

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

**Mercy High School  
Farmington Hills, MI**



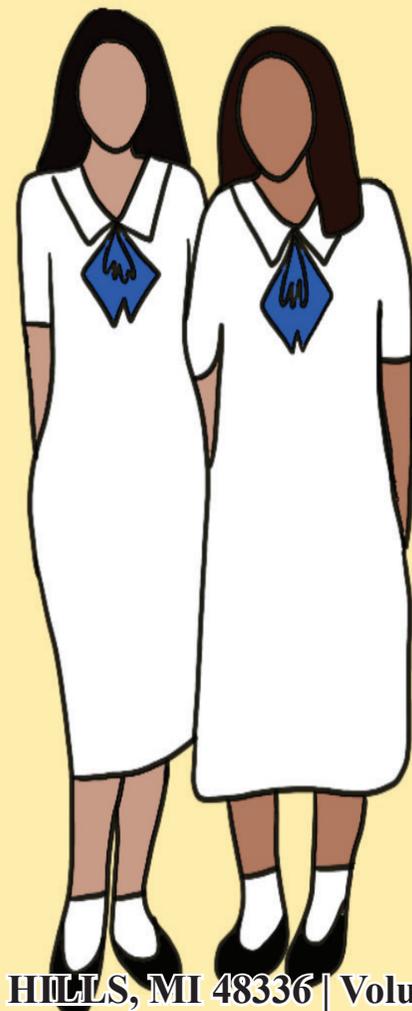
**Academy of Our Lady of  
Mercy Luralton Hall  
Milford, CT**



**Mercy High School  
Burlingame, CA**



**Saint Catherine Academy  
Belize**



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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.

# DACA is in danger because of recent rulings

STORY AND GRAPHICS: REESE KIZY

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, is a program that has been in effect since June 15, 2012. This immigration policy, which has been signed into law and helps hundreds of thousands of people each year, is now being threatened. The consequences of this law being taken away would be detrimental for thousands of minor immigrants looking for a new life in America.

The first major interference with this program happened in July 2021, when, according to an article by the Council on Foreign Relations, a federal judge from Texas ruled that President Barack Obama’s signature immigration policy is unlawful. The judge, Andrew Hanen, urged the Biden administration to stop granting new requests from the DACA program because it was “illegal, Obama exceeded his authority when he created it through an executive order in 2012.”

Recipients of aid from the DACA program can get and renew authorization that makes them eligible to work in the United States. You must be under 18 to get support from DACA, but the grants given can last into adulthood. Almost all recipients and participants of the DACA program come from southern or central American countries.

The program is mainly operated by immigration workers at the southern U.S.-Mexico border, the most overpopulated border, according to a Michigan Advance article by Ariana Figueroa. Before the immigrants are even granted the DACA eligibility to work, they must apply for the program and meet all the requirements, as stated by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center. Although it is a faster process than waiting to fully gain citizenship, the U.S. government now debates whether it is a safe program for our country to be involved with. Additionally, the federal judges are unsure whether this program’s quick remedy to the build-up of asylum seekers at the border will outweigh the programs unsteady safety.

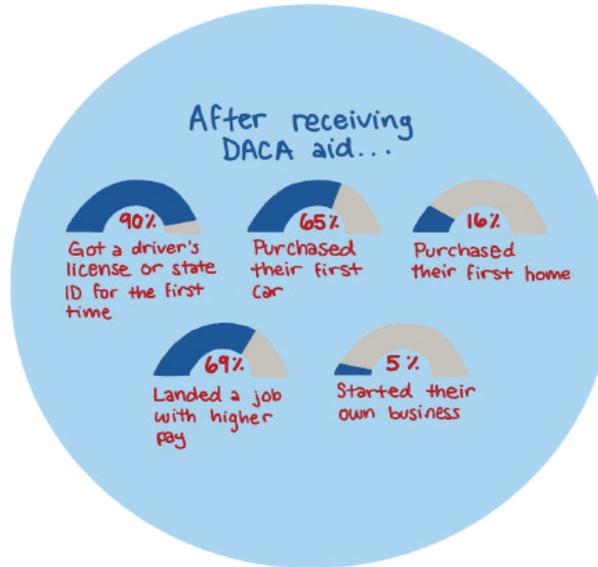
Since then, the Biden administration has appealed the decision, in hopes of leaving the DACA program untouched. However, the questions about what the future of DACA will look like could send this case to the Supreme Court.

“The Dream Act which would give DACA recipients permanent legal status, has failed to garner enough votes to pass the 60-vote threshold in the Senate. With a slim

Democratic majority in the Senate, and GOP control in the House, any legislative movement for Dreamers is stalled,” according to a Michigan Advance article by Ariana Figueroa.

This could greatly affect not only the immigrants already in the country under DACA, who may be facing the expiration of their citizenship, but also the build-up of people at the southern border.

AP Government teacher Mrs. Cindy Richter comments on how there can be negative aspects to DACA.



“Although I think DACA can be beneficial, It may come with some negative aspects because if we allow illegal immigrant children to stay, it may encourage families to cross over and live undocumented and illegally which may be harmful,” Richter said.

Sophomore Hailey Thostenson went on an immigration informational trip where she learned about the various factors contributing to the immigration crisis. Along with the other students who went on the trip, she visited businesses that were dedicated to aiding immigrants starting new lives in America. A big part of this trip was visiting businesses that hired many immigrants. Thostenson even spoke to a lawyer involved in providing services for struggling immigrants.

“We learned about the five most common routes that immigrants from Mexico and Central America take to cross over the border,” Thostenson said. “There are definitely no good ways for immigrants to get here and the whole process is very, very complex.”

This perspective adds to the fact that immigrants come here purely out of necessity. When a person’s life is completely ruined due to the state of their country and government, they have no choice but to try anything to come into a country like America.

“It really depends on what the family’s situation is like; there are many factors contributing to what is best for family structures of struggling families that cannot support themselves with the poor economy of their home-nation,” Thostenson said.

She comments on whether immigrants coming here as children, like the ones supported by the DACA program, are better for the American economy, and for their own good, rather than adults coming here.

“We learned about a Mexican immigrant who chose to leave behind her baby with her family in Mexico, while she would try to gain a green card and live here, alone,” Thostenson said.

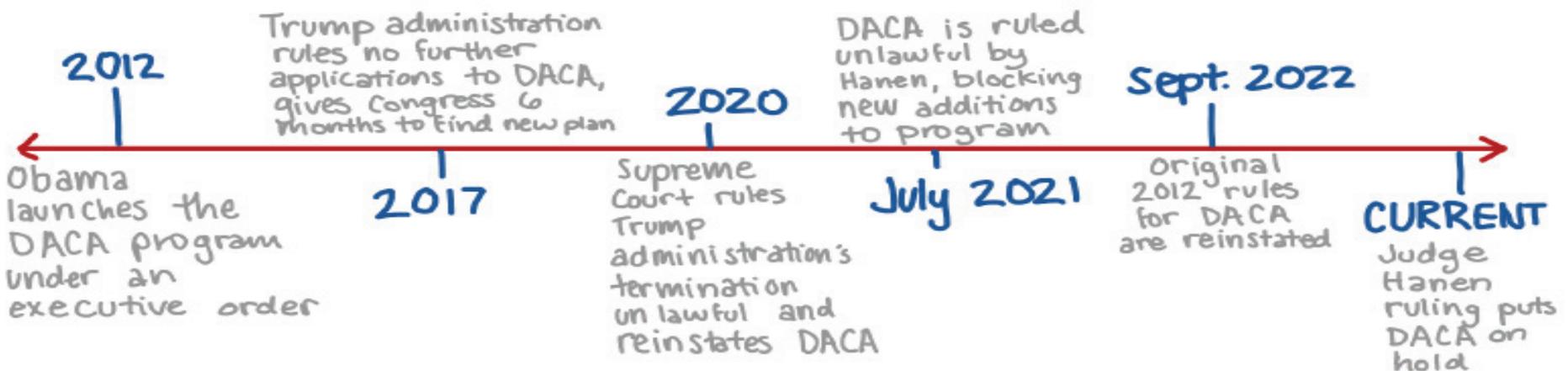
The immigration process for the southern border is extremely strict for immigrants trying to gain a green card. Yet, the DACA program is crucial to foreign minors, as it helps to alleviate the build-up of all children, including those still in dangerous home countries while their families have gained citizenship, and abandoned at the border.

Although the Biden administration is doing everything it can— without an executive order— to uphold DACA, the continuation without action, and the upcoming 2024 election, can greatly slow, or even halt the existence of this program. Without the DACA program as a hope for young immigrants, the southern border crisis will only worsen.

The Sisters of Mercy state on their website, “We continue to push for legislation that provides permanent protections for immigrants, including a pathway to citizenship – for DACA recipients (Dreamers), farmworkers, essential workers, and others with temporary status.”

## DACA Timeline

### Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals



# What's going on with the government?

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MAURA MCSWEENEY, CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

## SCOTUS is back in session

On Monday, October 2, the Supreme Court of the United States came back into session after their long break with a docket full of big cases. Every year, the Supreme Court only grants and hears a certain amount of cases so, as you can probably infer, the cases that they do choose to hear are going to be pretty big. Here are three important cases that the Supreme Court will decide on during their 2023-2024 term:

### ALEXANDER V. SOUTH CAROLINA STATE CONFERENCE OF THE NAACP

This case is regarding racial gerrymandering in the State of South Carolina after the South Carolina legislature adopted a new congressional map which moved thousands of black voters into other districts. This move essentially secured the majority Republican party in the legislature a seat in that district. Some, including legislators, argue that it was political gerrymandering, which is legal and constitutional. The plaintiff, the South Carolina State Conference of the NAACP, is arguing that it was in fact racial gerrymandering, something that is unconstitutional.



### MOODY V. NETCHOICE, LLC.

In this case, the state of Florida passed a law that had to do with limiting alleged censorship and bias against conservative voices in the media. The law places restrictions and limits on social media platforms with threats of fines or legal action if they do not comply. Net Choice, LLC. represents many big-name social media companies and claims that the law violates the freedom of speech of the companies and therefore is unconstitutional.



### LINDKE V. FREED

Yet another case proving that social media will become more and more prevalent in law cases. In this case, a public official from Michigan owned a public social media account where he shared updates regarding his personal life as well as updates about his position, such as policies he has pushed. The public official received criticism on his page and blocked the account user, who is now suing for a violation of his First Amendment right to free speech.

## Let's go vote

As we move into November, elections are right around the corner! This election may not be as much of a concern for you because it is not a midterm or presidential election year, but it should be. Local elections are often the elections whose outcomes will affect us the most.

In Michigan, there are not any U.S. Senate, U.S House, Governor, State Senate, or State House elections happening, however, there might be a recall or local election, like city council elections, that will affect you. No matter how big or small an issue on the ballot is, the outcome will almost certainly affect you or someone you know so your vote does make a difference.

**Let's go vote!**

**REGISTER TO VOTE**  
If you want to vote in this election but have not registered yet, you still have a chance! Go to [michigan.gov](http://michigan.gov) or look up "register to vote" to find out more information about registering and voting.

**FIND OUT WHAT IS ON YOUR BALLOT**  
There are many ways to find out what you'll actually be voting on so you can do your research before Election Day. A great resource is [ballotpedia.org](http://ballotpedia.org) where you can find what will be on your ballot.

**BE EDUCATED**  
Whether you're voting or not, it is extremely important to know what is going on in politics and the government and knowing how it impacts you. As we move through this election season and future presidential campaigns, remember to get your information from reliable, nonbiased sources

# The U.S. House of Representatives on recess

What is happening in the House of Representatives? That is a question that a lot of Americans have right now as the House of Representatives has recently ousted the former Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy and the government is scheduled to shut down in less than a month.

On Tuesday, October 3, over two weeks ago, the House of Representatives voted to remove the former Speaker of the House. This historical move was led by a group of 8 right-wing representatives, led by Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz, who was not happy with the decisions of the Rep. Kevin McCarthy. Despite having the majority in the House, Republicans split on the voting and McCarthy was removed from his position on a vote of 216-210.

A removal of the Speaker of the House has never been done before making this a historic moment, and not necessarily a good one. As the two-party system

in the United States becomes split even more, both the parties and within the parties, we can expect many more "historic" moments that are a result of the disagreements and refusal to compromise by representatives from both parties.

What do we do now? The next question that many Americans are asking as the House of Representatives has still failed to elect a new Speaker of the House. In the two weeks that the House did not have a speaker, all work and business was halted because they couldn't do any work without a Speaker and they went into recess. This is a big issue considering that the government is scheduled to shut down on November 19, after already getting moved back from September 29. Without a speaker, no work is going to be done, making the government shutdown on the horizon more and more realistic.

The House of Representatives was set to convene

on Tuesday, October 16, at 6 p.m. and vote on a new Speaker. Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan is the Republican party candidate and the entire house will vote on whether or not he will be the next Speaker. As of Monday, October 16, Jordan does not have the votes to be elected because of how split the party is.

This process of the Republicans electing a candidate and House voting on it will continue for as long as needed for a Speaker to be elected. A candidate will need 218 votes in order to be elected which means that the candidate will either have the votes of all or most of the Republican representatives or the candidate will have to turn to the Democrats for support.

Whichever way a candidate must get votes, they must work fast because work needs to be done and the House needs to be back in sessions

# Title IX is changing the conversation for women’s athletics

STORY AND GRAPHICS: HELENA NAJAR, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In 1972, Title IX of the Civil Rights act was signed into law by President Richard Nixon. Title IX created protection for students and staff from sex-based discrimination, including sexual harassment and violence. Specifically, Title IX has been used to provide equal opportunity for women in collegiate sports.

“Title IX is a federal law that says that any educational institution receiving federal financial funds must not discriminate in the education and activity of their students,” AP Government teacher Ms. Cindy Richter said.

Recently, Title IX has been in the limelight due to a sexual harassment allegation made against Michigan State University’s former football coach, Mel Tucker. The allegation itself is not a Title IX violation but the investigation is going through Michigan State’s Title IX office.

“Mel Tucker is not really facing a Title IX violation, the Title IX office at MSU is handling his case but it is technically not under Title IX,” Richter said.

This current situation regarding MSU has left many people questioning how effective or useful Title IX actually is. In reality, Title IX has greatly improved the quality of life for student athletes, especially female athletes.

“It was to protect female athletes coming into sports because before that women’s sports was not a big thing,” Richter said. “So facilities, schedules and money that

was given to the males also had to be given equally to the females.”

Title IX has worked to expand female sports at the collegiate level. Title IX states that universities cannot discriminate in education or activities. Those activities have specifically applied to women’s sports.

“When a university wants to cut a sport or wants to make more scholarships available to the men’s sports, they can’t do that without also doing it for the women’s sports,” Richter said.

One example of this was in 2018 when Eastern Michigan University cut its women’s softball and tennis teams. Students from the teams argued that the elimination of these women’s sports teams violated Title IX. The student athletes who accused the university of a Title IX violation were rewarded a \$125,000 settlement from EMU.

By requiring universities to have equal opportunities for both men and women’s sports the participation in women’s sports have greatly increased. It has also increased on the high school level. A study from the Journal of Physiology, Nutrition and Physical Education measured the impact of Title IX on women’s participation in sports.

“Forty-one percent of the high school athletes in the US were female compared to the participation before the implementation of Title IX which was only 7%,” author of the

study Dr. Namarta Vadhera said. “Female participation went up by 456% from 29,972 in 1971-72 to 166,728 in 2007-08.”

Since its conception, Title IX has grown extensively. It has expanded from protecting female athletes to protecting all students from sexual or gender-based discrimination.

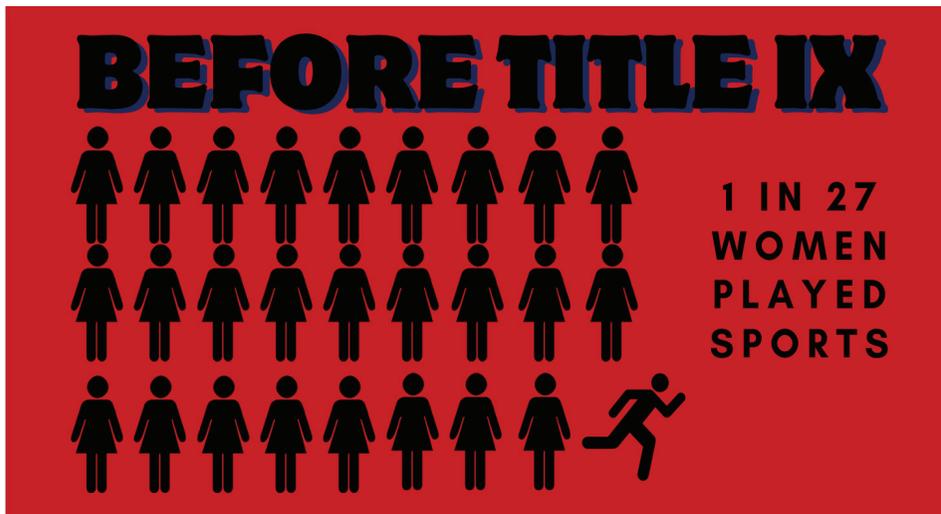
“A student who is being continuously harassed sexually that is discrimination against their education, they are not getting the full effect of their education,” Richter said. “So it has really evolved into dealing with sexual assault and harassment on campus.”

Every university is required to have a Title IX office and coordinator. It is the job of the people who work in that office to deal with any and all Title IX violations. Title IX protects students who have been victimized and the Title IX office at their university should act as a place to come forward and be heard.

“If someone thinks they are a victim, they have a place to go and a person to go to report who will investigate and hold the alleged perpetrators accountable,” Richter said.

Title IX will continue to support and protect students, specifically female students and athletes from discrimination based on sex and from sexual harassment and violence.

“When you have a university that really prioritizes female students and the safety of their students in general, Title IX can be a great thing,” Richter said.



Data from weareteachers.com

## 9 MAIN POINTS ABOUT TITLE IX

- Title IX is a Civil Right that protects students from discrimination based on sex**
- Title IX applies to all students no matter their gender**
- All schools that receive federal funds must adhere to Title IX including K-12 schools**
- Educational institutions cannot discourage someone from continuing their education**
- Schools can issue no-contact directives to prevent accused students from interacting with others**
- Schools must have established procedures for handling sexual misconduct complaints**
- Schools should ensure that no student has to share campus spaces with their abuser**
- Schools cannot retaliate against someone filing a complaint and must keep that person safe**
- Schools must be proactive in ensuring that a campus is free from sex discrimination**

Data from knowyourix.org

# The Mercy sisterhood reaches across world

STORY AND GRAPHICS: TESS O'DONNELL

In light of the recent 2023 Mercy Education Conference in Jamaica, Newsprint had the opportunity to talk with a student from Mercy High School Burlingame (California), run by the Sisters of Mercy, and compare it with our own Mercy High School Farmington Hills.

Mercy Burlingame is similar to Mercy Farmington Hills, but also differs in many ways. Mercy Burlingame is a private, all girls, Catholic college preparatory school about a six hour drive north from downtown Los Angeles. It has an average class size of 100 students in each of its four grades.

We spoke to Mercy High School Burlingame senior Jazmine Moran about some things that unite us as Mercy sisters. Moran is a student body officer, student body treasurer, and diversity, equity and inclusion student leader at her Mercy High School.

"I think just a general passion for educating women and young girls into being stronger unites us all. Because I feel like we all have very similar goals and we are all very ambitious students, I feel like we challenge each other and we have opportunities to take harder classes if you want to and explore these opportunities and pathways," Moran said. "That just kind of brings us all together because we all know that our goal is to succeed in life and that's what we're all trying to do."

In contrast to Mercy Farmington Hills, Mercy Burlingame works on an A, B, C day schedule, with one lunch period for the entire school from 11:10 a.m. to 12 p.m. each day. Four classes take place on A days and three classes take place on B days, followed by collaboration period. C days take place every other month and are a day of no academic classes. Instead, a school-wide activity takes place, like bowling. During academic collaborations on B days, after students get released from 7th hour, they are free to spend the rest of the school day talking to teachers, going to the library, or doing any other productive activity. During community collaborations on B days, students have a set time to go to advisor groups for activities and then go to an all school event, like a rally or assembly.

Advisor groups at Mercy Burlingame stay the same for all four years, with the same advisor following them from freshman to senior year, but the advisor groups are only composed of one grade, not multiple grades like Mercy Farmington Hills.

Mercy Burlingame has an all-boys brother school, Junipero Serra High School in San Mateo, California. Events and classes are done including the two schools. The students at Serra come to Mercy Burlingame for AP Psychology and forensics while Mercy Burlingame students go to Serra for theater and Mandarin language classes.

Like Mercy Farmington Hills, religion is also integrated into the education at Mercy Burlingame. They have religion classes, chapel once a week, and morning and afternoon prayers.

"Our core values are based on Catholic Social Teachings and the Mercy Sisters Core values," Moran said.

Mercy Burlingame also holds special traditions and activities for students at the end of the year. Similar to Mercy Farmington Hills, a moving up day event takes place at the end of the year for all students. Mercy Burlingame calls it their "Senior Splash", where the senior class jumps into the pool on campus in full uniform, holding hands.

As for the campus part of school, the Mercy Burlingame campus has two main parts: the Mansion/Wing and Russell Hall.

Russell Hall is where the science and math classes are held, along with the AMES center, on-campus library, and counseling department. The Wing and the Mansion, up the hill from Russell, are attached.

The Wing is Mercy Burlingame's humanities building, where English, language, and religion classes take place. The Mansion is used for arts, photography, and ceramics.

Also like Mercy Farmington Hills, Mercy Burlingame offers a unique experience to its students.

"The unique thing about Mercy, at least for me, has been the bond. The sisterhood is really there," Moran said. "It's such an interesting environment to be a part of and it's so supportive. Your teachers will be some of the best people you'll ever meet."

Although Mercy Burlingame is a five hour flight away from Mercy Farmington Hills, the two schools have many common characteristics while also keeping their own individuality. United through the Sisters of Mercy, with a passion for educating young women and creating a unique high school experience for each student, these two Mercy Schools both have the important qualities needed to create a great private high school.

# Mercy Education works towards earth justice

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MICAH ROGERS

For 41 years, schools in the Mercy Education System of the Americas have been able to unite in one place at the Mercy Education conference. This year, the conference was held in Kingston, Jamaica, making this the second time it has been held outside of the country.

"It's really cool to connect and partner with all these different schools," Mercy DEIB director Traci Smith said.

Serving schools in Argentina, Belize, Guam, Honduras, Jamaica, the Philippines and the

United States, the Mercy Education Conference strives to represent all communities in their system. This year, Mrs. Smith is on the planning committee and has been able to gain a more in-depth understanding of how the conference is run.

"Each year, the conference has a different critical concern to focus on. This year, the topic is Earth Justice," Smith said.

The theme 'Earth Justice' was conveyed through a series of workshops, discussions, and presentations by keynote speakers. According to Mercy Education, the most pressing topics that will be addressed at the conference include water

justice and environmental racism. These issues are prevalent in many areas that house Mercy schools, making them that much more important and relevant to the Sisters of Mercy.

"One of my favorite things about the conference was connecting with my colleagues in a powerful way," first-time attendant and performing arts teacher Mrs. Dearing said.

While the Mercy Education Conference aims to inform, the environment created by the conference also allows for reflection amongst staff members of the schools that make up Mercy Education. Participants are invited to engage in open dialogue with their colleagues.

"Being in Jamaica was incredible...there was gorgeous, rich, color, vibrant people, warmth and hospitality," Dearing said.

The work done by the host school greatly impacted the conference experience. The Alpha School in Kingston was responsible for providing food, space and comfort to participants. Their stellar hosting skills encouraged active participation and communion, amplifying the mission of Mercy Education.

"The goal is to learn how we can make a difference from experts within the Mercy Education System of the Americas," Smith said.

The Sisters of Mercy are known for pursuing positive change within their communities. The various conferences held by Mercy Education serve as forums for people who intend to carry out this mission in their school communities.



## Climate Fact:

According to the United States Agency for International Development, roughly 90% of Jamaica's gross domestic product (GDP) is generated within coastal zones, making Jamaica more vulnerable to climate concerns, such as hurricanes, droughts, and floods.



The Conference will be hosted by the Jamaican Mercy schools in Kingston, Jamaica from October 12-13.

Each Mercy Education conference has a different critical concern it is focused around. This year the critical concern is Earth and the topic is Earth Justice.

The conference planning committee is in charge of planning each conference, picking pannels, chossing the location, and partnering with the speakers.

Topics discussed in the conference include, water, justice and environmental racism.

For the second time in the Mercy Education Conference's 41-year history, the conference will be held outside of the United States.

The education conference's main question: "How can each of us commit to ecological conversion through our personal environmental practices and within our Mercy schools?" Mercyedu.org said.

# El Día de los Muertos

## The history of Mexico's celebration of life

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MEGAN SULLIVAN

As October comes to an end, most Americans will be clearing away their pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns, and awaiting as the next holiday season approaches. However, for others, the clock striking midnight on October 31, doesn't signify the end of one holiday, but rather the beginning of another.

Each year on November 1 and 2, the Mexican community celebrates El Día de los Muertos, also known as The Day of the Dead, a beloved and revered holiday with deep tradition. So, what is The Day of the Dead? What are its origins? And why is the celebration often misunderstood by most Americans?

For many Americans, El Día de los Muertos is considered a holiday with activities similar to our Halloween festivities, however, this could not be further from the truth. Where in American culture Halloween is a holiday of costumes and candy, The Day of the Dead is a holiday rich with tradition and remembrance. Victoria Rodgers understands first hand the importance of these traditions. Rogers, a mother of two who resides in Novi, Michigan was born and raised in Mexico City and moved to the United States approximately twelve years ago.

"It's a celebration to remember people [who have] passed away. In these two days there is a belief that the people who we have lost [will] come back and visit us" said Rogers.

The Day of the Dead stems back thousands of years, beginning with the Nahuatl people of Mesoamérica, a group of people native to Central America which included Aztecs who lived in modern day Mexico during the 14th - 16th centuries. According to Aztec beliefs, death was an integral aspect of life itself, with a person's souls leaving upon death and entering "The Land of the Dead", Chicunamictlán. Upon entering The Land of the Dead, the souls had to travel up several layers before achieving their ultimate goal, reaching Mictlán, the final resting place of the Aztec people. However, this journey was very challenging and could take years for a soul to complete. (Source: History.com).

This journey is what created the tradition of ofrendas, or altars, where the Aztecs offered food and water to aid their ancestors. The making of ofrendas has stuck around and evolved as holiday celebrations continue, instead of helping them on their journey, ofrendas today are decorated with images of deceased loved-ones and gifts in order to remember those who passed.

When putting out gifts on the ofrendas, family members aren't expecting the dead to eat the food left behind. Instead, families put out this food to better connect with the memory of those who passed by making and eating foods and drinks they enjoyed. One notable symbol of The Day of the Dead is the marigold flower, a

golden flower which celebrators use to decorate ofrendas with their vibrant color and joy. Often, people will pull off flower petals, tossing them around the ofrenda as decorations, and leaving trails of marigolds and candles from the grave stones to the ofrendas—helping guide the souls back to their families.

Rogers recalls this tradition from her childhood when she said, "It [the altar] is like stairs. At the top of the altar are the pictures of the people who were close. Then you put out candles. Underneath you put out flowers and then underneath you put out food. It's supposed to be food that they liked or the beverages they liked. And it is food for a celebration, big plates used for a celebration but the foods they liked. Then, on the floor, petals from a flower are spread almost like they're lost and need to find a way to the altar."

However, The Day of the Dead is more than just traditions of the Nahuatl people. Instead, it is mixed with Spanish culture and traditions of Christianity, specifically All Saints Day and All Souls Day. All Saints Day and All Souls Day are Catholic feast days made to commemorate the saints and martyrs as well as

members of the Church who have passed. Celebrated on November 1 and 2, this feast day coincides with the date of The Day of the Dead. This alignment of dates is not a coincidence, but instead an example of cultural influences due to the Spanish colonization.

In the year 1519, the Spanish started their conquest of Mesoamérica, with one of their main reasons for traveling to new land being to spread their sect of Christianity, Catholicism. Because of this, the Spanish sent many missionaries with the goal of converting the native populations, and through this, many aspects of the native traditions were combined with the new traditions of Christianity as the two cultures mixed. This mixing caused aspects of the Aztec celebration of death to be combined with the holidays All Saints and All Souls Day, explaining why The Day of the Dead, as well as Mexico, have deep roots in Catholicism.

Stacy Guerrero, a Spanish teacher at Mercy High School explained the importance of the celebration when she said, "It is very important to Mexican culture. Why? Because it comes all the way from the Aztecs and it's pretty awesome to see how all of the traditions are alive up until now." When asked to contrast the difference between the American and Mexican celebrations, Guerrero commented, "For Day of the Dead, it is mostly a happy celebration. However in the U.S., when someone dies in our culture it is mostly sad. In Mexico it is mostly happy when you put out things. It is the things [you put out] that reminds you of them."

Another prominent aspect of The Day of the Dead's celebration is El Día de los Angelitos, or The Day of Little Angels. On the first day of The Day of the Dead's celebrations, children who passed are remembered as their favorite toys are left on the ofrendas.

Another memorable tradition of this holiday is the creation of sugar skulls, small skull sculptures made from sugar and adorned with intricate painted patterns in various colorful paints. One may think the bright and cheerful colors of these skulls contrast the seemingly solemn intention of the holiday, but these decorative pieces are not meant to bring sadness. Instead, these skulls are made to bring happiness, a reminder that this holiday is a celebration of life, not a day of mourning.

"Day of the Dead is a day where the souls can come back and visit you and you're happy and you celebrate them," said Guerrero. "And that's why they have the skulls ... to sort of poke fun at it and make it less sad and scary."

While the Day of the Dead originates in Mexico, its celebrations have started to expand world-wide. This can even be seen in the United States as Mexican American people have brought this celebration of life to America, giving the holiday a new home and further unifying



# The history behind trick-or-treating

STORY AND GRAPHIC: ZAARA AHMED

## What is trick-or-treating?

As soon as October rolls around, candy starts selling out, costumes are all the rage, and pumpkin-flavored everything is back in stock just in time for everyone to anticipate one of the biggest celebrations of the year, Halloween. It goes without saying that Halloween is a very big part of American culture. It is the one day a year when everyone dresses up in their over-the-top costumes and sets out in the evening for none other than trick-or-treating.

Trick-or-treating is a traditional custom that takes place during the evening of October 31 in which people, most often children, dress up in costumes and travel from house to house collecting candy using the phrase “trick-or-treat.” According to Emily Martin at National Geographic, trick-or-treating has become a sacred Halloween tradition in the United States and is one of the most anticipated events of the year.

“I still go trick-or-treating even though people say I’m too old. I always go to the houses that look like they have good candy lined up,” junior Evelyn Thebault said.

## How did trick-or-treating originate?

Trick-or-treating dates back to medieval Europe, more specifically around the 16th century, when poor children would go door-to-door begging for food during Samhain, a Celtic holiday celebrated on the 31st of October. This tradition was called “souling” and involved the children offering to pray for the souls of their neighbors’ lost loved ones in exchange for hospitality, such as money or food. By the 19th century,

the Catholic Church co-opted Samhain and renamed it as “All Hollow’s Eve.” During this era, trick-or-treaters started to sing songs and tell jokes, which was a tradition that soon became known as “mumming.”

At this point in time, All Hollow’s Eve traditions were exclusively practiced in Europe, but by the late 19th century, immigrants from Europe came to America and brought along their All Hollow’s Eve traditions with them. The treat aspect of trick-or-treating eventually became introduced in the 1920s, when neighbors started handing out nuts and fruit to trick-or-treaters. The phrase trick-or-treating was coined in the 1930’s and replaced the phrase souling. Trick-or-treating boomed in the 1950’s and became a big tradition for adults and children alike. It took many, many years before trick-or-treating eventually evolved into the candy filled spectacle that it appears to be today.

## How has trick-or-treating changed over the years?

Contrary to what many believe, trick-or-treating has been constantly changing and evolving since it became widespread in America during the 1950’s. Over time, Halloween, and more specifically trick-or-treating, has been altered by taking on things like European myth and American consumerism. Trick-or-treating has been around for a long time and much of the older generation in America has participated in this tradition.

“I used to trick-or-treat all the time in the 60’s and 70’s; I remember visiting my neighbors, getting really good candy, and dressing up in my favorite costume,” Joyce Van Ryn, grandmother

to Thebault, said.

In modern times, one of the biggest concerns about how trick-or-treating has changed involves the topic of safety. According to Julie Beck from The Atlantic, safety concerns are a big reason as to why families opt for a contained trick-or-treating experience.

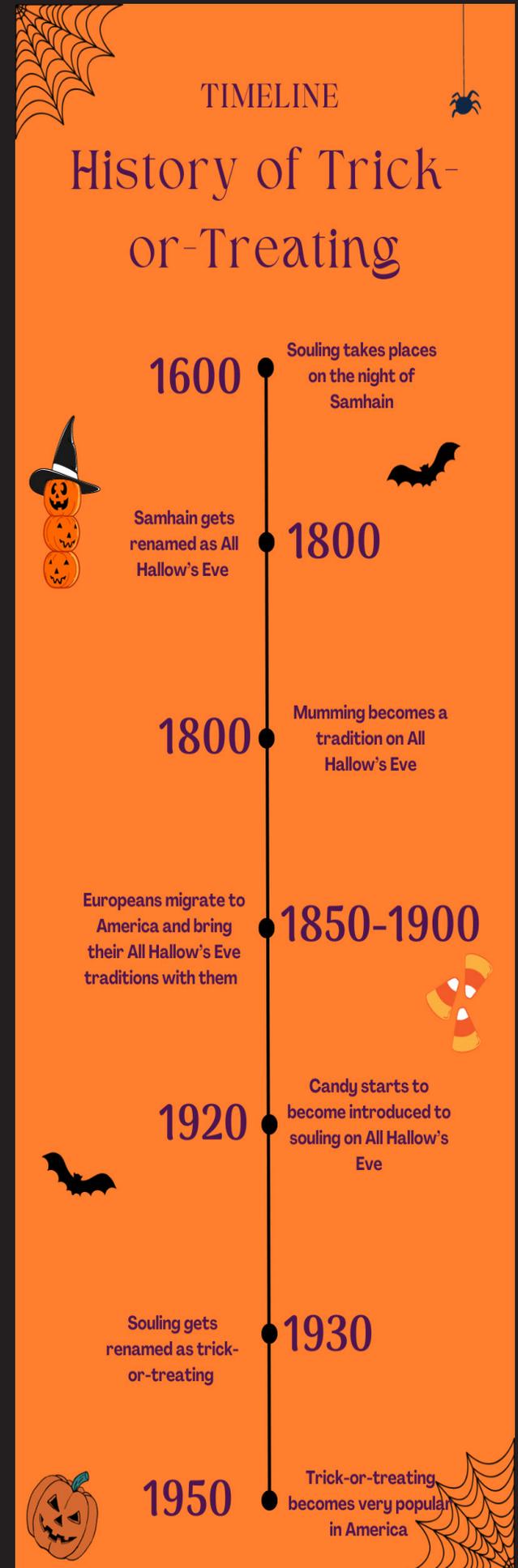
Recently, parents have started to worry about traffic being a threat to their children. A recent study found a 43% increased risk of pedestrian fatalities on Halloween. Additionally, Christopher Ingraham from The Washington Post reported that children are three times more likely to be fatally injured by a car on Halloween than any other day of the year.

“I think that the main way trick-or-treating has changed is the fact that walking around at night really isn’t as safe as it used to be,” Van Ryn said.

Safety is a big concern for families during the night of Halloween and rightfully so. As time progresses, many parents believe that trick-or-treating becomes more and more unsafe for children. Hopefully, we can see these ideas proven false in years to come.

## What is the importance of trick-or-treating?

Trick-or-treating has become known as one of the biggest traditions in American culture. It has been a custom for centuries upon centuries and keeps on evolving as time passes. It is important to keep trick-or-treating alive, not only because it is fun, but also because of the history it carries along with it. Trick-or-treating means dressing up in your favorite costume, getting free candy, and having the time of your life, so go out on Halloween and trick-or-treat!



# Mercy football makes a comeback

STORY: MIRANDA MULLIGAN, DIGITAL MEDIA EDITOR

On Wednesday, October 4th, senior class officers shocked the student body when they revealed the senior class would be taking on St. Catherine's in a powderpuff game. Powderpuff is a game of flag football played by a team of girls instead of a traditional team made up of boys. Before students were released from the Maroon and Gold Mid Week Assembly, there was one final announcement from the Officers. Students cheered with excitement as four officers marched into the gym wearing suits and ties. The news of powderpuff has been something desired by Mercy Girls for years.

"I am super happy with the news of the game because I know it's something that seniors have wanted for a long time," senior Amylia Higgins said.

At the same time, many student-athletes were furious the moment they found out that all fall athletes were ineligible to participate in the big game.

"Fall athletes were unable to participate in

powderpuff due to the history of the injuries that could occur and we wouldn't want anyone to risk not only their season but their team's season as well." Senior class moderator, Mrs. Brandi Lively said

"I hope that there is another game so people who missed out on the first game can participate" senior Olivia Enquist said.

Swimmers Higgins and Enquist are just an example of athletes who are not allowed to participate in the game. However, seniors who are in cheer, pom, dance, volleyball, cross country and field hockey are also being benched for the big game. The senior moderators and officers have tried to fix the problem by offering the students who are not eligible to play opportunities to join the team on the field for the big game even if it means cheering from the sidelines. The senior class officers are excited to welcome this new tradition into the Mercy community and hope it continues for many years to come.



"The officers and I are honored to be the ones to restart the tradition of powderpuff at Mercy. It's taken a lot of planning but we can't wait to see the outcome of our work and we're so excited to announce the news."

- Katelyn Cronan Senior Class Officer

# Sports spotlight: equestrian team

STORY: MIRANDA MULLIGAN, DIGITAL MEDIA EDITOR

<p><b>Swim</b> </p> <p><b>Oct 21</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet @ Dexter</li> </ul> <p><b>Oct 26</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet @ Divine Child</li> </ul> <p><b>Nov 10/11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHSL finals @Waterford Kettering High School</li> </ul>	<p><b>Volleyball</b> </p> <p><b>Oct 28</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Game @ Novi</li> </ul> <p><b>Nov 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MHSAA Districts</li> </ul> <p><b>Nov 17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MHSAA Semi-Finals</li> </ul> <p><b>Nov 18</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MHSAA Finals</li> </ul>	<p><b>Golf</b> </p> <p><b>Oct 20</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MHSAA State Finals</li> </ul> <p><b>Oct 21</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MHSAA State Finals</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cross Country</b> </p> <p><b>Oct 28</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MHSAA Regionals</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pom</b> </p> <p><b>Oct 22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PrepBowl @ Ford Field</li> </ul> <p><b>Nov 6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAPP High Kick</li> </ul>	<p><b>Diving</b> </p> <p><b>Nov 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHSL Finals @ Waterford Kettering High School</li> </ul> <p><b>Nov 17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MHSAA Prelims</li> </ul>

Aamenah Jamil is a freshman on the equestrian team and told us about being on a small team. "Being on a smaller team has definitely built a good sense community and a lot of trust is beyond my teammate and coaches," Jamil said. "The most important bond I've had to build is between my horse."

Jamil's riding career and love for horses began at the age of eight when she watched a movie about horses "From then on I became a stereotypical horse girl," Jamil said.

From there on, Jamil started her riding career at a camp that summer, where she fell in love with the sport of horse riding and has been doing it ever since. Jamil later joined her middle school team but only participated during 6th grade.

However she continued with her riding career, and when she found out there was a mercy equestrian team, it was a no-brainer to join. Jamil's practices are self-guided and because there is no specific schedule, she has to build her practice sessions herself. On average, Jamil will spend anywhere from 10-15 hours a week riding, practicing and bonding with her horse. Yet there are a few challenges that Jamil has to overcome during her time on the team.

"It can be hard to keep up with my school work some days, I have also learned the importance of time management from having to cut out time to practice while leaving time left to do my homework," Jamil said.

As the equestrian season comes to a close the team

was excited to win a reserve championship at district level, leaving them at 2nd place overall.



Aamenah Jamil rides her horse with pride after winning a reserve championship. The equestrian team competes in meets throughout their season. Photo courtesy of Aamenah Jamil.

# The new and improved Maroon and Gold raffle

STORY AND PHOTOS: HELENA NAJAR, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It's that time of year again. That time when students and staff rush to sell raffle tickets to win out-of-uniform passes and days off of school. The Maroon and Gold Raffle is an important, annual tradition for Mercy that helps bring funds into our community to help provide general needs for school.

This year, Mercy High School's Fundraiser and Database Director Mrs. J'aime Law decided to switch up the timeline and schedule of the raffle in hopes of raising excitement and funds.

"We decided to shorten the raffle to 10 days, historically it has been 4-5 weeks long and based on the data from last year our biggest turn in days were out of uniform preview week and the day before it ended," Law said. "We felt that to make it easier on families and on staff we would make it shorter."

The timeline isn't the only thing that changed regarding the raffle this year. In order to gauge enthusiasm, Law also implemented new assemblies, incentives and leaders.

"We introduced a new assembly, the mid-week assembly, to get everyone pumped up and excited," Law said. "We also shifted the leadership from E-Board to the Fishbowl leaders to provide an additional opportunity for student leadership."

Fishbowl leader Carley Goebel talks about what it was like taking charge of such an important school event and what went into planning the assemblies.

"We would brainstorm with one another and figure out all the activities we wanted to include in the assemblies," Goebel said.

While it was a lot of hard work, it was also very rewarding for the Fishbowl leaders to have the opportunity to play such an important role in the raffle.

"I loved being able to collaborate with the other

Fishbowl leaders. It was a ton of fun getting to plan the games and pick out the prizes," Goebel said. "I loved being able to get the school excited for the raffle."

One of the main incentives for students to sell their tickets was the promise that if we raised enough money, Mercy's very own Ms. Lisa Robinet would take a semester of swim-gym.

"There was a department meeting last year and Mr. Barnes had said something like 'What if I drowned?' I told him that I'm not saving him because I can't swim," Robinet said. "Mr. Barnes thought that would be a good incentive for the raffle."

Robinet spoke to Mrs. Brandi Lively, the swim-gym teacher and together they were able to work how Robinet could take the class.

"I'm terrified to swim, I'm afraid I'm going to drown, but it will be fun, I think," Robinet said.

Law and the Fishbowl leaders both believe that the changes made to this year's raffle greatly improved student participation and funds.

"We saw that we were still able to raise enough money, we actually are above our goal, and I feel like the assemblies went really well with participation. So in general, I think the changes were well received," Law said.

As it currently stands, the changes that were implemented this year are here to stay.

"Since we did make so many changes this year, I think we will probably keep it pretty similar for next year," Law said.

Overall, the Maroon and Gold Raffle was a success and raised over \$150,000 for Mercy this year.

"This is a vital fundraiser that we need and hopefully the spirit, enthusiasm and excitement continues for years to come!" Law said.



Mercy students compete in a game of Hungry Hippo for raffle prizes. The Maroon and Gold Raffle this year offered a new interactive experience for Mercy students. In teams, different grades participated in fun activities where they relied on each other and the support of their friends.



Mercy students and staff announce events and excite each other about the raffle. During the Maroon and Gold Raffle, Fishbowl students led the assemblies and worked hard to make it amazing. Along with staff, they interacted with and informed students about the prizes won due to reaching the goal of \$150,000.

# Ms. Mary Harkness will remain in our hearts

STORY: LENA LAJOY, DESIGN EDITOR



Ms. Mary Harkness

Just over two weeks ago, on October 5, beloved staff member Ms. Mary Harkness died. She was a crucial member of the Mercy family and contributed to our school for over 50 years. Working as a receptionist, she touched the lives of both students and staff.

"She is remembered for the intangibles: her smile, warm greetings, birthday wishes (she remembered everyone's birthday and sought out people to give birthday cards and wishes)," Mercy President Dr. Cheryl Kreger said.

Ms. Harkness and her family have been a part of the Mercy community since even before she began working here. Ms. Harkness's sisters attended Mercy High School and she herself graduated from Mercy in 1970. Both Ms. Harkness and her mother worked at Mercy as a receptionists.

"As a receptionist, she greeted people who came to Mercy and was responsible for the incoming and outgoing mail," Dr. Kreger said.

Ms. Harkness made an impact on countless

students at Mercy and contributed to countless fond memories of Mercy.

"She was mentioned year after year in graduation speeches as one of students' fondest memories," Dr. Kreger said.

As a person, Ms. Harkness loved traveling and celebrations. She took time out of her day to ensure everyone was recognized and appreciated at Mercy especially on their birthdays. She loved seeing the world and meeting new people.

"Mary traveled to many places and loved traveling. Her favorite was Hawaii and she was there twice," Dr. Kreger said.

In 2020 the Mercy community celebrated Ms. Harkness' 50 years of service with an Aloha-themed day.

Overall, Ms. Harkness will always be remembered by the Mercy community and will forever be in our hearts.

# A world premiere takes center stage

STORY, PHOTO AND GRAPHICS: DARIA SMITH

With October in full swing, that means the start of many fall activities, the beginning of wearing fall clothes, and Halloween, but for Mercy's Performing Arts department, it marks the countdown to the fall play. The fall play is one of two productions that the Mercy Performing Arts Department puts on during the year. In the past they have done well-known plays such as *Clue* and *Radium Girls*, but this year the play is extra special because it is a world premiere of a new play called *Angels of Bataan*.

"It is a true story and knowing we are helping tell the story that a lot of people haven't heard of is really cool," senior lead actress Julia Holt said.

*Angels of Bataan* is a play that takes place in 1941 in the Philippines. After Pearl Harbor, the army base where the nurses were stationed was bombed, causing them to spend months in the jungle taking care of wounded soldiers. The play follows the true story of American nurses who were held as prisoners of war during World War II. *Angels of Bataan* brings to life the sisterhood that is built between the first group of American women who had been taken as prisoners of war and how they attempt to survive three years of imprisonment with little food, water, or medicine.

"It's the world premiere and written by a local playwright, Tracy Wells," Mercy teacher and director of *Angels of Bataan* Shelley Bajorek said. "It's such a fascinating story that's based on a true story."

Though the audience gets to see the finished product, many do not know about the amount of work it takes to prepare for the play. There are two sides to bringing a play to life, the different technical crews such as stage crew and the cast. The actors, spend most of their time memorizing lines and going to rehearsals. They also utilize a

book that was written about the Angels of Bataan in order to further get in character. Senior Julia Holt plays lead character Helen and she spoke about what she does in order to prepare for her role.

"I mostly like listening to the book and listening to the people who went through this and how it affected them," Holt said.

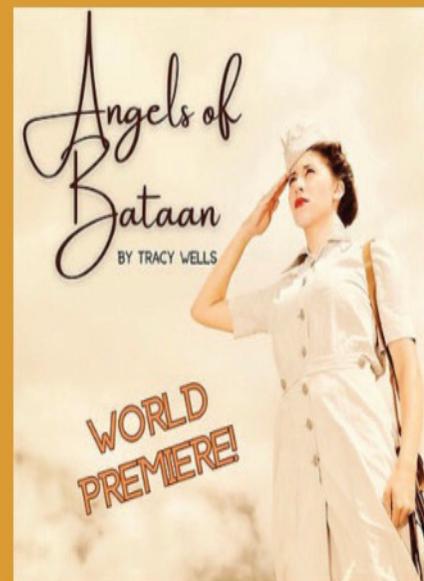
Along with memorizing lines, real veterans and nurses have come in to teach the actors the correct mannerisms, such as how to properly march, salute, and assess the casualties of patients.

"We really are putting a lot of work into it in order to make it the best it can possibly be," Holt said.

On the other hand, the technical crews ultimately bring the show to life. The stage crew works to build the sets that the audience sees throughout the play. The sound crew controls all the audio and sound effects that the audience hears throughout the show. Costume crew finds period-accurate costumes and helps actors change costumes during the show. The make-up crew help actors with their stage make-up and the prop crew finds props that are used by the actors throughout the show. Stage manager, senior Hannah Kennedy spoke about what it is like to prepare for the play with such a big role.

"My job consists of recording the blocking at rehearsals, programming and focusing lights, calling light and stage cues for the show," said Kennedy. "Along with anything else needed to make the show run as smoothly as possible."

*The Angels of Bataan performances will take place on Friday, October 20th at 7:30 pm, Saturday, October 21st at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, October 22nd at 2:00 pm. You can purchase tickets on [mhsmi.org](http://mhsmi.org) in the Performing Arts folder.*



Showtimes:

October 20- 7:30pm

October 21- 7:30pm

October 22- 2:00pm



Buy tickets  
here



Mercy Performing Arts students rehearse at dress rehearsal in order to put on the production *Angels of Bataan*. *Angels of Bataan* is written by a local playwright, Tracy Wells, and Friday October 20th will be the first time the play hits center stage.