

# CRYSTAL ♦ 99

Malden Catholic – A Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School – 99 Crystal St., Malden, MA 02148

## Return to The New Normal

By: Brooke Langis  
Editor-In-Chief

The 2020-2021 school year was certainly a difficult one for unity and school spirit, as the student body was separated for much of the year and COVID-19 regulations prevented a variety of Malden Catholic events from occurring. However, despite the fact that school has only been in session for a few months, there is already a stark contrast between this school year and last. New COVID-19 protocols and an efficient, enthusiastic student council are both contributing factors for this significant change. The students and staff have had several opportunities to immerse themselves in the spirit of Malden Catholic, whether through the creation of new clubs, themed sports games, a pep rally, or events like Lancerpalooza.

In late August, Headmaster John Thornburg announced the fall re-entry plans regarding the pandemic. These provisions contained numerous differences from last year, one of them being that the red phase was no longer an option, so all students were required to attend school in person. The following daily protocols were also provided for all individuals regardless of vaccination status: staying home when feeling unwell or symptomatic, wearing masks, and sanitizing desks. Weekly testing for unvaccinated students was another measure put in place to prioritize maintaining health and reducing risk. The re-entry plans included further details regarding contact tracing, quarantining, traveling, and athletic procedures as well. All of these updated rules and regulations have resulted in a more unified student body by enabling all students to come to school every day and allowing for schoolwide events to occur without extreme restrictions.

The student council and its accompanying staff members immediately took advantage of the new COVID-19 protocols to attempt to increase school spirit. When asked to describe these efforts, Mr. Grocki offered the following statement: "There is no doubt that COVID-19 has presented hurdles and obstacles for teenagers to enjoy a true H.S. experience. That being said, Malden Catholic is

doing everything it can in order for students to have as close to a 'normal' high school year as possible." One step that has been taken to make the school year more "normal" is the return of previous clubs as well as the formation of new ones such as ping pong club, gaming club, movie club, the clash club, Latin dance club, Bible study club, short story club, and school spirit club. Mr. Grocki also encourages anyone that wishes to propose a new club to speak to him about their ideas.

various grades, a performance from the varsity cheerleading team, and a speech from Mr. Thornburg that inspired the students to embody the values of Malden Catholic as he stated, "We have a mission this weekend - our homecoming weekend - we are going to show our community and those teams that visit us who MC is." Similarly, Lancerpalooza emerged as a unifying night that caused school spirit to skyrocket, as senior Jorge Ortiz said in the following quote: "Lancerpalooza was

so much fun after the past year and a half. Seeing everyone come together to enjoy the night and to support the football team really brought some much needed life into the school." It consisted of food trucks, games, contests, music, dancing, and ended with a football game against Xaverian Brothers High School; this game was the senior night for the varsity football and cheerleading teams as well. The return of Lancerpalooza is a hallmark of a more ordinary school year after the outbreak of the pandemic.

All of the previously mentioned clubs and events have started the school year out on a high note. Kylie Bragg, the senior secretary of the student council, described the goals that they have for the upcoming months

by saying, "We are trying our best to not only have fun, but also safe events for the student body. Going forward we are going to plan as many events for the entire school as possible so that we can come together and unite as one." Expectations for the "normalcy" of the rest of the school year are high. As Mr. Grocki added: "I am so proud of our new Student Council as well as our new moderator Mrs. Verrocchi. Thanks to her leadership and an outstanding student drive and determination, I am confident that the school year will be fruitful, faithful, and fun." Students and staff alike are thrilled to see what the future holds for 2021-2022.



Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic.

The MC student section cheers on the Lancers at the first football game of the season against Weymouth High.

Sporting events are another distinct feature of the fall season that never fails to bring the Malden Catholic community together. The school spirit club and the student council collaborated to plan themes for each of the home football games. The student body came together to carry out each of the themes of neon, blackout, USA, and white out with great zeal. This resulted in the football team truly having the home field advantage for each of these games, as there was an outpouring of support and enthusiasm from the stands. The girls' volleyball team also had a pink-out themed game to celebrate breast cancer awareness month. Fall sports and the themes that accompany their games have played an instrumental role in starting the school year off as "normally" as possible.

Two significant events that have also resulted in a resurgence of school spirit are the pep rally and Lancerpalooza. The pep rally, organized by the school spirit club, featured races between the staff and students, games of tug of war between

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# OPINIONS

## Femininity in Pop Culture

By: Brooke Langis  
Editor-In-Chief

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Reporting on current events and publishing student opinion, we at the *Crystal 99* hope to inform, challenge, and entertain our readers, and allow students an outlet to communicate with their peers.

If you would like to contribute to the paper, submit an article, or offer your suggestions, contact any editor or Mr. Cleary.

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Do you think astrology is stupid? How about boy bands? K-pop? One Direction? Do you look down on romantic comedies? What about movies like *Twilight*? Were you mad when "drivers license" by Olivia Rodrigo topped the charts? Do you avoid listening to female musicians? Female comedians? There is one shared aspect among these: their femininity. The interests of women, especially teenage girls, are often invalidated in pop culture.

Anything that has a primarily female audience in pop culture is often stigmatized. Association with femininity causes artists, books, movies, and shows not to be taken seriously; moreover, they are viewed as stupid, weak, or not deserving of recognition. A prime example of this can be seen when examining an iconic band, The Beatles. In the band's early years, their supporters were mostly young women. Due to their primarily female audience, they were looked down upon in the music industry. However, when The Beatles became popular amongst an audience that was not mostly female, they gained much more respect and recognition as a band. Now, they are considered to be one of the greatest bands of all time, yet there was a time in which they were not taken seriously due to their association with femininity.

Why is there such a stigma surrounding things associated with femininity? The answer is simple: women themselves are not taken seriously. From their childhood onward, women are judged in a way that men are not. There is not a single interest that a woman could have that would not result in her being criticized. Do you like sports? You're doing it for male validation. Name however many teams and players. Do you like video games? You just want attention from men who play video games. Do you like pop music? You're basic. Do you like alternative music? You're trying too hard to be quirky. The interests of women are called into question, while the interests of men are accepted immediately.

It is clear that the stigmatization of certain aspects of pop culture that are associated with femininity is simply a projection of misogyny. This is harmful, not only because it causes women to be shamed for having normal interests, but also because it results in a lack of deserved recognition and respect for countless artists that have female audiences, one of them being One Direction. One Direction emerged as one of the best-selling bands of all time, with over 70 million records sold. To this day, the band has over 23 million monthly listeners on Spotify alone, despite having broken up six years ago. Yet, One Direction never gained sufficient respect as a band. They were often booed at award shows and failed to receive nominations at all. Their success was downplayed, as many stated that they only advanced in the music industry due to "obsessive" young girls. Thus, their achievements were, quite literally, invalidated due to their primarily female audience.



Artwork by Rachel Burke

The stigma surrounding femininity remains in pop culture today, specifically regarding one of the former members of One Direction, Harry Styles. In late 2020, Styles became the first solo male cover star of *Vogue* magazine. This accomplishment was overshadowed, however, by one aspect of his cover: he was wearing a dress. Controversy immediately arose surrounding the cover as some infuriatingly called to "Bring back manly men." One right-wing political commentator, Candace Owens, tweeted the following in response to Harry Styles wearing a dress: "There is no society that can survive without strong men... It is an outright attack." This statement indicates that Styles was weak due to the fact that he wore a dress. If you believe that a man becomes weaker when he wears feminine clothing, you should ask yourself why. Why would a man be considered weak simply because he wore a certain piece of clothing? Once again, the answer is simple: women are seen as weak.

One cannot discuss femininity in pop culture without also discussing misogyny in pop culture. Women should be able to express their interests without constant judgment and criticism. Artists, works of literature, and films should not be labeled as unworthy of respect simply because many women enjoy them. Recognizing the relevancy of misogyny today is a key step in reducing the stigma surrounding femininity in pop culture.



# Capitalism Finances Racism

By: Tomaz Silveira  
Staff Writer

A controversial subject in the field of theories of race has always been understanding the correlation between causes of racism and the socioeconomic motivations of the capitalistic society which it inhabits, along with the present culture and ideologies. Are the racial motives presented in our society carefully crafted by capitalists?

Racism is profitable. It allows the ability to designate particular jobs as being unskilled, for they value mental over manual labor. Racial prejudice subtly inclines the average citizen to accept without objection that labor forces predominantly filled by minorities are less skillful in nature.

Let us start from the beginning, shall we? Since the beginning of modern history, racist ideologies have been apparent in society. For example, indigenous Americans, along with Africans, were seen as more primitive species of humans compared to the Europeans who colonized them. Thus, they are subjected to being controlled by more developed societies. Further, capitalism benefits from the denigration of minority cultures throughout the entire world; evidence of this can be seen in the exploitation of the native lands for precious natural resource extraction and the gentrification of areas which these groups depend on for survival. However, although capitalism has no intrinsic re-

quirement to respect each division, it often diminishes traditions through implicit or explicit racism. For instance, take a software development team hiring the most seasoned and skilled applicant. A prime feature of a capitalistic market is the fact that they have a tendency to disrupt pre-existing social tendencies and conventions. This fact has sparked conflict regarding whether or not a capitalistic society is truly responsible for the everlasting racism found throughout the world. This then leads to the following question: are racist ideologies intrinsic to cultures or economics?

Now, if we, the reader, view racial identities as being imaginary in a sense, we can understand in a conscious sense motives that will fall under that of false consciousness. In this case, racially based motivations do not challenge economical determinism. Take a look at emerging settler states, for example, The United States of America, a land which distributes mass disparities of privileges and protections by race. Included but not all are, economic, political, voting, and social rights.

Additionally, the presence of Social Darwinism and the competition for economic advantages across different racial groups are inherently socially engineered. The concept in itself of overdetermination allows the discussion of rational interest to include specified advantages over different groups. It is left to the reader to perceive whether the complex array of motives is primarily engendered by economics. In simpleman's terms, are the racial motives present-



Art by Rachael Burke

## Kyle Rittenhouse: GOP's Latest Hypocrisy

By: Myles Goodreau  
Staff Writer

THEY DID IT! THE REPUBLICANS WON THE SUPER BOWL! Wait, they didn't? Then why are they celebrating so intensely? Oh, someone got away with killing two people... got it. The conservative reaction to Kyle Rittenhouse's trial was, frankly, disgusting. Former presidents, current government officials, political analysts and conservative media always find a way to overreact to everything that has ever happened... ever. Whether it be Mr. PotatoHead getting a name change, the Dr. Seuss Company deciding to not print certain books, or football players kneeling during the national anthem, you name it, they've overreacted to it. The Kyle Rittenhouse verdict was no different.

I have never seen a group of people rejoice in this manner due to someone getting acquitted after killing two people. Whether you think it was self-defense or not, you can't dispute that he did, in fact, kill two people. That isn't up for debate, so why celebrate like something amazing just happened? We get it, you guys haven't won one in a little while, but this is definitely a weird reaction to a double homicide. This "party like theres no tomorrow" mentality, seems very inappropriate when discussing such a grim topic. Matt Gaetz, I'm looking at you.

Someday, I aspire to be involved in the federal government. To get there, I should need to rigorously challenge myself to come up with new and world-changing ideas. It's great to know

that if that doesn't work out, I can always just get accused of a heinous crime and get offered an internship to work for my elected officials. Think smarter, not harder, people.

In all seriousness, I'm really not surprised this happened. After all, we live in a world where officials call Ilhan Omar a "suicide bomber" and others quote Hitler in their Capitol speeches. Now, Matt Gaetz and Madison Cawthorn have offered internships to Kyle Rittenhouse because he's an "American hero." Really? Conservative politics have become so reactionary at this point; it's not even funny. There is no moral high ground. Whatever is popular is the right move for them. On what ground does an accused felon deserve a spot in Congress? Whatever upsets the liberals most though, I guess. My two best theories are that they either want him because they thought his fake crying would make him a great politician, or because no one else has ever applied to be an intern for them.

We've talked about currently in government, but what about former presidents? "Congratulations to Kyle Rittenhouse for being found INNOCENT of all charges. It's called being found NOT GUILTY," That's Donald Trump, FORMER president, which means he's NOT IN OFFICE ANYMORE, telling us what "not guilty" means. ...thanks? Seriously, this guy's never going away. He's so excited that Rittenhouse walked free that they even had a meet and greet, like in Disney World. Except, instead of a cartoon mouse, it's a disgraced former president who gaslighted half the country into starting an insurrection on the

capitol. Both are sweaty men in suits, though, so it's practically the same thing.

I'm pretty sure he didn't meet with the last person that brought a gun to a protest, interestingly. Last year, during a Black Lives Matter protest, an aggrieved Trump supporter brought bear repellent and a baton to the event. A far leftist, by the name of Micheal Reinohl, shot that man and killed him on the spot. In response to this fatality, Trump assigned the US Marshals the task of capturing this criminal, eventually resulting in Renoehl's death. I wonder if Trump shares the same sympathy for Renoehl as he did for Rittenhouse. The following quote from Trump gives us some insight into this question: "This guy was a violent criminal, and the U.S. Marshals killed him... And I will tell you something, that's the way it has to be. There has to be retribution when you have crime like this." Of course he doesn't.

Hypocrisy from the right is nothing new; it just seems more intense now than ever. This is just how their political platform operates. See what some people are saying on Facebook, then smile and nod. That's the Republican formula, and the saddest part is that it works. As divisive politics come on stronger in the conservative community, remember that it's not always about "trolling the libs." Make sure they run on a platform that doesn't just consist of selling "liberal tears" merchandise. Maybe then we can finally be in a world where people don't hire recently acquitted killers to publicly serve. That's what the American dream is all about... right?

# One Guy's Thoughts on Five Guys

By: Orlando Putnam-Bagley  
Staff Writer

I never really liked french fries when I was younger and would often barely touch them or just cast them aside. However, as I have gotten older, I have realized the importance of high quality fries to go along with the meal they're served with. A bad plate of fries can often put someone off and usually leads to the customer not finishing their money's worth of food because the restaurant they're eating at does not care about the quality of their sides. However, a good plate of fries will catch your attention, make an impact on you, and make you want to return to that restaurant in the future. It's similar to trying real fresh squeezed orange juice for the first time after drinking artificial orange juice your whole life: you realize what you have been missing out on.

I had grown up eating sub-par fries virtually my whole life and just came to think of myself as someone who wasn't particularly fond of these starchy treats. That was until I got Five Guys for the first time. I was used to eating bland, dry, and unappealing fries whenever I was served them and genuinely thought that McDonald's fries were about as good as it got. But, when I first tried the fries served at Five Guys, I was introduced to something on a fundamentally different level. They were simply better in every possible way. I am going to try and convey the stark differences between the Five Guys' fries and McDonald's fries and why they are so different.

To begin, there are 5 simple categories that I consider when determining the quality of a french fry, which are color, size, texture, saltiness, and flavor, and these core characteristics are what separates great from mediocre. To begin with McDonald's fries, first we look at their appearance. They are a uniform light yellowish gold color often devoid of blemishes and marks which come off as a bit uninspiring but not unusual, so I offer the following rating of 3.5 out of 5. Next, the size varies dramatically among McDonald's fries and is only exacerbated by how skinny they are. There are usually quite a few long fries in a common serving although their skinniness means that there is a noticeable lack in overall mass, earning a rating of 2 out of 5. McDonald's fries earn a texture rating of 2.5 out of 5 due to the fact that they are prone to having much more surface area than volume because of their skinniness and, thus, can be defined as having much more shell than

filling. This leads to the fries being fairly crispy without much interior. Saltiness is an often overlooked characteristic of french fries, but it is critically important to the taste of the fry and determining whether or not someone chooses to smother their fries in ketchup to compensate for their lack of taste. The correct amount of salt can truly bring out the flavor in a fry and McDonald's fries are simply not salty enough and often result in wanting to eat another to compensate for the low amount of salt on each



Art by Tomaz Silveira

fry, resulting in 3 out of 5 ranking. Finally, flavor is self explanatory, it is the category in which McDonald's fries are the strongest. Although the fries are no longer fried in beef tallow, the vegetable oil they currently use still provides a complex and enjoyable flavor of a textbook fast food restaurant fry, so a 4.5 out of 5 is well deserved. In total, McDonalds fries earn a 62/100 on my fry score, which I believe is reasonable for their quality.

To rank Five Guys' fries, we once again start with color. Five Guys' fries are a deep golden-brown color due to caramelization on the exterior with pieces containing bits of potato skin on the ends or sides. These fries look authentic and non-artificial in comparison to other fast food restaurants and have really great aesthetics overall.

This is what I would consider the quintessential french fry "look", earning a 4.5 out of 5. In regard to size, each fry is fairly similar in length ranging from 2.5-4 inches per fry, but the defining difference in the size of these fries to McDonalds or other chain fast food restaurants is that they are much thicker. These fries contain a good amount of mass and are not skinny at all making each fry more enjoyable; therefore, the size score is a 4 out of 5. With texture in mind, these fries are some of the best fries you will find texture-wise as the exteriors are perfectly crispy (as long as they have not been left in the bag for too long soaking up moisture), and the insides are fluffy yet still moist and not dry. I deduct 1.5 points in this category because of how susceptible these fries are to soaking up moisture and losing crispness, resulting in a 3.5 out of 5.

Saltiness is an aspect that Five Guys especially excels in. Five Guys does not skimp out on salting their fries without overdoing it which really accentuates the taste of each fry, and I have yet to find another restaurant that can attain this balance so well. I believe that Five Guys earns a perfect score in this category: a 5 out of 5. Finally, flavor must be noted. Five guys frying their spuds in peanut oil not only makes them a special kind of crispy, but also gives them a special almost nutty-earthy flavor I have yet to find anywhere else. This can sometimes put people off, but I believe

that it only makes the fries more unique and that it is the true defining feature as to why these specific fries are so revered, so this category also earns a 5 out of 5. In total, Five Guys french fries earn a score of 88/100 and although this may seem low, this is about as good as french fries get without going to gourmet restaurants and spending three times as much for something marginally better.

In conclusion, I may not have changed your mind about what fast food restaurant truly deserves the title of having the best fries, but feel free to send responses explaining why McDonald's or other restaurants have better fries to try to change my mind. Hopefully this topic persuades you enough to go and try these truly delicious fries yourself or even just gets you to appreciate what you eat a little more.



# Finally a Full House

By: Emerson Tully  
Editor

Since 2017, Malden Catholic not only has undergone construction and renovation to update the school, but also has created what is now known as the Girls' Division. Opening in the fall of 2018, it was quick to say that it had an extremely successful start, with the first ever class consisting of 74 girls. Though this was a major change in the Malden Catholic community, it was not the first time that Malden Catholic had a connection to a school for girls. Girls Catholic High School opened in 1907, and the inaugural class graduated in 1911. They closed in 1992, due to the fact that there was a shortage of money to employ nuns to support educational needs. Those who can best describe the impact of the creation of Malden Catholic School for Girls are those who have also experienced the years in which girls were not able to attend MC. When asked how he has enjoyed the codivisional model at Malden Catholic so far, Mr. Bucchino, the Leader of the Boys Division, said the following: "I am both humbled and privileged to be serving as Malden Catholic's Boys Division Leader. As an alumnus of our school, I fully understand and cherish what it means to have a Malden Catholic education, most especially in the 21st century; one that encompasses a broad and healthy range of academic, athletic, extracurricular, and service and faith experiences, rooted in Xaverian tradition, history, and values. I was most pleased when Malden Catholic decided to undergo this co-divisional mission as I knew that all our incoming potential families would be able to entertain a quality and holistic Malden Catholic education by receiving similar day-to-day Xaverian-sponsored experiences for both their sons and



Art by Elena Chronopoulos

their daughters. I truly believe that the Girls Division has undoubtedly added to Malden Catholic's rich history and tradition over the past four years."

Mr. Smith, when asked how he has enjoyed being Girls Division Leader so far, stated, "After serving as Assistant Principal for Student Life for 12 years, I was very excited when I became the Girls Division Leader. I love greeting students at the front door every day and talking to them as they enter the building. At first, I think the young ladies were still nervous about talking to me or even approaching me because of my previous role. Now I usually have a continuous flow of girls asking questions, wanting to talk, or giving me their input on certain things. Helping the girls with their day-to-day concerns and giving them advice on a variety of issues has been really rewarding. They in turn have given me fashion advice which has been pretty comical. I feel blessed and honored

to lead such an amazing group of young ladies." Mr. Grocki, the current Vice Principal of Student Life, was asked as vice principal of both divisions how he thinks the school year is going, with this being the first year of a full four grades of young men and women in the building. "Having a full complement of boys and girls in the building is proving to be very advantageous as it pertains to school spirit. We can finally put events into place that need both a male and female perspective. There are so many healthy conversations that take place during student council meetings given that we have full representation of all grade levels."

Lastly, Mrs. Crotty, the Chair of the World Languages Department, was asked to voice her thoughts on the four full grades in both Divisions: "The last four years have been a time for great change and growth. I am hopeful that our future as a co-divisional institution will be filled with academic, athletic and extracurricular success for both the young men and women in our program." Mrs. Crotty has been a part of the Malden Catholic community since before the girls division was created. She got to see not only the construction process of what is now the girls' division, but also how the division evolved from one grade, to now having four grades of girls and boys in the building. It is clear to say that not only the Malden Catholic staff, but MC as a whole has been impacted positively by adding the girls division, and strive everyday for both divisions to excel to the best of their ability!

## Move and Improve: Upgrading Athletic Facilities

By: Jordan Bartlett  
Staff Writer

While construction on the new auditorium and arts facilities are still ongoing, some upgrades to Malden Catholic were already completed when students returned to school. In particular, the Athletics facilities have seen some significant improvements.

A new and improved girls locker room is located right off the gym next to the weight room. This new locker room is a major upgrade

from last year, especially as during the spring and fall, teams had to use Room 141 as a locker room.

On another note, a new athletic trainer's office was built off the gym, adjacent to the weight room. This new office is a big improvement for Ms. Kathleen Gusciora, the school's trainer, especially with the new crushed ice machine. Mr. William Raycraft, the Director of Athletics is very satisfied with the improvements, saying, "I think it's great that we put the effort, and money into the facility that we desperately needed." This new training facility is at a better,

more beneficial location as it is in the gym, where students have complete awareness of its location.

*The Crystal 99 is always looking for new writers, photographers, and artists. Listen for announcements or see Mr. Cleary in Rm. 102 for information on how to join.*



# Say Hello: Introducing...

By: Jenna Pittore  
Staff Writer

One may be surprised by how many fresh faces can be seen walking the halls of Malden Catholic. Along with a record breaking freshman class, our school has welcomed in a multitude of new faculty members. This year's influx of new educators is equally promising and exciting, covering a broad spectrum of subjects and extracurriculars.

Mr. Gordon is among the many additions to Malden Catholic's science department, teaching physics and chemistry. Hailing from Salem, Massachusetts, Mr. Gordon attended both Salem State and Fitchburg State Universities, graduating with degrees in biology and healthcare management. After teaching in the Wakefield Public School System, he was interested in the culture and dynamics of private schools, which led him to Malden Catholic.

Biology teacher Ms. MacGregor is another new introduction to the school's science department. Originally from North Andover, Massachusetts, Ms. MacGregor has degrees from local stalwart Northeastern University as well as Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania. She has been teaching for 23 years in various schools, including North Andover and Reading public schools, Presentation of Mary Academy, Lowell Catholic, and now Malden Catholic. Wishing for a change of scenery after the pandemic, Ms. MacGregor eventually decided to come to Malden Catholic based on plenty of praise for the school from fellow teachers.

Also from North Andover is Mr. Hyzdu. He is a new English teacher, and a student as well. He received an advanced degree from Merrimack College, and is currently working towards a mas-



Photo by Courtney Casaleto

Mr. Baker teaching his period E class. Mr. Baker is a new member of the math department and the rugby coach.

ter's degree at Salem State University. Precedently, he was an educator in Dracut Schools for some years. Like many among the recent faculty expansion, Mr. Hyzdu was drawn to Malden Catholic because of its rich and unique community.

Ms. Sheila Foley is originally from Quincy but currently resides in Salem, Massachusetts. She is an English and creative writing teacher, but also taught history during her time as an educator at Bishop Fenwick. She attended Stonehill college, focusing on an English major and history minor, before receiving a masters in secondary education from Eastern Nazarene College. Ms. Foley communicated a love for teaching English due to its ability to be applied to a variety of careers as well as daily life.

Mr. Baker, a math teacher, worked at Malden Catholic for 4 years as a rugby coach prior to taking on his current role, with this being his first teaching job. He grew up in San Francisco, California before moving to Massachusetts, where he attended Babson College in Wellesley. Mr. Baker has said that majoring in business and entrepreneurship granted him a math-based mindset that he enjoys incorporating into his daily life and his classes.

Ms. Chiccuarelli teaches math to the girls' division, taking on algebra, geometry, and integrated math classes. After graduating from Boston College, she worked in special education at Swampscott Middle School. Being from Malden herself, Ms. Chiccuarelli conveyed her preexisting awareness of Malden Catholic and its success. She found Malden Catholic's community appealing as well, as she deems relationships to be of great importance in teaching.

Mr. Dunn is yet another inclusion in the math department, teaching the

subject to freshmen and sophomores, as well as teaching economics to seniors. Originally from Danvers, Massachusetts, Mr. Dunn received a degree from UMass Amherst before becoming a teacher. Mr. Dunn decided to take on teaching to play a greater role in the Malden community, in addition to already coaching basketball.

Ms. Vinciarelli is a teacher of both history and psychology. She is from New Bedford, Massachusetts and one of many new teachers who studied at Salem State University. Having taught previously at schools with no religious affiliation, such as Lynn Classical, Ms. Vinciarelli was excited to immerse herself in Malden Catholic's faith-based curriculum and God-centered culture.

Ms. Radzikowski also works in the history department, teaching world history to freshmen and sophomores. She grew up in Georgetown, Massachusetts and went on to receive degrees in History and French from Boston University, as well as a Masters in teaching from Columbia University. Ms. Radzikowski expressed that her interest in teaching history grew during her time studying abroad in London, explaining her choice to teach it at Malden Catholic, but she wishes to receive a French teaching certification as well. She cited her father's status as an alumnus as one of her reasons for choosing Malden Catholic, and the school's focus on communication and collaboration as another.

Another world history teacher is Ms. Buckley. She is from Belmont, Massachusetts, and received degrees from two local schools: UMass Dartmouth and Merrimack College. She voiced her passion for international cultures and her belief that much can be learned from the world we live in as two sources of her interest in world history.

Continued on Page 7...



Photo by Courtney Casaleto

Ms. Radzikowski of the History Department with her classroom decked out for Christmas. She is one of the new teachers for the 2021-2022 school year.



# Say Hello: Introducing... (cont.)

Continued from Page 6

Ms. Colleen Foley, a member of the foreign language department, originally hails from Stoneham and impressively received degrees from three schools: Merrimack College, Cambridge College, and the University of Salamanca in Spain. Having attended university in Spain, Ms. Foley naturally combined her knowledge of the Spanish language and her desire to teach high school students.

Mr. Stanton is from Waltham, Massachusetts, and has acquired degrees from Siena College and Boston College. He teaches three theology classes at Malden Catholic, including sacraments/church history, world religions, and Catholic spirituality. He has been consistently involved in Catholic education, teaching previously at Presentation of Mary Academy and Arlington Catholic, as well as working at the Harvard Catholic Center as an advancement officer. Mr. Stanton is a strong believer in the future of Malden Catholic, stating that he wanted to be

involved in the direction the school is going.

Ms. Callahan is from Danvers, Massachusetts and has similarly been long involved in Catholic education. She received a degree from Franciscan University of Steubenville before becoming a theology teacher in Malden Catholic's girls' division. Ms. Callahan is passionate about teaching theology because, as a subject, it allows for discussions that can both grow and challenge one's beliefs. She is a supporter of the codivisional model and explains that this is one of the primary reasons she was drawn to Malden Catholic.

Ms. Verrocchi is one new teacher hailing from Stoneham, Massachusetts, where she also taught middle school students. She now teaches English in Malden Catholic's girls' division to grades nine and ten. Finding that reading and writing helps strengthen vital skills, express creativity, and unlock future

success, English was a clear choice. Her education includes an undergraduate degree from Merrimack College as well as graduate and postgraduate degrees from Lesley University. Ms. Verrocchi carries a connection to Malden Catholic, as her brother is an alumnus. She similarly attended a girls catholic school herself. This, along with the Malden Catholic's ideology of educating the whole person influenced Ms. Verrocchi's choice to teach at the school.

Each of these new members of the Malden Catholic faculty brings a new and unique aspect to the school community and will hopefully help direct the school and its students for years to come.

## Resurrected: Campus Ministry Begins Anew

By: Courtney Casaletto  
Editor-in-Chief

As life begins to return to more normal circumstances, the Campus Ministry program has started the year off and running with numerous service opportunities as well as an in-person mass. When asked to describe Campus Ministry, Dr. Baccari, the head of the boys' Campus Ministry department, stated, "The purpose of Campus Ministry is to invigorate the faith formation of boys and girls through a variety of programs, including liturgies, retreats, service, and immersion experiences." Ms. Callahan, the head of the girls' Campus Ministry, added that "Campus Ministry is a place for faith development as well as opportunities to serve and to grow in community!"

Ms. Callahan is new to Malden Catholic and its Campus Ministry program, but while she was attending a Catholic high school, she was immensely involved in their ministry program. From this experience, she realized that she wanted to pursue Theology, and after graduation, she hoped to seek out a way in which she could continue ministry work. During college, she spent many years running retreats and events at local parishes. Ms. Callahan is excited to take on this new challenge and shares "As the year moves on, I have some really cool events planned, so keep an eye out for those."

During the first week of school, Malden Catholic was able to hold an in-person mass on

the football field to kick off the year. This contrasts with the lack of in-person masses last year due to safety restrictions. Both Campus Ministers shared how important it is to be able to share in the Eucharist as a community once again and are excited to continue to have in-person masses throughout the year.

Campus Ministry has also gotten a start on service opportunities. One event that is happened is the collection of baby clothing and accessories for infants under 18 months; these items were donated to support unwed mothers and their infants at the Friends of the Unborn Maternity Home in Quincy. On November 17, because the Malden Catholic community has been affected by ALS, the community walked the track of Brother Gilbert Stadium for the 8th annual ALS and MS Walk for Life organized by The Leonard Florence Center in Chelsea. There are a myriad of service opportunities coming in the following months such as raising money to purchase beds for families in need, collecting nonperishable food to feed the hungry around Thanksgiving, and running a toy drive that will occur around Christmas time.



Photo by Anelise Lima

Ms. Callahan repping her MCLI 2022 shirt. She is the new girls campus minister and a first year theology teacher at MC.

This year, Campus Ministry hopes to create a unified program between the girls and boys' sides. Although there may be times where events are held separately, such as the MCLI retreat for the seniors, both Dr. Baccari and Ms. Callahan expressed the hope to allow students on both sides to come together as a faith community through prayer and service opportunities. When asked what their goal was for student's faith lives, Dr. Baccari explained his hope to give students an opportunity to deepen their faith life regardless of whether they identify as Catholic or not, and Ms. Callahan said, "My hope is that students know that they are seen, known and loved. Not just by me and Dr. Baccari but by the God that made them!"



# Expanding Beyond 99

By: Jonathan Tran  
Staff Writer

This year marks the first year of the usage of a new facility acquired by Malden Catholic at 50 Crystal Street, which is across the street from the main building. The use of the facility is part of a "Strategic Planning" process throughout the school year, which stems from construction within the main building. The facility was bought almost four years ago, in July of 2017, with cleaning done in that timespan to prepare the building for this year. Before it was bought, the facility was used to process, store, and distribute frozen fish products. When D.J. Cacciapuoti, the Director of Facilities, was asked about the history of the facility before acquisition, he stated, "I know if you talk to an alumni they recall the strong smell of fishy cooking oil on warm days." The building is

partly leased for storage by Distributor Corporation, a carrier/supplier on Crystal Street, starting from the spring of 2018. Encore Casino formerly had a lease on the first floor of the building, starting from the fall of 2018, but ended their lease in July of 2021, leaving Distributor and MC to take the space. Half of the first floor space is being used by Distributor for storage, while MC has space to use for storage and classes as well.

Currently, the new building is utilized for chorus, drama, dance, and yoga classes during the school day. After school, it is mainly utilized by drama and cheerleading. Once the winter season starts, the wrestling team will also be utilizing the space for practice after school. Some clubs have also seen use of the facility, such as ping pong and Latin dance.

There have been some mixed feelings about the usage of the facility, with Mr. Cac-

ciapuoti stating that the facility is not ideal as a teaching space, due to the large open floor plan. He does note, however, that the facility serves to provide cheering and wrestling a better practice space to work with compared to the cafeteria previously used by those teams. The current plan for the new facility is to hold classes there until the end of the first semester of the school year, which is rumored to be the completion of construction within the main school building.

After the completion of the Performing Arts spaces in the main school, those classes will be moved out of the facility, leaving the space to be utilized by extracurricular activities and athletics. Mr. Cacciapuoti expects the facility to be used until the end of the school year in June of 2022. When asked about the prolonged use of the facility after the end of the current school year, he simply replied with, "Beyond that is yet to be determined."

## A New Voice for the Students

By: Katelyn Cirame  
Editor

During the 2021-2022 school year student council elections, many students submitted themselves as candidates. Most of the races across all grades and in both divisions had contested races. The exception to this was the Senior class, where all candidates ran unopposed. The student council members for the Senior class include, on the boys side: Vincent Carbone, Hugh Murphy, Brendan Scibelli, and Aidan Martin. On the girls side the members are Francesca Challahan, Kelis Bragg, Kylie Bragg, and Amy Nguyen. At the top of the ticket, the Senior class co-presidents are Francesca Challahan and Vincent Carbone.

When asked why he was running, Vincent Carbone stated, "I am running for president this year to represent the graduating class and to be an adequate voice for them. Also, I have many ideas in mind that I believe would be fun for all students. I really want every student to enjoy their experience at MC." When Francesca Callahan was asked this same question, she answered with, "I decided to run because I thoroughly enjoy working with my peers to make Malden Catholic students seamlessly have an excellent high school experience. Last year I was not able to do much, but this year being non-Covid, I am excited for new experiences."

When the candidates were asked why they think they should win, Vincent responded with, "I thought that I could win mainly because

I know my classmates can trust me to speak for them whether that is to voice questions or concerns or funnel ideas into administration. Also I have been President since sophomore year."

The same questions were also asked of the elected vice presidents. When Kelis Bragg and Hugh Murphy were asked why they decided to run, they both agreed that they saw Malden Catholic improving through their four years and they wanted a chance to help improve the school and make Malden Catholic a fun place for everyone. Secretaries Kylie Bragg and Brendan Scibelli both wanted to do something special in their last year of high school.

They want to make a difference at MC and be a voice for their senior class. These seniors were both running unopposed but they believed that they would be the best voice for their class and that they would be the best for this office position. Class treasurer Amy Nguyen ran for this position because she has always had an interest in student government. She has had three years of treasure experience in student council and is a part of many clubs at MC and she believes she will be a good voice for the senior class.



Photo by Orla King

Freshmen and sophomore boys participate in tug-of-war competition at a pep rally organized by Student Council and the Spirit club. The pep rally was arranged in order to spark school spirit for the fall sports season specifically the Blackout football game that was held later that night



# Arts Department Draws in New Programs

By: Lilah Paige  
Managing Editor

The beginning of a new school year is always an exciting time at Malden Catholic. The start of the 2021-2022 school year has been marked by the addition of new faces of students and teachers alike, new buildings, and, in the case of the Arts Department, new programs.

While the Arts Department was previously confined to only two types of classes, studio art and digital art, this year Malden Catholic has added three additional classes: painting, sculpture, and digital imaging. Mr. O'Donnell, the Malden Catholic's veteran arts teacher, gave the following quote to describe the new projects that emerged alongside the new programs: "The projects in painting and sculpture are more interpretive than the projects in Studio Art I, providing students the opportunity to be more creative."

The arts department was expanded further as a new teacher has joined the Malden Catholic community. Malden Catholic welcomed Mr. Burke this September. This semester, he is teaching not only Digital Imaging, but also a class on Music Theory and a Piano class for the Music Department. When asked about what he hoped to accomplish regarding his role as a teacher, Mr. Burke said, "My goals are to help strengthen



Photo by Courtney Casaletto  
Artist (and subjects) from left to right: Juliana Angiuoni (of her mother), Liana Morello (of Anelise Lima), Jessica Berlus (of Juliana Angiuoni), and Abby Frye (of Maddie Turner).

the arts programs alongside Mr. O'Donnell. He's built some great classes and I hope to bring in my expertise in Graphic Design and hopefully animation." Mr. Burke and Mr. O'Donnell will undoubtedly collaborate to further broaden and improve the arts program in years to come.

The Malden Catholic community looks forward to appreciating the art created by stu-

dents in the wider array of classes offered this year, which provide an opportunity for the stimulation of students' creative abilities. Students and staff alike are enthusiastic to see the growth of the arts department as well as its bright future. Maybe the future could even include an animation class or some other interesting disciplines.

## Venom: Let There Be Carnage Review

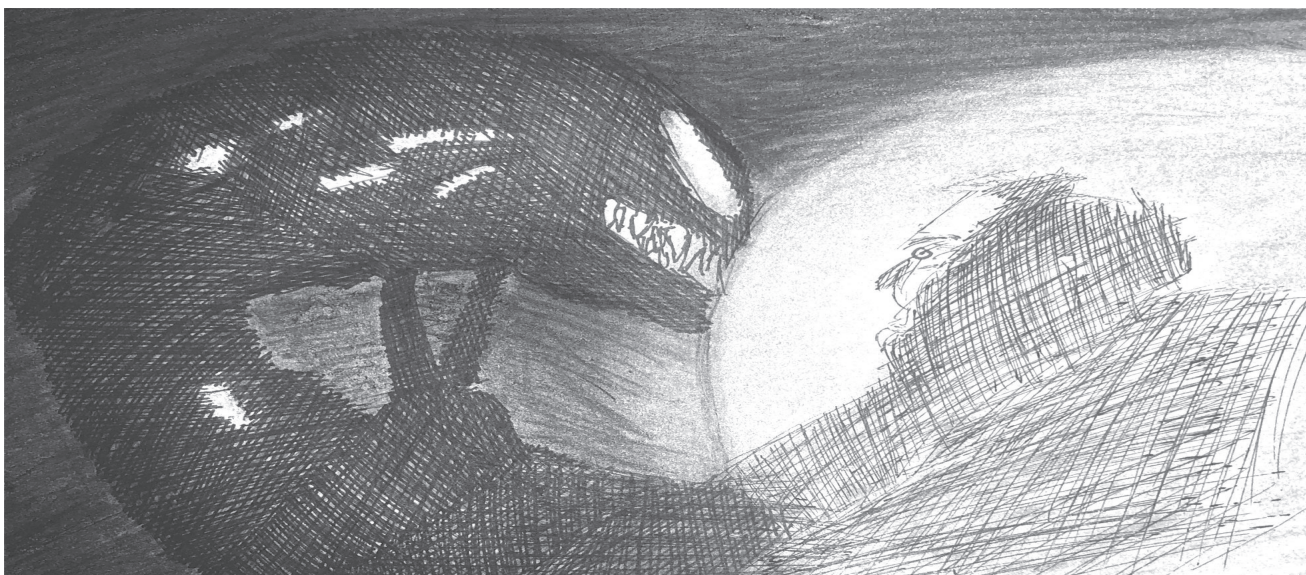
By: Michael Casey  
Staff Writer

I recently saw the movie *Venom: Let There Be Carnage*. The movie was a sequel to 2018's *Venom*. The movie stars Tom Hardy as Eddie Brock, a journalist who is reporting on serial killer Cletus Cassidy. Eddie also has an alien symbiote named Venom living inside him; Venom is fed up with living inside of Eddie and having to just sit through most of Eddie's life, especially the part where Eddie does not let him eat people. In the movie, Cassidy bites Brock during an interview

before Cassidy receives the death penalty, which leads to him getting a piece of the Venom symbiote that becomes sentient as Carnage. As Carnage, Cassidy escapes, breaks his old lover Frances Barrison, also known as Shriek, out of prison, tries to get married, and goes on a killing spree. As this is happening, Venom and Eddie Brock argue and temporarily separate before having to reunite to fight Carnage. Before Cassidy/Carnage and Barrison/Shriek are able to flee from the police that are after them because of the murders the Carnage committed, Venom and Brock fight and kill Cassidy/Carnage and Barrison/Shriek.

The movie then has a post-credit scene in which Venom alludes to there being plenty that Brock doesn't know about before transporting them across the multiverse to a point after the MCU movie *Spider-Man: Far From Home*.

Now on to my personal thoughts about the movie. Overall, I believe that most critics have been a little bit too harsh with the movie; it is pretty good. I think that the humor of the movie was a lot better than the humor of its predecessor, with some funny moments in the bickering between Venom and Eddie. While the bickering made for some funny moments, their arguing made up quite a large chunk of the movie and at one point, got old, as they argued about pretty much everything that happened. I found myself enjoying Woody Harrelson's performance as Cletus Cassidy, though I found that the character development for him was just tacked on a bit at the end instead of throughout the film. I think that the fight scenes in the movie were a lot better than in the first, with quicker-paced action, solid visual effects, and actually being able to see the fight this time around. I might be a little biased here, as I am a big fan of the MCU, but I was thrilled by the post-credit scene. I think the fans have all seen the trailer for *Spider-Man: No Way Home* at least a thousand times, and I personally cannot wait to see Venom's role in it. Overall I give the movie 3.5 out of 5 stars, or a 70%. Not incredible, but well-worth a person's time.



Art by Alexa Alcindor



# No Such Thing As Too Much Drama

By: Grace Gunning  
Staff Writer

The Drama Club is heading in a new direction with structural and moderator changes, as well as a new theatre under construction. In short, it has become a whole new experience geared toward the future stars of Malden Catholic. Many students, faculty, and staff are eagerly awaiting the opening of the new theatre, however, according to the new drama club advisor, Dr. Tamagini, the theatre is unlikely to be ready for any first semester performances or plays. Despite this small setback, there are many exciting changes happening for the students involved with the club.

During classes, the students will work on improv and theatrical techniques. The club meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week. On Tuesdays, the club meets for an hour and during this less-structured day, the participants work on improv and get comfortable with acting and the other students participating in the club. On Thursdays, the club meets for two hours where the members work on specific scenes and monologues. Dr. Tamagini also decided to have "offices" for the club such as president, vice president, trea-

surer, and secretary. The people in these positions represent all four grades and allow the students to take a more active role in the running of the club.

According to sophomore drama club member and treasurer Victoria Sekenski, the skills of improvisation and learning the monologues will help to make this year's performances even better than in years past. Unfortunately, due to the construction of the new theatre, there are no hardlined dates for the productions yet. Victoria is also excited that the productions will have enhanced lighting and sound in addition to the theatre's new orientation, which will be similar to a black box theatre and could potentially add a new element of audience interaction to future productions. There will be a significant thought process that will go into choosing a production that will allow everyone to participate. For Dr. Tamagini, a good script for the students is like a good shoe, it can be forced but doesn't work correctly that way; it needs to fit just right so that it can work the best. This is one of the elements that promotes the positive energy and excitement circulating through the drama club "it's wonderful to be lifted up after a day of hard work in school." Victoria explained and continued on "It's a form of therapy for me

as well, and absolutely helped me cope with the pandemic." Looking to the future, once the new theatre has opened, the bar will be set high for the drama club and their upcoming productions, and without a doubt, there will be shining stars coming out of Malden Catholic in the near future.

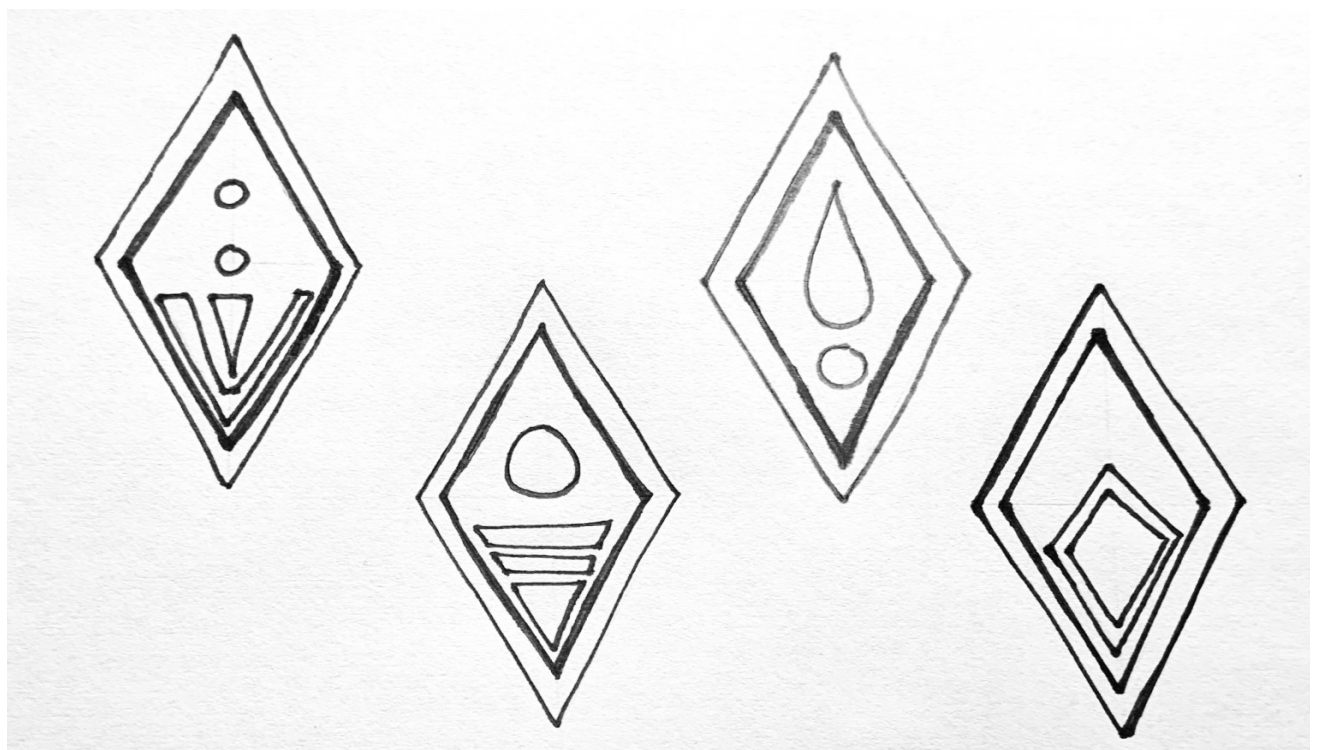
Make sure to catch the  
Drama Club's next play  
*Christmas Shorts*  
on December 9th at 7pm  
in the cafeteria.

# Do the Next Right Thing and Watch *Frozen II*

By: Courtney Casaletto  
Editor-in-Chief

As the temperature begins to drop, now is the perfect time to watch the movie about a queen with ice powers. *Frozen II* picks up where the first movie left off, with Elsa as queen of Arendelle. Although it seems as though she finally has all she could want, Elsa is pulled toward a mysterious voice that repeatedly calls out to her. As Elsa travels to the Enchanted Forest to discover the source of this voice, the familiar cast of characters, Anna, Kristoff, Olaf, and Sven, are brought along on the adventure. Throughout the movie, the crew discovers the history of Arendelle as well as their own true selves. Although many may view this movie as primarily for children, the themes of family, identity, and grief elevate the story to one that can be enjoyed by many.

The second edition of the *Frozen* franchise introduces the audience to the Northuldra people, modeled after Sámi natives from northern Europe. The movie explores the interactions between indigenous tribes and colonists. The story follows Elsa as she attempts to repair the relationship between Arendelle and Northuldra natives after she discovers that the native people had been trapped within the Enchanted Forest because of mistreatment from the Arendellian people. Disney approaches the topic of colonization in a sensitive manner and does not attempt to shy away from highlighting the problematic behaviors of the colonizers. This is shown by the dam that was built by the Arendellian soldiers which cut off the resources of the Northuldra. This heavy subject matter is juxtaposed by the



Art by Courtney Casaletto

levity brought by Olaf and his fun facts that he shares on their journey, as well as Kristoff's repeated attempts to propose to Anna as he manages to always say the wrong thing, much to the dismay of Sven.

Additionally, music is beautifully interwoven throughout the film. From the classic Disney songs like "Into the Unknown" to the more heart wrenching, melancholic sounds of "The Next Right Thing", the music of *Frozen II* takes you on the journey with its characters while they find themselves and their true loves. The best song in this movie is easily the '80s love

ballad, "Lost in the Woods" that is belted out by Kristoff with reindeer accompaniment. Sung by the accomplished Broadway star Jonathan Groff, the visuals displayed throughout the song pay homage to traditional traits of late '70s and '80s music videos; specifically there are nods to Queen and Bryan Adams.

If you have not had the pleasure of watching this cinematic masterpiece, I highly recommend that you take the time to go experience this film in all its glory, and if you have watched *Frozen II* before, I recommend a rewatch. I promise you will not regret it.



# Girls Soccer Get Their Kicks

**By: Grace MacDonald**  
Staff Writer

Malden Catholic is lucky enough to have two amazing girls teams this soccer season. Both Varsity and Junior Varsity performed phenomenally over the span of the season. They worked to stay positive and motivated despite any setbacks they faced.

The members of the girls' varsity team view each other like a second family. They work to build each other up after each game they play. Sofia Dowd, a freshmen varsity player, gave the following quote to describe actions that the team takes to unite and bond: "When we all come together and celebrate and do team dinners as a community, it helps us to grow stronger together." When Senior Captain Abby Frye was asked about her team's performance throughout this season she said, "My team is very motivated, we could lose game after game and still go into the next game with our heads held high. I've never felt so appreciated on a team and felt like a role model to these underclassmen; we are truly a family. This was the first ever year we made it to the playoffs, and even though I couldn't be playing, it was still amazing to watch the girls play. Even being down 3-0, the girls played their hearts out and left everything on the field that night. I am so proud to have been one of these girls' captains and cannot wait to see their prog-

ress." Despite the tough loss against Amesbury Academy, the varsity girls took pride in their accomplishment of reaching the playoffs.

Junior varsity has also had quite the run this season. They achieved their first ever win in history during their third game of the season against Saint Mary's High School. When asked how her team worked best, JV Coach Callahan answered: "I think they work best when they trust each other. I think that when they trust each other to get the ball and to score they work better than when they try to do it all themselves." The coach also offered the following quote when she was questioned regarding the team's progress: "The season has been going great! We won our



*Photo Courtesy of Mark Donnelly*

Sophomore Patricia Stevens takes control of the ball as the Lancers take on Austin Prep.

first game in JV soccer history so that was awesome. The JV girls have been doing great, they have been winning a lot of games." Progress for junior varsity girls soccer has been showcased both on and off the field as the team has shown impressive effort at practices and earned multiple victories.

# Boys Soccer Put Best Foot Forward Despite Injury



*Photo by Eddie D'Angelo*

Pictured above are junior Daniel Bethlendy (left) and sophomore Esteban Arbelaez (right) as the Lancers go head to head with Boston College High School. This game, resulting in a tie, proved to be a notable moment of the season, with Dan Bousquet and Diego Portal being the standout performers.

**By: Tomaz Silveira**  
Staff Writer

The boys' varsity soccer team made the Malden Catholic community proud as they put their best effort into the season, not allowing challenges to set them back. The season started off rather slowly with three ties and a loss. These games highlighted the resilience the team has when it comes to fending off the strongest teams in the state. Though the season has been rough, the team has definitely showcased their ability and resilience. The highlight of the season was indubitably the Lancers tie against BC High, the strongest team in the conference. The match against Austin Prep's senior night was also one to remember, as it was a close win 2-1 that was definitely one to be proud of.

While upperclassmen, like goalie Diego Portal and center back Nathan Ford getting injured impacted the season greatly, it led to the breakthrough of other players. Senior Aidan Martin stepped up as goalie after the sudden injury of Diego Portal. "The soccer season was difficult due to the fact that there were a lot of injuries throughout the team, but we were still able to compete and win games. This season was a lot of fun and we really came together as a family to have a great end of the season and a season as a whole," said Aidan when asked to summarize the season. Overall, it is safe to say that the Lancers pushed through with a great, hardworking season and had a positive attitude going into and out of each game, whether win or loss.



# Boys Golf Gets Up to Par

**By: Brandon Wong**  
Staff Writer

Previous years for the boys' golf program were unsteady, as the deep Catholic Conference always presented a substantial challenge; however, this past season can be best characterized by constant progress. With newcomers in varsity, head coach Brian Smith and junior varsity head coach Eric Grasso led the Lancers for great strides throughout the fall, and standout performances contributed to some of the best scores in four years. Following several years marked by tough defeats, the varsity squad accrued a string of victories against schools such as St. Bernard's and St. Joseph's Prep. Additionally, the unit demonstrated drastic development through hard-fought, close matches vs Wakefield and Xaverian.

Coach Smith expounded on the efforts and resiliency of the varsity group, stating, "As a team and as individuals, we were able to make vast improvements." Brendan Zinck led the charge for the Lancers with his team-best 37.4 scoring average, which included a 2 under par 33 at Mount Hood, which was just one of the many highlights of the season. Senior captain Matthew Tarpey cited, "Hopefully, I was able to show examples to the younger golfers on how to work hard and show showmanship," regarding how his new role elevated not only his play, but also heighten his leadership for the group.

Co-captain and senior Dan Hackett relayed how everyone stepped up throughout the season, and as a result, the numerous wins fostered some of the most memorable moments since he joined the team. JV senior Owen Spencer conveyed how the camaraderie of the athletes incited hard work and considerable development, where significant growth in hitting drives, among other things, played a notable part in the team's success.

The program enjoyed several triumphs that represented the dedication and skills that its members gained. Such success looks to carry over into next season, as Coach Smith mentions, "The core of the varsity team should be returning next year to contend in the Catholic Conference." With a great combination of youth and experience on the respective squads, the boys' golf program looks to build on its solid foundation and further establish itself in the Catholic Conference against other strong teams. The team's growth and bonding throughout the season is a mark of the success they achieved together. The Malden Catholic Community eagerly looks forward to the future of the boys' golf team.



*Photo Courtesy of Mark Donnelly*  
Junior Sean McCobb and freshman Quinn Matthews pose for a photo on the golf course.

# Trailblazers On the Pitch

**By: Sophia Ingrando**  
Staff Writer

The first year of girls' field hockey has kicked off to an amazing start. The girls have shown great strength, earning six wins and one tie, including wins against Greater Lowell Tech, Ursuline Academy, and Northeast Metro Regional Vocational. Emelle Jacobs gave the following quote to describe the leadership dynamics of the team: "Our captains Olivia Hart, Maddie Ragucci, and Ashley Reardon make our team strong and motivate us to work together."

Since the team is the first field hockey team in Malden Catholic history, most of the girls haven't played before. "For the majority, most of

us hadn't even played, and over the course of the past few months we've improved an insane amount," said Captain Ashley Reardon. The team's wins offer up a testament for their improvement. During their games, the girls are collectively motivated to bring their best efforts onto the field, while



*Photo by Eddie D'Angelo*  
The Lancers of the field hockey program readily run onto the field.



*Photo by Eddie D'Angelo*  
The girls' field hockey team joins together for a huddle mid-game.

being a model for sportsmanship. Captain Olivia Hart happily described the team and its growth: "The team bonded very fast, and all the girls got along great, which was a huge factor in being able to grow as a team. Everyone always tried their hardest and wanted to win. For a new team, with girls who have never even touched a stick

before, I personally think we did great. I know the captains and coaches are really proud of how far we have come and it was a great season. We also held one of the best teams to 4 goals the whole game which is very hard to do considering they crushed teams that beat us. I just think we improved so much from the beginning of the year in August when we started and I think that everyone got along great and it was a lot of fun to be a part of." According to Olivia, the girls put forth amazing effort in challenging the other teams, despite facing some losses. Overall, the girls' field hockey team has made large strides and improvements in their very first season.



# Jumping Into a New Season

**By: Rachael Burke**  
Staff Writer

The Malden Catholic girls' varsity cheer team has been greatly enhancing school spirit throughout the beginning of the school year. Not only were the varsity squad able to keep up the crowd's energy and spirit at football games, the junior varsity team also joined them in getting the Malden Catholic students excited during the homecoming pep rally. They engaged the crowd of students and teachers to shout "MC!" multiple times and performing a variety of stunts, tumbling, jumps, and motions in an exciting routine.

At the October 8th and 15th game, they recognized women who are affected by breast cancer by placing a pink bow in their hair and wearing pink socks. "It felt gratifying to be able to stand in solidarity with those who struggle with breast cancer," Senior captain Brooke Langis said.

Senior Kelsie McCulloch said that her favorite part about cheerleading is, "Growing to be so close with my teammates and, of course, stunting." McCulloch also described what it was like to be part of the first Malden Catholic cheer team: "It was crazy! It was so amazing being able to set examples for future classes to come." When asked what she is going to miss most about MC cheerleading next year, she said, "I think the thing I am

going to miss most about cheerleading is all of my teammates and the atmosphere cheer brings."

Whether at practices after school at 50 Crystal Street in the summer heat, dragging mats across Crystal Street, or out on the field during the freezing temperatures at some of the

football games, the cheerleading team powered through challenging circumstances in the name of school spirit. Their presence has become a hallmark of MC school spirit across the athletic program and will continue to bring the same energy to the school community for years to come.



*Photo by Evelyn Maradiaga*

Junior Amaya Griffin and Sophomore Alessia Penta stunting for the Varsity Cheer team during a home football game..

## Swimming Toward States



*Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic*

Sophomore Thea Sanzone competes in a meet for the girls swim team. The young captain was a standout performer for the team, qualifying for states and winning the team's MVP award.

**By: Andrew Webb**  
Staff Writer

The Malden Catholic girls swim team had another amazing season. The swim team took a huge leap, gaining ten new swimmers from last year. Due to the shortened season, the team was only able to compete in five meets. Coach Trisha

Argentina along with captains Kaylee Shipp, Lily Nguyen, and Thea Sanzone were able to lead the team to a record of 1-4. The highlight of the season was their win against Notre Dame Academy, as well as placing third in the championship meet.

The Malden Catholic girls swim team has shown great improvements this year and are excited to see how far they can go.

Six swimmers qualified for sectionals: Thea Sanzone, Amira Aboudou, Aliya Aboudou, Lily Nguyen, Leyna Nguyen, and Colleen Curran. Five swimmers also qualified for states: Thea Sanzone, Amira Aboudou, Lily Nguyen, Colleen Curran and Leyna Nguyen. In the 200-yard freestyle relay, the MC team of Thea Sanzone, Amira Aboudou, Colleen Curran, and Lily Nguyen finished 9th with a time of 1:48.73. In the 200-yard medley relay, Thea Sanzone, Amira Aboudou, Lily Nguyen, and Leyna Nguyen placed 7th with an outstanding time of 1:58.44. Captain Thea Sanzone, who was named MVP of the team, placed 8th in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:11.57 and 13th in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:24.75. When asked about how the season went Thea said, "The team worked very hard, put in a lot of effort exceeding our expectations." She added that, "It is good to get on the map, and we are excited to continue to strive further."

The Malden Catholic girls swim team is prepared to keep proving themselves next year and beyond. When asked about her hopes for the team's future, Senior Captain Kaylee Shipp says "I hope the team never loses the heart and energy that makes this team so special. My wish is that they always have a home at Malden Catholic and continue to cherish the memories we've made and that they will continue to make."



# Cross Country Goes the Distance

By: Courtney Casaletto  
Editor-in-Chief

Bang. They're off. This year, the boys' varsity Cross-Country team was led by senior captains Neil Harrington and Charlie Dilman. When asked to comment on this season, head coach Mr. Belliveau said, "This years' team was a very hard-working and dedicated group who I will remember most for the camaraderie of their senior class. They were just a fun bunch to work with, even when they were grinding out the repeats in a hard workout. The underclassmen have a lot of potential and will likely develop into strong runners if they continue to put in the work. I am excited for the future."

Although the team did not win any meets, senior captain Charlie Dilman stated, "As a team, we had almost all our runners have personal bests, especially guys like juniors Robert Hackley and Kevin Humphrey and sophomore Ryan Connarton. Our senior and fellow captain Neil Harrington had an outstanding year as he continued improving his times and becoming one of the best runners in the state." Neil Harrington went undefeated this season against all other Catholic Conference competitors and finished 7th at the MIAA Division 1C Championship meet, which caused him to be the first runner in 25 years to qualify for the All-State Championship meet. At the All-State competition, Neil Harrington ran a PR of 16:09 placing him as 31st in the state.

The girls' varsity Cross-

Country team was led by captains Elena Chronopolous and Luna Murray. The team had several successful competitions throughout their season. In a meet against Fontbonne Academy, the team won with Captain Luna Murray coming in with a time of 23:26 placed first overall. Also placing in this meet was Ailiana LaMarca in second, Grace Ryan in fourth, Ella Feeley in fifth, and Mariana Hincapie in sixth. Additionally, during a meet against Mount Alvernia High School, the girls' Cross-Country team won with a perfect score. Standout runners during this meet were Luna Murray, who came in first, Grace Ryan placing second, Ailiana LaMarca placing third, Ella Feely placing fourth, and Mariana Hincapie placing fifth. Furthermore, during the Girls Catholic Conference Competition, every member of the varsity team achieved a new personal record, and Luna Murray and Grace Ryan were named All Stars for the league.

After being asked about her experience as a member of the girls' Cross-Country team, Adriana Rice expressed, "Throughout my four years at Malden Catholic, I've played multiple sports and have been on many teams. With this, I can assure you that the best team is the girls cross country team. Every person on this team is so supportive and kind to one another. When the girls who are not racing are on the sidelines they are always cheering the other girls on. Even during the race, the girls beside me motivate everyone to the finish."



Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic

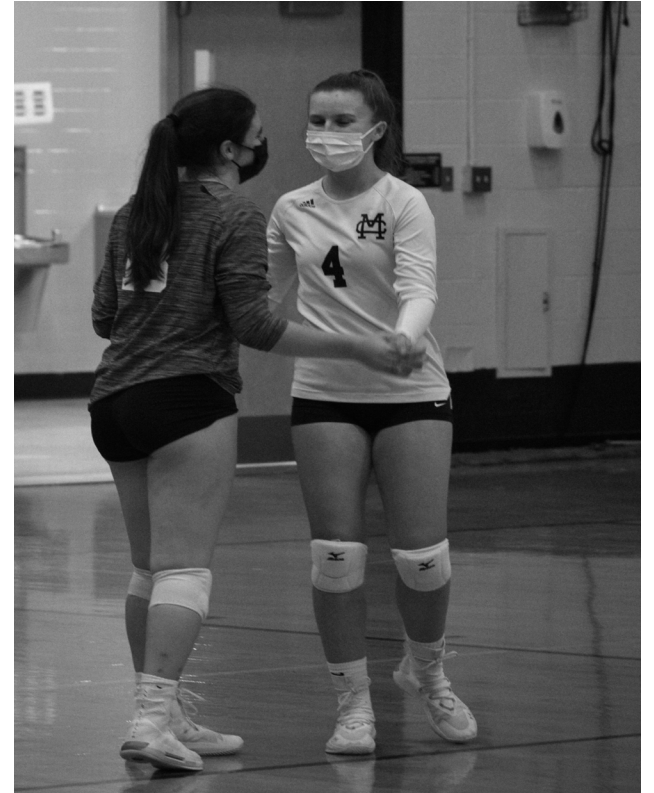
Pictured above is senior Neil Harrington running at the MacDougall Invitational, placing third.

## Fall Varsity Captains

- Girls Cheerleading: Brooke Langis, Savannah Brosnahan, Guilianna Celona
- Boys Cross Country: Charlie Dilman, Neil Harrington
- Girls Cross Country: Luna Murray, Elena Chronopoulos
- Boys Golf: Brendan Zinck, Daniel Hackett, Matthew Tarpey
- Girls Field Hockey: Maddie Ragucci, Ashley Reardon, Olivia Hart
- Boys Football: Aidan Sweeney, Chris Gill, Michael Azzari, Christian Fitzpatrick
- Boys Soccer: Dan Bousquet, Nick Cieri, Josh Lopresti, Diego Portal, Mike Cagno
- Girls Soccer: Abby Frye, Maddie Turner, Angie Mejia, Kayla Francillion
- Girls Swimming: Kaylee Shipps, Lily Nyguen, Thea Sanzone
- Girls Volleyball: Khloe Camblin, Hannah Gately



# Volleyball Digs In and Makes Playoffs



(Above) The varsity girls volleyball team comes together to momentarily celebrate after scoring. (Right) Libero Louise Marchetti and captain Hannah Gately, an outside hitter, confer during a match.

*Photos by Kayla McAuliffe*

**By: Erin Smail**  
*Staff Writer*

Malden Catholic's girls Varsity volleyball team kicked off their season on September 9th, with a home win over Winthrop High School, sweeping them 3-0. Led by coach Timothy Endicott, the girls continued their season winning 8 out of 15 games and eventually making it to round 16 in the MIAA Tournament.

Captain Khloe Camblin was asked how her last year being on the Malden Catholic varsity volleyball team went and this is what she said, "Being elected captain by my team was an honor and I hope I led them well. Having the title of captain meant that I had to work hard for myself and my team. With help of my co-captain Hannah Gately, we were able to focus on our team and get them prepared for anything. At each game whether it was home or away, we tried our best and fought hard for every point we earned. Even when we weren't feeling our best we picked each other up and we were able to have a record of 8-7. We were able to continue our fight in the tournament until round 16."

Annie Harrington, new to the varsity team, was asked how the Varsity team is different from the JV team, she said, "It was much more of a team and we worked together way more to improve as a team. It was a much closer group and everyone worked way harder."

The team concluded their season with Captain Hannah Gately being named MVP, Captain Khloe Camblin receiving the coaches award, and Bridget Gately and Lily Mineo being named all stars.

The Junior Varsity Girls Volleyball

team successfully began their season on September 9th, with a home victory over Winthrop High School with a score of 2-0. With the help of coach Bailey Chiccuarelli, the team went on to win 7 out of 14 games.

The Freshman girls Volleyball Team launched their season with a 2-1 victory over St. Mary's High School. Their season concluded with a record of 1-3.

Each of the girls volleyball teams put forth immense effort this fall season and brought pride to Malden Catholic. This is especially

true for the varsity team, as they have shown their collective strength and skill through their hard-earned wins and their progression in the MIAA Tournament. Both students and staff came together to support the team in the name of school spirit and pride at several key games. The girls volleyball program has further united the Malden Catholic community, whilst creating a positive record and reputation for themselves.



*Photo by Eddie D'Angelo*

Senior outside hitter Lily Mineo leaps to contest at the net during a match. Mineo is one of six seniors on the varsity squad.



# Lancers Football Never Gives Up

By: Emerson Tully  
Editor

Though things are yet to be fully back to normal in students' day-to-day lives, it has been exciting to see the regularity of Malden Catholic football return, as the team has been able to complete a full season. The varsity football team started off the season strong with a 35-6 home win against Weymouth High School and a 31-0 win the following week against Gloucester High School. Senior captain Christian Fitzpatrick described the impact of these wins in the following quote: "The first two wins had brought back a great morale to the school, and everyone was looking forward to coming to practice and playing on Friday. I think that the atmosphere for both of those games was amazing. Just seeing the stands packed and everyone rushing the field felt amazing." The next three games were tough for the Lancers, but they fought hard and continued to strive to exceed expectations every second of the game. "We are getting many contributions on both sides of the ball from seniors all the way down to freshmen playing varsity for the first time. We were happy to get some early wins under our belt and our main focus right now is earning respect in the Catholic Conference, where we know we belong," said Mr. Gregory, the Head Coach of the JV team as well as the varsity defensive assistant, when asked for his input on how the football season is going so far. Though the wins were a big accomplishment for the Lancers, taking St. John's Prep deep into the fourth quarter was proof of their belonging in the Catholic Conference and made the Lancers confident going into it, as Christian Fitzpatrick said, "The Prep game definitely brought back great morale. Even though it wasn't a win, it showed us that we could hang in the Catholic Conference."



Photo by Eddie Di'Angelo

Pictured above is Senior Mike Azzari making an over-the-shoulder catch

The rest of the season was tough, but playing against Malden on November 11th, Malden Catholic once again proved that they were ready to fight, winning 50-0. The varsity football defensive coordinator and assistant head coach Mr. Smith said, "Going into the Catholic Conference there was much excitement but also nervousness because it is the best conference in the state." He said that he thinks the team is extremely secure right now and can only get stronger in the future, hoping to get more strength by going to the weight room while keeping a positive attitude: "Some freshmen really stepped up to the plate and the senior leadership was able to provide a great example of how to play in the

conference."

Prime examples of senior leaders include Aidan Sweeney, Chris Gill, Michael Azzari, and Christian Fitzpatrick, who were recognized as captains this season. Their contributions to the team could be seen on and off the field, as they put forth instrumental efforts at games while taking on strong leadership roles and supporting the younger players as role models. The captains, team, and coaches alike are proud of the work they have put forward this season and look forward to the future of the program.



Photo by Eddie D'Angelo

The varsity football team huddles to get instruction from the coaching staff on game day.

## In the next issue:

Winter Sports  
(Basketball, Hockey, and more)

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Charity Drives and Other  
Service Around School

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Christmas Performances  
by the Drama Program,  
The Choir and  
The Acapella Singers