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- 4** Bye-bye ISTEP
- 5** Changes to Christian service
- 6** New job role
- 7** Women's cross-country
- 7** Tour guides
- 8** New Graduation Pathways
- 9** Girl Up
- 10** Speech and debate
- 12** We the People
- 13** Fall Play
- 14** Athletics
- 15** Ball State Honors Band
- 16** TikTok: What is it?, editorial, face-off



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Bye-bye ISTEP

Move aside ISTEP — Indiana is transitioning to a new graduation system. Beginning next year, the sophomore class will no longer be required to take ISTEP in order to graduate.

BY EMMA KRESS



F lunch died, and ISTEP will soon follow. Vice Principal for Academics Mr. Dennis Thomas said, “The ISTEP is an accountability test for students to receive their Indiana high school diploma. They’ve changed it, so this year’s current sophomores will be the last students who are required to take the ISTEP test.”

Instead of having the ISTEP test be a graduation requirement, the school, along with every other high school in Indiana, is transitioning to a new system called Graduation Pathways. Thomas said that this system allows for different options for students to be able to show their competency. He said, “Our current sophomores, juniors and seniors are in kind of a two-fold plan. They are phasing out the ISTEP and moving into graduation pathways.”

“We’re going to be focusing on college readiness, of course, being a college prep school. The pathways options and the new standard that the Department of Education is using more align with our mission than the ISTEP test,” said Thomas.

The graduation pathways checklist exists in three main steps, many of which already were required for graduation. Thomas said, “It starts off with hitting the graduation standard for your high school. Ours is the basic core 40 or honors diploma you would receive.” It also requires students to have completed all of their service hours. The third requirement can be achieved in several different ways. He said, “(S)tudents can take an IB or AP course, three of those in their career at Cathedral or hit certain benchmarks on the SAT or ACT.”

The full Graduation Pathways plan will be in effect for current freshmen, meaning that they will not be required to take ISTEP. Thomas said, “Our seniors and juniors have already taken the ISTEP

test, and our current sophomores will take that in the winter and spring. The new system will be fully committed to this year’s freshmen, so they will not have to take the ISTEP at all.”

Although they still have to take the test, current students do not have to be too worried about their ISTEP scores. The scores will still count for graduation, but there are alternative options for students who do not pass. Thomas said, “It’s like an all of the above count. If you don’t pass the ISTEP, you’re fine. You can take three college readiness courses or you can pass the SAT or ACT benchmark.”

Thomas said that he is excited for the change, as he believes that it is a positive step forward. “There is a major focus on college and career readiness as a college prep school. You have a couple of different paths to prove that you hit the standards of high school,” he said. This will allow students more opportunities to prove that they are ready for graduation and prepared for college.



Changes to Christian service

Service hours, sometimes considered a burden on a Saturday morning when you would rather be sleeping in, are noted as the foundation for this school's Christian identity. This year, changes were made under the guidance of the Holy Cross Governance Board to bring this institution more in line with other Holy Cross schools.

In the past, students were permitted to earn hours only from one approved agency. This year, according to director of Christian service Mrs. Shannon Fox '80, students only need to earn 50 percent of their hours through an approved agency and the rest can be earned either through the school or through the student's home parish or place of worship.

The inclusion of non-agency hours is specifically geared toward motivating students to get out into their communities. Fox said that some students had volunteered at confirmation retreats or youth groups and felt that their service should be recognized. She also said this refocusing on the community aspect of service is "a way to keep students active in serving, but also active in Cathedral and their parishes."

New opportunities for service through the school are displayed under the Christian Service page on the school website. For example, students may volunteer at food pantries, and recently, some students helped out at a festival for Down Syndrome Indiana. Fox said that students can also count hours through activities and clubs like the Environmental Club recycling bin pick-up.

"We are still keeping an emphasis on service for the poor and vulnerable. That's why the Holy Cross schools were founded to begin with, to educate those who were poor," said Fox. Service is an integral part of the Holy Cross identity, and this year, the school is working to highlight that notion even more.

Fox said that students are doing well when it comes to service hours, but she reminds them to not procrastinate. If one hour hasn't been logged yet, she urges students to start volunteering as soon as possible.

In case you have trouble with finding service or want recommendations for agencies, feel free to visit Fox's office in the Shiel Student Life Center.

BY ANDREW DE LAS ALAS



November 13, 2019

NEW JOB ROLE

MR. GREG BAMRICK
DISCUSSES THE
CHALLENGES THAT
COME WITH HIS JOB

BY MADDIE WIRTH

PAGE 6

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 | MEGAPHONE

Change can be difficult, and for director of transportation Mr. Greg Bamrick, the transition from counseling to his new role has been a little more challenging than he may have initially thought.

Bamrick, although still adjusting, said that he's getting better at his everyday tasks. A typical day for him involves reviewing schedules, meeting with his bus drivers, assisting area grade schools' transportation systems and checking in on morning and after school routes.

Weekends are usually different for Bamrick as he has game plans of his own on a busy Saturday morning when several teams may need to head out. Some rides can begin as early as 6 a.m. "There are Saturdays where every bus is used and every driver is used," he said.

Bamrick typically opts out on driving, unless necessary, in case of an emergency such as a vehicle breakdown or a flat tire so he can quickly access the problem and get it solved efficiently.

Each day comes with new challenges. Bamrick said, "No day looks like the next. It's unpredictable with many variables."

He said the pace is much similar to working as a counselor. He is used to these adjustments in his fluctuating schedules and unforeseeable situations.

His job takes a lot of organization and there is no better example of his efforts than on the day of service. Although he described his first annual day of service in his new position as "absolute chaos," it went on without a hitch. "On a day where you are trying to get around 1,300 people to their prospective areas, it is extremely difficult. These are the days where you cannot afford any hiccups," Bamrick said.

He credits the day's smooth sailing to administrator for Christian service Mrs. Shannon Fox '80. They worked together closely for months, with her coordinating with different agencies to serve and him coordinating how they were going to get to those agencies.

An aspect of his new job that is much different for him, however, is the amount of time he has to spend with the students. Bamrick said he misses "interacting and building relationships with the students" most.

"It has been a difficult change with once leading kids on a daily basis to transitioning to leading adults," said Bamrick.

But his favorite part as the director of transportation involves serving others. He said his Number-1 priority always is that "this is a family and all riders should be treated professionally and with the utmost respect."

Women's Cross-Country

The women's cross-country team recently wrapped up its season on Nov. 2. Head Coach Mr. Mark Doctor gives readers a look at the seasons highs and lows, and how the team finished in the State meet.

BY CALEB LAND

The women's cross-country team wrapped up its season on Nov. 2, when seniors Gracie Carr and Gillian Cridge ran in the State meet at Terre Haute.

The team was successful this season as they were Indiana all-Catholic champions, Midwest Catholic champions in the Gold division, third place in the Noblesville Regional and ranked as high as sixth in the State at one point.

In an email, Head Coach Mr. Mark Doctor said that the team was led by seniors Carr, Audrey McKinney, Riley Pratt, Katie Rushka and Kendrick Mernitz; juniors Ellie Thor and Maura Flood; and freshmen Grace Bragg, Dearbhla Delaney and Brooke Wojcieszek.

Doctor expressed nothing but praise for his squad. He said, "The team exceeded my expectations throughout the season tremendously. They routinely placed higher than ranked and battled through illness and injuries all season. I am so proud of them."

The team placed second at the State preview meet and finished first at the Indiana all-Catholic Championship, despite missing key runners for these races.

The team had a huge challenge to overcome at the semistate race, with its Number-5 runner diagnosed with a stress fracture in her leg, which ended her season, and its Number-6 runner sick. The team ran the Semistate in what at times was a driving rainstorm.

At this point, Cridge is the only senior committed to run in college now, as she is headed to the University of San Francisco, but Doctor said he expects other seniors to make their decisions on where they will continue their academic and athletic careers shortly.

There is a plethora of runners returning to lead the team next year, including Ellie Thor, Grace Bragg, Dearbhla Delaney, Sara Wojtalik, Brooke Wojcieszek, Catherine Holtrup, Sally Bradshaw and Maura Flood, among others. These athletes will train in the off season and build on the successes from this fall.

Tour guides

The biggest factor in choosing a school is the tour guides who accompany families. BY WHITLEY WALTON

Each year, the school opens its doors to 500 potential students and their parents. Taking place tomorrow, Open House is a long-standing tradition that attracts families from across the city. The biggest factor in choosing the school, however, is the tour guides who accompany these families.

Enrollment coordinator Mrs. Maribeth Cloud '86 said, "(Tour guides) need to act like you are welcoming someone into your home." By bringing their best attitude, she suggested, tour guides leave a lasting impression on visitors. "You need to be smiling, engaging, (make) direct eye contact, and be genuine and be yourself," Cloud said.

Freshman Rachael Claire Henry describes her own experience from Open House last year. Having a student-led guide around the school made Henry more motivated to tour the campus. "She was super energetic, but in a good way," Henry said. "I knew her beforehand, too, and I knew she was very passionate about Cathedral."

For Henry, a tour guide who is familiar with the campus is important. "If you know the school and where you're going, you feel a little bit more at home and a little bit more comfortable." Henry said that the atmosphere that was created while she toured the school added to her decision to enroll here.

Cloud reminds students to tour the entire campus. "Our friends over at Cunningham are going to put on a good presentation, (so) make sure to include that in your tour."

She also wants students to not only interact with the eighth grader, but their siblings, too. "Definitely highlight what the eighth grader is interested in, but also talk with their siblings and parents as well."

Senior Danielle Levingston has served as a tour guide for three years and provides tips on doing a good job. Levingston said, "A good tour guide knows where they're going, knows how to be social and relate to the student, and is efficient. You don't want people there all day."

Cloud said being a tour guide "is one (of) the best ways to give back to your school. You will have a hand in the future enrollment of Cathedral." Along with interacting directly with future students, tour guides get different incentives when they participate. Each student will receive three service hours and two students can earn \$100 to their school lunch account.

Levingston mentions that being a tour guide can be fun. "I think it can really benefit Cathedral and teach people better interpersonal skills and communication skills."

New Graduation Pathways

Guidance counselor Mrs. Gretchen Watko '00 gives readers an in-depth look at Indiana's new graduation requirements.

BY KATIE DARRAGH

According to the Indiana Department of Education, all high school students in the Class of 2022 and prior must complete Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress Plus, more commonly known as ISTEP+, in order to graduate from high school.

However, starting with the Class of 2023, students will no longer be required to take ISTEP+.

Instead, a new law requires students to pass a new college entrance exam, which has not yet been selected. This new college entrance exam may be thought of as a new and improved standardized test in which will more accurately assess student readiness.

While the transition should be fairly smooth, the transition “brings about a ‘gap year’ when no high school accountability assessment will be administered,” according to information posted on the Indiana Department of Education website. However, according to the DOE, this gap year is necessary in order to prevent “double testing of the same cohort of students for accountability purposes, and allows for a clean transition between assessments.”

Therefore, in the absence of a standardized test, the gap year calls for a new way to assess students. Therefore, this school's administration has readdressed its Graduation Pathways to include new options for students to show their readiness for college.

The emphasis on college readiness stems from the college preparatory philosophy which ensures that the college selection process stays at the heart of a student's time here. “The goal of all advising at Cathedral High School is to help students achieve their academic and professional aspirations,” according to the Cathedral Course Guide.

School counselor Mrs. Gretchen Watko '00 further explains the situation, saying, “Cohorts prior to the Class of 2023 have to pass a graduation qualifying exam, which is the ISTEP for Indiana, in order to graduate from high school. That is going away, so now there are alternative pathways for students to show their readiness for post secondary options, rather than just having to pass an ISTEP exam.”

There are a variety of different pathways a student can choose to graduate. “The path to graduation is not one-size-fits-all,” says Cathedral Pathways. Counselors offer two regimens for obtaining a diploma, Core 40 or Core 40 with academic honors.

In order for a student to graduate with a Core 40 diploma, they must complete 40 credit hours distributed between electives and the core classes of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education and health and safety.

Core 40 with Academic Honors requires students to complete increased credit hours in Mathematics, and it requires credit hours in World Languages and the Fine Arts. Additionally a student must earn at least a “C-” in every class, have an overall “B” average, and complete one of the following:

- Four Advanced Placement credits and corresponding AP exams or four IB credits and corresponding IB exams.
- Academic, transferable dual high school/college course(s) resulting in six college credits.
- Complete a combination of Advanced Placement courses (two credits) and corresponding AP exam and academic transferable dual high school/college course(s) resulting in three college credits.
- Earn a composite score of 1,250 or higher on the SAT and a minimum of 560 on math and 590 on the evidenced based reading and writing section.
- Earn an ACT composite score of 26 or higher and complete written section.

In addition to these requirements, in both diplomas students must complete a set amount of service hours and reflect on their service experience by tying their service into what they are learning in their theology classes. According to Cathedral Graduation Pathways, this service hour requirement ensures that students will be able to “intergate meaningful service to enrich and apply academic knowledge, teach civic and personal responsibility, and strengthen communities.”

Finally, to ensure college readiness, students must also complete one of these requirements:

- Earn the Academic Honors Diploma
- ACT scores of English, 18; or reading, 22; and math, 22; or science, 23
- SAT scores of English, 480; and math, 530
- Earn a C average or high in at least three of a select list of AP or IB, determined by the counseling department.

Although state requirements have changed, the counselors' passion for students has not. Watko said they will continue to ensure that students will be ready for college after walking across the stage their senior year, no matter what the state requires. In the meantime, students are encouraged to continue taking ISTEP+ and other future college readiness exams seriously and to keep working in classes to prepare for that next step into the future.

Girl Up

BY NIC NAPIER

Three years in the making, the club known for empowering women and discussing women's rights continues to bring in members and start a conversation about important issues.

Started during the 2017-2018 school year by seniors Carolina Rios and Kennedy Maye, the organization became the first of its kind on this campus as it called attention to issues pertinent within society regarding gender. Rios, one of the co-presidents, said that she felt this school needed a space to discuss gender issues and that is how Girl Up was born.

The club was originally called Women's Forum, but the name was changed once the official Girl Up entity, a national organization, was discovered by the co-presidents.

Rios, formerly from Brazil, is familiar with speaking up about gender issues as she had a club similar to Girl Up back home. "It was nice to have a safe space to talk about things that (women) go through on a daily basis," she said.

The club, Rios noted, has had a lot more attendance this year than in the past two years of its operation. "We've been having around 15 people in each meeting at least, and it's been going great," she said.

If you are thinking about attending the club, each meeting, as Rios said, usually involves some type of activity or discussion. "We watched shorter documentaries on Youtube, and they ranged from documentaries about rape and sexual assault to female empowerment," she noted.

One of the members of the club, senior Maggie Davis, said that the group provides a safe space for talking about women's empowerment. She noted that Girl Up meetings usually involve discussions about current issues and situations that affect women.

One of her favorite activities included the Privilege Walk because it showed that even though every student here goes to the same school, each has had different opportunities in life. "The Privilege Walk was where all (club members) start on the same line and you either step forward or backward based on the opportunities you've had in your life."



An important part of the club, Davis added, is that Girl Up helps provide feminine hygiene products in the girls' bathrooms. Girl Up also plans to host more fundraisers next semester as they are planning one right now. "We are hopefully going to have (a project) soon to raise money to fund girls' education in Africa," Rios said.

The club meets every Day 7 in English teacher Mrs. Liz Bradshaw's room on the second floor of Loretto Hall. If you are interested in joining, Rios noted in an email that everyone is welcome.



Speech and debate

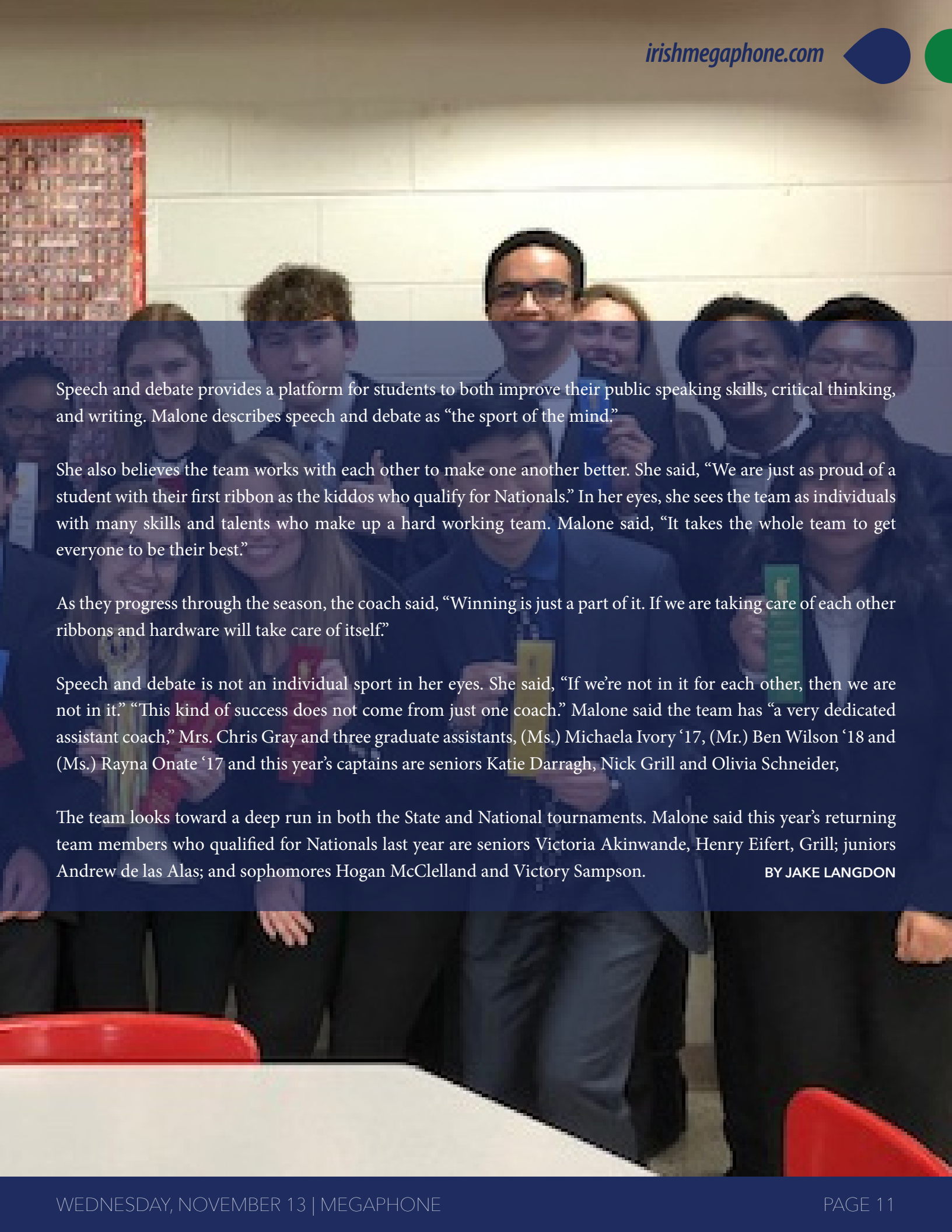
The speech and debate team kicked off its season on Nov. 2, taking first place in the Rushville Invitational. On Nov. 9, the team also captured first place again at the Southport Smackdown, an extremely large meet with 40 schools and more than 500 entries.

Head Coach Mrs. Jeanne Malone is in her ninth year of coaching the team. Her goals include making sure every team member achieves their full potential.

Malone said the speech and debate team provides a great way to enhance a student's learning and listening abilities.

The coach said skills learned are invaluable to a student's success both now and later in life. Many members of the speech and debate team have graduated with generous academic scholarships. Malone attributes these scholarships to students' preparation from speech and debate.

Malone said, "It's fun to learn something new. That's what's fun about working with high school kids, they're curious." She also said she believes that "most students at Cathedral High School have this skill." The team is composed of 45 students with practice taking place Tuesdays through Friday after school.



Speech and debate provides a platform for students to both improve their public speaking skills, critical thinking, and writing. Malone describes speech and debate as “the sport of the mind.”

She also believes the team works with each other to make one another better. She said, “We are just as proud of a student with their first ribbon as the kiddos who qualify for Nationals.” In her eyes, she sees the team as individuals with many skills and talents who make up a hard working team. Malone said, “It takes the whole team to get everyone to be their best.”

As they progress through the season, the coach said, “Winning is just a part of it. If we are taking care of each other ribbons and hardware will take care of itself.”

Speech and debate is not an individual sport in her eyes. She said, “If we’re not in it for each other, then we are not in it.” “This kind of success does not come from just one coach.” Malone said the team has “a very dedicated assistant coach,” Mrs. Chris Gray and three graduate assistants, (Ms.) Michaela Ivory ‘17, (Mr.) Ben Wilson ‘18 and (Ms.) Rayna Onate ‘17 and this year’s captains are seniors Katie Darragh, Nick Grill and Olivia Schneider,

The team looks toward a deep run in both the State and National tournaments. Malone said this year’s returning team members who qualified for Nationals last year are seniors Victoria Akinwande, Henry Eifert, Grill; juniors Andrew de las Alas; and sophomores Hogan McClelland and Victory Sampson.

BY JAKE LANGDON

We^{the} People

BY ETHAN ECKHART

The We the People program is back and better than ever after a one-year hiatus.

Mrs. Jill Twilleager returns to govern the group along with Mr. Sean Dewey '06, who is an attorney for Ice Miller. The citizenship and Constitution program promotes civil debate and responsibility among students. Along with the group comes many debates and arguments that will be judged to determine which team wins the argument and therefore the competition.

Joining We the People is simple. Taking We the People counts as an AP government class, and all you have to do is sign up for the class and come with an open mind. However, Twilleager said, "Students who look to take this are looking to be more engaged in their learning and willing to put in extra time."

She refers to the class as "co-curricular" because there are outside events you must attend. Within the class itself there are practices throughout the week and competition on the weekends. Senior Carson Kwiatkowski, who is a member of the competition team this year, said, "There are about nine hours of meetings with unit mates, advisers and practices on Sundays."

Twilleager says there's an image associated with the We the People group because students think that they must be good at politics, or they have to be interested in politics already. She said, "There are no requirements, and a student who should join is not necessarily one that wants to be an attorney or wants to major in law, but someone who is interested in learning about government (and) good citizenship and wants to be involved in the political and civic process."

The first competition took place Nov. 9 at Hamilton Southeastern High School. The competition was among schools in the Central region, which is one of the four Indiana regions.

This school's team competed against seven schools. They ended up taking first place, beating all the other schools at the regional final. The group will go on to compete in state Dec. 8 and Dec. 9.

Twilleager has been a part of We the People for 19 years. However, last year there was no competitive team. Twilleager said, "There was no competitive team last year because I took the year off to get married and to build a home." She had not planned to return to We the People originally after being out of the program for a year, but then she realized something was off in her life. After a conversation with her husband, they concluded she needed to start up We the People again. With help from her husband and Dewey, they have all been able to take shared responsibility in the group.

Kwiatkowski had a lot to say about the group as well. She was originally taking AP government, but when Twilleager sent a callout email, she said she became intrigued with the idea of taking part in the competition. After brief conversation with friends she decided to join. Personally, Kwiatkowski has enjoyed the aspect of becoming closer to her teammates. She said, "I feel like I see them everywhere at school now." She said she recommends We the People to "anyone who is slightly interested in government."

She went on to note that there is a We the People stereotype of members having a great deal of work that turns off some people, but she said joining the team has been well worth it.





Fall play: “Radium Girls”

It’s that time of year again for the annual fall play, with this year’s selection of “Radium Girls.”

“Radium Girls’ is about a factory in the 1920s. They were producing wristwatches that had glow-in-the-dark faces so that people could see (the watch faces) at night. The paint they were using happened to have radioactive material in it and at the time people didn’t realize what radioactive material would do to human beings, and so everyone in that factory ended up getting radioactive poisoning, a lot of which resulted in cancer. The factory had these people using this paint without the proper protection.

“Then the workers discovered that the factory made them ill and they went back and sued the company and got a settlement to help with some of their healthcare expenses,” said theatre technical director Mr. Michael Moffatt.

He said that they chose this play because many female students here audition for plays, and Moffatt said that this play has a lot of quality roles for girls.

He said, “We like the historical value and the way you can research the characters because these people were real, so you can actually do in-depth historical research on your character that typically you don’t get to do on most plays,” he said.

Students rehearse four times a week, Monday through Thursday, from 3 to 5:30 p.m.

“When the production gets closer to opening, we do what’s called a tech rehearsal where the actors and crew get together and we do full runs of the show with dress rehearsals and this tends to last a little bit longer, we’ll be here until about 6:30 to 7 o’clock at night. So it wraps

up and the commitment has to be a little bit more intense right before you open a show,” he said.

Senior Diane Houk, who plays the role of Mrs. Michaels, said, “It’s a big time commitment and can be stressful, but it’s all worth it when the curtain rises on opening night.” Houk described Mrs. Michaels as “a mother that discovers the amazing powers of radium water.” She also plays Dr. Flinn, “a doctor hired by the company to help cover up their secret,” she said.

Houk said that she has been a part of the theater program four years, and she’s done plays since second grade, “my first actually being in a (Bishop) Chatard play,” she said. Houk said she loves working with all her favorite seniors in the shows. She said, “We grow closer every year since freshman year.”

Junior Brooklynn Thorpe, who was cast as Katherine Wiley, an activist campaigning for social justice, plays alongside Houk in “Radium Girls,” and says that she loves the theater program. Thorpe said, “Everyone is so welcoming and (the program) is one big family. I always know I can count on the theater people to have my back and help build me up and support me.”

Thorpe said that she especially likes this year’s play. “I feel like for the first time we have a play centered around women and women empowerment. This play helps to inspire all women to stand up for themselves, and for Cathedral to do this play is a great experience to be a part of.”

The production will run through Nov. 22, Nov. 23 and Nov. 24, which is the weekend before Thanksgiving break. Tickets are \$12, but students are admitted free with their ID. Moffatt said, “We traditionally have smaller crowds for our fall plays, so we’re hoping that people will come out and see this one.”

BY AVA AMOS

“RADIUM GIRLS” CAST

Grace: Junior Claudia Lowe
Katheryn: Senior Katie Darragh
Irene: Senior Ashley Lay
Miss Wiley: Junior Brooklynn Thorpe
Mrs. Roeder: Senior Annie Leppert
Mrs. Fryer: Junior Caiomhe Knutson
Reporter: Senior Claire Hunter
Sob sister: Senior Oliva DeLise
Harriet: Junior Maddie Elson
Roeder: Senior Henry Eifert
Lee: Senior Nick Grill
Markley: Senior Brendan Jay

Von Sochocky: Senior Pat Downey
Tom: Senior Jack Linder
MacNeil: Senior Claudia Darnell
Knef: Junior Lindsey Huntzinger
Berry: Senior Mikey Boyle
Madame Curie: Senior Alanna Reckley
Flinn/Mrs. Michaels: Senior Diane Houk
Society woman/photographer/shopgirl: Senior Jade Miller
Court/store owner/elderly widow: Senior Olivia Schneider
Clerk/shopper: Senior Scarlett Mena
Lovesick cowboy/board member/Bailey: Freshman Colin Chandler
Martland/board member: Freshman Joe Mariani
Venecine Salesman/drinker/customer: Senior Kayla Morrell

BY ANNIKA GARWOOD, WRESTLING; CALEB LAND, BASKETBALL

CHS Sports

THIS MONTH: WRESTLING AND BASKETBALL



After winning the 2019 men's wrestling State title at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Mr. Sean McGinley '88 will attempt to lead the team to another State championship.

Entering his 20th season coaching the team, McGinley is joined by Mr. Anthony Bill, Mr. Jeff Brown, Mr. Mo Gun, Mr. Brian Seltzer and Mr. Mike Venezia. The team went 23-3 last season and captured two individual State runners-up and two individual State champions.

Key players returning to the team include seniors Logan Bailey, Holden Parsons and State champion Elliot Rodgers. Junior Andrew Wilson and sophomore Zeke Seltzer round out the roster of returners who were a part of the State team last season.

McGinley admits that the team might struggle a bit out of the gate, but what matters is the postseason. He said, "If we do our jobs and keep getting better each week, by tournament time we will be one of the few teams that people are talking about with a chance to bring another state title back for the Irish."

junior forward Caroline Cline, junior forward Mia Finn, junior guard Clara Lee, sophomore guard/forward Katie Bremer and sophomore guard London Brooks. Along with coaches Mrs. Megan Schmidt, Miss Allie Griffith, and Dr. John "Doc" Marosky, the staff is ready.

"The season was a little disappointing from a fan's standpoint last year, but this year we have a great group of girls and are ready to roll," Finn said.

With senior captains Conway, Gordon and Piper at the helm, the Irish look for success on the court. Cline, Finn and Lee are being looked upon to provide a strong outing to help this team excel. With Courtney Fields back after missing last season, the Irish have added another threat on the floor. Along with sophomores Katie Bremer and London Brooks and freshman Catherine Madden, "this team is dangerous, we are really deep and no team can guard all of the players on the floor. They are too talented," said Finn.

The varsity opened with wins over Covenant Christian 67-32 and Fort Wayne Southside 65-58 and was scheduled to play Warren Central on Nov. 12.

The women's basketball team is off to a strong start, with the varsity winning its first two games.

There is a new face at the head coaching position. Mrs. Lisa Finn has taken over for Mrs. Reggie Melson, who did not return at the end of last season.

In an email, the new coach, who played on a State championship team during her senior year in high school, wrote, "I have been blessed with the honor to coach not only my daughter, but all of the girls on this team. I see them all as my daughters."

The team lost some strong players from last year but are returning key contributors including senior forward Nyah Conway, senior guard Justis Gordon, senior guard Cassie Piper,

Senior athlete profile

The women's volleyball program had no shortage of senior talent this season. One of the many was Mae Hedrick. Hedrick has played volleyball for eight years, including for this year's Sectional championship team, and said she is sad to see her time playing end.

She began playing the sport in fourth grade and has fallen in love with the game ever since. Although their high school career ended with a loss to top-ranked New Castle in the Regional, Hedrick was pleased with the season way went.

A particular favorite of hers was her Senior Night. She said, "I had always wanted to have a Senior Night, I have been around volleyball for a long time and it was always awesome to see those seniors be able to have a night just for them."

Hedrick was a setter for the team and a captain. She was involved in the game at all times, whether it was setting up one of her hitters or cheering on a teammate, she was always there.

Hedrick is also decorated in her sport as well, she has more than 1,000 assists in her high school career and was also a IHSVCA Player to Watch for 2019, a City champion in all of her years here and a Sectional champion in both 2018 and 2019.

Hedrick said she would like to thank everyone for coming out and supporting her and the volleyball team. She said, "It was a great run, and I am so thankful I was able to do it in front of my friends and family."

BY CALEB LAND

Ball State Honors Band

BY ANDREW DE LAS ALAS

Peak performance in an extracurricular is the goal for any participant. Athletes will try out for varsity, thespians will go for the lead role and some may try to become an officer or president of their club.

In the world of high school music, one of the indicators for musical talent and success is qualification for an honor band.

The Ball State Honors Band is a program put on by the music department at Ball State University in which high caliber student-musicians can learn, practice and perform at the collegiate level.

On Dec. 6 and Dec. 7, 100 students from all over Indiana and the greater Midwest will attend the on-campus program where they will do little but eat, sleep, practice and play music. Junior Gabe Tice, who has participated twice and will go again this year with his alto saxophone, said that while it may be a stressful, "it's a good kind of stress."

Director of Bands Mrs. Kathy McCullough said that the honors band "pushes the musicianship" of students who participate. She said that students are able to bring back what they learn and help bring up the rest of the band. It also allows for students to build up a music portfolio if they wish to study music in college. The rejuvenated sense of effort, as well as tips learned from their stay with the band, can help improve the overall atmosphere of marching band at the participants' schools.

McCullough said that the students who do perform with the Ball State Honors Band are some of the best of the Pride of the Irish. The wide array of skill means that some students may stand out over others and they can go from "being one of the best to being on par with everyone else," McCullough said. She added that one of the best aspects is "you're with people to help motivate you."

Students will leave school on Dec. 6 for their trip to Ball State. After a series of auditions for first chairs, practice starts almost immediately, stopping only for meals. The group is a concert band, so they play more classical music, which can be different for band students here

who play pep and marching band music in addition to concert music.

The pinnacle of the program is a concert at 7:30 on Dec. 7 at Sura Performane Hall on the Ball State campus. Tice said that one of his favorite parts is seeing his parents and McCullough in the audience. The concert and parking are both free.

At least one student has played in the Ball State Honors Band since its conception around five years ago. Tice said, "As a freshman it was kind of intimidating," but this year will be the largest group he's gone with. Other students who will attend include freshmen Micah Wasmuth and Joseph Jideonwo, sophomore Amelia DeSanto, junior Andrew Marcou and Senior Claudia Darnell

To qualify for the band three years in a row is no easy feat. There are four spots for saxophone, which McCullough specifically said is one of the more competitive instruments, as well as flute.

Tice said typically 200 to 300 students apply. For the application, a committee will review any musical awards or musical background. Many students, including Tice, have taken private lessons and has "an exquisite background," according to McCullough, but lessons are not necessarily a prerequisite.

McCullough said that many of the students participating are likely to pursue music in some form in college. Tice said that he's considering minoring in music and that he would "like to keep playing, and living my life with music." Tice hopes to drive his musical ability overall and will audition for first chair. With the leadership role of drum major for the Pride of the Irish, Tice hopes to mirror a friendly attitude that can help make people feel more included.

Overall, McCullough said that she's incredibly pleased with the fact that the school allows for and supports opportunities such as this. The enthusiasm felt by students, parents and band leaders demonstrated how significant induction into the band really is.

RELIFE

BY JACKSON HERN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 | MEGAPHONE

PAGE 16





As the world of technology continues to evolve and expand, people of all ages have become increasingly reliant on social media to communicate with each other and express themselves in creative ways. The most recent introduction to the realm of social media, the app Tik Tok, is taking the world by storm.

Launched in September, 2016, Tik Tok is a rebrand of the app Musical.ly, where users can create short videos coupled with songs that feature lip syncing, comedy or other talents. It has quickly become the most popular social media platform worldwide, surpassing Instagram, Youtube, Facebook and Snapchat for most downloads in the last year.

With more than 500 million global users and over 26 million users in the United States, Tik Tok has marketed itself to reach the group of people that spend the most time on their phones: teenagers. Forty-one percent of Tik Tok users are 16 to 24 years old, and one in every eight people in America ages 18 to 24 have an account.

It is commonly referred to as addictive, with the average user spending close to 50 minutes per day watching videos. The fact that teenagers are able to be creative and spontaneous in creating videos that can be shared and viewed around the world makes it appealing to many high school students.

Many students here are no stranger to this relatively new platform.

One such student is senior Elliot Rodgers, who is not only a State champion wrestler, but is also known by many of his classmates for his Tik Tok account, which has more than 9,000 followers. When asked why he enjoys using Tik Tok, Rodgers said, "I like the app because it's so original and everyone on it is able to show off their different talents."

Rodgers' videos have gained an impressive amount of attention, with some of them being viewed by thousands of people, and one viewed by over 1 million users. "I never realized how many people can see what you post until I started getting so many views," he said. "It seemed like all of my friends knew about it in a day."

Being able to use such a well-known and easily accessible app to become Tik Tok famous is something that Rodgers certainly did not expect to happen when he first created an account, but this goes to show how quickly and powerfully social media can work.

The school has also recently created a Tik Tok account in an effort to embrace this growing movement, using its Instagram account to promote its new Tik Tok and encourages people to follow it.

EDITORIAL

It's important to remain safe on TikTok

If you have been on a social media site within the past 24 hours, at some point, you most likely came across a video from TikTok. This program has infatuated a generation and is very similar to Vine, a company that used to produce short clips of people singing, dancing, and acting.

The Week writes in an article that “TikTok started out as Chinese app Douyin, an app dedicated to video sharing. Developer ByteDance first released TikTok as a version of Douyin for the non-Chinese market, and then purchased Musical.ly, a lip syncing app, before merging the two apps in 2018.”

TikTok, which is free to download on the app store, features videos of random people from across the country doing silly things or reenacting a previously famous video.

Many people have taken advantage of TikTok's fresh and new style, becoming famous quickly as the app and program gains a lot of popularity.

It is very common these days to hear students in the hallways saying, “Oh, did you see that TikTok.”

The popularity of these clips stems from how short and resonating they are for teens of the 21st century. Most of the videos on TikTok range from a few seconds to even a full minute or so. Don't forget to look at the caption as well, which usually ties into the video.

“TikTok doesn't necessarily bring anything especially new to social media, but it brings together the most popular and Gen Z-adored features under one app: Vine's video snippets for copious amounts of content consumption; Instagram's user feeds for easily following influencers; Twitter's trending hashtags for keeping up with what's going viral; and video game-inspired techniques for encouraging in-app spending,” says Business Insider.

The appeal of TikTok is that it perfectly represents the difficulties of being a teenager in this generation. Many of the clips promote self-pity or are videos of people depreciating themselves.

The Week adds that “it can seem a bit sad, until you remember that this sort of self putdown is a way for young people to work through their insecurities.”

Young people love to put their problems out into the public, hoping for reassurance that they are not the only one and reminding themselves that there are other individuals their age dealing with the same issues. Kids will spend hours on the app, scrolling through videos to lighten their day or make them feel better about a certain issue they are dealing with. TikTok has seemingly become a therapy for some struggling with the battles of life.

We are a generation with a lot of problems and a lot of insecurities. We need a space to vent, but of course, there has to be limits on how much we say. “TikTok is full of all the usual problems: misogyny, racism, harassment, and of course, creepy middle-aged men leaving comments on the posts of 17-year-olds,” states the Week.

When people begin posting online, they lose their filter that they most likely have in a face-to-face conversation. People can act and say things they wouldn't typically say in a personal setting. That is the issue with the internet. It creates a space for people with hatred to express it because there is no one to directly respond to them in person.

So, next time you hop onto your social media platforms like TikTok, remember to be conscious of what you say and what you post. You can't take it back once it is out there in the digital world. All rights to your post are gone.

FACE OFF

IS TIKTOK WORTH THE HYPE?



YES: JUNIOR AVA AMOS

TikTok is the world's fastest growing social media platform and has been downloaded over 1.2 billion times, whereas Snapchat only has 190 million downloads, Instagram 1 billion and Twitter 330 million. If you don't know what TikTok is, which I'm sure everyone does by now, it's a global video community where you can edit, share and comment on short musical comedy or talent videos that can range from three seconds to one minute. It's available in over 150 countries and in 75 different languages.

Most apps only allow users to mainly share with friends, but with TikTok people can share worldwide. Users can easily get millions of views and likes on their content and can gain followers fast, too.

When TikTok first started getting popular, I thought it was dumb and I didn't get all the hype. Yet everyone started getting it at school and were making videos in the courtyard of them dancing and lip syncing to different sounds, so it was kind of hard for me not to check it out.

Once I actually downloaded it and made an account, I couldn't stay off it. It's so addicting. My friends and I make videos a lot and they're super fun to do. The minutes the app is used per month worldwide exceeds Facebook, YouTube, Snapchat, Instagram and essentially all other major social media platforms, which is why TikTok is so much better than every other social media. There are also couple TikTok famous people here at as well, such as senior Elliott Rodgers and junior Ethan Marasco.

The app's many different entertainment features allows it to provide a fun pastime. I think everyone should get it, some people may hate on it now like I did, but once you actually get the app yourself you won't be able to stay off it.

Trust me.



NO: JUNIOR JAMESON BROWNE

At first glance, there is not much to complain about with TikTok.

But after seeing more and more of these videos all around, I have started to gain a strong dislike for the app. Everywhere I look, there are people with their heads down, staring at their phones watching these pointless videos. The social media app has engulfed people of all ages across the world.

I think the biggest problem with TikTok is the security. People of all ages are creating these videos for the world to see and not many make their accounts private. In order to create an account on the app, you supposedly must be 16 years old. Take one look at TikTok and it is clear that the policy does absolutely nothing. The amount of underage users that are on the app is ridiculous and it is scary that any random person can see them taking videos of themselves.

This gives predators an opportunity to get in contact with these children or just watch them; Videos that are created by these children can be sexualized by older individuals who do not even have to hide who they are. TikTok allows you to browse videos without even creating an account that would expose your identity. I think that could be a huge security risk in case someone is up to no good and the app and needs to be caught. If they do not have an account, how are they going to be caught?

Liking videos of younger girls would allow for male predators to fill their "For You" page full of their targets. At that point, TikTok is just feeding them new prey as soon as they open the app. In addition, millions of videos are uploaded every single day to the app with no control over what users are seeing.

Parents are not able to filter out any bad content that these kids may be seeing every day. With no control, underage children can be exposed to inappropriate content as soon as they open the app.

All of these reasons add up to why I believe that TikTok is a dangerous app with a lot of security risks that can put people in danger without them even knowing. If you are a producer of TikTok content, you should take this into consideration.





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