

NEWSPRINT

The Mercy Bunch



Index

Opinion 3

Pro/Con: iPad Restrictions

Life 4/5/6/7

Welcoming “The Inspirations”
Marlins around the world
Fresh voices
Paper or plastic?

News Feature 8/9

Progression towards the
Recession?
Pens, pencils, and bulletproof
backpacks?

Feature 10/11/12/13

Meet the staff
Why Mercy?

Editorial 14

Isabelle’s insight

Sports 15

Mercy skater earns highest
honors

Entertainment 16/17

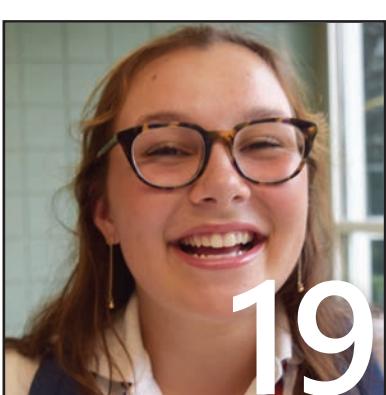
13 Reasons Why not
Lover or hate her

Food 18

Hungry for hoco

Interactive 19/20

Hoco need-to-knows



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Pro/Con: iPad Restrictions



The benefits of iPad restrictions

STORY AND GRAPHICS: LYDIA GIROUX, DESIGN EDITOR

Mercy's new freshmen class was given a surprising twist this year when they received their school iPads: new restrictions on the internet, App Store, and iMessage capabilities. These limitations have not been applied to any other grade at Mercy, resulting in mixed feelings among students and staff alike. However, iPad restrictions are actually a positive addition to the school's technology use and should be applied to every students' iPad.

While having the freedom to use the iPad for entertainment is appealing, the basic truth is that games and messaging are incredibly distracting for high school students. The new restrictions put in place force students to remain focused in their classes, which will be beneficial for students' grades, test scores, and overall academic experience. The seven hours that we attend school daily are set aside solely for us to receive an education. Think of it from a parent's perspective: would you want to pay the expensive tuition it costs to attend Mercy, only to have your daughter waste time she could be spending

getting an education on Candy Crush or Minecraft?

Not only does a lack of games on the iPad benefit the student while she is in school, but at home as well. Students without the iPad restrictions would be more tempted to watch Netflix or resort to other forms of entertainment than complete their homework assignments, study for a test, or accomplish any other task at hand. Essentially, the restrictions are teaching lessons in productivity, something valuable to understand as the student goes off to college in the coming years.

Additionally, the distractions iPads provide during school are incredibly disrespectful to teachers. Students without restrictions are more likely to ignore or tune out teachers during class. This creates a bad image of the student for the teacher, and ultimately the teacher will lose trust in the student in the future. Freshmen, on the other hand, now have no option but to pay more attention in class because there aren't any distractions. When the entire class pays attention, it makes the teacher's job easier and, essentially, more successful in the long run. More focus means higher test scores and higher grades

throughout the class, making school a more mutually beneficial experience for both teachers and students.

Mercy Associate Principal Mr. Larry Baker says after he and several staff members visited Notre Dame Prep in Pontiac, which leases Microsoft Surfaces, they became very intrigued by the idea of leasing iPads at Mercy.

"The staff we spoke with testified that school ownership of student devices allowed the students to be much more focused on their work in class since messaging, social media, Netflix, and other sites were unavailable," said Mr. Baker.

The school committee unanimously decided to implement the new iPad leasing program as the next step in Mercy's tech program. Therefore, current students who are not freshmen will not receive the new leased version of the iPads with restrictions on them, but every grade going forward will.

Overall, iPads can be a great tool and resource for schoolwork, but since colleges scrutinize a student's high school grades and overall success, the least amount of distractions possible is really the best course of action.



The drawbacks of iPad restrictions

STORY AND GRAPHICS: KEILEY BLACK, SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROMOTIONS EDITOR

Sitting in a lecture hall with over 100 other students, a young woman finds herself getting distracted with every passing second. From iMessage on her MacBook to the new game she downloaded last week, there is no hope left for paying attention in class.

This situation represents how many Mercy girls could go overboard with using distracting apps once they are in college. High school should be the time to make mistakes and learn how to handle distractions, because by college it will be far too late.

This year in the hopes of limiting distractions during the school day, freshmen and transfer students' iPads now come with a new range of restrictions. While these students have access to the internet and other necessary resources needed for school on their iPads, the App Store is not available for games and other distracting apps to be downloaded or accessed.

It's understandable that the administration wanted to introduce restrictions, however Apple Classroom should have been the only form of control on students' iPads because it only limits freedoms to a certain extent compared to the new restrictions of freshmen

iPads. Apple Classroom makes apps even more tempting and that temptation is only heightened once these students get home and can use them.

Apple Classroom is a fair implementation of iPad restrictions as it can track what students are doing in class. Teachers have the power to watch what students are doing, but this does not reach the point of new iPad restrictions.

With the new restrictions, students do not even have the opportunity to make a mistake when it comes to focusing during class. They need the opportunity to manage their own time and technology to learn from their mistakes. Once restrictions are no longer in place in college, students are bound to make mistakes focusing during class no matter what.

Many students think the restrictions are unnecessary and students should learn to control their learning on their own.

"I don't believe the restrictions on my iPad help me focus better," said freshman Isabella Perez.

The issue isn't necessarily students not wanting to pay attention during class, but rather a self-control issue.

If self-control is not learned during high school, what will happen years down the line?

When students reach the college level, they will surely have access to electronics during class, but definitely not have restrictions. Colleges hold students accountable to be mature enough to handle distractions. However, if that is not learned earlier, problems could certainly arise.

Especially at larger universities, there are so many students in a given class that a professor may not even know your name, let alone know how students are using their time during class. Paying attention during classes in college will be a sink or swim situation as students will either pay attention during class and pass the course, or be distracted and their grade will reflect that irresponsibility.

With time, upperclassmen at Mercy have learned how to focus without restrictions on their devices. However, underclassmen will never learn how to hold themselves accountable and learn how to focus during class if they don't have the same opportunity to learn now.

Marlins around the world

STORY AND GRAPHICS: CARRIE JEFFERSON, COPY EDITOR

After the final school bell of the year rang and summer began, many Mercy girls ditched their books for plane tickets to travel the globe with their fellow classmates and teachers. This summer, teachers in the world languages department sponsored Spanish, Latin, and French trips, each with their own set of itineraries in their respective countries.

Students from Mercy and the University of Detroit Jesuit (UDJ) teamed up to embark on an adventure to the southeastern city of Alicante, Spain from June 15-28. During the two-week trip, the crew traveled to Isla de Tabarca, an island off the coast of Alicante, Valencia, and the nation's capital, Madrid. The students stayed with host families to further immerse themselves in the culture, enjoying authentic foods and living a Hispanic lifestyle.

"I really got to experience a new culture that broadened my worldly perspective and helped me understand Spanish a bit better," said senior Dayton McGrail. "It [was] all anyone spoke and I was able to communicate [by speaking Spanish] with people better."

Mrs. Kelly Bickes, or as the Spanish students call her, Señora Bickes, enjoyed her firsthand experience of staying with a host family and two Mercy girls.

"When we sat down [for] dinner, it was nice that we would all have conversations together," said Mrs. Bickes. "It was just really nice to get to know the Mercy girls on a more personal level."

The itinerary allowed the students to have plenty of free time to experience city life. They also attended school for six days and were taught by Alicante civilians who showed them different dances, songs, and the cultural norms of Spain.

"I liked the idea of really being in the culture and not just observing it, but taking part in it," said McGrail. "[Alicante] didn't seem tourist-oriented, which is what I liked. I felt more immersed in the Spanish culture."

Along with day trips to Valencia, Tabarca Island, and Madrid, an annual Alicante festival was held where people build large statue-like creations that mimic "evils" in the world. The celebration lasts for about a week and is filled with music, drinking, dancing, and cheering. On the final night of the festival, the creations, called *hogueras*, are set aflame to symbolize a "burning of evils". Streets are packed with bystanders who watch and become soaked by the firefighter hoses as they douse the flames. Mercy and UDJ students were able to see and take part in the celebration and return home with new perspectives and lifelong memories.



Mercy seniors enjoyed a hike up a local Alicante mountain that included citywide views. Mercy partnered with UDJ to enjoy a two-week excursion to Alicante, Spain. Fair use: Instagram



The Eiffel Tower was just one of the various destinations Mercy students visited on the eventful French trip. Photo used with permission by Courtney Langan

Mercy French students geared up for their *tour de France* from June 22-July 3 with destinations including: Trouville, Paris, Avignon, Nice, and Eze.

Their journey began on the Normandy coast where the crew witnessed a cheese tasting and experienced life in the French countryside.

"The French culture is grounded in music, cuisine, and agriculture. They grow different herbs and flowers to create the world's finest perfumes," said senior Courtney Langan. "They are also notorious for their cuisine and variety of cheeses. The American culture is based more on industry."

They were also able to visit Colleville-sur-Mer to pay tribute at the American Cemetery and Memorial before a walk along Omaha Beach to recall the heavy D-Day losses American troops suffered.

Heading south, the group went to the Loire Valley and stopped in Amboise to visit Château du Clos Lucé, Leonardo da Vinci's final residence. Next, the girls toured Versailles to see the luscious gardens and Hall of Mirrors, where the Treaty of Versailles was signed.

Within this trip, the students were able to apply their knowledge of the language and culture in a real world setting.

"I definitely utilized my French education while traveling by compelling myself to speak French whenever I was able to and answer questions my tour guide asked," said Langan.

In the world famous city, Paris, the students viewed iconic monuments such as the Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel Tower. They also were able to see the Louvre with the famed painting "The Mona Lisa" and others. The country as a whole offered the chance to see the differences between French and American culture.

"Paris is very rich in history, [especially with] World War II," said French teacher Madame Joyce Campbell. "It's rich in architecture and shows how modern Paris began."

Additional cities included Avignon, Provence, Nice, and Eze, which offered outstanding views of the Mediterranean, cliffside botanical gardens, and a tour of the Fragonard Perfume Factory.

"To watch [the students] do such a beautiful job with the French is an experience beyond compare," said Madame Campbell. "That's where they have passed my class."

Although Latin is no longer primarily used for speaking purposes, Mrs. Lauren Marquard's Latin students put their knowledge of the culture to use as they traveled to several cities within Italy, France, and Spain from June 7-20.

"Every year, I always see girls looking at inscriptions and translating them," said Mrs. Lauren Marquard. "I've seen girls looking at other languages, like Italian, for example, [and] they can figure out what signs mean based on their knowledge of Latin."

Beginning in Paris, the group enjoyed a day of sightseeing and a visit to the infamous Eiffel Tower. The following day, the students were given a tour along the Seine River with visits to Notre Dame Cathedral and the Louvre, ending with a free afternoon to explore and dinner at a local restaurant.

"It was really cool to see all the special monuments," said senior Rachel Glowzinski. "[To be] able to see the Eiffel Tower and the churches [was] very pretty, and all the sightseeing was amazing."

Next on the agenda, the students boarded a train headed for Barcelona, Spain for two days of touring. Their itinerary included views of Las Ramblas, a street in central Barcelona, and la Sagrada Familia, a Roman Catholic basilica. After a short stay in Spain, the crew circled back to France and visited Carcassonne, Nîmes, Avignon, the French Riviera, Monte Carlo, and Eze, where they visited a perfume factory.

The final destination of the trip was Italy, where they first arrived in Pisa and snapped some photos in front of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The next cities included Florence and Assisi where the group visited the Duomo, a famous Italian cathedral and toured Saint Francis' Basilica.

"There is something very special about [Assisi]," said Mrs. Marquard. "You can feel that saints lived there. There is a certain peace throughout the city and it feels different."

The itinerary in Rome included the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel, Saint Peter's Basilica, and some free time to explore Vatican City.

"It's a lot of time and hours working and putting it together," said Mrs. Marquard. "But it's absolutely worth it because I really do think it changes [the students'] lives."



A group of Mercy students gather around Latin teacher Mrs. Lauren Marquard while in Barcelona gardens. Photo used with permission by Rachel Glowzinski

Fresh voices

STORY AND GRAPHICS: ABBY SHAW

Freshmen are notoriously known for keeping their heads down, steering clear of upperclassmen at all costs, and avoiding anything that could bring attention to themselves. Now, picture the opposite. These are the five freshmen that have been elected to be class officers. They plan to defy the stereotype by being leaders and making changes. It's not easy coming to a new school, and adding the stress of running for student council does not help. However, these five freshmen are determined to be heard by their class and make a mark on their school.



Caroline Butcher

Freshman Caroline Butcher came from Our Lady of Victory school and was eager to run for student council at Mercy. Butcher was drawn to Mercy because of its large size and many opportunities, which her middle school did not offer.

"I chose to run for student council at Mercy because I missed the chance to run in middle school," said Butcher. "And I believe I will be a good fit for our class."

Butcher's goal is to make this year as fun as possible for her classmates, and to become a better leader. Butcher has high hopes for the year, and plans to try out for both basketball and soccer.



Freshman Kathryn Byrne did not know many girls coming into Mercy, but looked forward to the kind and welcoming environment that she experienced when she shadowed.

"I've always been passionate about student government," said Byrne. "When I saw there was an opportunity to run here, I knew I really wanted to try and make a difference."

At her middle school, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Byrne was secretary then president of National Junior Honor Society, so she is excited to continue her leadership at Mercy. Byrne currently plays field hockey, plans on auditioning for the spring musical, and trying out for soccer in the spring.



Kathryn Byrne

Freshman Olivia Gray came to Mercy hoping to be an active part of the Mercy community. She loves the sisterhood at Mercy, and admires the nurturing environment.

"I enjoy being active in my school and love to help others," said Gray.

She was excited for the great opportunity to run and hopes to make freshman year the best through her two-year experience on student council at her middle school, Shrine of the Little Flower. Gray plays field hockey now and plans on joining lacrosse in the spring.



Freshman Ella Sinawi went to Our Lady of Victory for middle school where she was first secretary then president of student council, and chose to come to Mercy to continue the legacy of her mom and aunt. With her past experience in student council, Sinawi is ready to be a leader for the freshman class.

"I think it's important to be involved with the school and to be able to help voice the freshman class's opinions and thoughts," said Sinawi.

She is on the Mercy volleyball team, and hopes to bring new ideas and fundraisers to Mercy.



Ella Sinawi

Freshman Lauren Smiley chose to come to Mercy from St. Michael School because of its tradition and academics. She also appreciates the rigor of the academics and the athletic program. She was especially excited to run for class officer at Mercy because her old school did not have student council.

"I want to further develop my leadership skills and represent the class of 2023 in the best way," said Smiley.

Smiley is currently on the freshman volleyball team, will soon be a member of the honors Latin club, JCL, and plans to play basketball this winter. Smiley also hopes to organize more school and service projects, and be a strong voice for the class of 2023.



Lauren Smiley



Lauren Smiley

Paper or plastic?

STORY, PHOTO, AND GRAPHICS: LAUREN KRILL, COPY EDITOR

If you turn on the news, you'll see the Amazon Rainforest burning, the earth warming, the climate changing, and people across the globe being called to take action. While it may be overwhelming for average citizens to think they hold responsibility for the state of the earth, communities and schools such as Mercy are making a difference on a small scale that can have larger impacts than one might realize.

The Sisters of Mercy have identified five critical concerns, one being caring for the earth. The implementation of regulated recycling last year was a step towards making the school greener. Continuing this trend, the Mercy cafeteria has begun using paper products instead of plastic. The idea to use paper products was born from an iExplore project done at the end of last year, overseen by science teacher Mrs. Vanessa Mallory, where students pushed for the cafeteria to limit plastic waste and be more conscious of how much they throw away.

"We worked on creating a project where [students] would find some issue going on at Mercy that had to do with the care of the earth and try to develop a solution," said Mrs. Mallory. "A lot of the students' focus ended up being on the cafeteria."

According to data from the project completed by Mrs. Mallory's students, Mercy produces up to 329,080 pounds of waste per year. Out of that incredibly high number, 63,900 plates, forks, water bottles, napkins, and more are waste created by the cafeteria. Because of these staggering statistics, the cafeteria was bombarded by students full of ideas and

solutions they presented to Mrs. Anne Hallberg, a registered dietitian who heads cafeteria operations.

"We've converted almost everything in the caf to paper," said Mrs. Hallberg. "The to-go boxes are made from recycled products... and we're opening up the option to use paper straws."

The ideology behind using these new products is to eliminate large amounts of plastic waste as styrofoam and plastic take longer to break down, while paper is more easily decomposable. In addition to the use of paper plates, the cafeteria bought a new napkin dispenser that will limit how many napkins students can grab, and further manage the waste the cafeteria produces.

"The world is beginning to deteriorate, and there's not a lot of time to save it," Green Club leader Grace Seefelt said. "The paper plates are an important step for Mercy [towards] inspir[ing] change."

Mrs. Anne Hallberg serves food using the new biodegradable paper bowls.

Photo by Lauren Krill

animals are harmed by waste.

"The class is not just about science," said Mrs. Mallory. "[iExplore] is about problem solving."

A poll created by the iExplore group determined that out of 92 Mercy students, 88 percent were interested in using biodegradable containers. While students are becoming more enthusiastic about these issues and new paper products are a step in the right direction, many more actions are needed to make our school become truly green.

"What we ideally need is a recycling bin in the caf, because right now all of [the paper and plastic] goes to landfills anyways," said Mrs. Hallberg. "You would have to change the culture of the school and have [students] scraping their plates... and sorting through the [paper and plastic]. That would be the final step to making it an environmental program."

Although Mercy is just one school, our efforts impact not only the environment, but the community and other schools that recognize our efforts.

"Getting rid of the bottled waters [sold in the cafeteria] is the next step, but to do that we're going to need a lot more water-filling stations [for students] to use," said Mrs. Hallberg.

There are many different ways to help the environment, including signing petitions to save our oceans, donating money to organizations dedicated to cleaning up the earth, and even just recycling at home.

"It's important to take action and take the first step, even if it's not a big step," said Seefelt.



Although some items have been switched to paper, the cafeteria has yet to begin using decomposable to-go boxes. Photo by Lauren Krill



Mrs. Anne Hallberg serves food using the new biodegradable paper bowls.

Photo by Lauren Krill

Progression toward a recession?

STORY AND GRAPHICS: CLARE JONES

A high school girl sits at home trying to decide which college to attend. Beside her she sits her calculator, a notebook, and a pen. Throughout the night she continues to crunch numbers, desperately trying to figure out a way to afford college.

The price of attending college is expensive for many students and the responsibility of saving for it can be

difficult. Now with a predicted recession, it may be even harder than before.

Some financial experts are predicting the U.S. economy is close to experiencing another

recession a significant decline in economic activity. Also, some analysts believe the impact of the next recession may be worse than the recession in 2008; resulting in 11.2 million people becoming unemployed. The Great Recession of 2008 was a result of the drastic drop in the housing market. This drop caused some homeowners to be unable to pay their mortgage. Consumers were allowed to purchase homes they could not afford, which caused the Federal Reserve to limit the amount of credit available for both corporations and individuals. Many Americans lost their homes and jobs while companies struggled to create profits, and the government was forced to bail out financial and corporate institutions, including the auto industry.

In recent months, the U.S. stock market has done well and has been gaining more points throughout the third quarter in 2019 in comparison to 2018. This positive growth in the market has been satisfying many businesses and investors, until recently. Unlike the 2008 recession, the cause of the economy's next downturn is predicted to be the newly introduced tariffs on less expensive Chinese goods purchased in America. Ms. Isabelle Moore is a performing arts and speech teacher at Mercy, who

graduated from high school in 2010, and recalls seeing some of her friends at school being affected by the outcome of the 2008 recession.

"Fortunately this [recession] would not be debilitating for me," said Ms. Moore. "I was fortunate to have a lot of privileges and knew that college was in the future."

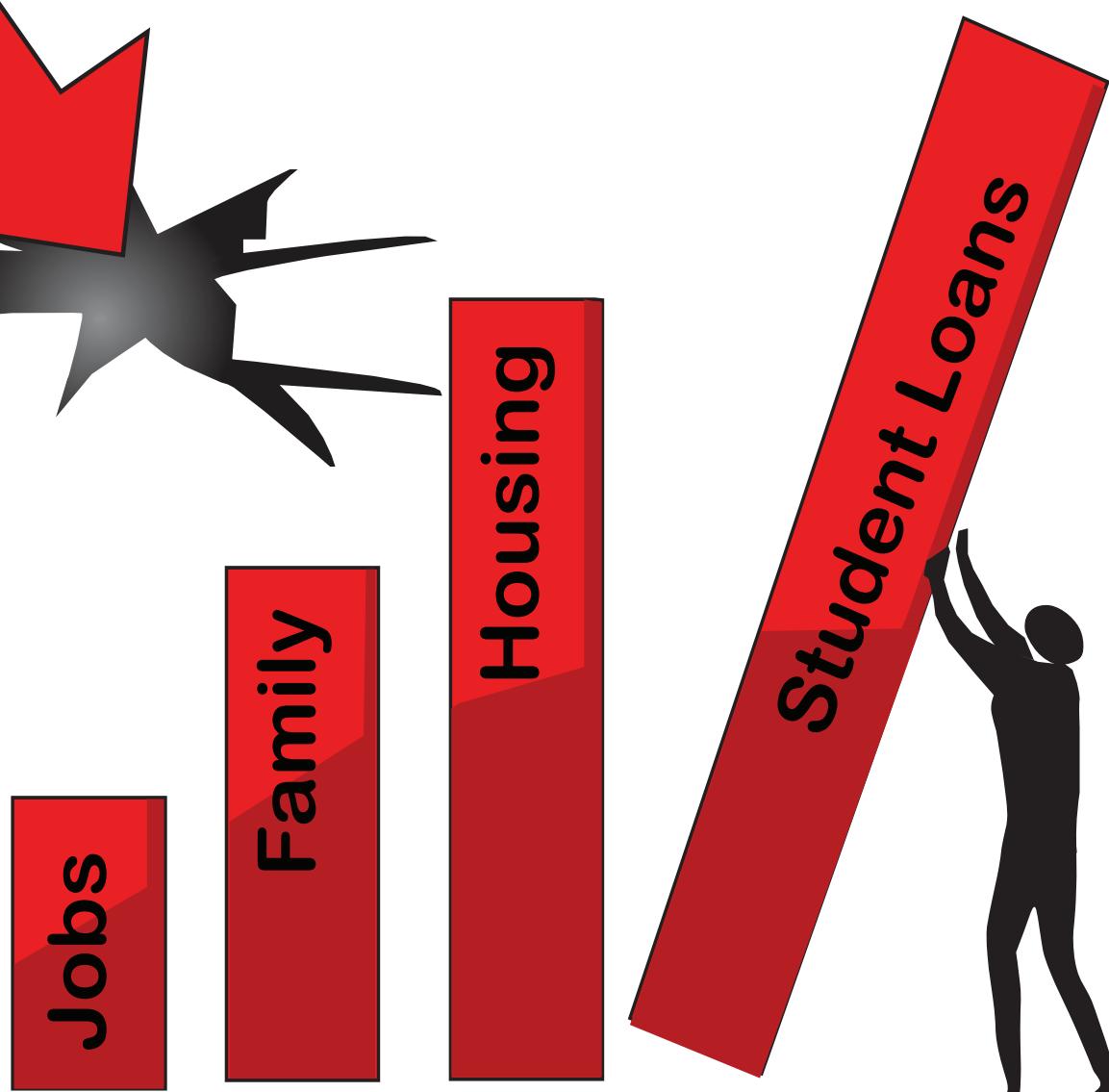
Financial experts who have studied the increase in student loan debt in the U.S. fear the major cause of the predicted recession will be the student loan crisis. *Forbes* magazine reports there are about 44 million borrowers in the U.S. who owe \$1.5 trillion dollars in total. If student loan debt continues to increase, the likelihood of graduates owning a home, becoming entrepreneurs, and saving for retirement will decrease because of the extensive amount of money previously taken out to receive a college education.

Considering the amount of people in the U.S. who have student loans, many 2020 presidential candidates are already

proposing ways to reduce the student loan crisis. According to the article "The 150 Best Recession-Proof Jobs Overall", published by *Time* magazine, Information Technology, environmental engineers and mental health counselors are considered to have highly recession-proof careers. Also, due to the constant need for medical care. The medical field is also a highly secure job market and is always in demand.

Nikolai Roussanov, a finance professor from University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business, said jobs that tend to be lower skilled can easily be taken over by artificial intelligence. The jobs that consist of having to complete routine work such as customer service, bank tellers, and filing clerks have a tendency to be eliminated first during a recession.

Mrs. Cindy Richter, an economics teacher at Mercy, pointed out that the U.S. has always come out of recessions in the past and emphasized that it will not last forever.



Pens, pencils, and bulletproof backpacks?

STORY, PHOTO, AND GRAPHICS: SAANYA ZAIDI

As millions of students across America shop for back-to-school essentials such as: pencils, crayons, and notebooks, some students are also grabbing an unusual item - bulletproof backpacks.

Bulletproof backpacks and backpack inserts are for sale online and on the shelves at stores including Office Depot, Home Depot and Bed Bath and Beyond. Made by companies like Bullet Blocker, Guard Dog and TuffyPacks, the backpacks sell for anywhere between \$99 and \$490.

Bullet Blocker's sales have skyrocketed over 200 percent since the three mass shootings over the summer, according to a CNN report. Gun Violence Archive, a corporation formed in 2013 to provide free online public access to accurate information about gun-related violence in the United States, reports that 312 people have been killed and 1209 were wounded in 289 mass shootings in the United States as of 2019.

The sobering truth is that school shootings are increasing around the country, and no school is spared from the need to protect itself from active shooter drills. Companies like Guard Dog Security, Bullet Blocker, and TuffyPacks have designed bulletproof backpacks that aim to ease concerns of worried parents and students.

What makes these backpacks bulletproof is a back panel or insert made of a flexible ballistic fiber material that companies market as being independently tested at allegedly the same standards as the National Institute of Justice "Level IIIA" body armor for law enforcement.

Mollie Timmons, a Justice Department spokeswoman, who spoke with NBC news said that the Department of Justice does not certify or test these backpacks.

"Marketing that claims NIJ testing or certification for such products is false", Timmons said.

To block the piercing ammunition caused by military-style rifles requires protection containing a hard ceramic or metallic plate weighing several pounds, with a "Level IV" rating.

The efficiency of bulletproof backpacks was put to the test by firearms instructor Scott Reitz, with the Los Angeles Police Department in a demonstration for NBC News Los Angeles.

The "Guard Dog Security ProShield II" bulletproof backpack, rated Level IIIA, was mounted to a mannequin torso in a t-shirt and placed on a firing range. While the nine mm pistol and the .45 caliber handgun

were stopped by the back panel armor, two shots from an AR-15 rifle, used by the U.S. military and in some recent mass shootings, both went completely through the back panel and, with a flicker of the shirt, exited the mannequin's back.

While some parents may rest easy sending their kids to school with a bulletproof backpack, others think differently.



While this Mercy girl pictured above is not wearing a bulletproof backpack, the demand is still high for these potentially life saving backpacks. Joe Curran, founder and CEO of Bullet Blocker, a body armor manufacturer, said his company has seen a 200 to 300 percent increase in sales from the recent mass shootings. Photo illustration by Saanya Zaidi

"If anything, these companies are just capitalizing on the fears of worried parents", said Saadia Amir, a parent of three boys who all attend Boulan Park Middle School in Troy, Michigan. "I may seem like a bad

parent, but sending my kids to school with a bulletproof backpack won't stop me from worrying. The only thing that would is if the lawmakers did something."

Even Senator Kamala Harris of California has said that bulletproof backpacks are a symbol of the bigger problem of gun violence in the United States.

"Parents shouldn't have to buy a bulletproof backpack for their child just to keep them safe in school," Harris tweeted in July. "This shouldn't be normal."

When asked about bulletproof backpacks, junior Jordan Maloney, immediately thought of her younger brother who attends Catholic Central.

"I think it is more likely for a school shooting to happen at his school because it is all boys. I feel that he would need it more than I would", Maloney said.

In addition to bulletproof backpacks, gun control advocates are proposing different ways to reduce mass shootings, including close background-checks, banning assault weapons, and prohibit high-capacity magazines. Many gun control activists argue these are some of the leading factors to gun violence.

The National Rifle Association (NRA) and other powerful groups continue to lobby against these measures. Wayne LaPierre, the Chief Executive of the NRA, whose lobby group faces criticism from activists sought to paint his opponents as "elites" and "socialists".

"The elites don't care not one whit about America's school system and schoolchildren," he told the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) at the National Harbor in Maryland. "If they truly cared, what they would do is they would protect them. For them, it's not a safety issue, it's a political issue."

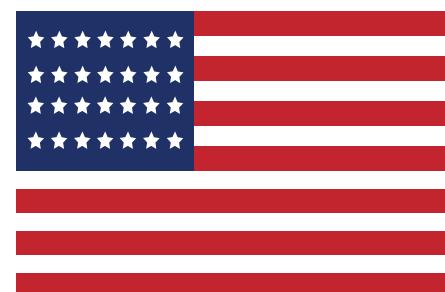
Every educator at Mercy High School has been trained in a preparedness drill called A.L.I.C.E training: the Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate response to active shooter situations, and for Mr. Steve Morgan, an English teacher at Mercy, it bothers him when the drills are not taken seriously. Some Mercy students believe that an active shooter situation will not happen at Mercy

"Don't you think schools like Columbine and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida believed the same?" Mr. Morgan asked. "The only true power we the people have is the ballot, and we have to assert that power collectively," said Mr. Morgan. "Because it will take a mass effort. We can't assume others will handle what needs handling."



**1,500 CHILDREN
ARE KILLED WITH GUNS
EVERY YEAR**

Source: Giffords Law Center



**288
School shootings
since 2009**

MEET the STAFF

STORY AND PHOTOS: BELLA APRILLIANO, JULIA CANTY, KEILEY BLACK, DUNYA KIZY
GRAPHICS: LYDIA GIROUX



MRS. NEUMANN
She relieves stress through yoga and piyo class.



MRS. MAIDA
She loves cooking and watching college football with her family.



MRS. EARLS
She teaches adult architects outside of Mercy.



MRS. SCHMITT
Her favorite animal is a giraffe.



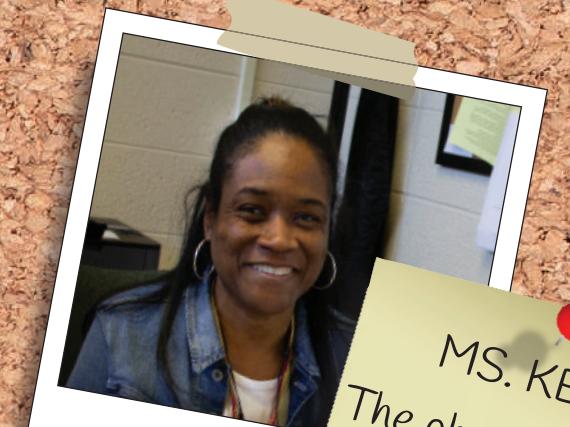
MRS. HEROLD
Her favorite book is Jane Eyre.



MRS. EVERETT
Her dream vacation spot is Australia.



MS. WAINEO
She attended Central Michigan University for college.



MS. KELLY
The phrase she uses to describe Mercy is "phenomenal women".



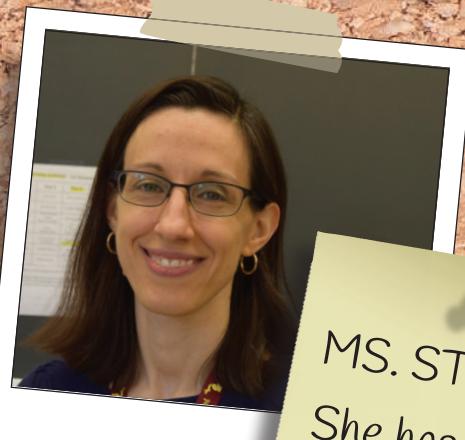
MRS. ZIMMERMAN
She has been vegan for a year now.



MR. ASHER
His favorite candy is Hershey's chocolate with almonds.



MS. PARLOR
Her favorite Mercy lunch is Kickin' Chicken.



MS. STACHURA
She has a Maltese dog named Teek.

WHY MERCY?

Qualities that make Mercy so appealing to incoming students

STORY: BELLA APRILLIANO, WEB EDITOR



Girls come to Mercy for the opportunities and aspects that make our school so unique. Photo illustration by Dunya Kizy

Seven hundred girls walk the halls of Mercy High School five days a week for nine months every year. Attending our classes and studying for hours are habits that we don't think twice about. We snooze the alarm, put on the same old kilt and polo shirt, drink that daily cup of coffee, and drive to school with music filling our cars. Soon enough, we develop a daily routine. School simply starts to become just another part of our lives. Consequently, we often forget why we go to school, and, more importantly, why we go to Mercy.

Each girl chooses to attend Mercy for different, unique reasons. Whether it's for the college preparatory education, outstanding sports teams, student-led clubs, smiling staff, or the idea of growing from a young girl into a strong, independent woman in a female-dominated community, Mercy serves all who walk its halls. Girls have recently transferred to Mercy for many of these very reasons.

Sophomore Daunbe Choi is beginning to make her way through Mercy. Choi was raised in South Korea, and followed her sister to the U.S. where her sister is receiving her master's degree. Choi has been studying English since she was seven years old, and is learning more each day.

"I was finding a school to study in the U.S. [which] was a big wish of mine," said Choi. "I

have a big interest in religion, so I wanted to take classes here."

Mercy stood out to Choi because of its religious studies department. The art program and science club at Mercy immediately sparked Choi's interest as well. Choi is adjusting well to Mercy and loves everything about it.

"Using the iPad is really cool and it makes it easy to study," said Choi. "Also, the people and teachers here are so kind."

Mercy is becoming a second home for another sophomore, Zenobia McAuley. McAuley is from East Lansing and moved to Farmington Hills because of her interest in joining the Mercy community. Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy in 1831, is McAuley's great, great, great aunt, leading McAuley to feel a real connection to Mercy and adding to her desire to attend the school.

"I wanted to be in a better learning environment," said McAuley. "I also hope to make the Varsity Tennis team in the spring."

McAuley's love for Mercy is certainly growing, specifically because of the outstanding education, students, and staff.

"Everyone is so nice and positive here. I love it," said McAuley.

Junior Samantha Diaz also feels she has found her place at Mercy. Born in Birmingham,

Michigan and having lived in England and Japan, Diaz has been through multiple school systems but ultimately made her way to Mercy.

"I have always wanted to join the Mercy swim team since my freshman year," said Diaz. "I also have a huge interest in art and hope to pursue it in college."

Diaz has loved Mercy so far and what it has brought to her, especially the friends she has made.

"My favorite thing about Mercy is the community you find within the swim team and any other sports team here," said Diaz. "I have already made a lot of friends because of swim, and I'm more comfortable because I have found them."

Mercy sparked an interest in Choi, McAuley, Diaz, and all transfer students who are now walking the halls of Mercy.

While Mercy has a challenging curriculum, it's important to remember the reasons why you decided to come to Mercy and why you choose to stay. One-of-a-kind lunches in the cafe, much needed off hours, Ms. Harkness simply waving in the halls, and the life-long memories are just some of the many reasons why girls choose Mercy.

Why Mercy is special to its staff members

STORY AND GRAPHICS: JULIA CANTY, ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

No matter who you are or how you found Mercy, members of the community attest to the fact that one cannot deny the sense of love, support, and encouragement within this school. These feelings would not surround Mercy without every single staff member and their positive impact on the students. This school year, the Mercy community has welcomed some new and familiar faces to the building, each with a different reason on why Mercy is special to them.

Mrs. Darlene Earls became the new ceramics teacher this year. She was a substitute teacher at Mercy about two years ago and remembers how much she enjoyed the environment. She came across the opening at Mercy while looking for a job at a smaller sized, religious high school.

"I knew that a faith-based school would foster [the] feeling [of family]," said Mrs. Earls.

Mrs. Earls was overjoyed at the opportunity to become the new ceramics teacher and prayed a lot after her interview for the chance to come work at Mercy.

"When it opened up I remember looking at the listing going 'oh this could be wonderful,'" said Mrs. Earls. "Things lined up perfectly."

After working at another high school for a year in which she was only given the opportunity to know one other staff member, she is enjoying the close-knit feeling among Mercy faculty and students.

Mrs. Earls has witnessed the tremendous level of curiosity and hard work that makes up both a strong student and Mercy girl. She noted that Mercy

students are different than others she has worked with in the past based on their strong motivation to try everything and learn. This drive would not be instilled in students without the guidance of teachers, such as Mrs. Earls, and staff along the way.

"I've [never] had this many students be this willing to try stuff," said Mrs. Earls.

Another staff member joining a new part of the community is Ms. Alicia Kelly who took a new position in Mercy's advancement office this year after working 14 years in the maintenance department. One of her favorite parts of the new job is spending time with much more of the community than her previous position warranted.

"I love it because I get more interaction with the girls," said Ms. Kelly. "A few have come in and actually sat and visited with me, which is awesome."

One of the goals at Mercy is to ensure every person knows they are important and that we all take part in getting to know those around us. This is part of what makes Mercy a family.

It is because of the "Mercy difference" that girls are so passionate about their studies and feel supported in their dreams and goals. Ms. Kelly has been a part of the Mercy community for so long because of how strongly she supports its mission.

"Mercy is building a foundation to uplift girls to be strong, independent, positive women who [will] get out there and [make a difference]," said Ms. Kelly.

Ms. Kelly believes Mercy is the backbone for all young women who walk through our doors because

it provides them with everything they need to go out into the world and do what they are meant to do.

A perfect example of this is Ms. Tyler Parlor ('14) who has come back, after graduating, to work in the business office.

Ms. Parlor, a former Mercy student, basketball star, and NHS President, said everyone welcomed her "home" with open arms when she returned to Mercy. Mercy gave her the opportunity to connect to both herself and those around her in a positive way. She is grateful to Mercy for what it has given her and excited to now give back.

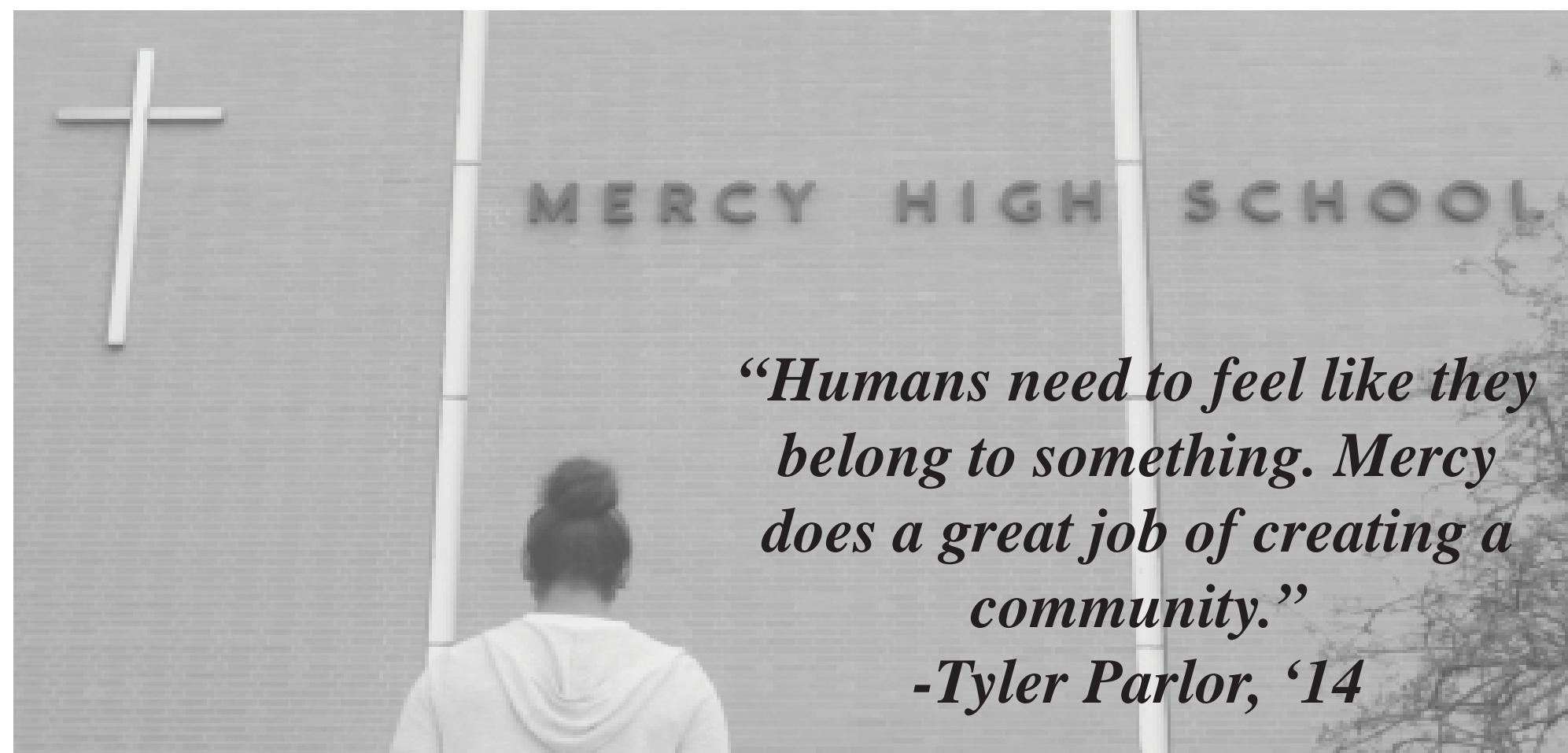
"This is a place where a lot of who I am was developed," said Ms. Parlor.

Ms. Parlor graduated from college and started her own nonprofit organization. Allegory Productions is a production company in which Ms. Parlor hopes to use media as an outlet to share the stories through the lens of her psychology background.

"We only know what we consume from the stories we're told," said Ms. Parlor. "I really want to use my production company as a vehicle to... use storytelling to reshape the mindsets of the next generation."

Mercy allowed her to not only find this path within herself but have the courage and skills needed to follow it.

"The Mercy experience is certainly something you wouldn't be able to recreate anywhere," said Ms. Parlor. "Invest in it."



"Humans need to feel like they belong to something. Mercy does a great job of creating a community."

-Tyler Parlor, '14

Tyler Parlor, a new member of the Mercy staff, is excited to be back and working at Mercy. Photo by Dunya Kizy

Isabelle's Insight

Why I chose Mercy

STORY, PHOTOS, AND GRAPHICS: ISABELLE SAWICKI, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When I was in elementary school, my family expected me to go to Mercy High School. My mom, her sisters, and my cousins had gone to Mercy years before, so it was assumed I would go too. When I was in seventh grade, my sister started her first year at Mercy. She came home talking about off hours, the amazing lunches, and the amount of freedom she had compared to middle

school. I was so excited because after I was at the same school for 13 years, I was ready for

something new. But once I entered my eighth grade year, I started wanting to take a different path than my mom and sister, so I decided I wanted to attend Marian (gasp).

I shadowed at Marian, and I didn't love it. However, defiant 13-year-old me still had the mindset of doing the opposite of my family. Of course, a month later, my mom scheduled me to shadow at Mercy. The first class I went to was Mr. Morgan's English class, then Mr. Morris' World History class, which presented a great picture of what Mercy has to offer. My guide had two off hours and I was overwhelmingly excited about the freedoms and independence Mercy provides. Despite my rebellious mindset, I knew when I stepped out of the building on my shadow day that Mercy was where I was meant to be.

Eighth grade came to a close and I was ecstatic to start my freshman year at Mercy. Through the first months of school, I continuously heard during assemblies, masses, or from students about how special Mercy is. They always talked about how people had found their true selves here and found their place. My freshman year, I could not find my place at Mercy. I participated in school activities such as the volleyball team and iWizards, but nothing was clicking into place. My memories from my freshman year only include stressing out about my grades and being addicted to my GPA and percentages. I wouldn't allow myself to enjoy anything too much at Mercy because all that mattered to me was my grades. I didn't make many friends and I was extremely reserved, only focusing on myself and not the community around me.

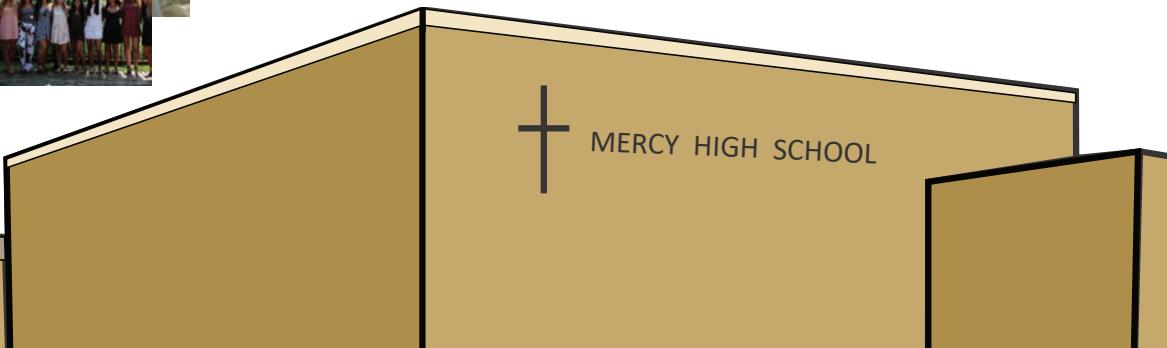
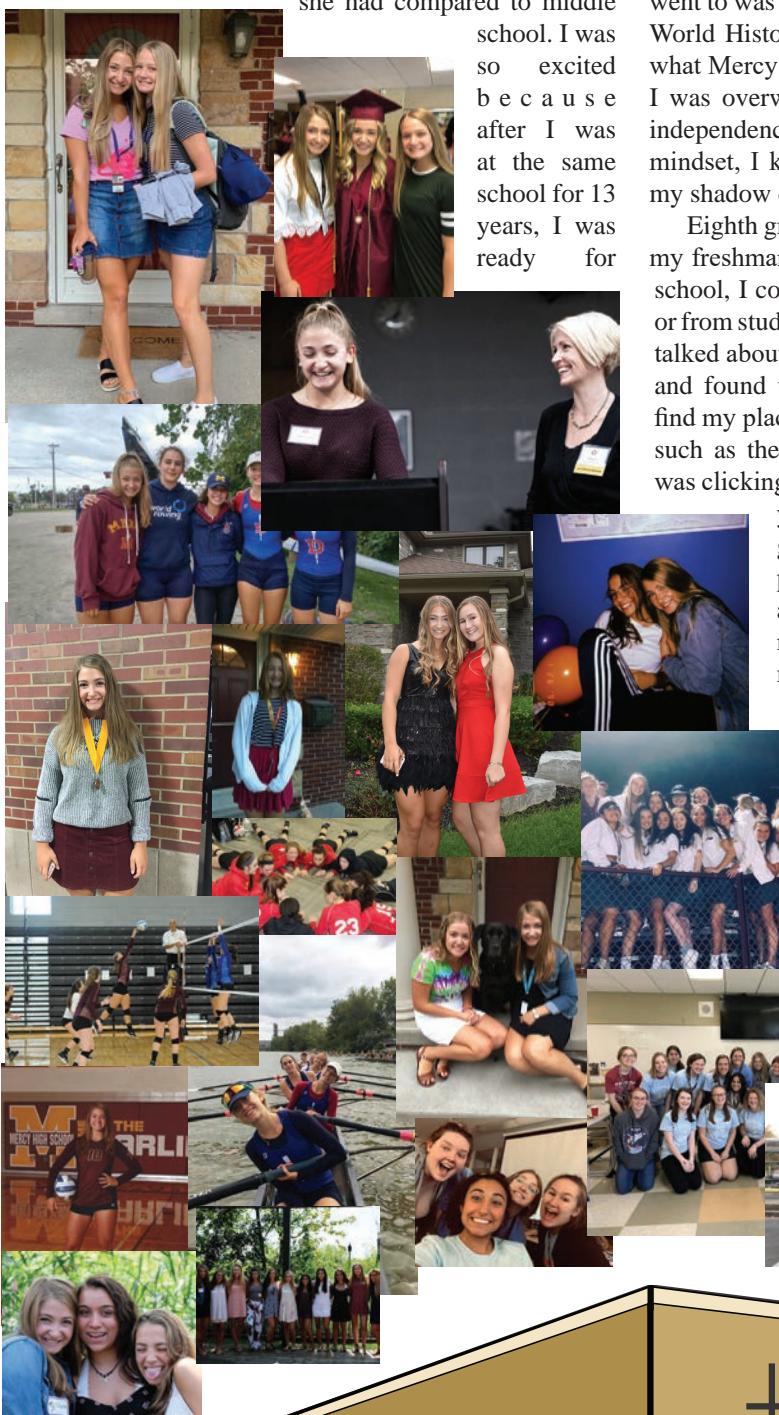
Sophomore year was practically the same. While I started becoming a bit more talkative and outgoing in school, grades, perfection, and class were all I cared about. By the end of that year, I knew I was putting myself in a toxic state of mind. I had to change my experience at Mercy. So as I started my junior year with advanced classes and college testing looming, I made a promise to myself to take advantage of Mercy while I was here.

I made a lot of changes, inside and out of Mercy. I started rowing at the Detroit Boat Club, which pushed me out of my comfort zone. Joining the team ended up building my ability to be able to benefit from uncomfortable situations. This especially helped in my journey as a Link Leader.

Being a Link Leader can be very scary at times, especially when you are just starting to be comfortable in difficult situations. While the freshmen learned so much about Mercy through Link Crew, so did I. By encouraging others to see the amazing things about Mercy, I found those same things myself. Through the process, I had to open up about my experience at Mercy and the things I loved and didn't. This allowed me for the first time to see Mercy clearly. I saw Mercy with no grades, no standardized testing, and no pressure to get into the best college. I saw Mercy as the strong community of powerful women that it truly is, and I automatically changed my attitude walking through its halls.

In my junior year, I also joined the *Newsprint* staff. What seemed sophomore year when I signed up for the class like a good opportunity to write and have something on my college application changed into the thing I hold most dear in my time at Mercy. This is where I found my place. The friends I have made, the stories I have written, the people I have talked to, and the leadership I have developed through *Newsprint* has truly changed who I am.

This is how I make a difference at Mercy and how this school has brought out the best in me. It is hard at times to be in such a highly competitive and demanding environment, but when you look past the homework, tests, and grades, there is a community that changes lives and brings out the best in everyone. I encourage each person to think about their place at Mercy and why they want to be here, and how they can make a change. Mercy is a place that accepts everyone. Anyone can make a difference at Mercy because even though I never thought I would, I found my place and have truly made myself a part of this community.



Welcome to
**MERCY
HIGH SCHOOL**



Mercy skater earns highest honors

STORY, PHOTO, AND GRAPHICS: MADDIE SULLIVAN

Out of breath, she skated off the ice and left the rink as a panel of judges began to deliberate. Her heart was racing as she waited in the lobby until she was called back in. A judge handed her the results and as she grabbed the piece of paper, her hands trembled.

She slowly unraveled the paper and read "pass". A large smile covered junior Alexa Zydeck's face because the moment for which she had trained for years was finally here.

Zydeck became a U.S. Figure Skating Triple Gold Medalist this past summer after advancing to the gold division in three different disciplines. Reaching the Gold division in any discipline, let alone three, is considered a huge accomplishment and

denotes years of hard work and dedication by

the skater.

The U.S. Figure Skating

Association (USFSA) administers tests to determine a skater's level. Each discipline (Moves in the Field, Pairs, Free Skate, Pattern Dance, or Free Dance) has either six or eight levels and a skater competes in the level of the highest test passed. Skaters progress through the levels and ultimately strive to be named a U.S. Figure Skating Gold Medalist, which is awarded to individuals who have reached the senior level in a skating discipline.

Zydeck began skating a decade ago after she learned on her aunt's backyard ice rink.

"I immediately loved it, and when I got home, I begged my parents to put me in lessons," said Zydeck. "I still love the way it makes me feel. I do things that I have worked so hard to be able to do and it's a really good feeling."

Zydeck prepared for these tests with her coach of six years, Stacy Barber. Barber, who has been a skating instructor for over 30 years, has helped many other talented skaters become U.S. Figure Skating Gold Medalists.

Zydeck skated for four hours daily over the summer with an additional one hour of off-ice conditioning to prepare for the tests.

"Every test you take getting closer to the gold, you have to train more," said Barber.

Most young skaters aim to advance to the gold division before they finish high school.

"The pressure of having to pass before graduating is way too much to deal with," said Barber.

Because of this, Barber encouraged Zydeck to take these tests earlier, before she entered her senior year.

Going into the tests, Barber and Zydeck were anxious, especially for the last test: the senior

freestyle. This test included six jumps and three spins which Zydeck was required to execute perfectly in order to pass.

"I knew she was ready to take it," said Barber, "but sometimes with it being the last test, the nerves take over and it becomes a mental thing."

Zydeck's nerves were getting to her the morning of her final test as she was not skating her best and was consequently in a bad mood during practice.

"This is the time," Barber told her. "You are ready for this. You need to come back here this afternoon and perform." And she did.

denotes years of hard work and dedication by



It was an unforgettable moment when Zydeck passed. Although Barber had full confidence, Zydeck had not been expecting such great success.

"I knew I could do it but there is an overwhelming amount of doubt that fills my head when I get on the ice" said Zydeck.

"Physically, I knew I was ready, but my thoughts often get the best of me."

Zydeck was able to overcome her doubts and perform flawlessly in all three tests. "She was great," said Barber. "She



Alexa Zydeck with coaches Nicole Reits (left) and Stacey Barber (right). Photo used with permission from Royal Zydeck

performed beautifully."

Zydeck thought testing was one of the worst experiences because it gave her the most anxiety she had ever felt. However, she was very grateful for the experience because it helped her grow and develop into a better skater and, most importantly, a better person.

"I feel like I have not learned from anything as much as I have learned from the testing process," said Zydeck.

Looking forward, Zydeck will be competing with the Mercy figure skating team for her third season. She is still unsure whether she will skate at the collegiate level. It depends on what college she goes to and whether or not there are scholarship opportunities.

She is also training to become a U.S. Figure Skating Quadruple Gold Medalist as she hopes to pass her Pattern Dance test with her partner later this year.

"She is a super disciplined kid and such a sweet girl and a great role model for all the younger kids who skate at the rink, so it will be a sad day when she goes," said Barber.

Alexa Zydeck performed the Senior Freestyle test over the summer. Photo used with permission from Royal Zydeck

Lover or Hate Her: Taylor Swift's newest album is a lyrical masterpiece

STORY AND GRAPHICS: CAITLIN FLYNN, ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Pop sensation Taylor Swift released her highly anticipated seventh album titled *Lover* on August 23. Swift has described it as “a letter to love” in which she addresses many categories of love varying from paternal love, self love, romantic love, and love for her country.

One song, however, does not fall under any of these categories. *Lover*'s opening track “I Forgot That You Existed” is a nod to the anger Swift channeled in her last album, *Reputation*. *Reputation* was about close friends who became enemies once her social status plummeted after drama with Kim Kardashian and Kanye West hit social media. It is a catchy, upbeat song about moving on from those who have hurt you but not necessarily forgiving them.

“People go on and on about how you have to forgive and forget to move on,” said Swift in an interview with CBS Sunday Morning. “But you can move on without either of those things happening. You can become indifferent.”

Swift speaks of that feeling of indifference in the chorus of her song with the lyrics: “It isn’t love, it isn’t hate, it’s just indifference.” This track not only acknowledges that that era is in the past, but she is ready to start fresh, which is exactly what this album emulates. Inhaling the love of *Lover* and exhaling the hate of *Reputation* is where the album truly begins.

Another song that stands on its own is “Soon you’ll get better”, featuring the Dixie Chicks. Swift dedicated this song to her mother who was diagnosed with cancer nearly five years ago, but has recently suffered from a relapse. This song’s lyrical composition highlights Swift’s greatest strength as a songwriter: her storytelling ability. Swift opens the song by setting the scene with lyrics “the buttons of my coat were tangled in my hair / in doctor’s office lighting I didn’t tell you I was scared / that was the first time we were there”. The details she provides not only gives us insight into the emotions she was feeling at the time, but they take listeners to the cold, quiet, and sterile hallways of the hospital and tug at their hearts on the thought of

potentially losing their own mother.

Swift is not a “one trick pony” when it comes to providing details leading to an emotional connection. In the single “Lover”, she highlights the small, mundane acts of love through lyrics like, “At every table I will save you a seat” and “You save all of your dirtiest jokes for me”. It is a simple, but powerful, song speaking to the simplicity of true love.

Being in love for what feels like the first time is a theme throughout this album, meaning you cannot acknowledge the highs that come with being in love, without mentioning the devastating regret that nearly always comes with them.

“With every guitar string scar on my hand.” This line in “Lover” acknowledges her past failed relationships and the heartbreak that goes along with them. The gut-wrenching “Death of a thousand cuts” has a somber feel, which takes place within the heart of a breakup. “I ask the traffic lights if it’ll be alright / they say ‘I don’t know’”, meaning within a breakup, one becomes so lost that even something designed to give you a definitive answer, the traffic light, is simply unable to. The nature of heartbreak is an emotion that is specific to every individual who feels it, but Swift makes it universal. “But if the story is over, why am I still writing pages?”

In “Cornelia Street”, Swift continues to touch on the fearful concept of tainting euphoric moments from a relationship when that love is ripped away: “That’s of heartbreak could never / I’d never Cornelia again.”

However, this would not be a Taylor Swift album without a good amount of fun and pop heavy songs that touch on the beauties of love she is now known for. Songs like “Paper Rings” take you back to a time filled with pop-punk and clever word play: “The wine is cold / like the shoulder that I gave you in the street / cat and mouse for a month or two or three / now I wake up in the night and watch you breathe”. Others include eccentric pop fantasy “London Boy” and the hopscotch beat of “I think he knows”. These songs make you feel the bliss and innocent love she sings about: “Got my heart beat / skipping down 16th avenue”.

All of these songs are definitive proof that Swift’s best work is done when no one is looking. The songs not featured as leading singles are always the ones to look out for. Whenever Swift is learning and feeling through her music she proves better, unlike when she is preaching at listeners with “You need to calm down” in which she confuses political correctness with actual activism. It is clear when Swift is creating a song to be a hit and creating a song from her heart. It’s all in the writing.

With that being said, the song closest to Swift’s heart on “Lover” is the well earned happy ending “Daylight”. This track captures everything Swift is feeling in her settled down, 29-year-old life. She is clearly no longer “22”, and is no longer merely dancing through life from relationship to relationship: “I have been sleeping so long in a twenty year dark night / but now I see daylight”. This track is about growth, but it also begs the question, is this the beginning or ending of an era for Swift? With a direct reference to 2012 album Red in which Swift sang “Loving him was red / Oh red / Burning red”, she now sings “I once believed love would be / burning red / but it’s golden”. Swift could either be making it clear that this is the last chapter in her book, or the start of a brand new one. Regardless, this heartfelt and well written song beautifully ends this beautiful album.



Hungry for hoco

STORY, PHOTO, AND GRAPHICS: DELILAH COE

Homecoming can be a very exciting, yet stressful time of year because of many things that need to be planned and organized. It's true that finding a dress, date, and restaurant can be hectic, but lucky for you I have three restaurant ideas to try before heading off to homecoming.

Shiro



Located at the corner of 9 Mile and Novi Road lies a 1920s mansion called Shiro that serves elegant sushi. The restaurant has a fancy and sophisticated feel I noticed as soon as I walked through the big, vintage style doors. Shiro is a good dining option for homecoming due to its fancy style and diverse menu that suits all cravings. Not everyone is a sushi fan, but Shiro offers other meat and vegetarian options to satisfy all requests. I made reservations ahead of time, so my companion and I were seated immediately upon arrival. We were quickly waited on and ended up ordering five dishes including the lobster and crabmeat spring rolls as an appetizer. Our four sushi rolls, the Spicy Salmon roll, Fatty roll, Red Dragon roll, and Rainbow roll, all blew my expectations out of the water, as each had its own distinct and unique flavor that left my taste buds wanting more. Although every dish was delicious, they were on the pricey side. My dinner totaled around \$60, and my partner and I devoured it all, leaving nothing left over. I would recommend Shiro as a restaurant to go to before homecoming because of the delicious food, great service, and good environment for pictures



Photo by Delilah Coe



Photo by Delilah Coe



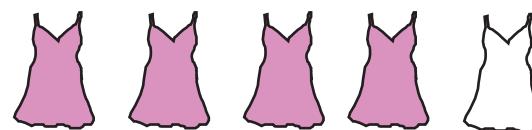
Antonio's

The aroma of fresh Italian food instantly consumes your senses when you walk through the doors of Antonio's Cucina Italiana on 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills. The family-owned restaurant has been thriving for 55 years and continues to serve tasty and authentic Italian food to hungry customers. The reasonable pricing, generous portions, and multiple locations make it the perfect spot for you and your friends before homecoming.

Although the spacious restaurant was about a quarter full on a Thursday night, I was still seated within seconds of walking in. I was immediately waited on, and my companion and I ordered a total of four dishes consisting of the Caesar salad, Covatelli with Rita Sauce, Calamari Limone, and the bread basket with a side of their homemade ranch dressing. We were served about 20 minutes after ordering and given generous portions. All four dishes tasted fresh, and there was an obvious difference between the food we received and a "basic Italian restaurant". The Caesar salad was crisp and the tangy dressing made the dish amazing. Their homemade pasta with famous Rita Sauce made me feel as if I were in a small Italian village eating authentic Italian food. My partner and I left the restaurant full, and completely satisfied with the dishes we ordered. We had plenty of leftovers that were able to feed two more people and a bill totaling under \$40.

Antonio's accepts reservations and is perfect for big groups of people looking for a place to dine. The family style atmosphere makes it a very welcoming and happy environment. I would recommend this restaurant to anyone in general, but also to go to before homecoming because of the good prices, a 15 minute drive to Mercy, and the quality of the food.

Bonfire Grille



Tucked inside the Novi Town Center is a seafood and steak restaurant that was bustling with many customers on a Tuesday night. The Bonefish Grill, on 11 Mile Road and Grand River Avenue, may be one of Novi's most popular restaurants because many customers are attracted by the great food. I instantly noticed the smiles and laughter within the restaurant that made it feel welcoming and friendly. This restaurant is a good option for homecoming because of its location, great service, and delicious food. Although this restaurant is slightly expensive, the food is outstanding and there are many different options to please all customers. The menu consists of mainly seafood, but also meat and vegetarian options. The service was rapid despite having no reservation, and I was seated and waited on immediately.

My companion and I ordered two dishes called Ahi tuna Sashimi and Cod Imperial that both burst with flavor. The bill totaled around \$50, but the food was definitely worth the price. Not only was everyone very friendly, but two different managers approached my partner and I to ask about our meals and the service we received. Even though Bonefish Grill is a great restaurant, it was my least favorite because the food was not as delicious as the other two. I would recommend this restaurant not only for homecoming, but for any occasion because of the amazing food, good environment, and impeccable service.



Photo by Delilah Coe

Hoco need-to-knows

STORY, PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS: MEGAN MALLIE

Homecoming is arguably one of the most exciting social events of the school year. Weeks of planning and preparation go into the dance. Everything from the restaurants, picture locations, and perfect accessories to compliment your dress of choice are carefully selected to make homecoming an enjoyable and memorable experience. A *Newsprint* poll asked Mercy girls what their homecoming preferences are to give advice and tips for where to shop and what they do to prepare for the dance. The results from 200 respondents are displayed below.

Olivia Engler



Photo by Megan Mallie

Dress: “Bella Mia [boutique] in Plymouth.”

Date: “Yes, my boyfriend.”

Before/After: “We’re taking pictures, probably at Meadowbrook Country Club, and then after probably going to a friend’s house.”

Katie Ruffing

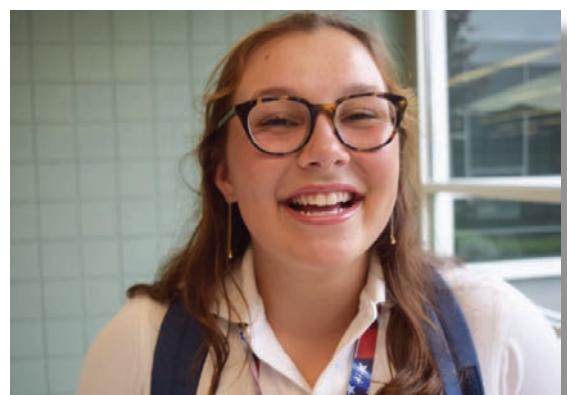


Photo by Megan Mallie

Dress: “Fashion Nova . . . my dress is blue.”

Dates: “I am going in a group with a date.”

Before/After: “Before take pictures [and after] I’m going to get ice cream with my date.”

Elise Sikora



Photo by Megan Mallie

Dress: “I got it off of Etsy.”

Date: “I’m going with my friends, and it’s just a group of five or six of us.”

Before/After: “Before probably going to get ready and go to dinner, and we haven’t really made any plans for after yet.”

The Numbers

Dresses

Out of a poll of 200 Mercy girls...

42.5% order dresses online

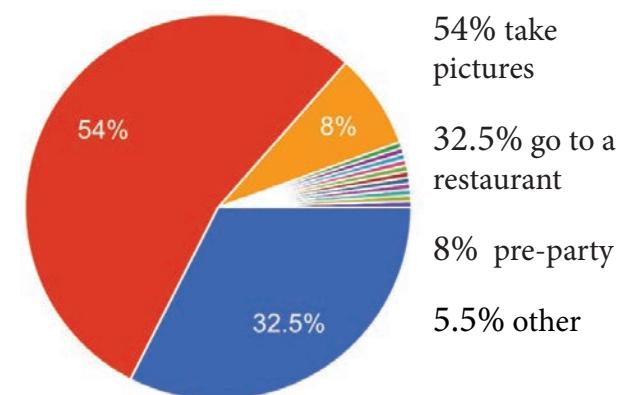
33% purchase dresses from department stores

18% shop at local boutiques

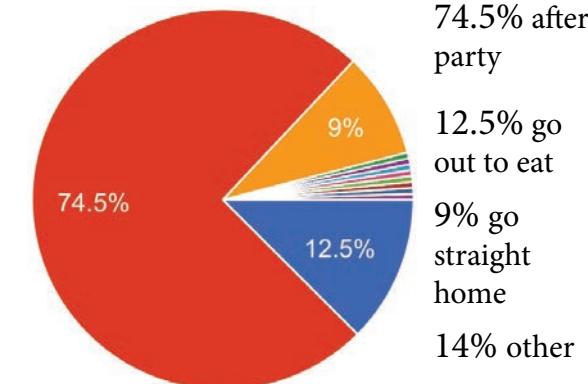
6.5% other

Before & After Activities

Before...



After...



Humans of Mercy

STORY, PHOTO, AND GRAPHICS: RACHAEL SALAH



Soraya Puerto-Khalil (center), Allison Koehler (left), and Grace Scheckenberger (right) hanging out during their off hour in the media center courtyard. Photo by Rachael Salah

Sophomore Soraya Puerto-Khalil has had a life full of change. These changes are some that most 15-year-olds have not experienced, but Puerto-Khalil has been through it all. When she was young, her brother had seizures very frequently and it wasn't uncommon to see an ambulance outside of her house.

"My brother having cerebral palsey has affected me a lot since I have been there through everything," said Puerto-Khalil.

Likewise, having to go back and forth from her mom's house to her dad's house every other weekend also became routine. However, when her father decided to move to Spain last year, she faced yet another difficult challenge.

"I was fine with him leaving because I just wanted him to be happy," said Puerto-Khalil.

Through all of these life-altering events, music has given her an escape. Hard rock artists like Queen have helped her realize that she can get through whatever obstacles come her way.

"I love Queen. They literally always get me through whatever I am stressed about," said Puerto-Khalil. "Queen showed me that I shouldn't waste my life away and to kind of live life to the fullest."

Through all of these experiences, Puerto-Khalil has learned a lot.

"All of this has impacted me positively by giving me a lot of perspective and experiences to go off of," said Puerto-Khalil. "I am always ready for another challenge."

MEME THIS PIC!



Photo by Dunya Kizy

cait'S TOP 8

Associate Editor-in-Chief Caitlin Flynn dives into her top eight favorite song recommendations this month.

1

"Heaven Help Me"
-Lizzo

2

"Francis Forever"
-Mitski

3

"Solo"
-Frank Ocean

4

"Baseball"
-Hippo Campus

5

"And She Was"
-Talking Heads

6

"Paper Bag"
-Fiona Apple

7

"Supermodel"
-SZA

8

"Listen to Your Friends"
-Declan McKenna

Can you think of a funny caption for this photo of Mrs. Zimmerman? To have your caption featured in the next issue, go to www.newsprintnow.net and comment on the "Meme This Pic" story under the entertainment tab!