons must be taken into consideration.

"I wish the cafe prices weren't so high because I think a lot more students would choose to buy lunch," said Cronan.

The prices could potentially lead to a smaller amount of students spending money in the cafe. Despite this possibility, students at Mercy still love the cafe.



Senior Reagan Sullivan scans her lunch card in the cafe. Photo by Lena LaJoy.

"It's unfortunate, but the food is very yummy and convenient so it doesn't affect my purchasing frequency," said senior Megan Mato.

Before rushing to other food options besides the cafe, it must be taken into account why the prices have gone higher. Which, partly, is due to remaining effects from COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, resulting in food shortages.

"One example we have faced at Mercy is the rise of a 20 pound case of chicken breast from \$75 in the fall of 2021, to its current price of \$120," said Mrs. Anne Hallberg Mercy Cafe Director.

Due to the situations which led to the shortages, it is unlikely at the moment that the prices could go back down. Yet, in the future, a possible solution could be reached, and the prices could still revert.

"I think this will negatively impact the school because more students will bring lunch from home or just not eat during the day," Cronan said.

This could potentially cause problems if students feel the need to not eat because of this price increase. Also, if less students are buying from the cafe, there might be less money going into buying the products needed to make the food which could potentially result in the prices rising more. In the end, both the pros and cons are important to hear, and could inform individuals about certain aspects they may not have considered.

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Dive into diversity: Hispanic Heritage Month

STORY AND GRAPHICS: ALYSSA TISCH, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated in the United States from September 15 to October 15. This is a time to honor the culture and history of Hispanic people and their impact on the United States. This year, the 2022 Hispanic Heritage Month Observance Theme is “Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation” where the goal is to emphasize the importance of both diversity and inclusivity.

Ms. Traci Smith, director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Mercy, talked about the importance of recognizing this month at our school.

“This celebration is also important as a Mercy school because we are an international organization with Hispanic staff, educators, students and alums at our schools,” Smith said.

This celebration of Hispanic culture originated in 1968 when the idea of having an Hispanic Heritage Week was initially brought forth by Californian Congressman George E. Brown. As a result of his suggestion, on September 17, 1968, Congress passed Public Law 90-48 which both authorized and requested the president to issue annual proclamations declaring September 15 and 16 as the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Week. Then, in 1988, Senator Paul Simon submitted a bill to expand this celebration from a week to a month. This bill passed in Congress and was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on August 17, 1988. President George H.W. Bush declared this as a national holiday one year later, on September 14, 1989 (history.com).

Additionally, September is full of historically significant dates for many Hispanic countries, making it a fitting time for this celebration. For instance, September 15 is an important date as it is the day of independence for many Hispanic countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Furthermore on September 16, Mexico celebrates their day of independence and as does Chile on September 18 (Library of Congress Hispanic Heritage site).

Over the years the Hispanic population of Michigan has grown from 4.4% of the population in 2010 to 5.6% of the population in 2020 (Visit Detroit). In Southwest Detroit specifically, there is a high percentage of Hispanic people. One good way to celebrate this month would be to support the local Hispanic owned businesses in that area. With a wide range of different businesses open, one could do a variety of things: get furniture at Danto Furniture Detroit, buy ingredients for dinner at Honey Bee Market or simply get dinner at Armando’s Mexican Restaurant (Visit Detroit).

Not only that, but there are also a variety of events one could attend for Hispanic Heritage Month.

On October 14 at the Ford Experience Center from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., Ford is holding their 30th Anniversary Hispanic Heritage event. It costs \$35 to enter and while there they provide heavy appetizers, a cash bar, entertainment, awards, dessert, dancing and a celebration of Hispanic and Latino employees and communities (eventbrite).

Additionally, for \$15, one could attend Sabores y Sazones de América Latina...Flavors & Seasonings of Latin America at Oakland Community College on October 13 from 11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m. There, they will be honoring the month by serving a lunch buffet featuring cuisine from a variety of Latin/Hispanic countries. (eventbrite). This is perfect timing as coincidentally Mercy has an 11:30 dismissal this day meaning that students could go to a part of this!

One other opportunity is at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA). From September 24 to November 6 they have an exhibit called Ofrendas: Celebrating el Día de Muertos 2022 available. At this exhibit one can view many different ofrenda altars and learn about the Day of the Dead. (Detroit Institute of Arts)

If one does not have the chance to go anywhere to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month, however, there are still a lot of things possible to do from home. Spanish teacher Profesora Stacy Guerrero gave her take on celebrating this month.

“I would just encourage students that want to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month to do so in an authentic way. If you have friends in the Hispanic or Latinx community, talk with them about their culture and experiences,” Guerrero said. “And just educate yourself more about the Hispanic population in the US- the struggles they have faced and continue to face, and the amazing contributions they have made to our society because at the end of the day that is what Hispanic Heritage Month is about!”

Guerrero herself comes from Mexican origins. Her grandfather on her father’s side emigrated from Mexico to the United States in 1920, her father lived in Mexico for a period and her grandmother is also Mexican-American.

Around ten years ago Guerrero visited her aunt in Mexico City and remembers noticing several differences between the United States and Mexico.

“She got her water delivered to her everyday; you can’t actually drink the water that comes out of the faucets,” Guerrero said. “So anytime you want to drink or cook something, you have to get the water weekly. Also, they picked up the trash with donkeys because she lives in such a small town. But it was a long time ago so it could be different now.”

Learning about cultural differences like this is a great way to recognize this month.

In Guerrero’s classes, specifically her AP Spanish class, she is really putting a spotlight on this month. Her AP Spanish class is going to be completing a presentation on different significant Hispanic people, a music bracket of their favorite songs from different Spanish speaking countries and more!

Whether going out to different events or stores or staying home, reflecting and learning, Newsprint encourages you to honor Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrate our diversity.



Concert crazy

STORY: HELENA NAJAR

Right lights, crowds swarming with fans, you make your way to the seats and get a view of the stage, it’s perfect. Tonight is the biggest concert of the year and you do not want to miss it.

From indie concerts at The Fillmore to mainstream musicians playing at Ford Field, the Mercy community made it a mission to see all their favorite artists this summer.

Ex-Disney heartthrob Ross Lynch along with his brother Rocky performed as *The Driver Era* at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on August 9. Junior Ana Spanopoulos attended the show and spoke highly of her time at the concert.

“I went to *The Driver Era* and it was a great experience,” Spanopoulos said. “I didn’t have to wait outside for that long; I was in line for five hours and I got third row.”

Five hours might seem like a long time. But the chance to sing your favorite songs with your best friends can feel like five mere minutes. Waiting also did not stop senior Bella D’Orazio from having a blast at The Weeknd’s concert at Ford Field on July 27.

“I thought it was a little ridiculous how he didn’t come on stage until 4 hours after the concert started,” D’Orazio said. “But it was a cool concert, I haven’t been able to listen to his music the same [way] since the concert.”

Students were not the only members of the Mercy community rocking out to their favorite songs, even teachers joined the concert craze. Last year, Latin teacher Mrs. Lauren Marquard was given tickets to the Pitbull concert at Pine Knob Music Theatre on August 31 by her AP Latin class.

“This is something I never would have gone to on my own, not that I don’t like Pitbull but it was just not something I would have expected to do and it was so much fun,” Marquard said.

If you were unable to attend any concerts over the summer, don’t worry because artists from all over the world will be stopping in Detroit throughout the month of October.

Jet set

STORY: HELENA NAJAR

To most people summer only means one thing, no school, but it is also the main time of the year for travel. Traveling is one of the most important ways to immerse yourself in the cultures of others. These experiences can never be duplicated. Junior Bethany Klueg spent this summer traveling abroad to visit her family in the Philippines on Negros Island. Getting to the Philippines is not an easy journey, Klueg and her family took three connecting flights to arrive in the Philippines.

“We flew to Tokyo first, and then took another flight to Manila, the main island, then we took another flight to Negros Island,” Klueg said.

The three flights Klueg and her family took totaled 18 hours, which caused Klueg to have very serious jet lag.

“I was up for a good 25 hours, my first all-nighter,” Klueg said.

The Philippines is very different compared to America. Klueg lived in Mombasa, Kenya for 4 years of her life and says that her time in the Philippines was very reminiscent of her time in Africa.



This sea turtle says “Hello” to junior Bethany Klueg while snorkeling in the Philippines. Photo courtesy of Bethany Klueg.

Some upcoming concerts to watch out for include:

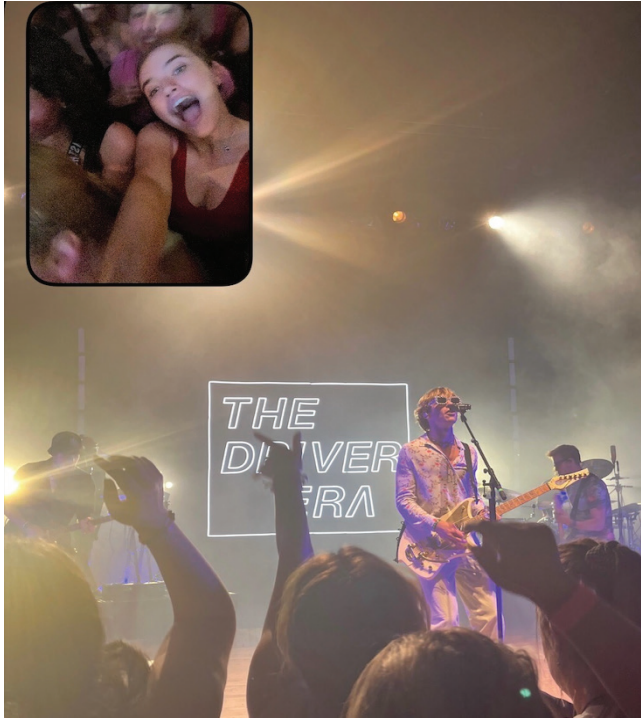
Post Malone: October 1 at Little Caesars Arena

Jack Harlow: October 2 at the Fox Theatre

Steve Lacy: October 6 at the Fillmore Detroit

Lizzo: October 6 at Little Caesars Arena

The Killers: October 8 at Little Caesars Arena



Junior Ana Spanopoulos snaps her BeReal while at *The Driver Era* concert. Photo courtesy of Ana Spanopoulos.

“It is very busy, the streets are small, people are always walking and there are always small shops on the sides of the streets,” Klueg said.

The language barrier between English speakers and the Ilonggo speakers was at times hard for Klueg and her family to overcome.

“The language was different, so it was harder to understand what they were saying,” Klueg said.

While staying at her grandparents’ house, Klueg often went to the beach and even rode on a fishing boat to try fresh seafood. She also took a short trip to Apo Island where she had the opportunity to swim with sea turtles.

“The island is famous for its sea turtles and snorkeling and scuba diving,” Klueg said. “We did that and it was very fun.”

Klueg has family members that live in the Philippines. In fact, her maternal grandmother is Filipino. While there, she was able to learn more about her family culture and their traditions.

“While we were there we learned a traditional dance called Tinikling,” said Klueg.

Klueg last visited in 2010 and returning back this past summer was very nostalgic. Klueg hopes to return back to the Philippines, not only because it was an exciting experience but also because she has the opportunity to learn more about her culture.

Senior Jaye McNeil also took a major trip this summer. Along with her fellow Mercy classmates as well as students from Brother Rice and U of D Jesuit, McNeil went to Alicante, Spain. Alicante is a culture rich city giving the opportunity to learn so much. While she was there, McNeil greatly improved her Spanish speaking skills and immersed herself in the people and community of Alicante.

“People were really family and community focused and everyone was very friendly,” McNeil said.

On the Spanish trip, Jaye McNeil was accompanied by Mrs. Kelly Bickes who is well versed in Spanish culture and language. From the beautiful landscapes to the welcoming people, Bickes greatly appreciates being able to attend the Spanish trip with her students.

“I have been to Spain several times, my first being in 1998. I enjoy everything Spain and look forward to going again this summer!” Bickes said.

How to achieve success this school year: Mercy edition

STORY: MAURA MCSWEENEY

As we approach the end of September, we have been in school for almost a month and have started to adjust to getting back into the flow of school. From balancing extracurriculars and classes to studying numerous subjects, achieving success is no easy feat. In an attempt to help all of you succeed at Mercy, Newsprint has collected a few helpful tips from students currently attending the school and outside sources.

One of the biggest recommendations from any student is to use online resources to help with studying and mastering materials. When asked about how she studies, junior Alexis Rounds emphasized the importance of the use of study tools found online. Among the most popular resources are Quizlet, Kahoot, YouTube and Khan Academy for STEM subjects.

“I make quizlets for any class, no matter what the subject is, of just important topics or anything I feel

that I haven’t mastered until I can memorize,” Rounds said. “I also [watch] videos on YouTube, anything that you can find that can help you with topics that you’re struggling with to help study.”

Even with all of the online resources you can use, success is ultimately achieved through hard work, finding what works for you and managing your time wisely. Time management may look different for every Mercy student because everyone has a unique schedule, but one of the most important ways you can do well is by staying organized and up to date, according to senior Angelina Hamati.

“For time management, the main thing to stay on track is to keep up with notes and fix any gaps in your knowledge as you go instead of waiting until the test or assessment to gain mastery,” Hamati said.

Oftentimes, people forget about one of the basic contributing factors to one’s success: self-care. From getting enough sleep to eating healthy and exercising,

these small habits highly affect your performance inside and outside of school. Now the common rebuttal to this statement is that everyone has too much homework to get an adequate amount of sleep. While some days people do have mountains of homework, a lot of it comes back to time management. According to an article by mydegreeguide.com, you should “put away your phone and computer while studying, or at least block your social media apps.”

Success may have a different meaning to every Mercy student reading this and the means of achieving this success may look different too. As we work hard and focus on our goals, make sure to take it one day at a time because we’re all in this together.

Check out our
September Spotify
Playlist!



Open Spotify
and scan the
code!

September Photo Recap



Rocking and rolling into the new school year, Mercy Link Crew’s Purple Crew tours the school and enjoys the Freshmen Orientation, introducing the new students to the sisterhood. Photo used with permission from Mrs. Trish Brown.



Cheering on the volleyball team, Mercy students gather on the Marian bleachers to show some school spirit as Mercy volleyball faces one of their biggest rivals, Marian. Photo used with permission from the Mercy Fish Bowl Instagram.



Dr. Cheryl Kreger congratulates Mercy’s Performing Arts Department for winning the rights to perform “Disney’s Frozen: The Broadway Musical”. Photo used with permission from Helena Najjar.