

MEGAPHONE

HOMECOMING THEMES

OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

THE TRADITION CONTINUES

MEET THE
LEPRECHAUN

Our first
digital-only
issue



MEGAPHONE

CO-EDITORS IN

CHIEF

Ava Amos

Nic Napier

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Will Browning

Gracie Carr

Lauryn Woods

VIDEOGRAPHER

Olivia Hubbard

Jacob Langdon

OPINION EDITOR

Nic Napier

SPORTS EDITOR

Annika Garwood

Caleb Land

NEWS EDITOR

Jameson Browne

WEB EDITOR

Ethan Marasco

PAGE DESIGNER

Colin Bilbrey

Jacqueline Gantz

Ethan Marasco

REPORTERS

Ashlynn Bakemeyer

Toby Bradshaw

Katie Darragh

Andrew de las Alas

Ethan Ekhardt

Jackson Hern

Emma Kress

Jacob Langdon

Whitley Walton

Maddie Wirth

MODERATOR

Mr. Tony Willis

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Dave Worland

PRESIDENT

Dr. Rob Bridges

CONTACT US

TWITTER

@IrishMegaphone

WEBSITE

irishmegaphone.com

MEMBERSHIPS

Indiana High School

Press Association

National High School

Press

Association



The Megaphone staff does it work, both for print and online, in the journalism computer lab on the first floor of Loretto Hall.

From the Editors

As you may have noticed, we are trying something new this year for the Megaphone. Instead of both printing the paper and uploading it online, we are moving solely to publishing the paper online. This decision was not made lightly or in haste. We examined Google analytics and determined that through our website and social media, a majority of you already had read the content of the paper before we put it in your hands. Another issue we encountered with papers being handed out during the first period class is that too often teachers were busy with their lessons and assessments and sometimes forgot to ask a student to take a moment to distribute the papers to the students in that class.

We know that it has been a tradition for students to receive the Megaphone in their alpha classes the day the paper comes out, and we know our readers always eagerly await the paper's arrival and its content (even if it doesn't always get handed out in alpha period), but we sadly will have to say goodbye to the paper edition of the Megaphone. Another factor, to be completely honest, was a significant increase in printing costs for this year, with the total printing bill for nine issues of almost \$10,000.

We also plan to time the release of each new issue on Day 3 so that students may take some time in their counties to read and discuss the stories that are included in that day's issue.

Don't be worried, though, as the online edition is going to be just as awesome, and it will be no different when it comes to Cathedral content. We have plans for this year as we head into the age of online printing. We have made some special updates to the Megaphone website to keep up with our new online style. Find us at www.irishmegaphone.com and also follow us on Twitter: @IrishMegaphone.

Make sure to check out our new staff page, which will give you an overview of all the people on the Megaphone staff. Our web designer, junior Ethan Marasco, is also in the process of redesigning the layout of the website, so stay tuned for that as well.

In addition, there will be a weekly sports schedule update available on the website, and we will have movie reviews posted for films currently in theaters.

Be sure to check out the Megaphone throughout the year. We promise you don't want to miss it.

Ava Amos and Nic Napier, Co-Editors in Chief

“We can sit with you with your research topic and within five minutes have five excellent research pieces that your teacher will love.”

Librarian Mrs. Jenny Herron

Advice for freshmen for getting the most out of the library



Librarian Mrs. Jenny Herron offered these tips for using the library

- You don't have to wait for your English teacher to bring you in to get your library card. You can get it any time.
- For second semester, you can be assigned to the library for resource.
- During your lunch or before and after school you can book the focus booth so you can study with friends.
- Always feel free to ask for help from the librarians. They love to help with printing, citations and good books to read.
- Freshman year is a good time to start the classics like George Orwell and Jane Austen, but also contemporary authors such as Angie Thomas and MT Anderson.

BY TOBIN BRADSHAW

Although the school library is part of the Indianapolis Public Library system, it would be hard pressed to find one like it anywhere else.

In addition to simply checking out books, the library serves as “a meeting and gathering place during flex,” according to librarian and media specialist Mrs. Jenny Herron, who added that students go there “to print, to check on homework with friends, to visit technology, (to take) care of iPad or lanyard issues, to check out a book or just relax during free time.”

For about 60 people, the library serves as a great spot to hang out during flex. And, unlike the traditional idea of a quiet library, you don't need to be quiet in the library during flex.

Herron said, “We used to try it, but it's such a transient period. There's a lot of traffic in and out, especially during flex. We gave up. But the rest of the day it is a silent academic period.”

But, this could change. Herron said, “We're thinking of having days 2 and 5 be silent reading days (this) year.”

However, the library isn't only a fun place to hang out before, during and after school. It is also a place to work on homework, especially writing papers. Herron said, “We can sit with you with your research topic and within five minutes have five excellent research pieces that your teacher will love.”

Help with your research paper

Also, Herron said she can help with citations and works cited. To get assistance with a paper, students can contact anyone in the library staff: both her and library assistant Miss Alannah Cataldo.

The library also provides streaming services for movies



Before school on Aug. 15, a group of freshman boys gathers in the library to socialize before the start of Day 4. The library/media center opens each morning at 7 for students to complete their homework, check out a book, or just chill. The library opens every morning at 7, even on late start days.

Photo by Gracie Carr

and TV. Both can be accessed through portals in the library website. Herron said one service is called Kanopy and the other is Hoopla. Herron said, “I would (suggest) Kanopy for movies but Hoopla for shows.” Also, rather than a subscription fee like w, all you need is your library card.

Since Herron became the media specialist here in 2013, she has made some changes to the library, including more comfortable and collaborative seating. And, Herron has made reading for fun more accessible and rewarding.

Technology and access to numerous databases have changed the collection currently stored in the library. Herron said, “I have weeded out much of the non-fiction titles because students' research is more online based. I have tried to focus more on fiction reading for pleasure.”

To encourage this increase in reading, Herron created a program called 5 by 5/5. It has provided an incentive for several years.

To sign up you only need to go to the front desk of the library and tell them your name. After that students can report the books they read from Jan. 1 to May 5. And, if you read five books by May 5, you get a free catered lunch with all 5 by 5/5 participants.

Last year, 64 students and teachers took part in the program.

Library open before, after school

While most people spend time in the library during flex or resource, Herron said the library is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays. “We are the only school I know open so late,” she said.

After learning all of the best ways to utilize the library, the only question is: What can't you do in the library? You can't be on your phone during school hours or eat food in the library.

Other than those two rules, the library is there every school day.

Keeping it Light



During tryouts on Aug. 21, senior Jackie Gantz and freshman Olivia Griffith set up a scene involving, believe it or not, selling and buying hams. Photo by Gracie Carr

Dropped by ComedySportz, improv team will still show off its talents

BY KATIE DARRAGH

Thespians flooded into the auditorium after the first day of school, excited for the upcoming season under the direction of the new theater director Mr. Tristan Zavaleta. The meeting was upbeat. It promised a year full of productions and new opportunities such as blackbox theater, but it was not long before it took a turn for the ComedySportz team.

"You could feel your stomach drop," said senior and former team co-captain Claire Hunter as she remembered the moment she found out her team no longer existed.

In protest to this summer's events concerning the decision to fire a teacher, ComedySportz Indianapolis (CSz Indianapolis) released a statement that it would be pausing all of its activities in both Roncalli and Cathedral high schools until the Archdiocese reverses its "approach to remove these educators despite any value these individuals may add to the educational development of students."

The organization indicated its assurance of its "great deal of respect for the Catholic faith," but it resolved to stand against "actions that appear to unfairly punish and exclude."

It was not long before the Archdiocese responded.

According to theater department chair Mr. Michael Moffatt, the Archdiocese called a meeting to gather the Archdiocesan schools after CSz Indianapolis released its decision. The meeting sought the approval of each

school for the Archdiocese to draft a letter in response to the withdrawal.

According to Moffatt, the letter labeled the actions of the organization as religious discrimination and announced that the Archdiocesan schools will henceforth cease to be affiliated with CSz Indianapolis. All of the schools agreed to the letter, not wanting to be a part of an organization that removes students from activities based off of their school's religious stance.

Hunter sagged in her seat, disappointed. She relayed how ComedySportz was always her favorite activity to look forward to ever since she made the team as a freshman.

She had been excited for the tradition of Senior Night, her fourth year as a member of the league, and her second year as co-captain, but most of all she had been anticipating another year of getting to perform with her team. "They are like family," said Hunter as she explained how improv is all about learning to trust in one another and how the close collaboration creates an intimate bond.

When asked for her opinion on the actions of CSz Indianapolis, Hunter admitted she understood the organization's stance but said that "at the same time we (students) didn't make that decision (this summer). We had no impact. It is just punishing us for something that we didn't do."

However, not all hope is lost for students such as Hunter and her team.

The future still looks bright for improv despite the loss. "We want to flip this into something great," Zavaleta said. Lounging in the mix-matched chairs of his office, Zavaleta and Moffatt bounced ideas off of each other. They spoke of various improv styles that they would love to try out in a rebranded improv group, now that the team will be free of the constraints of the ComedySportz structure. They spoke of "getting back to the roots" of improv here, and entertained the idea of new programs dedicated to uniting the Archdiocesan family.

While there are many ideas still on the drawing board, Zavaleta and Moffatt were especially interested in improv workshops in collaboration with other Archdiocesan schools.

Regardless, the school will have an improv team this year that is welcome to all students, not just those who were previously a part of the ComedySportz team.

CSz Indianapolis is also working to keep high school improv leagues alive with the new Circle City High School League team.

Mr. Ed Trout, the chief artistic officer of CSz, wrote in an email that the team is open to all "students from those schools that would have participated to sign-up and participate in an unaffiliated team of High School League players." He said that they organized this new team in an attempt to stand by students who may be in need of more support at this time.



Dr. Robert Bridges shows off his enthusiasm during last year's Winterfest in the Welch Activity Center. Cathedran file photo by Caroline Steiger

A Conversation with the President

The following is an edited version of a conversation between the Megaphone and President Dr. Robert Bridges on Aug. 20 in his office in Kelly Hall. Words that appear in double quote marks reflect Bridges' verbatim statements.

Q: How tough was this summer for you?

A: I will put it this way, I have been a Catholic school administrator for 19 years and I have met a lot of people with similar jobs throughout the country. I heard from a lot of these colleagues this summer and all of them basically called the firing "a worst case scenario for a Catholic school administrator."

There are several tough things administrators have to deal with: disciplinary issues, parents who are passionate about certain things, and other hard decisions, "but this is easily the worst and most difficult situation I've been in."

Q: How has this decision impacted you personally?

A: I have four kids and it's my most important responsibility as a husband and a father to show my kids the faith and get them to heaven. I believe that is also my role here at school. This message that came out of this whole experience was clear for many people, but also not easy to understand for other people.

For many young people today it may have seemed like a judgmental decision and something contrary to what Jesus would have

taught. As a dad, it made the job of helping my kids embrace the faith more challenging, and it was the same thing at school. I feel like a surrogate parent for many of the kids especially since I have some of my own kids here with their friends. I try to bring them all along in the faith, so the decision has made it challenging, but it also has become an opportunity to teach about the faith and learn that some things are hard to understand in our faith, especially in 2019.

Q: How did this decision affect your faith?

A: At Cathedral I believe I am a representative of the faith, but it's hard because what is so beautiful about the teachings is also maddening at the same time. Many of the teachings are very old and have not changed, which is both a beautiful and frustrating thing.

I wonder about the things people want the Church to change, such as women becoming priests and priests getting married. Other issues come up that people want to talk about, like the abuse scandal and now gay marriage, and people begin to wonder if the Church will change.

Maybe the abuse scandal doesn't happen if priests can get married or if women can become priests, but I don't know the answers to those questions. I have started to see churches governed by polls, kind of like what happens in politics, and they switch what they do based on the responses.

It seems like the churches are blowing in the wind when they do that, having no stake in the ground. "I think that's in a way spineless and the Catholic Church is not spineless, but when you're not spineless you can also be seen as really uncaring so that's a conundrum."

That is where we find ourselves now since the Church doesn't govern by polls and it can appear they don't care such as with the gay marriage situation.

Q: Why did you make the decision to fire Mr. Joshua Payne-Elliott?

A: "Ultimately because we are a Catholic school." I could not be in my position and let us not be Catholic. Catholicism is in the air we breathe and it is in our hearts. If we did not fire him, we would not have been able to be considered Catholic anymore.

There were several other factors that played into the firing, but losing our Catholic identity was the main reason we had to do so.

Q: How do you think this decision has impacted our school?

A: There have been obvious and noticeable effects that have risen from the decision, such as losing a few of our really great teachers and being called a lot of bad names. We have been accused of being bigots and have been called homophobic. I understand why people are calling us these names, but it's hurtful because

Story continues on Page 6



President Dr. Robert Bridges provided his perspective on events that occurred over the summer.
Photo by Nic Napier

Story continues from Page 5

because we do try and preach the opposite of that here. I think there have been numerous instances where this dilemma has brought people here together, and I'm not saying we all joined into a huge love circle because of the event, but there have been cases where we have come together. The seniors chose "Family" as the Holy Cross core value theme this year, and we didn't change that because of what happened. "This is definitely a bad time for our school." It has wounded us and torn us apart a little bit but it has given us an opportunity to come back together and reunite.

Q: Has it been tough to have Family as the Holy Cross theme this year after what happened?

A: When we had several of the students attend the meeting Cathedral held right after Mr. Payne-Elliott was fired, I mentioned the theme of family at the event and there were definitely some visible eye rolls. Our staff also did the same thing when we had a meeting. There were audible chuckles when it was mentioned at the alumni meeting as well. I understand why this is happening, but families go through rough periods. There is only one perfect family, the Holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, who all families should emulate. I think this an opportunity, though to examine how we can get better through this experience.

Q: How long did it take the decision to fire Mr. Payne-Elliott?

A: We really did try for two years to have it our way because we wanted to be the ones who got decided who gets to work for us. It was ultimately about short window of 11 days after the letter came that we had to make the decision to fire him, but we knew it was coming. The decision was made by the 25 members of board of directors.

Q: Did you ever speak with the Archbishop directly?

A: We met around three or four times over the two-year span. His first week on the job he actually found out about Mr. Payne-Elliott's marriage.

He basically said to us that according to the teachings of the Catholic Church you are not allowed to be involved in a gay marriage.

Q: What message do you think this decision sent to our students?

A: I think it meant a lot of different things to different people. Six weeks ago the message was that the Catholic Church is against gay marriage and that is that. I think the message is now that wherever you go there are going to be rules that you may like and may not like.

Being Catholic is not always easy and sometimes it is hard to accept certain aspects of the faith, but students should know that this is part of God's design.

Q: How did you feel about the prayer circle that was put on Downtown?

A: I thought that idea was really neat. It shows how sometimes we leave it to the kids when we need to be hopeful and positive. I liked the idea that the kids were trying to do something that really wasn't driven by hate.

Q: What do we do and how do we go on from here?

A: We have our daily schedules to keep us busy, and we need to go each day this school year and be the best that we can at the great things we do. We need to leave the bad things out like bullying and hate. We need to stand up against hate, especially now since people are watching us to see if we are a school filled with hate.

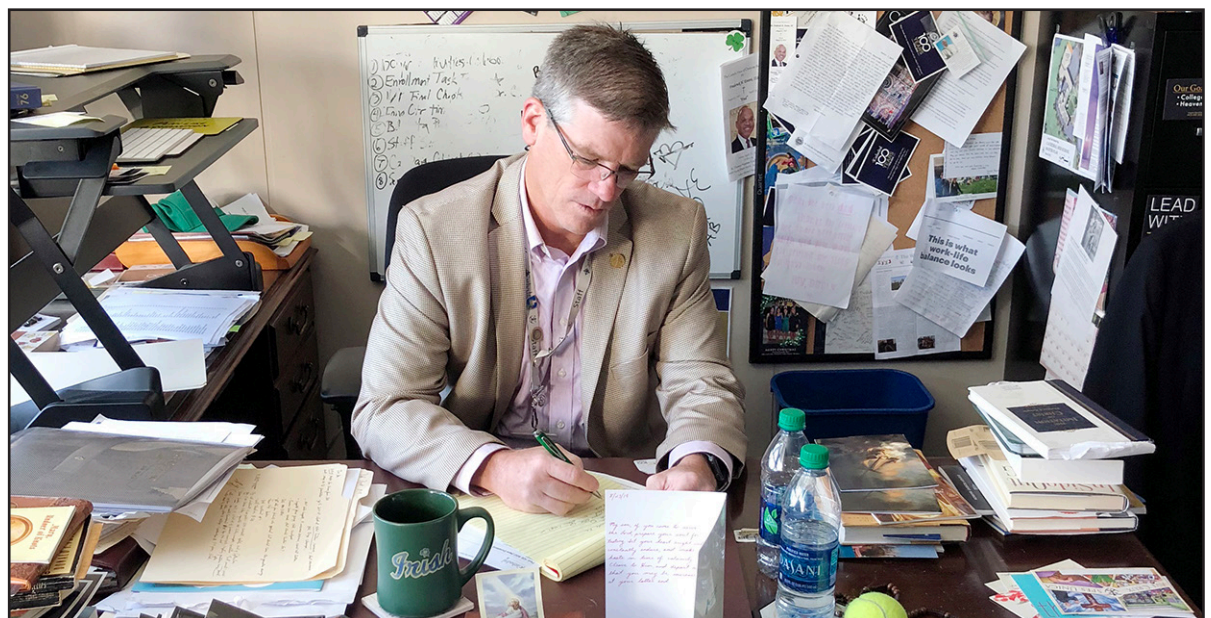
We need to show them that we are guided by God's commandment to love.

Q: Who is Cathedral and what is our identity?

A: I asked our staff why this had to happen to us, and I said I think it is because Cathedral could handle it. We are not a school just for Catholics and we are leaders in the amount of diversity we have.

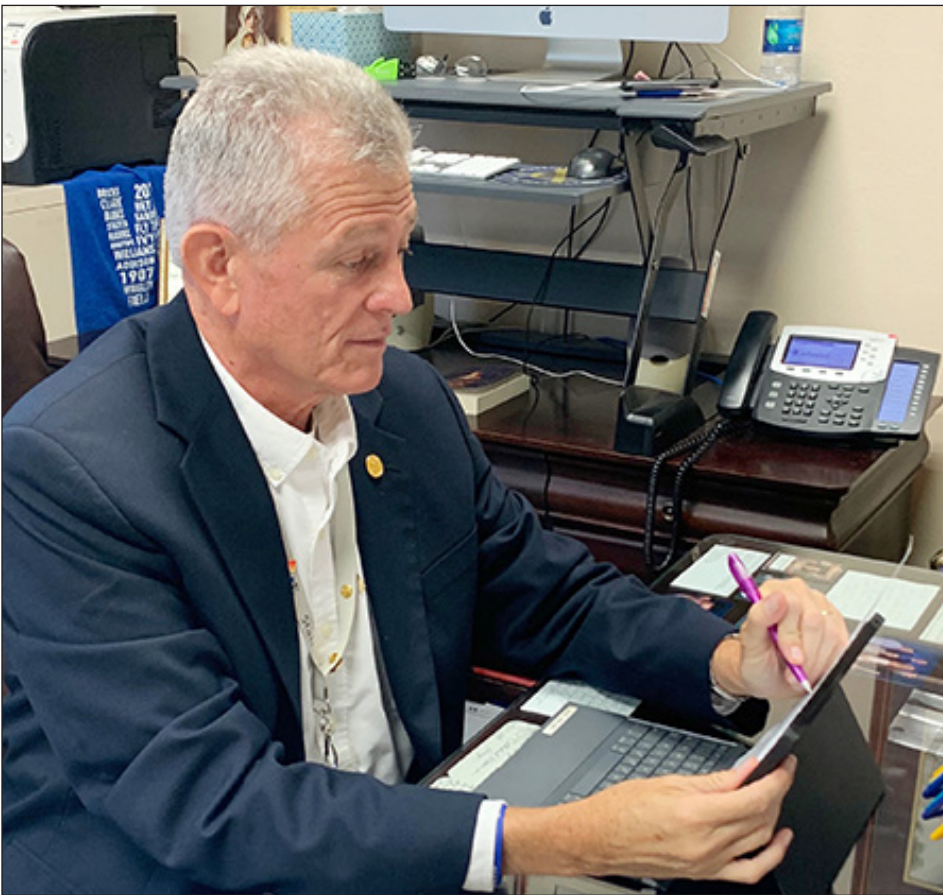
We embrace others, and we are guided by the truth of Jesus, the easy truths and the difficult ones, the Jesus who loves and accepts, as well as the Jesus who teaches about the narrow gate.

President Dr. Robert Bridges works at his desk in Kelly Hall yesterday.
Photo by Nic Napier



question & answer

Principal provides insight on new year



Q: What are the overall big events happening this school year?

A: "We are now coming off of our culmination of our 100-year celebration, so that's behind us. We have celebrated the 100 years so now the focus is starting anew for the next 100 years. The first exciting thing that we'll start to look at will be the expansion of our facilities, primarily our Innovation Center.

Hopefully through this first semester we finish the planning and the drawing and all the coordinating of it and the final fund-raising. Then second semester we'll actually look at starting to possibly renovate and break ground so we can start to actually see it take place."

Q: Where is the Innovation Center going to go?

A: "It will be an extension of Kelly Hall and it will move toward the open grassy area going toward Loretto Hall. It won't even go all the way to the sidewalk; it's probably going to be three-quarters of the way to the sidewalk. There will still be that open space that's be-

tween the Student Life Center and Loretto Hall in that far corner. It won't be closed in, (so) you'll still have some space there."

Q: What are your administrative goals for the year?

A: "My administrative goals for the year are we've got a new team, our Academic Innovation Team, so one of my goals is to see the transition of our academic leadership be embraced by those members that have been selected and interviewed prepared to come up with new and exciting ways to educate our students. It's kind of both at the same time by design, so we're going to build the Innovation Center and we're bringing on new educators in this AIT team to come up with innovative ways to better serve our students both academically, spiritually and emotionally.

Q: What are your feelings or thoughts about this year?

A: "I'm so thrilled right now to just see the energy of our students, both our upperclassmen and our sophomores and our new freshmen.

Just the feel and the excitement that I've received on the interests and the motivation of our students, I'm very excited about what I'm seeing. I'm looking forward to working with those students and the new teachers. We've got a wonderful group of new teachers who I know are going to fit in really well and bring some freshness and zeal to our academic leadership, our role modeling and our educational processes. I'm looking forward to a great start, it's already been a great start. (We're) looking at ways we can update and look at some positive changes to take us into a new era. We're in our second 100 years, (so) we want to make it very well known that we are going to study the best practices that are out there and model those."

Q: Are there any other modifications in the works for next year?

A: "I will especially look at our design of how we will utilize what I call my Administrative Leadership Team. I'm going to really study hard the restructuring of that so maybe we can, again, better serve students. So I might get a new design, and I'm looking to get a new model of how the administrative leadership can be structured so that we can get more productivity. One thing, for example, is (Vice Principal) Mr. (Jere) Kubuske is going to be moving. His wife took a softball coaching job at a Division I college up in Wisconsin so he's going to obviously want to join his family up there. I'm not going to replace his position.

What I'm going to do is take maybe three or four of our existing educators that are here and divide up his job so that we can get some people doing it at a part time level, but they would still stay as a teacher, or as a coach or as another employee here. I want to do more of that rather than just keeping the team the way it is, keeping my ALT doing the same things. I want to try new things. I think the spirit of where I'm going in my role as principal is I want to try new things."

Q: Is there anything else important the readers should know?

A: "I would just say the more I can get our student body involved in their school, their input would be critical. I want to know what they think would make a better environment, both academically, spiritually and athletically. So I'm going to constantly be looking for ways our students can have input so that we can improve their school."

Kelly Hall exterior now will be the site of new STEM/Innovation Center



Only a small portion of the courtyard will be taken up by the new STEM/Innovation Center. Photo by Ashlynn Bakemeyer

Landeros cites increasing construction costs for one reason for the change in plans

BY ASHLYNN BAKEMEYER

Plans are always subject to change, which is exactly what happened with the original STEM building layout.

Chief Operating Officer Mr. Rolly Landeros said the initial location of the STEM building, also referred to as the Innovation Center, set to open in the fall of 2021, was adjacent to the Shiel Student Life Center. Now, it is fixed to be beside Kelly Hall next to the courtyard sidewalk.

Landeros said the reasons for the location change came down to cost. "The price, compared to what it was four years ago, has gone up. Because of that change in cost per square foot, we had to be more creative on how we're really going to utilize this space," Landeros said.

He added that there was a significance behind the STEM building's placement. The building was relocated to be alongside Kelly Hall so as to keep the science and math departments together with the STEM facility.

"The emphasis on STEM is to provide (students and teachers) with the space that is designed for engineer-

ing, programming and even possibly robotics. The current classrooms are not designed for those types of learning abilities. It allows the teachers and students the creativity they need to begin that innovation thought."

Teachers and students can both apply their "innovation thought" into helping with the construction and design process.

Landeros noted, "We are going to have leadership meetings, department meetings and teacher meetings. We are also going to have student panels that will be a part of this."

Landeros said that a new cafeteria in B basement will be a result of the construction process and the student panels will get to have input on ideas for the old cafeteria. He said there are many exciting possibilities for the new space such as using it as an athletic training facility for dance, yoga or fitness. Landeros added, "The designs for that have not been finalized. That's what we're going to discuss over the next four months. Once the building internal design is done, we're going to look at what happens with the next phases, what happens

with the cafeteria, what is that going to look like, how is it going to be used and what's the best way of using our new space. But the weight room will most likely be the high priority to provide more space."

Another outcome from the construction is a redesigned courtyard. Landeros said, "The building will go up to where the sidewalk is at. The main part of the courtyard will remain intact."

Traffic and parking will be affected as well. Landeros said students will have to learn how to navigate from classroom to classroom during construction. He noted, "Because the building is going to be on the main campus, that's going to be a challenge." Landeros said that the transportation and storage of heavy machinery and construction equipment will add to the traffic challenges.

Even with the STEM building is changing its original location, Landeros said, "This new building will be the core of student life. There is going to be a lot of exciting discussions and students will be part of those discussions."

"The price, compared to what it was four years ago, has gone up. Because of that change in cost per square foot, we had to be more creative on how we're going to utilize the space."

Chief Operating Officer Mr. Rolly Landeros



Junior
Jake Kazan



Senior
Gideon Sullivan

From Buffalo and Pittsburgh, two hockey players join the Irish family

BY CALEB LAND

Senior Gideon Sullivan and junior Jake Kazan are new members of the Cathedral family.

Both are here on contract for the AAA 18U Indy Fuel. Sullivan is coming here from Buffalo. He said, "I was excited for the move. It will be a great opportunity for my future."

Kazan, on the other hand, hails from Pittsburgh, and he kept it simple, saying, "I am just ready to play hockey and become a great player."

Both have plans to continue playing hockey after high school. Kazan is attempting to secure a Division I offer, and Sullivan said he is going to continue playing junior hockey.

There were few other options regarding schooling. "Public schools wouldn't accept us and online schooling wasn't an option for me," Sullivan said.

Kazan had more than good words for Cathedral,

referring to it as "athletically and educationally dominant."

Both are on one-year contracts with the 18U Indy Fuel, but due to their contracts they will not be allowed to play for the Central Indiana Knights, the local high school team that students from here are a part of.

Both said they are ecstatic for this school year and are ready for the season to start. They did have one thing to say to the student body, though. "We would like students to come and show support for the Fuel."

Games are played at the Fuel Tank in Fishers on Fridays through Mondays and game times will vary, but all games, venues and times can be found on the 18U Fuel website.

Both Sullivan and Kazan are living this year with the Marraccini family in Carmel.



Junior Jake Kazan takes notes in his Period E chemistry class. He is one of two Indy Fuel players enrolled here who will attend classes and compete in their sport.

Photo by Gracie Carr

Band plans trip to Hawaii

BY AVA AMOS

At the end of this school year, the marching band will head to Hawaii.

"We are flying out of Indianapolis to Honolulu, then to Maui on May 27, then back to Indianapolis on May 30," said director of bands Mrs. Kathy McCullough.

She said 92 members of the Pride of the Irish will go on the trip, along with 18 chaperones and staff members along with 38 other travelers (adults who are not chaperones, children and alumni).

"We will be performing on Memorial Day at either Pearl Harbor Visitor Center or the USS Missouri, taking a tour of Pearl Harbor and the USS Missouri and performing in Downtown Honolulu at the Ala Moana Center Stage. We will also be touring the Polynesian Cultural Center, seeing a Polynesian show, going to luaus on the beach in Maui and touring the city of Lahaina on the island of Maui," McCullough said.

The band has traveled to Hawaii on two previous occasions, in 2002 and 2012. "The first time we performed in Honolulu and went to the big island of Hawaii. The second time we did the Oahu/Maui trip," she said.

But performing isn't the only reason the band is going to Hawaii.

McCullough said, "There is a strong music tradition in Hawaii, and our students learn about the many different styles of instruments, dance and musical performance groups at our various venues we tour and stay at," McCullough said.

Band members and their parents have numerous fundraisers in the works to generate the money to pay for the trip.

Latin Student Union member, teacher react to tragedy in El Paso



Junior Ana Cristina Arce-Ramirez is a member of the Hispanic Student Union. She provided her insights regarding the mass shooting in Texas.

By JACKSON HERN

Approximately one month after the shooting in El Paso, Texas that resulted in 22 people being shot to death and dozens more being wounded, many people across the country are still reeling at the effects of such a traumatic event, with another mass shooting in Texas over the weekend following a similar incident in Dayton, Ohio.

In the hours and days following the shooting, when it became apparent that the suspect had specifically targeted Latinos, the tragedy quickly began to symbolize a deeper issue.

Junior Ana Cristina Arce-Ramirez, a member of the Latino Student Union, recalled the day that she first heard the news. "I remember thinking to myself, 'When will it stop? I really thought our country was past this dark era of shootings,'" she said.

"It was a topic brought up at my house during dinner, and that was when I was informed that the shooter had targeted Mexicans, or at least people who appeared to be so."

Today, more than 18 percent of the United States population is made up of Hispanic or Latino descent, an increase from roughly 6 percent in 1980. Millions more can attest to the positive impact that this growth of the Latino presence in America has had.

One such person is English teacher Mr. Matt Panzer, who

grew up in an Hispanic town. "My mother is Hispanic, born and raised in Cuba, and my father is traditional German-Irish," said Panzer. "I grew up in Miami and moved to East Los Angeles where I taught for a number of years, which is a predominately Mexican-American area."

Panzer, who serves as the faculty moderator of the Latino Student Union, is knowledgeable about the history of the town of El Paso. Situated in southern Texas on the Mexican-American border, it has traditionally been a place rich with cultural exchange and diversity.

Panzer said, "It is certainly awful when there is specific targeting of a group, and it hurts the heart specifically because of what El Paso has meant to Texas, Americans and Mexicans.

"For years it had open borders and there was a sense of community between all of the cultures that lived there together," the English teacher said.

Here, some 1,200 miles away from El Paso, the effects of the shooting are prevalent. "It hurts me more when I think of the amount of hurt and damage people are going through due to the stigma and prejudice towards immigrants, specifically Mexicans nowadays," Arce-Ramirez said.

For her, Panzer and others in the Indianapolis and Cathedral communities that have meaningful ties to the Latino population

in this country, the shooting simply strengthens their conviction that something must be done to combat any signs of hatred toward any group of people.

Both Arce-Ramirez and Panzer agreed that conversation, dialogue and respect are the keys to helping the Cathedral family.

"I think the community could really use three things right now," Arce-Ramirez said. "Comfort from others to let them know they are with us, prayers for the people who feel scared, and for people to take up the responsibility of educating themselves and others as to what is going on in today's world so they can provide assistance to those in need."

For Panzer, while he praises the school for "how much we have done with social justice and outreach," he acknowledges that no one should ever stop trying to solve a problem. For him, making the issues at hand personal is a big step in the right direction.

He said, "When we actually engage in dialogue, we demystify some of the stereotypes, and people stop being numbers and start being people."

Panzer added, "Once you get a sense of a person, you tend to sympathize with them. If all we ever knew was statistics and perceptions, we wouldn't know much about each other. It is every individual's responsibility on every side to try and break these mental patterns."

Good bye and good luck, Mr. Kubuske

At the first assembly the school year, Vice Principal Mr. Jere Kubuske was the recipient of the traditional Irish blessing as he headed off to Green Bay, Wisconsin, for a teaching job at a high school there.

We wish him and his family all the best.

Photo by Jonas Hollis



With perfect ACT score, senior puts his academic abilities to good use

ANDREW DE LAS ALAS

For some students, math remains a struggle. Witness the placement of math teacher in the language support room every period and the math open gym sessions on Sundays, where teachers give up hours of their weekend to assist their students.

Grasping the intricacies of relationships between mathematical principles do not come easy to some. Nevertheless, some stand out in their numerical affinity.

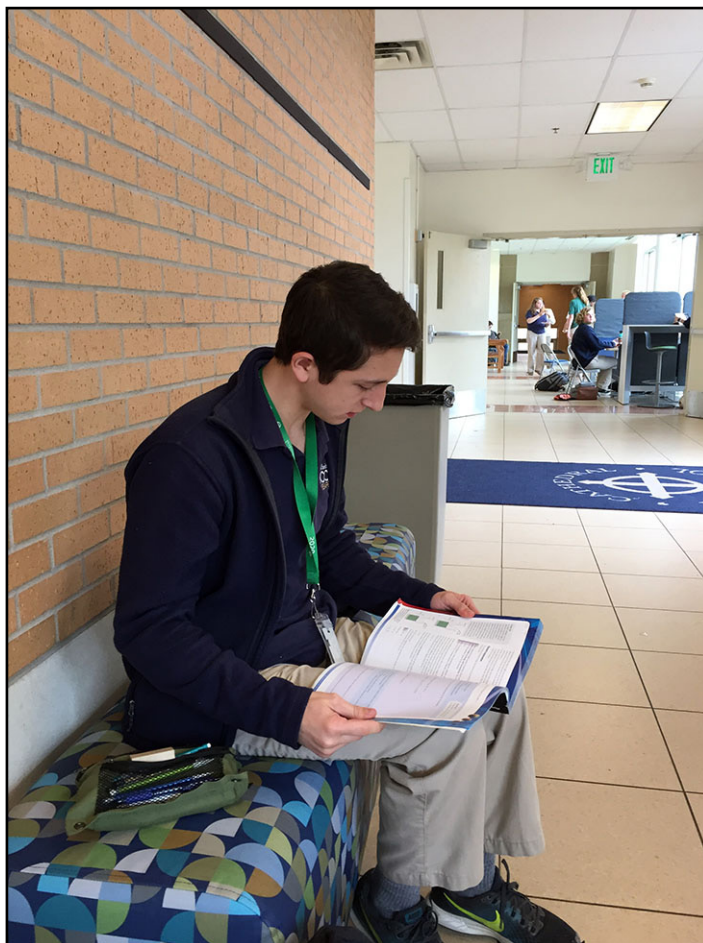
Senior Nick Grill has developed his mathematical knowledge from an early age, and it has allowed him to take significantly more advanced math classes through an independent study course through Ball State University.

Grill attended Avon Middle School and took the same classes as everyone else – until sixth grade. The online math course Ascend was a tool offered to students starting at sixth grade, and Grill completed all the material provided him through the online course. Teachers gave him an algebra test, and his proficiency on the exam allowed him to skip to geometry the following year. By the time ninth grade rolled around, he was ready for precalculus.

He said that when he was in a class that was usually full of juniors and seniors “everyone was very welcoming and Mr. Thompson, who used to teach here, was really nice about it.”

The parental influence was strong for Grill. With parents who are chemical engineers, he said that they taught him how to analyze numbers. Grill said, “I think my teachers had a good part in it, but I remember always doing math flash cards with my parents. It was always rooted in my brain. I could always kind of pick it up.”

The early exposure provided one of the most important parts for achieving a strong base to build upon. Grill now takes an



Senior Nick Grill studies outside the library. Cathedran file photo

independent study course utilizing videos from a Ball State professor and a textbook to learn multivariable calculus and differential equations.

He said that this year he'll take linear algebra and statistics through the same Ball State program.

The degree of mobility and study skills to learn at the rate you want to have “for sure help carry over,” he said, into other topics. In IB physics Grill was able to use what he learned about differential equations to apply to circular motion in his physics class. “I could see it was really integrated and it was cool to see how it blended into other subjects,” said Grill.

Grill said, “I think math isn't invented, it's discovered. We're

always finding new ways to represent it in ways we know how to, and that's pretty beautiful.”

Unsurprisingly, Grill's hobbies have a heavy analytical focus. When he saw his dad coding one day, Grill was interested enough to get some books and teach himself, and now codes as a hobby in Python and Java in his free time. Grill said he and senior Henry Eifert competed and won the Evansville Coding Competition, which was sponsored by the University of Evansville.

Contestants received six problems to complete in three hours. Grill and Eifert were able to finish five problems, but were three seconds late in submitting the sixth and final question. Grill said, “One of the problems might be a user would input a string and

the output would be a different string. For example, you would enter a letter and then the output would need to be six places ahead of that letter. You would write code that morphs the input into the output.”

Music is another hobby of Grill's. He reaffirms the idea that math and music are related, especially after his experience taking AP Music Theory.

“Last year I took AP Music Theory and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I think it might've been my favorite class at Cathedral. I thought it was really numerical and analytical, and the math part of my brain really coincided with it. A lot of music theory stuff is patterns and different combinations of half steps and whole steps and how they build on each other. I think it really is mathematical and numerical.”

For the future, Grill says he might pursue either physics or computer science, and is considering a minor in music theory.

Taking in all the ways logical and analytical thought plays a part in his life, Grill said, “Learning math has really taught me how to be more logical. Something has to come from something else; there's always this pattern of cause and effect.

“You can't jump from one thing to another. Every time you try to solve an equation, there's always a set order you have to follow and you can't just have random steps. I try to find a logical order, and try to stay grounded in those solutions.”

Grill went beyond that bar and achieved perfection in the form of a 36 on the ACT.

When informed of his perfect score, Grill said, “I was ecstatic and relieved, because I knew I would be done with standardized testing for the rest of the year, and I knew it would open up college opportunities for me.” Grill said that he wants to explore the STEM and engineering fields in the future.



Senior Marcelle Blanchet plays soccer during her trip to Africa with the In Our Village Class. "Playing soccer with them was like getting to know them without words needed," she said. Photo submitted

Senior Class president makes her move, from traveling to Africa to leading her class

BY MADDIE WIRTH

Sharing "fun facts" about yourself on the first day of a new school year is inevitable and often repetitive or even challenging, to think about what makes you stand out. But for Senior Class president Marcelle Blanchet, her fun fact always comes easy. She's moved officially now 10 times, her most recent having been in early August.

And she wasn't hopping states, or even cities. Indianapolis has always been home to the Blanchet family. Their newest move brings them no more than half a mile from the Hill.

While being literally close to the school, Blanchet strives to bring the Senior Class closer than ever in their final year together. She said in an interview, "My hope is that 2020 is enjoying our limited days and making them truly count." She's most looking forward to senior retreat.

Blanchet has been involved in a plethora

of activities in her three-year, going-on-four, stint. She has recently been named captain of the soccer team after helping it to a State title last fall. Teammates and friends Kate Morris and Mary White are quick to call her a "loyal" and "genuine" friend.

She has also been a class officer for two terms now, and serving as class president during both her junior and senior years.

Over the summer, she traveled to Tanzania with the In Our Village class. Blanchet claims it was the best trip ever, resulting in lifelong memories and lifetime friends. Her dad, social studies teacher Mr. Craig Blanchet, was also on the trip, and they often reminisce and laugh about their time together.

Together is frequent for the Blanchet father-daughter duo. Mr. Blanchet has been a significant part of Marcelle's Cathedral experience. She said she loves having her dad around, and Mr. Blanchet feels the same.

He said he's loved walking alongside her high school experience and watching her grow over the years. Mr. Blanchet said, "She's always been independent, but over the past year, she's really learned how to be responsible, not just for herself, but others."

In February, her mother organized and chaperoned the soccer mission trip to St. Mary of the Woods in Terre Haute.

Marcelle commented on her family's closeness and how involved they are in each other's lives. Her older brother, Sam '16, is a senior at University of Alabama and sister, Haley '18 is a sophomore in the nursing program at Purdue University. She also has a younger brother, Luke, who just started his eighth grade year at her alma mater, St. Thomas Aquinas.

And as for Marcelle, she may follow after her sister and nursing plans. She remains undecided and is looking at schools including Miami University (Ohio) and Clemson.

Senior Marcelle Blanchet holds, Simon, a child at the orphanage in Tanzania. "The kids at the orphanage were simply content with being held and this little guy stayed with me throughout the whole day," she said. Photo submitted



Senior Marcelle Blanchet stands with her dad, Mr. Craig Blanchet, at Ngorongoro Crater at the beginning of one of the safari days. "Getting to see the crater was awesome but getting to experience (it) with my dad made it 10 times more meaningful," Marcelle said. Photo submitted

Alliance Club sets goals, makes plans for an active school year

BY JAMESON BROWNE AND NIC NAPIER

The Alliance Club is hoping to be more visible and active this year due to student interest and the events that occurred over the summer. Club moderator Mr. Jim Hanna, who is a member of the English department, explained that many students have expressed an interest at the beginning of the school year in wanting to get involved. "A lot of people are excited to make their voices heard," he said.

Hanna is working with fellow teachers and club moderators Spanish teacher Mrs. Karen Hovanec and English teacher Mrs. Liz Browning to help make the Alliance a place where kids feel comfortable.

"The club's purpose is to offer a safe place for kids to talk about gender and sexuality. It is a place to come together to make changes in policy and awareness for diversity," he said. Hanna expects the Alliance to help students come together and offer support for one another.

During the year, the club is hoping to coordinate some meetings with similar groups from other schools such as Brebeuf Jesuit, Roncalli and Guerin Catholic. Another goal for the Alliance is to become more involved around school.

Working with other organizations

"We want to work with and be more a part of the Embrace Club and Student Unions," he said. They are looking to work with these students to offer support and talk about diversity. Hanna is also hopeful that some money will be raised in support of former German teacher Mr. Joshua Payne-Elliott throughout

the year.

Hanna said he believes that the support from the administration is strong for the Alliance.

He said, "We are definitely feeling we have the ability to do some fundraising and take action," he said. No fundraisers are currently planned, but they expect to work on that at some point.

Recruiting members should not be a significant challenge as Hanna said he feels that people who are aware of the issues will reach out to join. He says anyone is welcome as long as they are open to diversity and want to make a change.

Junior Brooklynn Thorpe, the president of the Alliance Club, through an email explained her opinion on the value of the student organization.

Thorpe wrote, "I think the club is going to be important this year because of our situation over the summer. We have to show, now more than ever, to incoming students, current students, parents, alumni and teachers, that we do stand with you and that you are not alone. (This club) has to show that this is not who Cathedral is, and that we do not discriminate but that we foster an environment for all to feel safe in no matter what."

She has several plans for this year that she shared as well.

"This year we plan to help out, not only in our school, but in our community as well. In our school we are establishing a more frequent and regular meeting time for the year. We are also looking into doing safe zone training at our school with the students and teachers so

that we can be properly prepared to accommodate every students' needs with their sexuality and identity, while making everyone feel comfortable and safe.

"We are also hoping to be able to be a part of the EMBRACE assembly and showcase why we need to embrace all people, including those in the LGBTQIA+ community, and how we can become better about the words we use and (learn) how it can negatively affect others.

"Finally, in our community, we hope to be able to do fundraising for Trinity Haven, which is a teen house for LGBTQIA+ teens who have been kicked out (of their homes) and have nowhere to go, and hopefully with the help of new members we can come up with any more ideas to help throughout the school (year)."

Club leader expresses passion

Thorpe noted how she was passionate about this club and was hopeful that reigniting the group would be helpful for everyone.

"I wanted to lead Alliance Club because I saw how, through my freshman and sophomore year, people were not coming to the club for many different reasons including fearing to be made fun of. I wanted to show people that no matter who you are and how you identify, (it) doesn't matter because this is a club for all."

The callout meeting for the Alliance will take place soon but there is currently no scheduled date. Hanna said if you are interested in the club, feel free to reach out and be a part of this opportunity by contacting him with an email or seeing him in his classroom.



As part of a prayer circle in June, students gathered at the Catholic Center in Downtown Indianapolis. Junior Brooklynn Thorpe spoke at the event and has taken on a leadership role in the school's Alliance Club this year. She and the club moderator, English teacher Mr. Jim Hanna, said they expect a more involved and focused organization as a result of the events that occurred over the summer. Photo submitted

Point of Pride

Senior Max Beatty continues the tradition as our leprechaun

BY JACKSON HERN

While being carried into the Welch Activity Center on the shoulders of his friends during the Irish 500 last spring, Max Beatty was greeted with applause and cheering from his classmates, after being introduced as the next leprechaun.

Just as the Class of 2019 passed the torch to the next class of leaders, Michael McNulty '19 handed over his legacy to Beatty, who is ready to make his mark on this school year.

Beatty is not new to the Cathedral family. His older sister, Molly, graduated in 2018, and his mother also is a Cathedral grad.

Outspoken about his school pride, Beatty is ready to take his new role seriously. "I am honored to be able to serve a school and community that has such an extraordinary amount of history and tradition," he said. "Now that I am leprechaun, being more involved with this school means the world to me."

Although taking on the role of the leprechaun creates a time commitment, he is already been a part of numerous extracurriculars outside of the classroom.

Over the last three years, Beatty has been involved as a member of the tennis team, Holy Cross Council, Math League and Fishing Club. Beatty also said he is excited to be a part of the peer mentoring program this year, which allows him and his fellow mentors to help members of the Class of 2023 make smooth and successful transition into high school.

Representing the entire student body is no small task, and although it is sure to present its challenges, Beatty said he is ready to meet them head on. "My goal this year is to show up to as many after-school events as I can," he said. "That will teach me how to manage my time better, and I also want to learn how to be more comfortable speaking to large crowds."

A fellow classmate and friend, senior John Willey, shared his thoughts on why he thinks that Beatty was a perfect fit for the leprechaun.

"I believe Max embodies the spirit of Cathedral," Willey said. "He represents the school's Holy Cross core values well, and also connects with the student body. He is a friend to everyone and already shows school pride by attending as many sports games as he can."



As both a peer mentor and the leprechaun, Beatty is quickly assuming a leadership role, and he wants to encourage his fellow seniors to do the same throughout the school year.

"We are supposed to be the leaders of the student body," Beatty said. "We need to lead by a positive and encouraging example for the other classes this year. It's our last year of high school, and we need to make the most of it."

As soon as he first learned that he would be the next leprechaun, Beatty said he forgot about any doubts he might have had for stepping up into his new role. "I originally remember thinking about how much of a time commitment it would be," he said.

However, when the news became official, his worries disappeared as he began to visualize the next chapter of his high school career. "I am very excited for this opportunity, because Cathedral means much to me and to be a part of something much bigger than myself will make my high school experience all the better," he said.

Senior Max Beatty addresses the student body at last spring's Irish 500 after he had been announced as the newest leprechaun.
Cathedral file photo

OUR OPINION

Same sex marriage: Recognizing the complexity of a controversial issue as we have our say

The following editorial is the opinion of the student newspaper staff and not necessarily that of the entire student body nor of the school's faculty, staff and administration.

This school is a place where people come to learn, but it's also a place that people love to call home. It is a home where people seek their family, their friends and their safety; a home built on Holy Cross core values; and a home dedicated to ensuring students and staff members are always welcomed and accepted regardless of their differences.

With the recent separation of a beloved teacher, it seems our home has distanced itself from the values it was supposed to uphold.

For a quick recap of the events of what has been a rather roller coaster ride of a summer, our school was forced — and it is vital that you notice the word forced — to fire a teacher because of his marriage to another man. Mr. Joshua Payne-Elliott, a German teacher, National Honor Society faculty co-moderator and bowling coach, was not fired for any other reason than how he chose to lead his private life.

You may be quick to point a finger at our administration, furious at the board's decision to dismiss this teacher, and that reaction is quite understandable, but you should instead be pointing a finger at the institution who has placed our school and other schools like us in this situation, the Catholic Church.

The Church believes that any marriage between two people of the same gender is a sin against God and a violation of one of the sacraments.

While there may be varying opinions on this issue, it's important to remember that the teacher's sexuality does have an impact on our education, but if anything, Elliott provided a unique perspective.

Payne-Elliott offered a positive personality, a love for teaching and a lesson on diversity, yet the Church decided to terminate his teaching career here, resulting in serious backlash from much of the community, including several alumni, which shined a negative light on both the Church and our school.

The heart of Christianity is the belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God, and we should share our gifts and talents that God has given us with the world. We are called to be kind to one another, be generous with one another and be caring with one another.

We are asked to live peacefully and not be tempted by hatred, yet some seem to be afraid of those who are unlike them. The Church could not fathom a reality where a school employed a gay teacher because, in their eyes, this was detrimental to their perception of righteous behavior.

They apparently wanted to set the example that students should be threatened by those who are different than us or those who don't meet the requirements the Catholic Church mandates.

They abused their power, forcing Cathedral to choose between essential funding and a Catholic identity or sending away a teacher because of his marital status. They condemned a man for who he was and through this forced removal, they are telling students and Catholics to conform to a single identity, an identity not representative of the human race, a false reality.

Our unique qualities and differences are what fuel society and make this world so special. Our different orientations, perspectives and understandings all come together to create a more reflective and accepting world where we can all feel safe even in our differences. When we become afraid of others, we miss out on the opportunity to understand one another and build bridges rather than walls.

The Megaphone hopes the entire Catholic Church asks themselves if this firing is something Jesus would agree with.

The Church's decision and Cathedral's decision are obviously saddening and frustrating in a time when we should be continuing to progress in the right direction.

As we approach 2020, the LGBTQ community and advocacy groups have grown significantly throughout the country and throughout the world, but with setbacks like these, the message of hate only further penetrates into the minds of those who are self-conscious about their sexuality.

It is time we end these messages of animosity and move toward acceptance. No individual should be able to tell us who and who shouldn't work at Cathedral because of a single sin. If we begin judging applications on that basis, we would have no teachers at all.

The world is full of people who sin, people who make mistakes. Every teacher has committed a sin, every student has committed a sin, even Church leaders have committed a sin or two in their day. We need to stop us-

ing this age-old teaching as an excuse to bully those who have a different sexuality orientation. It is time we stop pretending that our differences are flaws.

We are beautiful because we are unique.

Maybe, just maybe, if we break down these requirements to be the most perfect human as the Church mandates, we can see the beauty in other perspectives and enjoy the happiness that arises from everyone, regardless of their make-up, coming together as one.

Recognizing all the good the Church does, we hope they can one day gain a new sense of righteousness and place this unwarranted unacceptance for people's differences behind them.

On a final note, Cathedral is run by the administration, but the students are the heart of the school. We chose to go here, the alumni chose to attend here and our parents sent us here because we believed in the administration and in the education the school would provide us.

Through our efforts we can mobilize action and ensure the Church understands that Payne-Elliott deserved to stay. We must continue to speak out.

This is an issue that affects us all, no matter your gender, identity, race, etc., and without our voices and words, there will be no change.

We have to be the generation to alter the status quo. We have to be the generation that has pride.

Additional information from the editors: The Megaphone realizes this is an agonizing and difficult discussion, as we are a Catholic institution. We wished to be as respectful as possible, but in light of what happened over the summer, it was our belief that we needed to acknowledge the reality of what happened and what it means for not just Cathedral, but all people across America.

This editorial is not intended to offend but rather inform and open the door for reflection. We want the Catholic Church to understand why some of its principles have consequences and the message they are sending is not one, as far as we believe, of love.

We are hopeful this editorial elicits conversation and promotes, sooner rather later, change.

The Megaphone has also contacted the Archbishop with a request for an interview, and we await his response for some of his insight into the matter.

For many years, it has been a tradition and an assignment for every student to read one or two assigned books during the summer based on the English class in which he or she will enroll at the start of the year. An assessment (this year it involved a journal entry) is due on the second full day of school. An English teacher and a senior provide their perspective on this assignment and its academic value to students.



YES: MR. JIM HANNA

I support summer reading. Of course I do. I have to. I'm the teacher, right?

The thing is, I've always loved summer reading. I first met Billy Pilgrim, Frodo and Dracula during long hours spent poolside with a book. The truth is, I'd rather have been reading than swimming. Maybe that makes me weird. Maybe that's why I'm an English teacher. Sure. Maybe. Or maybe it's the other way around.

Maybe summer reading planted the seeds that would someday sprout into my career as an English teacher. I suppose it just depends on how I tell the story. But back then, I wasn't worried about English teacher stuff and you probably aren't either.

Did I understand the significance of Billy Pilgrim leaping spastically through time? Heck no. Did I grasp the symbolism of the marlin in "The Old Man and the Sea"? Nope.

I did, however, develop a love for language. An eye for well-written words. An ear for rhythm and rhyme.

And are you still reading? Because if you are, then I rest my case. For I have cast my spell on you, enrapt you with my words, and bound your mind to mine, if only for a moment. That is the magic of reading. Those are the power of words. Still don't believe me?

Then try me. Read a book and prove to me you haven't learned something.



NO: SENIOR CALEB LAND

Is summer reading worth it or not?

Summer reading is simply a waste of time. I believe anyone and everyone would agree with me, even teachers and parents.

Not only is it a waste of time during the summer for the student, but for the teacher, it is a waste of grading time. The books are boring and the journals are not original since most of them are just passed around from student to student to get it done.

Most students don't even read the books. I asked a group of nine students and only one raised their hand saying that they read every single page of their summer reading books. That is a staggering 11.11% of students who actually do what they are supposed to do.

Summer reading is just an excuse for students to practice procrastinating and to use SparkNotes to fake their way through another book report. The point values for these simple journals are so minute that they end up not meaning anything at the end of the year in regards to your grade anyway.

So, at the end of the day, a boring journal that the student won't even remember in two weeks is turned in to a teacher who really doesn't want to grade the journal in the first place but has to because it's their job. It's time for the annual summer reading assignment to be reviewed and reconsidered.

FACE OFF

SUMMER READING: YES OR NO?