



# Hello Summer!



Newsprint recaps the events of this past year  
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# JUNIOR EDITION

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### Mercy Newsprint Editorial Policy:

As Mercy Newsprint staff we promise to keep you entertained and informed with accurate and unbiased information. Our goal is to provide timely news while promoting diversity and representing the entirety of the Mercy community. We encourage letters to the editors and any other feedback you may have. You may reach out to us through our email ([newsprint@mhsmi.org](mailto:newsprint@mhsmi.org)), our Instagram (@[mercy.newsprint](https://www.instagram.com/mercy.newsprint)), or through any of our staff members.

# Summer sun or summer employment?

STORY: TESS O'DONNELL

The final bell rings. Everyone cheers as they rush out of their classrooms and into the overcrowded hallway; all pushing for the exit as hugs are exchanged, friends call to each other, and assignments are thrown away in trash cans upon passing. The doors are pushed open as students step into the bright sun and warm air, a weight lifted off their shoulders, they feel their responsibilities melting away. Well, not all of their responsibilities. Or, it is possibly more accurate to say that they are trading old responsibilities for new ones.

This scene probably sounds familiar to any reader who is or once was a student. Feeling freedom as school is let out and summer begins is not an uncommon emotion. But for many, summer marks the beginning of jobs and internships. While some of these jobs might be fun and some of these internships might be useful for college applications, what they all have in common is a new opportunity for Mercy girls to earn money, learn skills, and develop connections in a non-school setting.

While some students might work during the school year, summer is a prime time to make money through employment and obtain experience through internships.

There are a number of reasons students may choose to work during the summer: money, curing boredom, doing something fun.

"I like working during the summer because there is more time and more activities you can do with the kids, like going swimming, playing with chalk, and playing outside," Maizy Borys, a current junior who works as a

babysitter, said.

Not all Mercy girls pursue jobs during the summer that directly relate to their intended career path, but the skills necessary for seemingly unrelated jobs can help them in the future.

"Because of my job and what I do, I work with people a lot," Rayleigh Banka, a current junior who works at Elk Rapids Harbor, said. "And, I want to go into the medical field and there is definitely a customer service aspect to that. You have to help your customers like you have to help and listen to your patients."

Working during the summer also gives students structure in their days and allows them to fall into a healthy schedule during a time when it is natural to want to sleep in and stay up too late without the routine of school days.

The variety of jobs filled by Mercy students, from ice cream workers to golf course employees to restaurant servers, perfectly demonstrate the variety of different skills, opinions, and interests of the Mercy community as a whole; Mercy girls are using their education and work ethic to help the communities where they live.

Summer is a great time to work, and some Mercy girls use summer as a time to get an internship. Internships are when a student works in a certain organization or office to gain work experience within that specific field. Internships can be very helpful when trying to test out potential career paths, gaining knowledge within a certain field, or helping to

create connections with professionals already working in an intended field of study.

Maggie Neumann, a current junior, has an internship this summer at a dental office to learn more about her intended career path, orthodontia.

"I learned about it (the internship) through my dentist office and I talked to the lead dentist there and he was really supportive of it," Neumann said.

"I think by working at the dentist office I will know a lot more practices and I think it would be able to help me with college. I will just follow a dental assistant around and they are going to talk through the processes and what they are doing and I will probably help them set up for whatever they have to do; either cavity fillings or cleanings."

Other Mercy students have also pursued internships to help them in the future.

"I will be shadowing an optometrist at Henry Ford Optometry Center," Aniba Raza, a current sophomore, said. "I am specifically interested in optometry so I am hoping this will help me."

Whether Mercy girls are pursuing standard teenage employment or a professional internship this summer, they are sure to have a productive and educational break before school returns on August 21—utilizing their time off to grow their bank accounts, skills, and connections to better themselves and their futures.



Mercy junior Evelyn Miller spends her summer as a softball coach and instructor at Legacy Center in Brighton. She spends her time coaching kids and helping them develop their skills on the pitch. Photo courtesy Evelyn Miller



Rayleigh Banka, Mercy junior, works at Elk Rapids Harbor in Elk Rapids. She works on the docks all day on the water, filling up boats with gas, catching boats at the slip, and helping people on and off the dock. She spends her summer living Up North, so the harbor job is the most convenient for her. Photo courtesy of Rayleigh Banka.



Stella Coe, a current Mercy sophomore, works during the school year and the summer at Siegel's Deli (pictured above) in Commerce Charter Township. Coe works as a waitress, improving her communication skills and giving herself a chance to improve her connections within her community. Photo courtesy of Stella Coe.

# A year in full bloom: 2023-2024 at Mercy

GRAPHICS: MEGAN SULLIVAN

October  
**Halloween**



February  
**BHM  
Assembly**



April  
**Spring  
Sports**



May  
**Senior  
Activities**

September  
**Spirit Week**



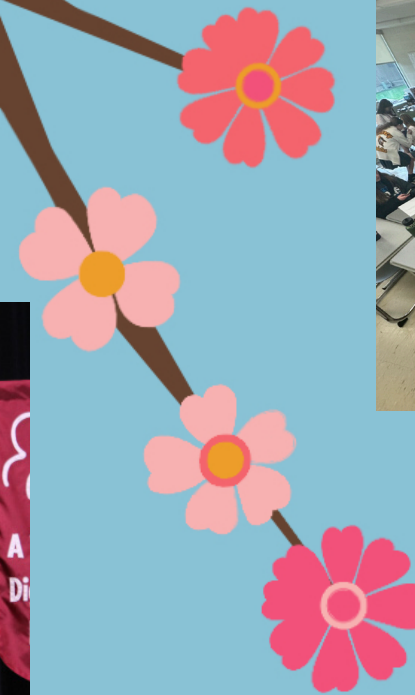
November  
**State Champs**



December  
**A-Ball**



March  
**Heart of  
Mercy**



# Mercy says farewell to long-time staff

STORY: REESE KIZY PHOTOS: MERCY LORE

## Chef Mike:

This year was the last for the beloved chef at the Mercy Caf. Chef Mike has been at Mercy for 12 years. He plans on retiring after the school year, and spending time with his wife, traveling and relaxing. He is eager to have more down time, but sad to be leaving this place in which he has cooked for many years.

"I will really miss his food from the caf and he was always super nice. You could tell he really cared about the students and balance when it comes to food," junior Maizy Borys said.

## What are you most excited for in your next endeavors?

"I'm excited to be with my wife more, as she has been retired for 4 years now," Chef Mike said. "There is more on the horizon that I am not sure of yet, so I'm also very excited for that."

## What will you miss most about Mercy?

"The students," Chef Mike said. He adds that the liveliness and goodness of the student body is what has made him stay for so many years.

"I was only planning on staying for one year, but I ended up staying for twelve because of the students I get to serve everyday," Chef Mike said.

## What is the most valuable thing you learned from Mercy?



In response to this question, he immediately remarked that he has learned an immense amount from both the students, and Mercy's environment in general.

"I think our future is very bright, based on the excellence and diligence that I see from the students," Chef Mike said. "I also learned a lot more about cooking than I ever thought."

"I will miss Chef Mike so much!" junior Jenna Matigian said.

## Mrs. Tarplin:

One of the primary forces behind all that goes on at our school, Dean of Students Mrs. Eleasha Tarplin, will be leaving Mercy after this year. She has worked at Mercy for 17 years. She looks forward to slowing down immediately after leaving Mercy and spending more down time with her husband.

"Eventually, I will move into a position I do not yet know, at Alabama A&M University," Tarplin said. "I am excited to move into working in higher education and at an HBCU."

Although she is excited for what the future holds, she thinks that acclimating in a new place without friends and family will be the most challenging part.

"I really admired her relationship with her students," sophomore Sydney Brooks said. "She was always professional, but she was so compassionate and nice."

"She is unintentionally funny and brings happiness to everyone she talks to," Grayce Green said.

## What are you most excited for in your next endeavors?

"I want to work at Bucees after I am settled into my new home in Huntsville, Alabama. That will give me time to chill, until I am ready to move back into a full-time position," Tarplin said.

"I am extremely excited for the warm weather. Overall, I cannot wait for this new chapter of my life," Tarplin said.

## What will you miss most about Mercy?

"I will miss the all-female environment because it is so empowering to be around," Tarplin said.

## What is the most valuable thing you learned from Mercy?

"I learned how much a work environment can truly feel like a family," Tarplin said. "Even more, I was honored when I won Heart of Mercy. That meant so much to me, and I think it helped me strive to not be so hard on myself all the time."



## Mr. Morgan:

Mr. Steve Morgan has been a teacher at Mercy for 20 years and a staple in the Mercy English department. After leaving this position that he has treasured, he will take on a new job, but he is still debating between two career options.

"I am going to have to work to understand the specifics and all the things that my new position will offer. I have been so lucky to be surrounded by comfortable people and standards here, so it will be quite a change for me," Morgan said.

He explains that he is excited for the newness in his life, but sad to leave Mercy.

"I will miss our time in advisor group and when he brings in food when he thinks we seem sad," junior Evelyn Doneth said.

"I will miss Mr. Morgan because he would send us really nice and encouraging Schoology messages, and you could really tell he cares about his students," junior Grace de Klerk said.

## What are you most excited for in your next endeavors?

"I'm excited to delve into the unknown," Morgan said. "I have been here so long and I am very used to this place, so I am looking forward to things I have never experienced before."

## What will you miss most about Mercy?

"That's easy. The students," Morgan said.

## What is the most valuable thing you learned from Mercy?

"There is not just one thing I have learned. Each year I learn so much from my students," Morgan said. "If I had to choose one, among many, of my fondest memories, it would be winning teacher of the year," Morgan said.



# Mercy Girls are ready for summer!

STORY AND GRAPHIC: ANEESA SYED

As summer break draws near, Mercy girls are gearing up for a season of fun, exploration, and relaxation. Some plan to take a weekend road trip, while others are making a to-do list for their international getaway.

"Summer is about to summer," says Junior Rayna Salazar. "I'm so excited to travel and just be free for my last high school summer!"

Summer is definitely going to summer, so we asked a handful of mercy girls where they plan to take a vacation. Majority responded with taking a trip to Florida, while senior Zoé Vlahadamis plans to go back and visit her roots in Greece.

"I'm flying out there this summer with a few of my friends from church, and we're going to a camp there for the first time," senior Zoé Vlahadamis said. "It's called Ionian Village and it's a

Greek Orthodox camp where we stay there for twenty days with no phone and connect with our faith to see sights and meet new people from different parts of the world. Lots of kids from New York City go and I'm really excited to go and see the churches and Saints and to make special memories with my close friends in another country."

Talking about an international trip, students from the Latin classes traveled to Europe, where they experienced the breathtaking views of Rome and Greece.

"It was really cool how we walked around and explored all of the cities there," Junior Tori Hunter said.

Some girls are even taking the theme park route and revisiting Walt Disney World again, where there will be thousands of

Where are you going for summer break?  
Some Mercy Girls said...

- 1) Greece
- 2) Ana Maria, Florida
- 3) Cedar Point
- 4) Italy
- 5) Walt Disney World

families arriving in Orlando to explore all four parks, enjoy the food, and most importantly go on the rides. For a more thrilling experience, some plan to go to Universal Studios, where the atmosphere is much more daring and explores more of the Pixar, Harry Potter, and Star Wars theme parks and franchises.

"I've been to Disney World and it was so fun. I thought it was really cool how they built all of the rides, and the food is really good at Epcot!" Sophomore Ainsley Henderson said.

Cedar point in Sanusky, Ohio is another popular place.

Among all of the rides those who have been to the park state that their favorite ride is the Millennium Force. It's a steel coaster with 6,595 feet to its it's name. It's called a millennium Force for a reason, too: it includes roughly 310 foot hills and is followed by a 300 foot drop.

Those who don't plan to take an out-of-state vacation travel to different parts of Michigan, like Saugatuck or Traverse City. Saugatuck is a small town with a few hidden gems such as small cottages, family-owned businesses and something of everyone may know of: the Saugatuck chain ferry. It is the last hand-cranked chain ferry of its kind in operation in the United States, and it connects you from downtown Saugatuck to Mount Baldhead Park and Oval Beach. Speaking of Oval Beach, this attraction does so happen to be a destination for some. It has an incredible view and offers multiple spots to take pictures, relax, and even collect unique rocks.

Emma O'Donnell plans to take a trip back to one of her favorite destinations: Ana Maria Island in Florida.

"I love Ana Maria Island so much because of how walkable it is. Also, the small businesses there and the weather make it feel like a comfortable home away from home," she said.

Overall, Mercy girls are ecstatic to go on different vacations over summer break spanning all across the globe. We can't wait to make this summer count!

# Mercy High School keeps the thermometer guessing

STORY AND GRAPHICS: ZAARA AHMED

Going from sweating in one room to freezing in the next is a problem that no Mercy student is stranger to. It's safe to say that students of all grades have trouble grappling with Mercy's apparent lack of proper air-conditioning during the hotter months of April and May.

This month, temperatures have soared to over 80°F, keeping the school thoroughly heated throughout the day. Many students can agree that going to school during warmer weather can feel uncomfortable.

"Over these past couple of weeks, I've been unbearably hot during the school day. I feel like the excessive heat makes it harder for me to concentrate, especially since the weather is getting hotter as the month progresses," freshman Amirah Ahmed said.

One of the major problems with Mercy's regulation of temperature is the fact that some areas of the building are excessively hot while other areas are unreasonably cold. For example, the math classrooms, specifically N-1 through N-4, are notorious for being extremely hot and stuffy during this time of year. In contrast, the science classrooms, such as N-10 and N-11, are known to be freezing cold the majority of the time. Similarly, it is a well known fact that the cafeteria constantly has heat bouncing off its walls while the media center is almost always chilly.

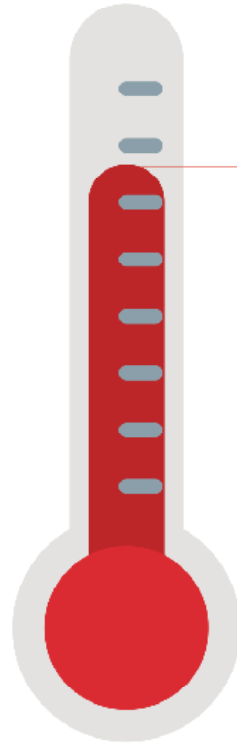
"There is no proper control of temperature in any of

the classrooms. I can't focus when I'm too hot or too cold, which is why it sucks that the temperature is never regulated," junior Eleanor Brook said.

With spring finals coming up, it is essential that we are able to steady the building's temperature during this hot month. According to a study by the National Bureau of Economic Research, students' performance on standardized tests declined when they took exams in hotter conditions. Likewise, studies show that excessive heat can impair cognitive functions, which makes it harder for students to concentrate and study.

"We're always looking to improve the school," Mercy Facility Manager, Daniel Duncan said. "Right now, we're focusing on renovating N13, which will feature a new ceiling and air-conditioning unit. As for the rest of the school, we're trying our best to keep it as cool as possible. We're thinking about remodeling existing classrooms to ensure a better regulated building for our students and staff."

When the Mercy building was first built in 1965, there was no air-conditioning whatsoever. Since then, air-conditioning units have been added to different rooms throughout the building, such as the lobby, gym, auditorium, etc.. Mercy is still evolving and with time, we can expect the building to get more regulated in its temperature.



Approximately 85% of students believe that Mercy has a problem regulating the temperature around the building

\*Based on a survey of 20 Mercy students

# Mercy spring sports are still going strong

STORY AND GRAPHICS: ANEESA SYED

This past Thursday, the Mercy high school tennis team celebrated a remarkable victory, as they secured their spot as regional champions. This victory was a direct result of months of endless training and determination.

"We've been doing scrimmages pretty often so we could get more used to the courts everytime," junior Tori Hunter said. "That all paid off, and I'm so so happy that we won regionals. We worked hard for it."

Tennis wasn't the only victory this past week. Mercy Soccer also celebrated a very historic win, as they walked home as CHSL champions for the first time since 1993. With fifteen games and eleven wins, they stand as one of the highest acclaimed high school soccer teams in the state.



Mercy High School Tennis at their regionals. Photo courtesy of Mercy Tennis

"Throughout the season I have bonded with my teammates through the wins and losses. We have grown a lot over the year as we have had an overall great season together. I'm really excited to see what's next", says sophomore Ainsley Henderson.

Also, Mercy lacrosse has had sixteen games and eight wins, their final taking them to CHSL and earning them the win.

"Varsity lacrosse is a very dedicated sport but it's also very welcoming. They all worked really hard to win catholic leagues and it paid off. We're working even harder to win states," sophomore Hazel Syke said.

Mercy softball also earned the same title against St. Ursula. Track and field are also playing well, however they suffered a loss on the seventeenth at the regionals.

"I feel like I bonded a lot with my teammates over the season, and that we have all grown since we first met," sophomore Joyelle Pyronneau said.

Additionally, Mercy Archery placed third overall for their state tournament and continues practicing their skills for next season.

Now that spring sports are coming to an end, Mercy begins to prepare for summer camps, which includes basketball, volleyball, and field hockey. All three will help girls to build their skills and confidence for the sport, all while bonding with each other to help claim their future wins during the fall season.

"One of my family friends who is in eighth grade is

going to the field hockey camp. She's really excited to meet everyone and be introduced to the sport. She wants to try something new, especially because the sticks have a round end and you can only use one side," junior Rayna Salazar said.

Field hockey, basketball, and volleyball all have taken home numerous awards and are widely recognized across the state of Michigan.

Overall, Mercy Athletics hold their title as victors for several different reasons, including their rigorous practices, team bonding, and most of all their hard work and dedication. We can't wait to see what's in store next! *Visit Newsprintnow.net for further sports coverage.*



Mercy High School Soccer celebrating their victory. Photo courtesy of Lauren Gawne

# End of year FINALS COUPONS!

GRAPHICS: REESE KIZY

**Kleug**

**1 free point on  
Jesus and the  
Church final**

**Bajorek**

**2 free points on any  
final experience  
grade**

**Lavelly/Horvath**

**Swim/PE and Nutrition and  
exercise: one free makeup day  
(cannot be used on assessment  
days)**

**Health: 2 free points on the  
final project**

**Bagazinski**

**1 free point on Honors  
Geometry, Algebra 1,  
Applied Geometry final**

**Principal's Office**

**You've got this!  
Come grab a motivational  
sticker from Mrs. Sattler's  
office**

**Garcia**

**2 free points on Catholic  
Theology and Jesus and the  
Church final  
ONLY IF  
you bring a sticky note listing  
5 things you're grateful for to  
Mrs. Garcia**

**Faunce**

**2 free points on  
World History and  
US Government  
final**

**Kowalyk**

**2 free points on  
Christian Morality  
final**

**Cut out coupon and bring in to your teacher on the day of your final.  
All coupons expire on May 31st!**