

# CRYSTAL • 99

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

## Charity Starts at Home(room)

By: Emerson Tully  
Editor

Malden Catholic's Campus Ministry has been hard at work this past winter striving to exceed expectations for their charity events. Starting off strong from November 3rd through the 22nd, Campus Ministry collected close to 1,000 non-perishable food items for the Bread of Life Food Drive to help support Bread of Life's faith-based mission to, "feed the body and nurture the soul." Bread of Life was founded in 1980 and brings together over five-hundred volunteers from forty partner organizations to offer free food to less-fortunate, hungry people. MC is very fond of Bread of Life's core values, which include providing nutritious fresh food to consumers, grounding their work in their faith-based mission, and treating others with respect. Because of this, MC has been working with and supporting the organization for over twenty-five years.

Members of the Brother Gilbert Chapter of the National Honors Society are particularly proud of their collaboration with the Bread of Life. They have proudly worked alongside Kathleen McKenna, a past MC volunteer nurse and mom of three MC graduates. She is a volunteer with Bread of Life and with her help, over the years MC students have provided Halloween bags, Thanksgiving baskets, Christmas gifts and Easter baskets to families in need. They were even honored at a volunteer recognition dinner reception at Anthony's Malden for their acts of kindness.

This year's food donations from the Malden Catholic community were left in boxes near the reception desk. Dr. Baccari and Ms. Callahan, with the help of others, brought them to the Bread of Life food pantry and warehouse in Malden.

Following the food drive was the Lancers Santa Toy Drive, which ran from November 23rd through December 17th. Working with the Department of Children and Families (DCF), a tradition that has been ongoing for over 30 years, MC helped contribute what Dr. Baccari says is a "conservative guess" of three hundred unwrapped new gifts. Catherine Michaud, along with the entire Metro North DCF

Office Staff thanked Malden Catholic for the generous donations during the Advent prayer service, saying: "We are blessed in many ways, in our office, to have long standing donors such as Malden Catholic whom we rely on annually to help us support some of the neediest families in our surrounding communities!" When MC put together their first Lancer Santa Toy Drive in the late 1980s, they reached out to DCF because they serviced ten local communities around the city

that don't necessarily have the resources to have even one gift to open, and we provide that gift."

Like most drives at Malden Catholic, it was because of the generosity of the students that the children in need got the toys that could transform their Christmas morning. The success of the toy drive was not so much about the recognition as it was about helping those in need.

From December 6th through January 7th, Campus Ministry also held a coat drive, which

Dr. Baccari says, "Was primarily the work of the students, with the exception of a group of adults." The success of this charity event ended up bringing exactly 150 coats to Anton Cleaners, located on 780 Main Street in Malden. Ms. Callahan, Girls Campus Minister, says that, "In my eyes, the coat drive was extremely successful. I helped bag up all of the coats and can confirm that we were able to give a lot of coats to families in need. Especially with how cold it has been lately, I think that's super necessary."

After being cleaned, the coats were donated with the open-handed help of nearly 90 social service agencies that made sure that not only the coats that MC donated, but also the coats from over two-hundred and fifty schools as well as over three-hundred companies, clubs, and organizations, were brought to those in need, free of charge.

Being so involved with these charity events, Dr. Baccari was asked why he puts so much work into these drives. "The reason why I do it is because faith without works is no faith at all. I feel as though this is what I am called to do and in this case called to lead at Malden Catholic," said Dr. Baccari proudly. "To be a role model so that the students can see that you have to put your faith into practice."

Even with the huge success of the charity events over the past few months, Malden Catholic's Campus Ministry is already eagerly

planning more charity events. Coming up is the Buy a Bed campaign, led by the Mission of Deeds. This mission was founded in 1993 to provide beds, furniture, and household necessities to those in need, free of charge. With every dollar donated to the Mission of Deeds, one step closer to buying a bed for a child in need of one is in reach.



Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic

Students and staff pose in front of toy donations to the Department of Children and Families.

of Malden, including Malden itself, each year. MC wants to make certain that each year the community as a whole provides toys to a good number of children and families in the area, especially during the holiday season. Mr. Bucchino, Boys Division Leader, is a big supporter of DCF and said: "I think about the children on Christmas morning opening their toys. There are kids

# OPINIONS

## The Best of Both Burgers

By: Jared DeSimone  
Staff Writer

The idea of a burger often delights people, but in some cases, restaurants will let you down. There are many restaurants that will proudly say they have a quality product, but among these, which is the best? The quest to determine this is a follow up to "One Guy's Thoughts On Five Guys Fries" written by Orlando Putnam-Bagley.

The first burger place to be considered is McDonald's. Many love the place for its fast service and good food, but being that fast comes with a sacrifice; most of the food is pre-prepared. What would you rather eat: store bought cookies or homemade cookies? Most people would agree that homemade is the way to go, or in the restaurant business, food that is made fresh. McDonald's still made the list, because although their burgers cannot be held against freshly made burgers, they are good for being pre-prepared. I determined this with a grading system I made based on the one designed by Orlando: looking at the time to prepare the burger, size of the burger, the quality of the burger, the taste of the burger, and the healthiness of the burger. This will all be graded on a scale of 0 to 5, with 0 being the worst and 5 being the best.

McDonald's scores a 5 in time to prepare. This is because it is done within minutes of an order. Having all food pre-prepared has its advantages, the main one being that they can complete orders in a time that is nothing short of astounding. The size of the burger is a 3. This is because most would agree that although they are always satisfied with the size of the burger, it isn't very big which is why it scores a modest 3. The quality is a 2, because although all the ingredients aren't bad, they aren't overly good either. When a restaurant sacrifices quality for speed, it is noticeable how the flavor goes down. Most people can tell when something has been freshly made or just reheated. The taste of the McDonald's burger is a 3. McDonald's has been making it an art to make the most delicious food possible in the least amount of time.

Although the burgers aren't fresh, they do have a satisfying taste to them. If you are looking for a quick good meal, then McDonald's is definitely your place. Finally, in healthiness, the McDonald's burger scores a 4. You read that right. Although McDonald's is known as one of those unhealthy fast food restaurants, the plain burger there has a calorie count of 250, containing 12 grams of protein. The average burger contains around 520 calories, and a regular burger at McDonald's is well below that, earning a well deserved 4 in healthiness. Be aware that this 4 in no way means that McDonald's burgers are healthy, just that in the realm of burgers, they are one of the lower calorie choices. This gives McDonald's a score of 17 out of 25, or a 68% on my grading system. A 68% is not bad; although there are many restaurants with better tasting burgers, McDonald's has a household name, fast food, and a good tasting burger, which is why it scored this high. This is why McDonald's is a very popular restaurant. I chose this as my first restaurant to review because it is the most well-known one, and most have had it and enjoyed the food, so it creates a reference for the next.

I surveyed my peers at MC, and the most voted upon restaurant for having the best burger was Five Guys. This is no surprise because it is the one that Orlando,

the writer who reviewed the fries of the restaurant, gave the crown to. Five Guys' burgers get a 3.5 in time to prepare. The burgers do not take a long time to cook, but there is a wait. With patience, you will find that it is worth the wait. The size of the burger scores a 4.5. These burgers are daunting when trying to take the first bite, but you will find that you love every bit of it. The quality of the burger scores a 4. All of the ingredients are kept on standby in coolers, and there are no freezers whatsoever. The burgers are grilled in the restaurant, and in most locations, for the customer to see. The taste of the burger scores a solid 5. When you eat a Five Guys burger, if you are like me, you will find nothing whatsoever to dislike. Most will love the taste of the grilled burger patties to the delectable taste of the fresh tomatoes. I have mulled over the burger for a while and cannot come up with one reason to give the taste anything less than a perfect score. Finally, the healthiness of the Five Guys burger scores a 3. Although the Five Guys burger tastes great, they have a large average calorie intake of around 840. This is way above the average calories for a burger of 520. This alone would get them a score of 2, but one also should consider that their food is fresh and their burger patties are completely preservative free. These factors convinced me to be lenient towards the high calories and give them a 3 instead. This would give Five Guys an overall score of 20 out of 25, or an 80% on my grading system. For a fast food chain, this is an excellent rating. I could only see a higher score in small family owned businesses where the process is even more personal and not large scale. Considering Five Guys is a large restaurant chain, this score is phenomenal.

It is no surprise that a restaurant that has quality fries and a side to a meal would have a quality burger too. Although the fries may often steal the spotlight, these burgers deserve their praise. Many people consider this their go to burger place. There are many reasons for this too, they have a great toppings selection for burgers, they encourage employees to compete to see who can provide the best service, and they make sure to keep high quality ingredients. McDonald's, being only 12% percent behind, also deserves to be mentioned. Although their ingredients are not as fresh, these burgers have been satisfying people's hunger for around 70 years, and many love the fast service and quick meals, rightfully so too. Although, to me Five Guys will always be the superior burger place. Some honorable mentions from my best burger survey are Wahlburgers in Lynnfield, MA, Christopher's in Cambridge, MA, and Carol's in Medford, MA. I hope this article has convinced you to see for yourself which burger is truly better. If you disagree with my grades, please make your case for why you think it is graded wrong; or if you have a restaurant I have not mentioned which you think should have been considered, please let me know. Also, I give inspiration for this article to my friend Orlando, who first put the idea for writing this in my head.

### CRYSTAL 99 Student Newspaper

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#### In This Issue...

- What's New In School
- Winter Sports Summaries
- Potentially Controversial Opinions
- Arts Updates & Reviews

# Slow Down the Fashion Industry

By: **Jacqueline Smiles Rodriguez**  
Staff Writer

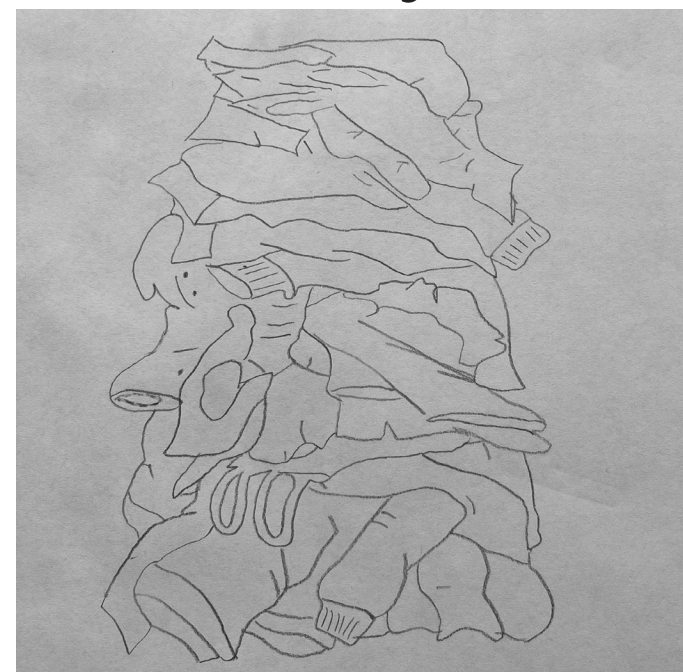
The popularity of fast fashion has exponentially expanded within recent decades, offering widespread and unbelievably cheap access to trendy clothing and accessories. Although it is detrimental to our environment and society, it allows lower income individuals to attain a variety of fashion normally out of their reach. Moreover, being able to criticize fast fashion is a privileged position, simply due to the fact that being able to afford ethically-sourced clothing is a privilege itself.

So, how do you slow down fast fashion? There is almost no way to effectively discard this clothing once you buy it. When a customer returns fast fashion items, they are often just thrown away. Donating very cheap clothing isn't recommended either, because it places the burden on the buyer. Thrift stores are now receiving plenty of cheap clothes that won't last. Most only keep items for a few months until they are sold.

Purchasing fast fashion isn't the main problem; overconsumption is. This is when people buy more than they need or will even use. Many buy fast fashion because they can't afford ethical or sustainable clothing. However, when someone reaches triple digits at checkout, they definitely can. Many people on social media post large hauls from well-known, unethically-sourced brands. Hauls

have gained attention and become a trend because of the amount of clothing you could buy cheaply, in contrast to more luxurious items. Various pieces of clothing also become popular and form micro-trends. Micro-trends start and end quickly. Fast fashion makes following these trends more accessible due to the cheapness of their clothing that can be produced quickly due to the unethical labor used to create it. This contrasts with past years, in which trends only caught on with a minority of people. These trends were spread through magazines and celebrities, and they were kept for years. The short life of trends that drive the production of fast fashion clothing only enhances the subsequent wastefulness and overconsumption.

Fashion is expressive, and how you dress can alter people's perception of you and grant you certain opportunities. Lower income people don't have many options when it comes to clothing. Buying ethical clothing requires research and financial means, and it's often just not achievable. It's almost impossible to completely avoid fast fashion when people publicly judge and degrade what others are wearing on social media. This can include outdated trends and knock-offs. Although it is difficult to shop more ethically for many, when people spend lavishly on cheap sites like Shein, they can



Art by Anne Meza

definitely afford to think ethically. In this respect, we are all victims of wasteful capitalism. Fast fashion will never be sustainable for our environment. However, because lower income people have to resort to fast fashion, it seems to be here to stay. There is almost no way to avoid unethical consumption, even if you try, but overconsumption trend is a trend that can and should slow down.

## What's Going on in Ukraine?

By: **Orlando Putnam-Bagley**  
Editor

Recently, we have heard quite a bit about the war in Ukraine between invading Russian Forces and the defending Ukrainian army. The President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, decided to send troops into the country for a full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022 after posturing and accumulating troops on the border of the eastern-european country since March 2021. This was directly after the Russia's parliament declared the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk in Ukraine as sovereign republics. It is important to note that these regions of Ukraine contain a high percentage of Russian speakers and Russian separatist movements that have been fighting the Ukrainian government for eight years since the invasion of Crimea. As of the writing of this article and according to the Ukraine's health ministry, the civilian death toll stands at 352 people and roughly ~1,700 civilians injured although these numbers may have increased at the time of publishing.

The war so far is being fought violently and quickly, and United States intelligence sources have released information predicting that the war will be short. Casualties are projected to reach above 50,000 people with over 1.5 million Ukrainians expected to be displaced. Already, many of us have seen videos of large explosions, T-72 tanks and armored vehicles making their way through the countryside, Mig-29s airstriking apartment buildings, and Mi-8 helicopters flying in formation over Ukrainian towns. These videos taken by brave civilians are shocking but have also helped the Ukrainian army keep better tabs on Russia's advance into the country. Many

Ukrainians have already fled the country by the thousands to neighboring Poland and Moldova to seek refuge, but Ukraine has since banned all men of fighting age (18-60) from leaving the country, as they now must stay and fight against the invading forces.

Putin has seen the expansion of western forces and interests deeper into Eastern-Europe in the form of NATO as an existential threat to the Russian Federation, and the invasion of Ukraine is a last-ditch effort to stop Ukraine from joining NATO and the European Union and instead to have them stay neutral or pro-Russian. Putin has used propaganda and misinformation to try and control the narrative around the invasion, accusing the west of being similar to Nazi Germany in its expansion eastward and touting a "genocide" being conducted in eastern Ukraine that Russian forces are trying to stop. These claims are all verifiably false and the United States has released and continues to release information publicly about Russia's plans which has helped keep the narrative clear and based in truth, undoubtedly throwing Putin off his strategy from the beginning of the conflict.

An unexpected and overwhelming amount of support has come out in favor of Ukraine from not only western countries aligned with the United States but also globally. Even the Taliban have condemned Russia's recent actions and the mysterious hacker group, Anonymous, has cyber attacked the Kremlin and released thousands of documents from the Russian military to the public. Because of the invasion, Russia has now been hit with crippling economic sanctions from both the United States and the European Union, the most intense sanctions ever issued against Russia in history, and it has se-

verely impacted the Russian stock market and value of the ruble. Select Russian banks have now been removed from the global banking system, SWIFT, and Germany has revoked the permit for construction of the Nordstream 2 gas pipeline which has dealt a major blow to Gazprom and the rest of Russia's natural gas industry, which makes up nearly 60% of its total exports. These actions, combined with the economic sanctions, are meant to target the wealthy and powerful Russian oligarchs and elites, which will hopefully dissuade Putin from continuing to wage war in Ukraine or cripple Russia to the point where it is no longer able to do so.

We admire the bravery of the Ukrainian people right now who currently fight for their country against a much larger invading force, and we pray for their safety and continued sovereignty. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has stayed in the capital of Kyiv, and he has refused to be evacuated to a safer location. In response to evacuation offers, he is quoted as saying "I need ammunition, not a ride" which has undoubtedly given the Ukrainian people much-needed hope. Kyiv is currently under siege by Russian forces and the future of the capital is uncertain, but with the continued support from European allies and the United States donating arms and weapons, Ukraine may be able to continue to defend themselves from the Russian invaders. With Ukraine applying for a fast-tracked membership with the European Union, the future may not be as grim as some are predicting for the country but much still remains to be seen. Until then, slava Ukraini!  
**\*This article was finished on March 2, 2022 and may not reflect any developments that occurred after this date.\***

# Scrolling Your Way to Insecurities

By: Jordan Bartlett  
Staff Writer

Have you ever mindlessly scrolled for so long on social media that you suddenly saw a sudden change in content? A change from cat memes to passive aggressive posts by an influencer? On the outside, social media seems harmless, but on the inside, it's a smorgasbord of negative ideas.

These negative ideas aren't only based on what is being posted, but they are also based on what the posts are making people think. Regardless of intent, there is always a way to interpret a post in a way that does not align with the original message. Teenagers scroll through Instagram and TikTok and see people that are petite, and skinny. As they scroll through these images, they compare posts to their own body image. They start to pull at their skin in the mirror and wonder what they would look like if they just lost a few pounds. Social media influencers often are not trying to make people feel this way about themselves; they are just confident in who they are and want to share it. Many influencers try to spread positive messages to their followers and encourage self love, but, as their followers have been scrolling through these pages for so long, they are already fixated on the fact that their body doesn't live up to society's standards. With this mindset, insecurity spreads rapidly.

Not only does social media result in poor body image in teens but it also sets unrealistic expectations for the people using the apps. Whether these apps are showing you workout videos with unattainable goals or videos of people with massive houses and an abundance of followers, com-



Art by Kimberly Nguyen

parison to others and disappointment in one's own appearance and life result. With these ideas in mind, these apps are trying to convince the world that the best version of yourself is rich, has a good body, and has lots of followers. MC sophomore Bella Maser says: "Social media shows you what other people want you to see. Celebrities are not going to post a picture that they look bad in; they're going to post what makes them look good. It's hard to not compare yourself to them, even knowing that not all is real. I think that once we see what other people are, we immediately assume that we have to be the exact same in order to be beautiful."

Teens are not only seeing these unrealistic expectations, but also literal unreality. Celebrities post pictures that they look good in, and influencers are editing the photos to morph their bodies into looking "perfect." The truth is there is no perfect; there is no specific way you have to look in order to be pretty, but this idea

is something rarely shown on social media.

Social media not only affects the negative internal thoughts of teenagers, it also affects their productivity. This can include school work, sleeping habits, and social interaction. When teens constantly scroll through social media, they get sucked in and end up procrastinating, rushing through, or just not doing their schoolwork. When students are in school, teachers and administrators might have a "no phone rule," but computers and tablets have just as many distractions as phones. You can access almost anything just through a quick Google search. This causes students to get distracted by what's on the screen, rather than paying attention to what is being taught in the classroom. As teachers are lecturing in class, the students are sending text messages to one another about what is going on in their life, rather than taking notes. Not only are students texting during school, they are also texting and using facetime in their free time rather than actually hanging out in person. Teenagers tend to believe that texting and snapchatting build better relationships and friendships than having real conversations face-to-face. This creates isolation for these students and causes them to text instead of speak to their friends that are just an arm's length away. This isolation causes people to build a relationship with their cell phone rather than with one another. As a member of society, try your best to look for the brighter side of social media. Try to find the light at the end of the tunnel so that you, as a person, can attain a good mindset and experience the benefits of social media, rather than the afflictions.

## How Essential is Work?

By: Tomaz Silveira  
Staff Writer

Work is a subject with a long philosophical pedigree. For example, in *The Republic*, Plato proposed a system of labor specialization based on inborn abilities. He argued that this will ensure essential tasks will be performed by those capable of performing them. Thus, Plato acknowledged the centrality of work to our lives. It is the primary source of income and a central feature of day-to-day adult life. Thus, no phenomenon exerts a greater influence on human life than work.

By work, I mean the familiar things we do in fields, factories, offices, homes, etc. to make a living. Examples include driving a taxi, running a cash register, working on an assembly line, or teaching. Some have observed that life is understood in work-like terms: parenthood is described as a job, those with romantic difficulties 'work on' their relationships, and what was once exercise is now 'working out' (Malesic 2017).

Not all work takes the form of employment. Workers can produce goods without being mediated by employers. In some cases, a worker also owns the enterprise (for example, a restaurant owner who is also its head chef), which has actually been the predominant form of work throughout human history. For example, over half of all workers are self-employed in

parts of the world such as Africa and South Asia.

Employees are mostly in a transactional relationship with consumers; they produce goods that consumers buy. But this need not be the case. Physicians at a free clinic are not paid by their patients. Nevertheless, such employees expect to earn income. Alternatively, some instances of work go uncompensated altogether, such as prison labor. So too for those who volunteer or provide unpaid care work for children, the aged, or the ill. Thus, work need not involve working for others, nor need it be materially compensated.

Work generally involves altering the world in worthwhile ways. Raymond Geuss (2021:5) calls this "objective" value. By working, we generate goods that others can enjoy. In most cases, a person is compensated not for their labor, but because their labor contributes to goods with this 'objective' value. Therefore, some activities are arguably not work, because they generate value for the actor instead of for others. For instance, in leisure, we engage in activities that produce goods for our own enjoyment. We cannot hire others to sunbathe for us or enjoy a musical performance. Leisure thus produces subjective value that cannot be exchanged with others.

Crucially, much of the skepticism surrounding the value of work really skepticism about the veneration of the "Protestant work ethic." The anarchist Bob Black opens his essay

"The Abolition of Work" (1985) as follows: "No one should ever work. Work is the source of all the misery in the world." Importantly though, Black defines work as "compulsory production." His abolition of work is thus compatible with voluntarily engaging in economically productive activities. Alternately, Danaher (2019:54) suggests that the world of work is "structurally bad." The labor market in most developed countries makes work bad for many and is getting worse because of technical and institutional changes.

Additionally, many workers receive little social recognition or sense of community through their work. Much socially valuable work is invisible to its beneficiaries. Many jobs are dull or unchallenging, contributing little to the development or exercise of our more sophisticated human capacities. As Marx suggested, workers have little if any say over what is produced and how. Work is compelled by economic necessity and not an intrinsic satisfaction in working. This system also isolates them from other workers, inasmuch as capitalism treats workers as interchangeable and pits worker against worker. Anti-work theorists typically call for work to be re-valued to minimize the influence of work on our quality of life. That work is unavoidable, necessary, and also frustrating might suggest the wisdom of a reevaluation of the necessity of work.

# The MC Schedule: Turning Back the Clock

By: Brandon Wong  
Staff Writer

Modified annually for the past half-decade, the Malden Catholic school schedule has brought about a perpetual cycle of change, a constant that necessitates a prompt end. The numerous iterations to best adapt learning objectives and school functions have instead fostered avertible disorientation. Through discussion with individuals in the community regarding this matter, I have ascertained the need for a better structure. Therefore, the school schedule requires amendment to satisfy the student body and faculty alike, with its flaws being minimized as much as possible. In crafting the variations of schedules depicted, I centered on the following four criteria to address all fundamental concerns: productivity, efficiency, clarity, and security.

First, the most notable alteration is that both the boys' and girls' divisions have alignment in scheduling. In recent years, there was confusion over the differing class times in the respective schools, which often left instructors who taught on both sides in unfavorable situations. Such troubles consisted of extremely short lunch breaks and not being able to attend homeroom due to overlapping classes, among other inconveniences. Instituting the same schedule eliminates these apparent problems. Moreover, these models retain the seven-day rotation that has been in place since the 2018-2019 school year, disregarding the one last year due to the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. Every class spans the same amount of time, forty-eight minutes, with each one being reduced to forty-three minutes in the activity and delayed-start schedules; additionally, the latter schedule requires the first period of that particular day in the rotation to be the last block to accommodate lunch scheduling, which in this model would be Period A on Day 1. Subsequently, the break between each period is reduced to four minutes and the concept of the homeroom block would be dismissed from all the schedules. Announcements would be sent daily via student email and reiterated in what is called the "activity block" to offset the removal of homeroom. By implementing these revisions, this additional time is allocated toward more academic and extracurricular-related activities.

In the respective normal and activity schedules, the activity block from the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school year makes its return; the lack of time in the delayed-start schedule does not allow for existence of the activity block, but the schedule's rare occurrence holds little impact regardless. The activity block is not related to the activity schedule, as the period takes place daily at the end of each day, whereas the activity schedule occurs sporadically for school functions such as Mass. The activity block would consist of something like five days of study hall and two days of clubs in the seven-day rotation. The period would grant a set time for students during the day to

engage in their studies, which provides a significant opportunity to complete schoolwork without strenuous efforts later in the day. To compensate for the elimination of homeroom, roll call would be taken during study hall, with the exception being club days; this notion signifies that seniors' ability to leave early on most days would be restricted until after attendance at around 2:10. For faculty, department chairs, and instructors with special roles such as Br. Puccio who would not have classes to oversee, the remaining eligible teachers would observe around the forty homerooms in the school.




Many students have had conflicts this year surrounding club participation, particularly due to athletics. The daily practices promptly after school inhibit one's prospect of attending meetings regularly. As a result, the current layout of the schedule requires an individual to dedicate more effort and time into one or the other, which is counterproductive for both the student and the school higher-ups, especially with the latter promoting participation in such extracurricular pursuits. Therefore, the activity block incentivizes participation for all students, especially those with commitments after school.

Furthermore, the hour-long block is done away with to promote a more balanced schedule. One might contend that the hour-long block was beneficial due to its ability to conduct assessments and labs in STEM-based classes more easily. However, aside from this point, I contend that classes become unproductive and tedious for students in this stretch of the day because of the drawn-out time relative to other periods. To counteract the absence of an hour-long period, classes that require additional time occasionally could converse internally about beginning at an earlier time, around 7:45 or 7:50, when they happen to be the first period of the day; this idea holds resemblance to the "shadow period" that occurred during the 2019-2020 school year. In doing so, courses that do not bear the requisite of requiring these extended stretches

instruction would not be grouped with those that require the extra time to carry out their agenda.

Another reason the hour-long block was in place was to accommodate the four lunch periods. Following the current construction of separating lunches by gender and grade level, each group still maintains a certain time in which they have lunch; in these models, first-year and sophomore girls always eat in the fourth period of the day, the junior and senior girls in the fifth period of the day, and so on, and so forth. The distinct change is that to retain the notion of a drop period while having adequate time to enjoy lunch, a specific grade pairing would drop a class once in the rotation for their lunch period. For example, first-year and sophomore boys' lunch in the sixth period would substitute as their drop period of the day, which in these depictions, is shown to be Period F on Day 1. Although the proposed amount of lunchtime presents the issue of maintaining oversight due to the considerable length of time for authority figures, the myriad of advantages these models offer outweigh this one slight flaw.

In all, the total time of instruction on a typical day, excluding breaks, lunch, and the activity block, amounts to 288 minutes, which is slightly shorter than the average from the last five schedules; however, this redesigned normal schedule offers more coherence and organization that steadies the imbalances with recent school schedules. The activity schedule and delayed-start schedule would also have 258 total minutes of instruction, a substantial increase over the 223 minutes from the aforementioned schedules this year. Combining the best aspects from a collection of schedules that span over a decade, I believe these models demonstrate an ideal mix of simplicity and convenience that bestows faculty transparency and encourages better academic performance and extracurricular participation for the students of Malden Catholic.

|  | Normal  |  | Activity                                      |  | Delayed Start                                 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8:00-8:48   | Period A                                      | 8:00-8:43   | Period A                                      | 9:05-9:48   | Period A                                      |
| 8:52-9:40   | Period B                                      | 8:47-9:30   | Period B                                      | 9:52-10:35  | Period B                                      |
| 9:44-10:32  | Period C                                      | 9:34-10:17  | Period C                                      | 10:39-11:22   | Period C                                      |
| 10:36-11:24   | Period D<br>(Freshman/Sophomore Girls' Lunch) | 10:21-11:04   | Period D<br>(Freshman/Sophomore Girls' Lunch) | 11:26-12:09   | Period D<br>(Freshman/Sophomore Girls' Lunch) |
| 11:28-12:16   | Period E (Junior/Senior Girls' Lunch)         | 11:08-11:51   | Period E (Junior/Senior Girls' Lunch)         | 12:13-12:56   | Period E (Junior/Senior Girls' Lunch)         |
| 12:20-1:08  | Period F<br>(Freshman/Sophomore Boys' Lunch)  | 11:55-12:38   | Period F<br>(Freshman/Sophomore Boys' Lunch)  | 1:00-1:43   | Period F<br>(Freshman/Sophomore Boys' Lunch)  |
| 1:12-2:00   | Period G (Junior/Senior Boys' Lunch)          | 12:42-1:25  | Period G (Junior/Senior Boys' Lunch)          | 1:47-2:30   | Period G (Junior/Senior Boys' Lunch)          |
| 2:05-2:30   | Activity Block                                | 1:30-2:30   | Activity Block                                | These models use a Day 1 rotation to show proposed schedules.                       |   |

# January Sixth: A Strategy Centuries in the Making

By: Myles Goodreau  
Staff Writer

Remember that day where all those radicalized right-wingers stormed the Capitol building, back when Joe Biden wasn't in office yet and Donald Trump was? How about when the Republican party was like, "Not me though. I'm a 'good' Republican"? How about when the party switched back after they saw that people were still supporting Trump? This quick flip-flopping shows how much the radicalization goes beyond Trump. Not satisfied with simply attempting to overturn an election on January 6th, the Republicans are intent on disrupting the right to vote around the country.

Did you know that in 2020, 39.66% of party registration was Democratic, while a 29.09% of party registration was Republican? How have Republicans managed to win since then? By using the same strategy they always have: whatever technicality they can. Trump and Bush lost the popular vote and still won. How do the Republicans do it? By suppressing as many votes as possible to game the electoral college. Why are conservatives so opposed to making Election Day a national holiday? Easy, because it means more votes, which means less of a chance for Republicans to win.

Maybe you're inclined to think this is just the opinion of a radical, antifa leftist. Fair point. Don't take my word for it; trust the founding father of modern conservatism, Paul Weyrich, who created The Heritage Foundation. Weyrich gave a speech in 1980 to a crowd which contained Ronald Reagan where he said, "Now many of our Christians ....want everybody to vote. I don't want

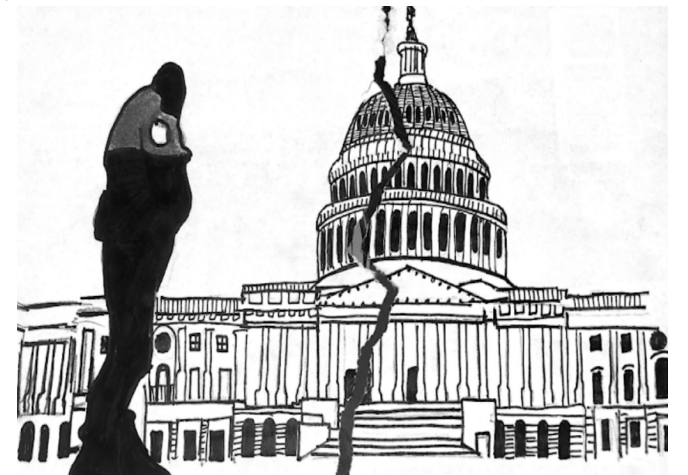
everybody to vote. Elections are not won by a majority of people....As a matter of fact, our leverage in the elections quite candidly goes up as the voting populace goes down." This is a major Conservative telling us that in order to win, you have to suppress votes. Of course, this strategy isn't new. Conservatives have done this for years. I can already hear the complaints, "Conservatives didn't suppress people of color... That was the Democrats." However, if we're being practical, the party switch and the Southern Strategy are real, verifiable history. The progressive party certainly used to call itself Republican a century ago, but which party's supporters are more likely to wave a confederate flag now?

Whether in the form of Jim Crow literacy tests and grandfather clauses or Georgia's new restrictive voting laws, voter suppression has always been a conservative cornerstone. To say this tactic is an artifact of Trump is ahistorical. January 6th has been in the works for decades. Even "sensible" Republicans like Liz Cheney, Mitt Romney, and Rand Paul have all cried about voter fraud, so I don't think they deserve our applause for saying an election wasn't rigged; it's the absolute bare minimum of being a good human being, which I think Tucker Carlson, Marjorie Taylor Greene, Matt Gaetz, and other grifters need to learn about.

Grifting is when a politician stands for something they don't actually believe in their own benefit. In this case, the support of all the deranged QAnon supporters is at stake. So yeah, great benefit. One of my favorite moments of 2022 was watching Carlson call out Ted Cruz for correctly calling those great American patriots "terrorists." Cruz clearly didn't get the memo that it was cool to support the insurrectionists, and seeing him try to say it was a "mistake" never gets old. How

do you mean to say "patriot" and say "terrorist"? Here are bunch of politicians supporting people who wanted to harm their colleagues. While liberals sing *Hamilton* and fail to pursue those who incited the rioters, people like Matt Gaetz and Marjorie Taylor Greene are throwing parties to remember all of our "silenced patriots" who are in prison for committing an actual crime. These politicians are walking a dangerous wire aligning with these people. As Lin-Manuel Miranda once said, "If you stand for nothing, Burr, what'll you fall for?" Well, Republicans?

I know this was an article about January 6th. Sorry if I've digressed, it's just that we watched a potential systemic collapse, and elected officials mostly seem interested in politically profiting from it, which is kind of not cool. It would just be super awesome if, the next time Republicans try to mount a coup, we can have some actual punishment for those that led it. Until then I guess, happy anniversary January 6th. Sorry your Party's so lame.



Art by Alexa Alcindor

## Plastic Surgery and the Ever-Evolving Beauty Standard

By: Lily McDonough  
Staff Writer

There is no absolute standard of beauty. It redefines itself constantly. Politics and societal standards are often the main contributors to mainstream beauty standards. In 17th Century Europe, new trade routes supplied nobles with an abundance of new goods such as grains, meats, and spices. The plethora of new foods eventually led to larger bodies among high society. Therefore, plumpness was associated with nobility and, thus, beauty.

It was also around this time that the Enlightenment introduced the concepts of race and white supremacy, as stated by Leah Donnella of NPR: "The work of some early racial theorists ... defined the category of 'white,' or 'Caucasian,' as being the most beautiful of the races... It was important for [those racial theorists] to be superior in all areas... they wanted the people they called 'their women' to be the most beautiful, and 'their men' to be the most virile." The importance of wealth, and of course, whiteness, was and is the main force which establishes the beauty standard. Nowadays, it just takes a different form.

These socially-driven beauty standards were not the main purpose of plastic surgery in the early 20th century, when it rose in popularity in the United States. After WWI, many returning soldiers were disfigured and found it difficult to find work. Soldiers started having cosmetic work done in order to improve their chances of employment and acceptance from modern American society. In the following decades, people started getting plastic surgery purely to enhance their appearance. Even if you didn't have third degree burns, some natural facial features were being deemed "ugly" and "inappropriate." Instead of being used for crossed eyes,

botox was now being used for wrinkles. From the '40s to the '70s, massive cosmetic surgery discoveries began to emerge, and as the public response was mostly negative, procedures were usually carried out in secret. This had a harmful influence on the public because features like ski-slope noses and full lips were



Art by Helen Nguyen

believed to be "natural" and "just genetic" when in reality, the models idealized in magazines and on runways didn't actually possess these features. Today, secret procedures still have this effect on people.

In 2020, when the pandemic had first hit, over 24 million procedures were performed globally. Why would the pandemic double the amount of procedures? On social media, a new trend emerged: the wellness movement. Self-worth and self-confidence have always been associated with "loving the skin you're in." This industry instead started calling sur-

gery a way to "enhance" your physical features. Nia Banks, owner of Art of Balance Wellness Spa, says that "Not only are we reconstructing function of the face and body, but now we're also helping to bolster confidence by doing cosmetic procedures." No offense to Banks, but that is literally insane. Plastic surgery may help you feel better about your looks, but we need to stop equating beauty with self-worth. You are so much more than what you look like.

The intense focus on physical beauty has been engraved in our minds since we were very young. Plastic surgery itself is not the problem – it's our subconscious. If we all had high self-esteem, it wouldn't matter if someone lied about getting lip fillers or not. In *The Bluest Eye*, Toni Morrison writes, "[She] was introduced to another [power] – physical beauty. Probably the most destructive idea in the history of human thought... [it] originated in envy, thrived in insecurity, and ended in disillusion." It's mostly girls who are influenced by the fixation on beauty, even when it comes to female empowerment. Choosing to "enhance" your appearance is supposed to make you feel empowered because you chose to do it. Not only is that illogical opinion to have, but it isn't feminist. Why do we have to use feminism as a justification to do things? Men don't have to use their manliness as an excuse to, say, get a toupee.

Nothing is solved when we shame others for getting plastic surgery; they aren't responsible for your insecurities. The best thing to know is that it takes time to unlearn limiting beliefs, especially when it comes to physical appearance. We can't expect ourselves or others to stop feeling like we have to change our looks to live a good life, but we can start equating things like knowledge, discovery, and experience with a good life, too. That is the true form of self-worth.

# Settlers of Catan: The Best Board Game?

By: Orlando Putnam-Bagley  
Editor

Have you ever played a board game for the first time and really thought to yourself “I just want to play that again”? I would assume many reading this article do not remember their first game of Monopoly or Candyland, and for good reason. Many of us were introduced to these games as children so young that it is hard to recall when we even learned about their existence, but now, they have become so ingrained in American culture that they are almost intrinsically linked to the word “board game.” But, let me ask you another question: do you like these games? Do you think that these games deserve to be the pinnacle of board game supremacy? My personal answer is no.

I have never had fond memories of Monopoly in particular, and I associate it with getting insults and chairs hurled at me by family members because the dice decided to roll a certain way. It is a game meant to pin people against each other in a cutthroat miniature Gilded Age capitalism simulator that drags on for literal hours. I can count the amount of times I have finished a game of normal Monopoly on one hand because the game can last upwards of 6 hours or more! How is that fun?! Because of this, I have become a staunch opponent of Monopoly, and I have instead adopted a new favorite board game, which I believe to be the best board game ever created: Settlers of Catan.

Instead of playing as an 1890s entrepreneur in the shape of a tiny metal race car (or thimble -- I don't judge) hellbent on acquiring real-estate and developing it, Catan sets a different scene. You pick the color of houses and road pieces ranging from white, red, blue, or orange, and you build a civilization, so-to-speak. You build your empire on a majestic island full of forests, mountain ranges, wheat fields, and green pastures teeming with white fluffy sheep. It is a peaceful setting to say the least, and whether or not you like the game, you can probably agree that the artwork is very pleasant. In contrast to artwork on games like Monopoly, which at first may seem “modern,” they ultimately come off as uninspired or soulless like that corporate artstyle you see Facebook use. Catan brings the notion that board games can have good, well-balanced gameplay while also being visually pleasing. Monopoly and Life do have a lot of bright colors, but unless you are younger than 7, I wouldn't believe that the colors and artwork are what draw you to the game. Going further into depth about why Catan is supremely better than Monopoly and other games will involve me going into detail about the respective mechanics of the games, so buckle up.

Settlers of Catan is not a well-known game to many people, which is understandable, so allow me to explain how it basically plays as simply as I can (you may skip this portion if you already know how the game functions). Catan is a game

played on a hexagonal board with hexagonal tiles, each tile corresponding to one of 5 resources - wood, bricks, sheep, rocks, or wheat - and is randomly assigned a number from 1 to 12 (excluding 7). Each number on each tile corresponds to a dice roll and when the number on the tile is rolled by a player, each player with a settlement (usually portrayed as a tiny house on the board) next to said tile receives the resource type on the tile. When a 7 is rolled, a “robber” is moved from the one desert tile on the board (which creates no resources) and can be placed on a different tile to prevent that tile from producing resources to hinder other players. Players can also purchase “development cards” which each have different properties ranging from being able to build two roads automatically (road-building card), to ask all players to give you all of a certain resource they have (monopoly card), or to move the robber on demand (knight card) among others. The goal of the game is to reach 10 points which can be accumulated from settlements/cities, certain development cards, and 2 achievement cards that reward the player with the most knight cards (has to be

gameplay meant to represent the unfairness of unfettered capitalism, but let's be honest, it's not fun unless you're the one winning (which in that case the game probably inflates your ego by orders of magnitude). Catan on the other hand is more egalitarian, and nobody is truly above the powers of the dice gods; even when you are ahead, you don't usually get exponentially disaffected by dice rolls, and you must always be on your toes. When you roll (unless you roll a 7), you can usually expect your situation to improve or not change and you have options to trade cards with other players or build things and whatnot, but other players also get a boost each round as players can collect resources even when it's not their turn. This makes the game dynamic and moves it along at an incredibly consistent pace every game. While Monopoly is sporadic in playtime, you can almost always expect a game of Catan to last 1-2 hours every time depending on the number of people you're playing with. Catan plays consistently for practically every game; the gameplay is dynamic and every player's turn always involves everyone else. Each player has a multitude of different options and ways to play each turn instead of being more binary like games such as Monopoly.

I will also mention again that the Catan board is hexagonal in nature and I will explain why this is much better than turn-based games that are played on a grid and not just simply because hexagons are the best shape (although they most definitely are). When you move in any direction from the vertex of one hexagon to another, you move exactly one unit of length no matter what. When playing on a grid, you can only do this by moving in cardinal directions and when you move diagonally you move

a distance of 2 units. That is simply just a disgusting, irrational distance to move and there is no excuse that we shouldn't be playing chess on hexagonal boards, but I digress.

Catan has many features and mechanics that put it a cut above the rest in terms of overall board game experience. From the beautiful artwork and pleasant rustic aesthetic of the game art to the hexagonal board that allows players to traverse the board in whole number intervals, the physical appearance of the game is top-notch. With its intuitive mechanics such as resource collection, trading, and development cards, Catan is able to combine many simple mechanics into emergent gameplay that is greater than the sum of its parts. Although I may be personally biased, as I am proficient in absolutely destroying every single person I can convince to play with me, I still believe that this game is perfection incarnate in regards to board games. So, dear reader, if you have access to this game that I hold so dearly to my heart, please consider giving it a try with your friends instead of any inferior linear roll-and-move game and experience Settlers of Catan for yourself.



Photo by Lilah Paige

at least 3) or the player with the longest continual road (must be more than 5 road segments long).

Obviously these are not all the mechanics of the game as although it is fairly intuitive, it also has many rules and is complex in some respects. The best players can manage all of the factors and mechanics in the game and strategize, and if done correctly, playing smart can minimize uncontrollable factors of luck from giving your fellow players an advantage over you. Monopoly doesn't give much to the player in regards to agency in the game; you basically get two options every turn. You land on a property and you either buy it or you don't, and if you have the misfortune of landing on someone else's property by pure chance, then you're gonna have a bad time. I find this to be an unbalanced and unfair system. You must roll every time, but that roll can have a high chance of putting you out of the game, or even worse, letting you toil away for multiple rounds with not enough cash to do anything, but not enough to be out of the game completely.

Some people may see this as simply a quirk of the game's design or intentionally frustrating

# Buying a Ticket to the MC Community

By: Jordan Bartlett  
Staff Writer

Whether they are from down the street or across the world, Malden Catholic students have all experienced the uncertainty of choosing a high school. Clarity and certainty are provided in Malden Catholic's admissions process, including multiple opportunities for incoming freshman or transfer students to get a glimpse of what the codivisional school is all about, such as Shadow Days and The MC Experience.

The admissions process can be challenging, but Malden Catholic works to make it an enjoyable and helpful experience. The administrators and students at MC are very welcoming, which allows incoming Lancers to get a true feel for the school as well as what it will be like when they attend - whether that is in the fall or mid-year. The admissions director Mr. Matthew O'Neill provided some detail regarding the MC Experience Night: "This year was a little different because of COVID-19. We had two rooms opened in the cafeteria and in the gym."

In the cafeteria, there were tables showcasing the variety of STEM programs that the school offers. This provides the incoming students with the opportunity to do hands-on work with involved students and staff. The gym was yet another amazing experience for the students, as Mr. O'Neill described: "In the gym we had all of

our athletic coaches, so the prospective students could come and talk to a coach they are interested in playing for." Along with the athletic coaches, there were members of the arts programs available for the interested families and students.

The MC Experience is not the only way that incoming students can get involved with Malden Catholic; there is also the option of shadowing. Shadowing allows an incoming student to attend a school day with a current Malden Catholic student. This especially gives a more comprehensive idea of the day-to-day life at MC. The hosts of the shadows are chosen by Mr. O'Neill, and he works to carefully select just the right people to show the interested students around the school: "When looking for shadow hosts, we want someone who is outgoing and friendly, has a positive attitude about Malden Catholic, and is willing to share their MC experience with an 8th grader." The shadows also have to have a working schedule.

Due to COVID-19 protocols, there can only be a certain number of students in a single classroom, which limits the amount of possible hosts. The hosts of the incoming students are mostly freshmen, but there are also current sophomores who have had shadows as well. When asked about her time spent as a shadow host, sophomore Mia Fronduto said, "It's fun to have a shadow, but you can tell that they are nervous." Shadowing can be challenging in this way, but hosts are able to make shadows feel

more comfortable and welcome throughout the day. Additionally, the teachers try their best to make the shadows feel at home and make them comfortable in the high school environment.

Seeing the new students entering the building is not only strengthening the Malden Catholic family but is also a very rewarding experience for administrators. The administrators get a sense of pride because they have the opportunity to meet those who have chosen Malden Catholic for their future. This idea proves to them that people are drawn to what goes on at the school, and they want to be a part of the community. Many of the administrators and teachers at MC are alumni, and to them, seeing the incoming students brings them joy as well because they are seeing new students emerged in the MC experience.

Administrators work hard to make admissions a personalized process. They get to know each prospective student to find out what their interests are, and they build off of those ideas to motivate them to join the Malden Catholic community. Based on these interests, the new students can locate clubs or sports teams that attract them, which helps to better their high school experience, and make them feel at home when they enter 99 Crystal Street. The admissions process at Malden Catholic is an enjoyable and exciting experience for not only the incoming students, but also for the rest of the Malden Catholic community.

## And the Crowd Goes Wild...

By: Katelyn Cirame  
Editor

Merely making a sports team can be an accomplishment in itself, but playing in front of a cheering crowd makes the whole experience way more exciting. At Malden Catholic, students never disappoint when it comes to going plus ultra and filling the bleachers to the brim.

During MC's fall sports season, the stands were consistently packed, despite sometimes chilling temperatures. At the football team's many home games this year, an excited crowd of students and families were always ready to cheer. The crowds at the football games also followed specific themes, including a neon theme for their first home game against Weymouth Highschool, a black out theme for the homecoming game against Gloucester, a white-out theme against Saint John's Prep, and finally a USA theme for their senior night against Xaverian. The team also hosted a Mayor's Cup against Malden High which utilized a flannel theme. MC's students embraced these themes enthusiastically.

Another team that students showed up excitedly for was the girls volleyball team, which had an amazing season, making the playoffs for the first time. The volleyball team followed football's example, taking part in themes at their



Photo by Eddie D'Angelo

Malden Catholic boys support the Boys Varsity Basketball team from the stands.

home games. The team had many themes but their most important one was their "pink-out" theme for breast cancer awareness. Not only was the crowd covered in pink, but the players also got new pink jerseys to wear at this game.

As the month of January came around and Covid rates began to rise, Malden Catholic had to enforce a spectator ban. This ban made it so anyone desiring to attend boys or girls basketball games had to have a pass from MC and each player was only allowed two passes. After a month or so of this ban, as infection rates declined in the community, Malden Catholic lifted the rule and al-

lowed students to return to the stands. Now that winter sports are in full swing, every basketball game fills the stands with not just students, but also parents, teachers, and the cheerleading squad keeping the crowd excited. The student council has taken the responsibility of creating themes for these games. Having themes at these games can bring the crowd closer together and create a more exciting and vibrant scene. Some themes for the season included the blackout theme for their first home game of the season, a neon theme, a Christmas theme, and many more. A sophomore student that attended one of the games said, "The crowd was very active and vibrant and stuck to the theme. The game was also very fun to watch and the crowd made it an even more exciting experience."

These fan attire theme nights certainly seem likely to continue in future seasons as well.

The girls varsity basketball team at MC has also had an amazing season. Even though the stands at the boys' games are often more full, the energy at the girls' games never disappoint, especially playing at the TD Garden. The student council also helped by creating themes for the girls' games too, including a white-out and pajama theme. Even without a cheerleading team to keep the crowd excited, students never stop cheering on the girls on the court.



# Mock Trial: LARPing For Lawyers

By: Lilah Paige  
Managing Editor

Senior Lily Baglio stands alone in room 130. Usually by this time, Ms. Viscosi has already locked the door and turned off the lights, but today a student in a suit sits in front of a glowing laptop, litigating.

Mr. Gregory, the Mock Trial team moderator, lists reasons to join the team: "Everything you learn, you learn by doing. Mock trial is unique in that nobody comes to mock trial being 'good at' mock trial or knowing how to litigate. [Mock trial] teaches critical reasoning and public speaking skills that will translate into success in many different disciplines."

The team is moderated by not only Mr. Robert Gregory, the school's theology chair, but two volunteer attorneys, Mr. Keating and Mr. Regan, as well as some MC alumni. This year's captains, seniors Lily Baglio and Emma Pohl, have both been members of the Mock Trial team since their freshman year. In that time, the team has expanded from its small group of dedicated students to a large, close-knit team. Lily Baglio commented on this change in team dynamic, saying, "We have anywhere from five to seven at any given time, as well as a rapidly growing team. During my sophomore year, we had eight to ten members and now we surpass 20. Because of the amount of time we spend together, we really do become a little family that will always help each other out."

A Mock Trial is a rehearsed court trial between two teams, one team being the Prosecution, or Plaintiff in civil cases, and the other representing the Defense. Each team is given a case packet, all containing the same case, at the beginning of November and must prepare by writing openings and

closings, drafting direct and cross examinations for witnesses, and discussing the objections they will make and respond to. The cases can consist of serious crimes or complex lawsuits, and are used by each team throughout the season. "The months of November and December are primarily used to wrap our heads around the fact pattern of the case and where members of our team fit best," says Baglio. The team will spend somewhere between

three preliminary rounds before competing in tie-breaker trials to see who will advance into the Sweet Sixteen, Elite Eight, Final Four, and Championship rounds. The teams are judged on student performances on a scale of one to ten and the team with the most overall points will advance. Some members will participate in a more theatrical aspect of the club by taking up the role of a witness, essentially playing a character in the trial.

This year, the team has competed in five scrimmages, the most in Malden Catholic's Mock Trial history, and finished regional play with a score of 3-0, as they have for the past four years. However, another team also finished their regional play with the same score, necessitating a tie-breaking trial in which the Malden Catholic team won, allowing them to move into the first round of playoff trials with a score of 4-0.

After these intense moments of competition, the team members could not say enough about how much they appreciated the connection they have forged with one another these past few years. Junior Ashley Reardon, "Whenever you walk in, you're greeted by all of these people who, even if you didn't know them originally, become your best friends."

Senior Courtney Casaletto added, "Everyone is always encouraging one another and helping each other out. Whether by running routines that you aren't involved in so that your teammate can practice, talking through objections, keeping time on routines, or offering feedback, every member of the team is always willing to help out in any way they can."

Students of all grades are encouraged to participate in Mock Trial for their next season. Don't be afraid to seek out Mr. Gregory any time if you are interested in learning more about Mock Trial!



Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic

Junior Isaac Toscano is seen performing in a virtual trial. Mock Trial has

eight to twelve hours a week practicing between each match. Baglio further explained, "Preparation consists of reading and thoroughly understanding all case materials and relevant case law, assigning roles and scripting examinations, developing character profiles, learning and applying the federal rules of evidence, and refining our delivery."

There are typically 120 teams that participate in the Massachusetts state tournament. Much like the bracket system used in college basketball's March Madness, each team will complete

## Model UN: Czeching the World's Problems

By: Brandon Wong  
Staff Writer

Full of gaveling and motioning to table the chair, the Model United Nations club has had ample participation this year; roleplaying as delegates for member nations in the UN General Assembly, students have debated various fictional and real-world conflicts. Within simulations, the chair and co-chair regulate the room through the use of rapping a gavel to gain the attention of the delegates. Once attention has been garnered, delegates utilize motions, such as motion to open debate and motion to be added to the speaker's list, in order to direct debate.

Officers elected this year were President Tommy Collier and Vice President Karina Rahman, in addition to Courtney Casaletto, Charlie Dilman, Aurelie Neptune, and Sam Slater comprising the Executive Board. Speaking on the growth of the club since he joined as a fresh-

man, President Tommy Collier expressed, "So far this year, we have had incredible participation from both the boys' and girls' school. There are so many dedicated contributors such as Sam, who has served as acting co-chair. As president, I'm proud of what we've accomplished, and was especially inspired by our members' collaboration when we drafted resolution papers to curb the West African Firearm Smuggling Crisis."

Although conferences have been scarce, in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the club participated in a virtual conference held earlier this year by St. John's Prep. Despite the infrequent opportunities, members have learned much more about their respective nations and historical situations overall through simulations. Creativity has been a constant, regardless of whether a successful result is reached, as delegates have attempted to craft solutions to issues like ocean acidification and the dispute over the Kashmir region. Member Isabelle Brady commented on the uniqueness of the

club, asserting, "Model UN isn't exactly the conventional club many other high schools are used to. One of us even suggested bringing DC characters such as Mr. Freeze to our universe to freeze the oceans to stop rising water levels. I've learned how to think of consequences to my choices, how to be confident in both my ideas and myself, and how to present my ideas to my clubmates."

Expounding on the activities to come later this year, club moderator Mr. Endicott conveyed, "We'll work in some historic committees such as the outbreak of WWI and Joint-Crisis committees, where two different committee rooms must work to respond in real-time to the actions of the other committee." He also disclosed the possibility of carrying out futuristic simulations, referring to a zombie apocalypse scenario done a few years prior. With all the activity going on, the club looks forward to the chance of taking part in additional conferences that may come up later in the year.

# And This Year's Ryken Award Goes To...

By: Courtney Casaletto  
Editor-In-Chief

Students and faculty alike sit on the edge of their seat while Mr. Thornburg describes an individual who has greatly contributed to the Malden Catholic community and will be awarded this year's Theodore James Ryken Award. Everyone tries to piece together who this person could be as slowly more and more information is revealed. Finally, Mr. Thornburg says, "On behalf of a very grateful Malden Catholic Community, I am pleased to present this year's recipient of the Theodore James Ryken Award to Mr. Paul Moran."

Growing up in an immigrant household, Mr. Moran dreamed about being able to go to college and going into an honorable career such as teaching. He had always loved language and literature and the ideas and discussions that came with it, so it was only natural to not only become a teacher, but particularly to become an English teacher. Mr. Moran attended the College of the Holy Cross for his undergraduate degree and then went on to Boston University for his master's degree.

During his time in education, Mr. Moran has held numerous positions at various schools. He first taught in the Boston Public School system; he spent six years at South Boston High School and then three years at Dorchester High. In 1981, seeking a new teaching position, Mr. Moran came

across an advertisement for an available teaching position at Austin Preparatory School. At Austin Prep, he was first an English teacher, and eventually went on to work his way up the ladder to becoming the dean of students, principal, and eventually headmaster. He had not been consciously seeking a teaching position as a Catholic school, but stated that educating at a Catholic school was rejuvenating in helping him along his own faith path.

After 32 years at Austin Prep, Mr. Moran decided to step down as headmaster and took a year sabbatical while he looked towards his future in education. Going back to his true passion, he wanted to finish his career at the head of a classroom teaching English. Having known Br. Puccio for many years, he sent his resume to Malden Catholic. After being interviewed by many who would soon become his colleagues, such as Mr. Bucchino, Ms. Lee, Mr. Smith, and Br. Puccio, Mr. Moran was offered a teaching position at MC. When recounting his initial interview, he expressed his deep gratitude for being given this opportunity to be back in the classroom. He has been an integral member to the MC community for the past eight years.

While at Malden Catholic, Mr. Moran has been an English and Psychology teacher as well as a moderator of both the Multicultural Club and the Saint Francis Xavier Scholars Program. Mr. Moran has not only made a lasting impact on each of the students that have been able to take his classes, but

also on his coworkers. When asked about his time working with Mr. Moran, Mr. Cleary shared, "As for Mr. Moran, he's a 'good man in a storm', keeping a level head and calm demeanor even in stressful times. He's also a scholar in the most complimentary sense and always willing to share his expertise, knowledge, memories, and witty/wise quips generously. I've become a much better teacher because I've spent so much time around him the last 8 years." Furthermore, within the speech given at the Founder's Day Mass, Mr. Bucchino was quoted stating, "[Mr. Moran] has been an integral component behind creating, developing, and maintaining a most positive and loving ethos."

During this mass, Mr. Moran explained that it took him a while to fully realize that the person that was being described was him. This recognition reinforced for him how much of a welcoming community Malden Catholic has been in the final stages of his career. "I was deeply touched," he shares. As Mr. Moran will be leaving the profession after this year, while reflecting, he explained that he is more convinced than ever of the value of vicarious learning through literature, and he offered the advice to the community to carve out time to read and reflect, as every piece of literature holds up a mirror to ourselves or a window into other people's experiences.

## Collaborative Contributions to the Community

By: Brooke Langis  
Editor-In-Chief

A key feature of the winter season at Malden Catholic has been the tremendous charitable effort of La Colaborativa club, including selling and dispersing candy cane grams as well as volunteering in an annual Christmas food and toy distribution event. Malden Catholic students and staff alike have undoubtedly witnessed the involvement of the club throughout the past two school years; however, many lack understanding of its true scope and foundations, as the group goes far beyond the Malden Catholic community. In order to comprehend fully, it is necessary to start approximately three miles away in the city of Chelsea.

La Colaborativa, translating to "the collaborative," is a social organization based in Chelsea that defines itself as "a steady, trusted, and fearless partner to Latinx immigrants." Founded in 1988, their goals are to expand security, stability, and empowerment of Latinx communities in cities, including Chelsea, Malden, Revere, East Boston, Everett, and Lynn. Through various altruistic events and programs, La Colaborativa aims to uplift these communities whilst pushing for systemic policy changes to create long-term positive effects. Their initiatives are extensive, from ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and citizenship lessons to emergency housing and food assistance. Furthermore, they have other measures such as job training, legal aid, healthcare access, consumer protection, voter education, leadership institutes, and youth development programs.

La Colaborativa at Malden Catholic stems

from this organization. It was founded in the 2020-2021 school year when current junior Alondra Enciso-Torres sought a way to connect La Colaborativa, which she and her family had been exceedingly involved with, and Malden Catholic. She was able to form this association with the help of Mr. Kissel, the club's faculty advisor. The Revere Journal covered Alondra's ambitious foundation of the club, including the following quote from the junior: "As a daughter of immigrants, it warms my heart to help people gain access to the resources they need. We are a nation of immigrants. In these hard times, we are called to work together – all races, genders, and religions – to help each other. I founded this club so that we can directly interact with families in need on a personal level, and provide them with as much support as possible."

When prompted to explain the goals of the club, Mr. Kissel asserted, "The goal is to provide financial and service support to La Colaborativa... We also connect members of the MC community with service opportunities at La Colaborativa such as the Thanksgiving food drive and Christmas toy drive."

Over Christmas break, several members volunteered at La Colaborativa's annual Christmas food and toy distribution. Alondra Enciso-Torres, Nicole Uribe Lopez, Jorge Ortiz, Melissa Gallego, Aileen Ortiz, Clara Ortiz, Darwin Augustin-Dumornay, Lexy Dormveil Flores, Ayoola Adeleke, and Julia Kruse stayed from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. helping over 3,500 families at this event. Senior Jorge Ortiz described his service at the distribution in the following quote: "It was a beautiful experience, and we really felt like we

were making a difference. You never realize how many people are in need until you go out and help, and when you finally do, you never want to stop. You feel like you are truly making an impact on these people's lives." This feeling unites members of the club in their dedication to service, as Alondra Enciso-Torres said, "There is nothing more powerful than helping those around you."

Another recent charitable endeavor of La Colaborativa has been their candy gram initiative, which enabled students to purchase candy canes for a dollar each to send to others throughout the school. From December 13 to 16, members of the club sold these candy grams during lunch periods. Throughout the week of January 3, the candy canes were distributed during homeroom periods. Their selling and distribution enhanced Christmas spirit throughout the Malden Catholic community and contributed generously to La Colaborativa, as the proceeds from nearly five hundred being sold were donated to the organization.

La Colaborativa club perfectly embodies the core values of Malden Catholic: simplicity, humility, compassion, trust, and zeal. The fervent diligence and commitment of both the students and staff involved is what makes the group so inspirational. This unquestionably contributes to the vast growth that the club has experienced, amounting to 91 members total, making it one of the largest at Malden Catholic. Whether taking part in service opportunities, making donations, or joining the club itself, all students are encouraged to become involved in the organization both inside and outside of school in order to positively impact surrounding communities and families in need of assistance.

# Entering the Digital World from MC

By: Orlando Putnam-Bagley  
Editor

Are you a fan of video games? Are you open to the idea of participating in video game tournaments? If you say yes to either of these questions, then Malden Catholic's video game club may just be for you. This club, moderated by Mr. Hurley, usually meets at least once a month in room 106 on select Thursdays or Fridays.

In the club, you can expect to compete in

tournaments in games like *Super Smash Brothers Ultimate* on Nintendo switch. There are roughly 35-40 members in the club currently, and 15-20 competed in the last tournament in December. So far, there have been four meetings, and the club is planning on meeting again sometime in March for another tournament. Drinks and snacks such as water, doritos, and cheetos are served during the tournaments. Unfortunately, there is no Mountain Dew served for the Major League Gamers.

Mr. Hurley has remarked his favor-

ite games are *Bioshock*, *The Witcher 3*, *Mass Effect*, and other RPGs. He also made it exceedingly clear board games are not played at the club, as it is strictly for video games, though he is open to the idea of moderating a possible board game club in the coming year.

Mr. Hurley looks forward to the future of gaming at MC, as he exclaimed, "We are always looking for new members and new ideas, and anyone interested in Video Game Club should come talk to me in room 106."

# MC's Acapella Group Sings in Harmony

By: Courtney Casaletto  
Editor-In-Chief

Introducing the newest addition to the performing arts division of Malden Catholic: the Acapella group, Trilogy. This new group is comprised of 16 students and is led by Dr. Tamagini. Currently, there are only female members, but Dr. Tamagini hopes to expand and gain more male members in the future. From her ample experience leading acapella groups outside of the school, Dr. Tamagini wanted to bring this new way for students to showcase their vocal range outside of the MC Choir and without the accompaniment of instruments. Many members of the group decided to join because they were already a part of the choir and loved singing, which led them to want to be involved in more



Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic

musical opportunities. The group meets on Thursdays after school to practice arrangements that were generated by Dr. Tamagini herself, where

she creates the parts, alto, middle, and soprano around the specific skills that the different members of the group showcase. As of right now, the students have been limited in their performances, only having performed at the Christmas Concert, but Dr. Tamagini and students alike look forward to their upcoming performance at the Gala.

Senior vocalist, Khloe Camblin, expresses, "Being a part of the group is like being a part of a family. We make new memories together and have a great time learning new songs. No matter what Dr. Tamagini throws at us; we are always ready for the challenge and enjoy our time together."

Already off to a great start, the MC community can look forward to seeing Trilogy more often.

# Creative Writing Inspires Students

By: Emerson Tully  
Editor

Students can be exceptionally creative when writing on their own, but when it comes to having to follow a specific curriculum, they can sometimes get stuck. With this in mind, Malden Catholic commenced a half-year Creative Writing course, available to all grades and divisions. This course was offered to the English Department, and Ms. Foley says that she's, "Always been interested in the idea of creative writing" and when given the opportunity to teach the course was "excited to see the students be creative without the barriers of a normal English class." With this being the first year of the course, Ms. Foley is experimenting with each class to see what they enjoy doing best, while pushing them to challenge themselves and try new writing techniques and styles.

The course starts off with a survey, asking what the students favorite type of writing is, so that throughout the course, everyone's writing interests are accommodated. With the word "creative" being right in the title of the course's name, Ms. Foley thinks, "It is important that I keep that in mind

throughout the entirety of the course because there are a lot of kids that love writing creatively, and I want to give them the opportunity to enjoy writing while still being pushed out of their comfort level."

When asked if she feels her writing interests are being accommodated while still being pushed, Jordan Bartlett, class of 2024, said: "Ms. Foley works hard to give us different types of writing styles to try out, which can be challenging at times, but allows me and my classmates to have a well-rounded idea of the different writing styles and better know what writing has to offer us."

During the first Semester, the boys took part in the creative writing class and senior, Brandon Wong talked about his experience in the class: "I was able to take my imagination to new heights when writing my fantasy novel, as the project was something I was enthusiastic about. Coming into the class, I didn't really have an interest in a specific genre of writing. However, the many different prompts, from horror stories to descriptive poems, allowed and encouraged me to try new ways of writing that helped me improve as a writer."

Now with the girls taking the course for second semester, interests lie in a different direc-

tion than the boys class, but still revolve around the creative aspect of writing. The students coming up with different ideas and being able to bounce off of each other is incredible and Ms. Foley agrees: "I've always been interested in the idea of creative writing and teaching it, similar to the reasons the children would like taking it. I get to see that creativity, that yes, is fostered in typical English classes, but is not always the primary focus."

Ms. Foley's goal in teaching the course is not only to let the students' ambitions go as far as writing, but also to let the students see that there is more to writing than what they are used to. Ms. Foley also remarked, "Even if I got a few kids to like writing a little more than they did before, I would feel I am doing my job."

This class allows the students to cultivate their writing skills by using their imagination to have their own point of view and build ideas off of each other. It lets students experience a different side of writing that can't be taught in a regular English class, and it is safe to say that the students are taking advantage of what this class has to offer.

# Shorts and Sweet: Drama Adapts and Thrives

By: Andrew Webb  
Staff Writer

The Malden Catholic drama club has done an outstanding job adapting to their resources and continues to push through many obstacles in order to perform. Despite the fact that they have had no auditorium to use, they have still been able to produce many outstanding plays. Thanks to juniors Emma Lafontaine and Alexa DoVale and many others who have stepped up this year, the drama team has stood strong and continued to impress. When asked about how the team fought through the change of scenery, Emma Lafontaine said, "It taught us that we can perform anywhere, and we don't need to be on a stage to put on a show."

The drama team proved this to be true during their production of *Christmas Shorts*, which consisted of a series of brief comedic scenes revolving around the holiday season. Segment topics included events at the North Pole, children writing letters to Santa, and news reports. Junior Alexa DoVale described the challenges that the group faced and was able to overcome regarding this play: "The fall drama season was actually a bit challenging. Because the new theater was (and still is) incomplete, rehearsal and performance spaces were difficult to manage. We mainly held meetings and rehearsals in 50 Crystal, but we had to share the space with the cheer, wrestling, and ping pong teams, making for some pretty chaotic and noisy rehearsals. Up until the night of the show, we had never seen the makeshift stage set up in the caf-

eteria or practiced on it at all. In fact, the performance was actually our first ever full run-through of the show!" Although they faced struggles such as limited resources, the drama team has demonstrated their ability to adapt and overcome to put on an entertaining performance for attendees.



Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic  
The cast and crew of *Christmas Shorts* pose with Dr. Tamagini.

Bonding and growth within the club have marked the fall season for Malden Catholic drama. Alexa DoVale discussed how members of the club were able to collaborate to strengthen the group's teamwork and teach newcomers how to prepare for and put on a show: "*Christmas Shorts* was a learning experience for us all. We also all had to learn to adapt and adjust to our inconsistent surroundings, and take charge of uncertain situations on our own. The cast was mainly freshmen whose first show was *Christmas Shorts*, so the more experienced cast members (such as Hannah Burton and Emma Lafontaine) made sure to step up

and make them feel as comfortable as possible on the stage. Our unique situation called for a lot of teamwork and student leadership, but I think I can speak for the whole club when I say that we are grateful for the outcome of a successful December performance." Emma Lafontaine shares the senti-

ment of satisfaction with the current state of the drama club, as she emphasized that the drama team "put on a show we were proud of and had fun doing" and even went as far to say that this year has been "one of the best years yet."

Don't worry, the Malden Catholic drama team isn't done yet! This coming March, the drama team will compete in the annual Drama Festival. The group is working hard to rehearse for this contest, and members feel as if the fall season has prepared them to step onto the festival stage. When prompted, Alexa DoVale said, "Because of this fall season, we as a club have the ability to work better and stronger together— a skill that has certainly come in handy for the

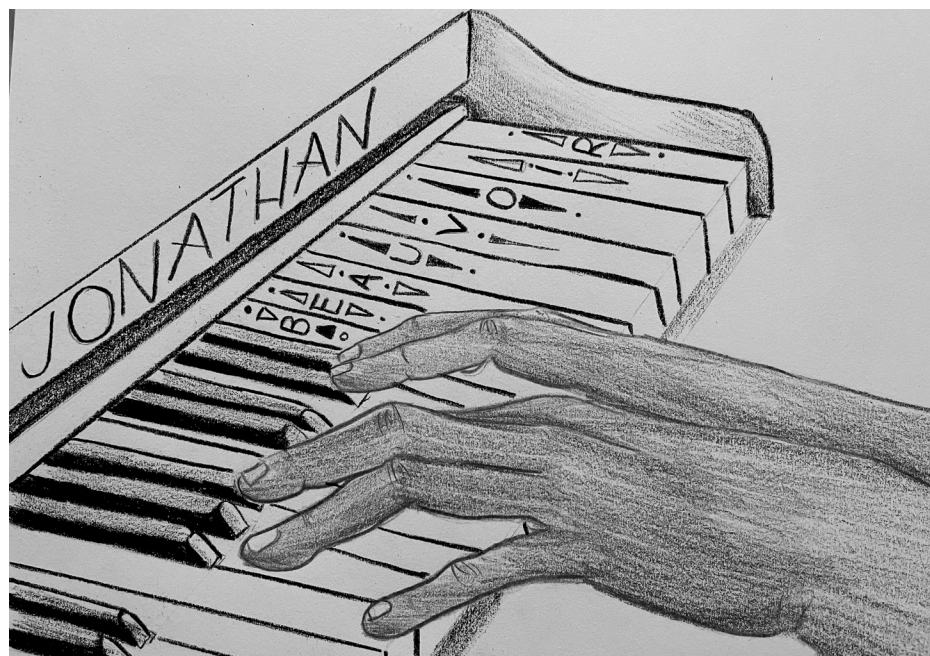
current Drama Festival season!" This year, Malden Catholic Drama is performing *The View From In Between*, an original play written by Emma Lafontaine and Alexa DoVale. The team is going to perform at Marshfield High on March 19, where interested students, staff, and family members will be able to attend. For students who are unable to attend but would still like to watch the production, the club may be putting on a performance at Malden Catholic in the days prior to the festival. Make sure to look out for more information regarding the potential show as March progresses!

## The Man Behind the Piano: Jonathan Beauvoir

By: Kenny Ramirez  
Staff Writer

Jonathan Beauvoir is a senior at Malden Catholic who transferred from Pope John High School in his sophomore year, and since arriving at MC, he has made great progress in the choir with Dr. Tamagini. He adds harmonious melodies on piano while the choir follows the rhythm that Jonathan dictates.

Surprisingly, Jonathan did not start off his musical journey playing the piano; he was a drummer for his church. They could not afford musicians to play at their services, so his mother put him in a school of music. Jonathan developed a strong bond with his music teacher, which is when he started to pick up the piano. Every Thursday, he would play the piano and eventually became fascinated with the instrument. Unfortunately, his music teacher passed away



Art by Evelyn Maradiaga

when Jonathan was only in the fourth grade, but she left a quote that helped him with the rest of his musical journey: "Music is the best medicine."

Years later, Jonathan found himself in the auditorium by a piano. Drawn to the 88 keys, he started playing jazz and blues music. Dr. Tamagini heard the music and instinctively recognized his talent. His first opportunity to collaborate with the choir was at the Thanksgiving Prayer Service in 2019. Since then, Jonathan never looked back and has become a vital part of the dynamic of the choir, often improvising beautiful music during communion.

One of his favorite events that he shared with the choir was the Christmas concert. Some of Jonathan's favorite genres to play are jazz, R&B, and country. He blends all these genres together to make a special sound that his peers enjoy.

Jonathan plans to continue pursuing music as a hobby, but doesn't know if he wants to become a professional musician in the future.

# Spider-Man: No Way Home Review

By: Lilah Paige  
Managing Editor

Tom Holland's Spider-Man trilogy has been continuously marketed as a "coming of age" story. This label is fulfilled in *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, the conclusion of this trilogy in which we truly get to see him come of age. With enamoring performances from not only Tom Holland, but also Jacob Batalon (Edward "Ned" Leeds) and Zendaya Coleman (Michelle "MJ" Watson-Jones), and a wonderful final hurrah from Marisa Tomei (May Parker), the movie does its best to tie all of the loose ends from previous movies together.

The film picks up exactly where *Spider-Man: Far From Home* left off, with the world finding out that Peter Parker is Spider-Man from one J. Jonah Jameson (once again played by J. K. Simmons) as well as learning that he was involved in Mysterio's "murder." The movie does a fantastic job of allowing the audience to see how Peter Parker is affected by this reveal in a way that has rarely been explored on screen before.

While *Spider-Man: Homecoming* explored the challenges of Peter trying to balance a social life on top of his superheroism, the beginning half of *Spider-Man: No Way Home* really focuses on the student aspect of Peter Parker in the form of college admissions, specifically the effect Peter's other identity has on not only his future, but also his friends' futures as well. This leads up to one of the best cameos in Marvel history with the reveal of Mathew Murdock (Daredevil, played once again by Charlie Cox) as Peter is being questioned by the New York authorities about Mysterio's "murder" - a charge of which he is proven innocent by Murdock. From mobs cornering him in the street to being harassed by a pro-Mysterio picket line on the way to his first day of senior year, both Peter and the audience are shown exactly what it costs to be a part of his inner circle.

The real catch, however, is when the group begins to hear back from colleges about their admission status. One after the other, the audience watches as the kids are turned down from each of their chosen schools. Due to the intelligence each of them have displayed throughout the trilogy and what is told to the audience as fact by the other characters, it is confirmed that they were denied due to having a relationship with Peter Parker.

Because of this, Peter makes the executive decision to pay Dr. Stephen Strange (played by Benedict Cumberbatch) a visit at the New York Sanctum in the hopes that he can cause everyone to forget that he is Spider-Man. Strange agrees after some thought, but while he is performing the spell, Peter realizes that it would also cause his friends and family to forget him. Not wanting any of his relationships to be altered, he keeps making adjustments to the spell as Strange is casting it, causing it to become unstable and rip a hole through the Multiverse.

It does need to be said that the film does a fantastic job of treating both college admissions anxiety, the threat of tearing apart the multiverse, and the Sinister Six (MCU edition) with the same amount of frantic energy.

Through this rift, villains from the previous Spider-Man franchises are able to slip into the MCU just moments before their timely demises. Spider-Man villain royalty such as Electro (Jamie Foxx), The Lizard (Rhys Ifans), Sandman (Thomas Haden Church), Dr. Otto 'Ock' Octavius (Alfred Molina), and, most famously, The Goblin (William Defoe), enter the story. In this MCU version of the Sinister Six, the audience is condemned to sit and watch as Holland's Peter tries to make amends and help them to recover from the accidents that turned them into villains. While he does manage to help a few of them before it unceremoniously blows up in his face, with a truly terrifying perfor-

to save Gwen Stacy (Emma Stone) in that clock tower years ago, a tragedy we learn he never recovered from, by catching MJ (Zendaya) from her most likely fatal fall off of the new Statue of Liberty. Maguire's Spider-Man also received a satisfying last run by finally saving Doctor Ock from his mind-controlling artificial limbs and informing the audience of his happy life with Mary Jane Watson (Kirsten Dunst), tying all of the previous Spider-Man franchises into a neat little bow.

In the end, Peter is backed into the corner of having all of his friends and family forget him, with the promise of reintroducing himself to them once he is settled into his new life, a promise he breaks almost immediately when he sees how much "better off" they are without him. The film closes out with two end credit scenes. The first shows Venom, better known as Eddie Brock (Tom Hardy), interviewing a bartender about the MCU before he is unceremoniously pulled back into his universe. After the credits finished playing, the audience was given our first look at the trailer for Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness.

As with a majority of projects that Marvel Studios has put out recently, this movie could be seen more as a direct set up for Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness (being released May 4, 2022) than its own story. Despite this, *Spider-Man: No Way Home* did its best to distinguish itself as not only a love letter to the past Spider-Men, but also as a beacon of hope for the future of the MCU and their redemption of characters long forgotten.

*Spider-Man: No Way Home* currently holds the spot of sixth-highest grossing movie of all time and is the highest grossing Spider-Man movie to date, surpassing not only Maguire, Garfield, and Moore, but also Holland's two previous solo movies.

Though nothing has been confirmed yet, there is speculation that another trilogy may be in the works for Tom Holland's Spider-Man. Supposedly, the new trilogy would follow the MCU's Peter Parker through his college experience and, as many fans have pointed out, would give Marvel Studios the perfect opportunity to unveil a whole new gaggle of Spider-Man characters, including but not limited to Felicia Hardy, Harry Osborn, and the infamous

Gwen Stacy, whom most fans have already formed a connection with through Garfield's Spider-Man.

In any case, no matter what the MCU has in store for their Peter Parker, it can be said with confidence that *Spider-Man: No Way Home* was truly a fantastic ending to Tom Holland's trilogy and has earned its place among the best solo films of the MCU to date.



Art by Evelyn Maradiaga

mance from William Defoe, he does pay the price with the cost of Aunt May's (Marisa Tomei) life.

While this movie may not contain the best action scenes of the year (that title remains firmly with *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*) the film does satisfy both the nostalgia of seeing Maguire and Garfield on the screen again and the thrill of watching the trio fight together to cure their villains. Garfield's Spider-Man also received a blantaint redemption for his failure

# Worth the Watch?: *Hawkeye* Review

By: Michael Casey  
Staff Writer

This review contains spoilers. I recently watched Marvel Studios newest TV series that aired on Disney+. *Hawkeye* is the fourth Marvel TV show to air on Disney+ and it is certainly not the worst. The show centers on Clint Barton (Hawkeye) training Kate Bishop to become a superhero and the two working together to defeat a group known as the Tracksuit Mafia, while dealing with Hawkeye's legacy as the vigilante Ronin. The show begins with Clint Barton and his kids going to a musical while taking a vacation in New York before Christmas. I like that this was acknowledging how much Clint wanted to be with them after his time without them in *Endgame*, and I loved the idea of Rogers: The Musical clearly being based on my favorite musical, *Hamilton*. We also see Kate Bishop as a child during the battle of New York and her hero worship for Hawkeye, which begins when he saves her from the oncoming Chitauri with a well-shot arrow.

In the present day, Kate Bishop sneaks into an underground auction and steals the Ronin costume to stop the Tracksuit Mafia's attack on the auction. After a fight, Kate is rescued by Clint, and they have a meeting and take shelter in the house of Kate's aunt. Clint and Kate are captured, and the leader of the Tracksuit Mafia is revealed as Maya Lopez, who is known as Echo in the comics. She will also be getting her own Dis-

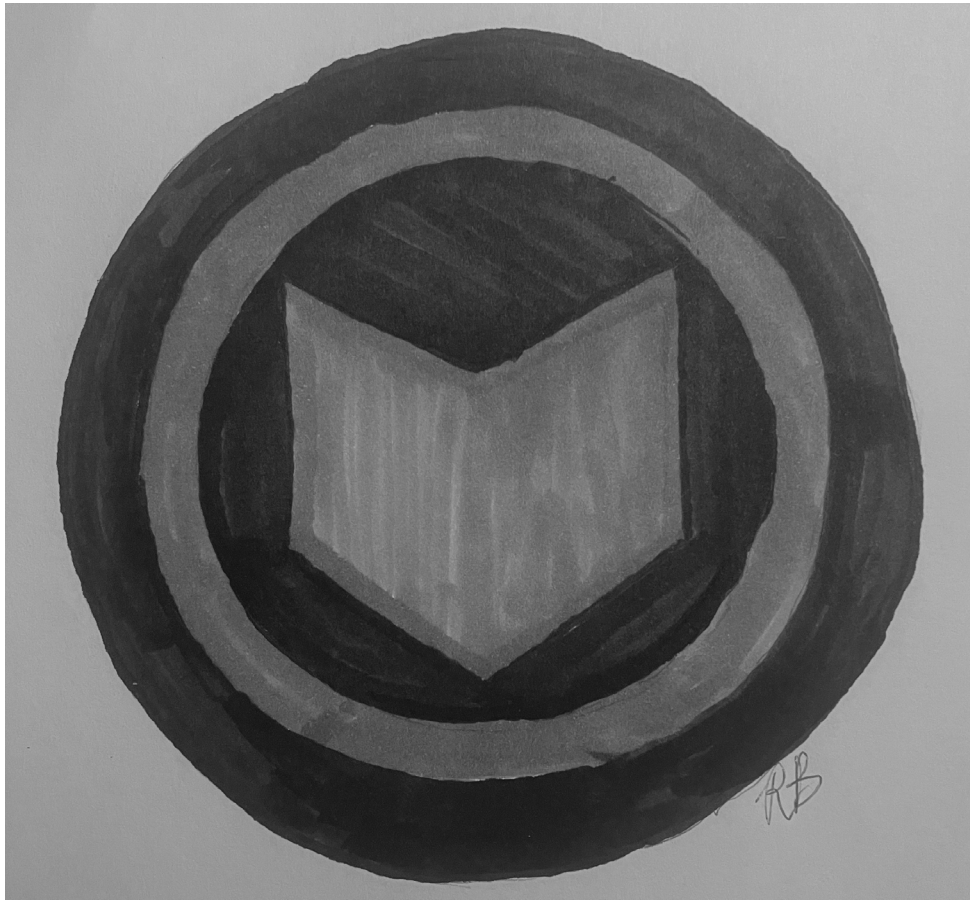
ney+ Marvel series. Maya was a great addition to the show, and I am very excited to see her get her own project and what her inclusion in the MCU can mean for other characters such as DareDevil.

Universe, and I am glad whenever she appears.

Clint makes Kate return home because the mission has gotten too dangerous, though she convinces Clint to let her return not long after. Clint uses the Ronin suit and fights Maya before telling her the truth about who killed her father. After this, the true villain of the film is revealed as Kingpin. Kingpin is a character from the DareDevil television show which is widely considered to be the best superhero show ever made. There were many fan theories of Kingpin's appearance, and I am personally ecstatic to see them fulfilled.

The end of the show includes Clint making amends with Yelena by telling her how often Natasha talked about her and that he had not actually killed Natasha but tried to save her. The finale also has a fight between Kate Bishop and Kingpin, in which Kate ended up victorious. This was a good fight, though I had a few problems with it, particularly Kingpin's ludicrously enhanced strength, which makes no sense. Kate's criminal mother goes to jail, and Kate takes up the Hawkeye mantle. Overall, I think this was one of Marvel's best TV shows, and I cannot wait to see more of these characters. Although

the finale didn't completely stick the landing and the owl tearing those criminals limb from limb offscreen was a bit of a dark ending, the show was pretty good. I would give *Hawkeye* 4 out of 5 stars. I recommend it to all fans of superhero movies as well as fans of action movies.



Art by Rachael Burke

Yelena, who was previously one of the main characters of *Black Widow*, arrives with intent to kill Hawkeye for his involvement in the death of Yelena's sister Natasha Romanoff, also known as the Black Widow. Yelena is also one of the best new characters in the Marvel Cinematic

## Bailando en Malden: Latin Dance Club

By: Brooke Langis  
Editor-In-Chief

Among a variety of new clubs that have been introduced within the 2021-2022 school year is the Latin dance club, which was formed in October by seniors Claudia Minacapilli and Rocio Rodriguez Cabarcus. The faculty moderator of the group is Ms. Moguel. Members of the Latin dance club collaborate to showcase and study the dancing and music of cultures of places such as the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and El Salvador. The purpose and hopes of the group were described by Claudia Minacapilli in the following quote: "The goal of this club is to expose different Latin cultures to the student community through the interactive ways of music and dance. Adding to this aspect, the club's mission is for students to become more culturally aware of the Latin arts. We hope for this club to be an outlet of diversity for students to see their home cultures in their school environment as well." Thus, the group provides a unique opportunity for students to celebrate their own cultural backgrounds at Malden Catholic, whilst learn-

ing about the practices and traditions of others.

The club, consisting of approximately ten members, has met five times thus far and plans to meet one to two mornings per month. At these meetings, members not only participate in learning different styles of Latin dancing, but also listen to varying types of Latin music and try foods originating from Latin countries. Students involved in the group look forward to such meetings as a chance to immerse themselves in the customs of the cultures highlighted and to expand their knowledge of such societies.

With goals of cultural awareness, appreciation, and celebration, the Latin dance club aims to become more well known in the Malden Catholic community and to welcome new members - both boys and girls - who are enthusiastic about Latin cultures. Students who find themselves interested in joining this exciting and informative new group should contact Claudia Minacapilli ([cminacapilliG22@maldencatholic.org](mailto:cminacapilliG22@maldencatholic.org)), Rocio Rodriguez Cabarcus ([rrodriguezG22@maldencatholic.org](mailto:rrodriguezG22@maldencatholic.org)), or Ms. Moguel ([mogueli@maldencatholic.org](mailto:mogueli@maldencatholic.org)).



Art by Isabelle Brady

# Red (Taylor's Version): Review

By: Hoang Ngo  
Staff Writer

It's impossible to make a reissued record that is identical to the old one, but Taylor Swift somehow magically made the expression as similar as it could be, creating a practically identical and pivotal record to represent her growing self.

Re-recording one's masters to reclaim one's own songs is a strategic movement of empowerment in the music industry commensurate with the blood, sweat, and tears that artists have poured into their art and sacrificed themselves for through the years. Taylor Swift has been one of the prominent contenders in the field with her two latest re-recorded albums; *Fearless (Taylor's Version)* and, the latest one, *Red (Taylor's Version)*. It may be impossible to make the re-record reflect the mental state and emotion she experienced when recording the original album nine years ago, Taylor Swift comes back stronger and more mature in her voice than ever.

While all the songs seem to be identical, some of them are even better-made than the old tracks. "State of Grace (Taylor's Version)" has a skip-less upbeat sound, making it even more interesting to get the album on track from its first step. "Red (Taylor's Version)" flips its sound as the flashy ride in a Maserati emphasizes an unforgettably tacky chapter in young love. "Traacherous (Taylor's Version)" and "I Knew You Were Trouble (Taylor's Version)" maintain their roles of ratifying that foul play often exists in love. "All Too Well (Taylor's Version)" is a reminiscence of her young self backstage on the *Speak Now* Tour, when she was broken pieces like a "mirrorball", reflecting the inner self of a broken, innocent girl. All these songs gathered in one place makes it the most prominent and momentous opening act in her entire discography. She is leading us into her unhinged story of a naive girl who had sacrificed her love to the person who she thought could be the one, but is betrayed. She proves that love isn't perfect, like you thought would be when you were growing up.

Christopher Rowe produced the most songs on this album besides Taylor herself, and there oddly isn't a mark from Max Martin (who produced much of the the now-stolen version of *Red* back in 2012), but they made it the best as they could without him, an unprecedented experience on the first listen.

There are still some flaws in the sonic process, though. "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together (Taylor's Version)" overall has phenomenal production; however, it immediately loses momentum when the high-pitch "wee-hee" arrives, which turns itself into a Kidz Bop's cringe harmony. "22 (Taylor's Version)" also features an unnecessary echo in the line "I don't know about you" that carries the chorus of the song. While Shellback, Rowe, and Swift did an amazing job on "IKYWT (Taylor's Version)" by bringing forth a whole new wave of anger, they slander the original "WANEGBT" and "22".

people for for painting her life out to the world.

As she says in "Nothing New": "They tell you while you're young, 'Girls, go out and have your fun.' Then they hunt and slay the ones who actually do it." She then adds, "How can a person know everything at eighteen but nothin' at twenty-two? And will you still want me when I'm nothin' new?" She continues: "The kind of radiance you only have at seventeen, she'll know the way and then she'll say she got the map from me. I'll say I'm happy for her, then I'll cry myself to sleep."

"All Too Well"'s screaming quote "And you call me up again just to break me like a promise"

showcases the pain of a younger Taylor that she cannot erase. "They say all's well that ends well, but I'm in a new hell every time you double-cross my mind You said if we had been closer in age maybe it would have been fine And that made me want to die," proves life was hell for her when that person dropped her heart like the champagne glasses she sings about in "champagne problems." Then, it got worse: "You who charmed my dad with self-effacing jokes Sipping coffee like you're on a late-night show But then he watched me watch the front door all night, willing you to come And he said, 'It's supposed to be fun turning twenty-one.'" The 21st milestone is supposed to be the best age in life, when you're finally an adult, but her happiness was struck down on that day, ruining her transition to further adulthood. This highlights the sad-

ness of a 21-year-old Taylor contemplating what she could have done wrong on her own birthday.

*Red (2012)* told the story of the most disheartened and sorrowful journey that Taylor had gone through. In *Red (Taylor's Version)*, she had the chance to reminisce about the moment she fell in love while still learning what it was: "Love is a ruthless game unless you play it good and right." Despite that, she was doing better than ever while being single, which made her realize that falling in love wasn't the only thing. This album is well worth listening to.



Art by Rachael Burke

Also, the change in "Girl at Home (Taylor's Version)" cannot be ignored when it's a remarkably adept change from country-pop cotton candy dud to raging synth-pop joint that slays the house down.

All the songs on the album have phenomenally mature vocals that Taylor has thusfar not shown a capacity for in her career, but has now decided to pour out. She depicts the breaking point of emotions in herself, as listeners process through fear and tears a wondered question: "Is my love I've been breaking it out enough for you?"

Throughout, the album stays true to the emotions of a 22-year-old girl who has merely acknowledged love while it was still the most shining in her mind, then broke down after letting it lead her into a pain that stained her heart. Then, she was hunted by

OVERALL: 87/100

# Resurgent Hockey Team Returns to Playoffs

By: Emerson Tully  
Editor

Stepping on the ice and prepared to show their opponents that they are ready to compete, the MC Boys Varsity Hockey team has had an exceptional season. Starting off strong on December 15th, the team pulled through with a 6-0 win against Mansfield High School for the season's road opener. Even with the Lancers having the disadvantage of away ice, they were still able to dominate. This was Brendan Zinck's first varsity shutout, saving eighteen shots on net, and it's safe to say he set up the Lancers for a season of success, with his record of 9-5.

"As the starting goalie and assistant captain, I had lofty expectations to play well and lead the team the best I could. Going forward I want to be the best captain I can, and hopefully help lead the team to a state championship."

Shortly after, the Lancers took on Franklin High School for the opening game of the ninth annual Christie Serino Christmas Tournament. The tournament, named after former Malden Catholic coach Christie Serino, Jr., was started in 2012 by former assistant coach and athletic director Patrick Driscoll as a way to honor the memory of the late Serino, who passed away in October of 2012 after to a long, heroic battle with cancer. Serino, along with Patrick Driscoll, John McLean, and Phil Antonelli were responsible for pioneering the Malden Catholic hockey program, leading to the Lancers first-ever Super 8 State Championship in 2011. Every year, Malden Catholic hosts this event to honor his memory and to play the game with his name in mind. "The Serino tournament was the most memorable part of the season because of the long history behind it," said junior assistant captain Daniel Zizza when recounting the season. "The environment of those games was the best of the season."

The Lancers kicked off the tournament with a hard-fought win over Franklin, defeating the Panthers 3-2 at the Malden Valley Forum. Sophomore Owen Keefe (5-21-26) had one goal and two assists in this game and carried the Lancers to victory, with the help of Evan Foskett (6-2-8) and Anthony Ghergurovich (3-3-6). "Our goal as a team is to earn a spot in the state championship, and each win we have is a step closer to reaching that goal," said Keefe.

Though the Lancers lost the final round of the Serino Tournament by a final of 3-2, it was a close game versus Austin Prep, with the Cougars handing the Lancers their first loss of the season. Down 2-1 going into the 3rd period, the players knew that they needed to score a goal. With around two minutes left in the game, MC pulled Zinck to try to score, but by the time they did it was too late for a comeback. Sophomore Joe Gaffney highlighted the team's loss against Austin Prep as one of the turning points of the season.

"Starting off the season with 3 wins, the loss against AP hit the team hard. It was challenging and we definitely had to change our gameplan, as well as the pace of our game. From there, we worked harder and harder each day and I would say we're on a good note now." Regardless, no

matter how hard the team fights, not every game can result in a win, and head coach, Chris Kuchar, agrees: "We've had 6 one-goal losses this year, so we've been all in for the games we've played. But the season is not over yet. We are hoping to have several more big wins as we enter the tournament."

As its next matchups were set to face Catholic Conference rivals, MC knew that it was going to be challenging to beat top teams. The Lancers dropped four straight conference matchups to St. John's Prep, BC High, Catholic Memorial, and Xave-



Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic  
Sophomore defenseman Owen Keefe stickhandles during a game.

rian, losing three of the four games only by a goal. Continuing to look forward, the Lancers claimed their first win to snap the losing streak against St. John's Shrewsbury, shutting the Pioneers out 5-0. Defenseman Trevor Strauss (0-4-4) said, "Before that game, we were on a four game losing streak and were getting frustrated with the outcome of our games because of how much effort we put into them. Fortunately, we finally broke through and were able to capture a major win against St. John's Shrewsbury. This gave us the confidence we needed to grow and continue with the season."

Another monumental win for the Lancers was their away game against BC High on February 3rd. "Definitely a highlight for us was beating BC High after being down 2-0 going into the second period," said Keefe when highlighting the top games of the season. After the first period, the Lancers quickly took control of the game, resulting in a 6-3 win. A star player in that game was Will Fosdick (8-4-12), scoring two goals, and collecting a helper in the win. Especially with the loss against BC High a few weeks prior, winning this game brought confidence to the team. Strongly

believing that this game was one of the top performances from the team this season, Gaffney said, "The BC High win was our second Catholic Conference win and it definitely turned around the season. From there, we went on a win streak, leading us to a spot in the state tournament."

An additional win for the Lancers was their win against No. 1 ranked Xaverian on February 8th. Senior captain Nick Julian claimed his first two points of the season and Anthony Ghergurovich sealed the game, netting the game winning goal. Trevor Strauss even thinks this game was the "most memorable part of the season, and was by far one of our toughest challenges." He said, "The bus ride home was probably the best one I've ever had. We were all proud of one another. But just like every other day, we came back to the rink, ready to improve."

Continuing to remain hot, MC won against Falmouth High, one of Massachusetts' premier public high school teams. Going into the third period with a score of 1-0, the Lancers knew that they had to set a game plan to be able to pull through with a win. Sophomore Seamus Condon took initiative of the game, earning a hat trick as well as an assist on Zizza's goal. Daniel Zizza (10-7-17) said, "Through the season we have had our ups and downs. The season is a long grind and I believe the team has been working hard every single day. Our goalies have kept us in every single game and given us a chance to win."

With the first round of the state championship on March 2nd, the team tried to enjoy the final stretch of regular season games that were left. Taking on Central Catholic on February 19th, the Lancers once again proved that they deserve a spot in the playoffs, winning 4-1. Julian and Zizza both had a fantastic game, each scoring two goals.

The last home game of the regular season was on February 21st. Because this was senior night, Malden Catholic honored Owen Delvalle, Nick Julian, Evan Foskett, Robert Ghergurovich, Matthew Tarpey, Daniel Hackett, and Anthony Ghergurovich for their contribution to the team over their past four years at MC. Each senior was called up to take a photo with their family and were thanked for their hard work. Then, it was game time. Boston Globe No. 14 ranked Malden Catholic defeated Connecticut No. 1 ranked Notre Dame Academy, marking MC's third consecutive win, with a score of 5-1. Netminder Nick Hubbard played a great game, saving nineteen shots on net. Playing his last game on home ice, senior captain Nick Julian played with a purpose, earning two goals and an assist. Julian and Zizza remained rolling, with the duo posting their second straight multi-goal games, boosting Malden Catholic's momentum just in time for playoff season.

The Lancers had a great season this year, having a record of 11-9 overall, but are already looking ahead at what has to come in the future. "Next year our goal is to win the State Championship and I think we will achieve that goal," said Keefe. Though the MC Hockey season is coming to an end, the players are very active in hockey year round and are looking forward to what is in store for them in the near future.



# Cheering for the Blue and Gold

By: Jonathan Tran  
Editor

Saturday, February 19 marks the day of the Rolling Rally event at Malden Catholic, where the incoming freshmen are welcomed into the school community as the class of 2026. This also marks the first major event at which the cheerleading team has been asked to perform in. The cheerleading team is still in the process of firmly establishing itself due to the recentness of MC becoming a co-divisional school. With their initial debut in Saturday's event, Alisa Richardson, the coach of the cheerleading team, hopes to change that in the years to come.

"The athletes I met back in December are not the team you will meet in the gym now. Improvement isn't even a strong enough word I can use to describe the start of the season to present day," says the coach. Richardson has been coaching in competitive cheerleading for 18 years, and compared to past teams she has coached, she considers the team at MC to be built from the ground up. Members of the team share this pride in their improvement as well as the improvement of the program as a whole, as expressed by Emerson Tully: "Being on cheer for two seasons prior to this one, I feel as though this season has been the best one yet. Our team was all very close and every practice was so fun. Especially having new coaches this year, the team is definitely turning around for the better. The coaches were extremely welcoming and brought enthusiasm as well as hope for the future of the cheer team."

The team technically hasn't competed in any events during this winter season, but Richardson insists that winning in competition isn't everything that makes up a team. "Coming into a mixed group of athletes that have some cheer experience or have never cheered before is the perfect way to build a title holding program from the ground up with athletes who live by the expectations set and work hard to get to the end goal," she remarks. The act of improving and having a sense of confidence in oneself is what drives each individual member to improve and push their limits, benefiting the team as a whole. Richardson deeply values trust, as she believes that without trust, the team



*Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic*

The varsity and JV cheerleaders show MC's spirit to incoming freshmen at the rolling rally on a Saturday morning.

members cannot succeed as a team. No member on the team would agree more with Richardson's view of trust more than one of the captains of the cheerleading team: Alana DiFronzo, class of 2022.

She said, "I have my full and complete trust in my coaches because I believe they know what's best for the team and put together amazing routines and cheers for us. It's also important to trust your teammates as well because, without it, we aren't fully complete." DiFronzo has stepped up to become captain of the cheerleading team this year, and she has never been hesitant to put her trust in Richardson as a coach. Richardson had previously stated that working with members that have variable skills in the sport they participate in provides a different environment to work in compared to a team with a large amount of past experience. As more experienced teams resist change in their foundations, a team that is willing to learn and accept change from their coach is one that improves in the long run. DiFronzo's trust in Richardson reflects this, as the two have shared a

mutual trust with each other since the start of the season. The bonds between the two help uplift the team as a whole, creating relationships not just with the coaches, but with all the members of the team. Each member has to rely on each other in each event they participate in, which helps strengthen the connections between everyone on the team, something that the coach and the captains value.

Even if this season

did not have as much participation in competitive events as one would hope for, the foundation of a strong team has been established, able to be built upon and improved in the next coming seasons.

Moving forward from the winter season, Richardson's top priority for the cheerleading team is to establish it as a title-holding competitive program and build up their own legacy for Malden Catholic. Tully describes the team's anticipation of reaching this objective in the following quote: "Though we didn't get the chance to compete this year because our team wasn't developed enough to do so, my teammates and I are excited for what is in store for the future. Next year, both JV and varsity will be competing, which is something we are all looking forward to." The aim to push the JV and varsity teams to win their respective league competitions and the ultimate goal to reach states is what motivates this drive. To help achieve these goals, she wants the team to develop relationships with the sports teams at the school, since mutual support of teams is what helps each individual team in a school improve. This collaborative relationship raises overall school spirit as a result. Instead of being unknown to the people that watch them perform, the crowds will now shout MC's name at their appearance at their venue.

The future for the MC cheerleading team is bright, with the goal of holding a competitive title that, as of now, has not been quenched, even with the premonition of losing its most talented members come next spring. Even if the cheerleading team reaches states, or rises to the top of their respective leagues, the team never really peaks. There will always be a way to improve upon oneself, and the team is assured to continue fighting for a goal in the sport that they love, which is exactly what Richardson intended. When asked about the idea of long-time members eventually leaving for graduation, Richardson simply replied with a single sentence: "Train them well enough so they can leave; treat them well enough so they don't want to."



*Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic*

Winter cheerleaders pose for a photo before cheering on the boys varsity basketball team.

# Boys Swim Makes a Splash

By: **Brandon Wong**  
Staff Writer

This season was one to remember for the boys' swim program, as a host of mainstays and newcomers comprising nearly thirty swimmers guided the team to its best finish in the Catholic Conference in recent memory. The team finished with a record of 4-3 and had notable victories against league foes in Catholic Memorial and Xaverian. Despite the numerous injuries and ordeals with COVID-19, the team put together some great performances, which led to the program placing third in the swimming portion of the Catholic Conference meet.

With some fast individual and team times, the Lancers had numerous swimmers qualify for Division 1 North Sectionals and States. For sectionals, Senior Sam Sanzone qualified in the 100 Freestyle, 200 IM, and 100 Fly, and Senior Nathan Ford qualified in the 100 Backstroke and 100 Freestyle; Nathan went on to qualify for states in the 100 Backstroke. Moreover, the 200-medley relay team of Sanzone, Ford, Senior Brendan Scibelli, Senior Jack Munro, and Freshman David Xu, of which the latter two both swam the breaststroke throughout the season, qualified for states. An outstanding 2nd place finish at the Catholic Conference meet had the 200-freestyle relay team of



Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic

Malden Catholic's swim team dives into the pool as Mr. Hickey cheers them on.

Sanzone, Ford, Scibelli, and Senior Nick Cieri come close to breaking the school record in the event; this squad would go on to place at sectionals and qualify for the state tournament as well.

Senior captain Nathan Ford credited the camaraderie that the team shared as a central reason for success: "I believe this year's team has created an incredible atmosphere of teamwork. It feels like the whole team is there cheering you on and if something were to happen to one guy, we would have his back." Co-captain Sam San-

zone fully upheld this sentiment; he elaborated on how he and Nathan instilled the mentality of pushing the team to work harder and be more competitive throughout the season, resulting in improvements from every swimmer. The captains made clear that seniors Brendan Scibelli and Nick Cieri served as pillars for the team in the freestyle events, while Ethan Shaw and Hasnain Mirza were swimmers who improved significantly as the season progressed.

Coach Joe Gaff reflected on this past season, attributing the team's success to the great senior leadership, "The program is so proud of seniors Nathan Ford, Sam Sanzone, Nicholas Cieri, Mario Russo, Jack Munro, Dorian Bourguignon, and Brendan Scibelli. This year's team also had so many swimmers step up and fill lanes when we needed." Though stating that this year's senior class will be

sorely missed, Gaff relayed how the great underclassmen will look to step up to retain the amazing progress they had this year, "Led by guys such as Andrew Webb, Drew Hebert, and Robert Hackley in the 500 and 200 freestyles, along with some incredible efforts from swimmers who filled lanes in any event called upon them like Esteban Arbelaez, Rosario Turco, Jonathan Tran, and Brady Ford, we are hoping to keep the swim program on top."

## Wrestling Team Weighs in on New Season

By: **Tomaz Silveira**  
Staff Writer

The Lancer wrestling season might leave a bittersweet taste in the mouths of some players; however, while the final result of 1-19 was disappointing, the 2021-2022 wrestling season should not be viewed as a failure. After the many hardships faced throughout COVID, the primary expectation was simply to be able to compete again. Coach Stanton states, "Overall, the season went

well when taking into consideration that there wasn't a wrestling season last year due to Covid. Our wrestlers had the disadvantage of having to make up for lost time for both conditioning and learning wrestling moves. In a way, this was similar to a first year of wrestling, even for those upperclassmen who wrestled in the past. The ups were seeing the development of the team as they grew in physical ability and skill over the season. The downs were not seeing these improvements demonstrated in our team points and wins/losses." Junior Justin Delorey also had plenty to say in hopes of the future season: "For next year, I would love to see an overall better team record and see some more people join our team. I'm excited for next year because our current wrestlers have a lot of off-season wrestling planned once this season ends in hopes to improve our personal and team win records."

As is inevitable in the sport of wrestling, the team faced many injuries throughout the season. Matt LoPriore was inactive due to out-of-season injury while

Shane Papineau, Pat Smith, and George Harris had their seasons cut short due to injuries as well. The team also lost some potential wrestlers due to concerns regarding Covid. The many unfortunate injuries were a significant factor in the somewhat disappointing overall record. With another year of preparation, and plenty of time to recover, the Lancers have a bright future ahead of them.

One of the brightest spots this season was the performance of senior standout Cesare Paglia. Wrestling in the 120 lb. weight class, Cesare put together an impressive 23-8 record over the course of the season. This success allowed him to qualify for the Division II Central sectionals, where he came in fourth and earned a berth at States. He won one of his matches at states in a very impressive showing for Malden Catholic. Regarding the season, Cesare said, "The goal at the start of wrestling season was to make states and that goal was truly accomplished. I would like to thank all of my coaches for the guidance, and I would like to thank all of my teammates for the support they gave throughout the season"

Coach Stanton's stated goal for next year is to hopefully have wrestlers for every weight class. He states, "I would like to have at least one wrestler for each of the 14 weight classes. A lot of our matches were lost because we had to forfeit a good number of them." In all, this season was a learning experience more than anything. Malden Catholic's wrestling program has a strong future ahead of it and the future of the sport is looking bright.

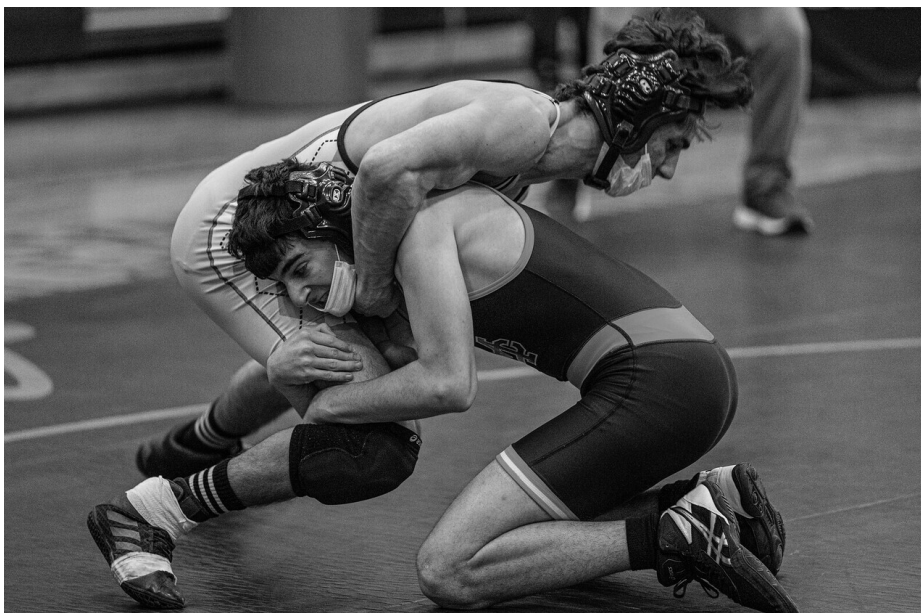


Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic

Senior Cesare Paglia grapples with an opponent in a wrestling match.

# Indoor Track: Sprinting to States

By: Orlando Putman-Bagley  
Editor

The Boys and Girls indoor track season is officially over and both teams have had an explosive season despite the odds this year. The Boys and Girls teams put in work five days a week, 60-90 minutes a practice, both on the track and in the weight room to achieve some truly standout performances this season. Athletes such as junior Kayla Francillon, senior Owen Spencer, and senior Niel Harrington in particular achieved impressive placements at state meets. Francillon competed in the 300 meter dash at the state meet and achieved a new personal record of 43.11 seconds, as well as placing 4th in the event. Owen Spencer is a distinguished sprinter for the boys team and competed in the high jump at the state meet and placed 5th jumping an impressive six feet. Lastly, Neil Harrington, a long distance runner for the boys team, qualified for three events at the state meet and placed 4th in the 1,000 meter event, running a time of 2:39. Another notable event was the girls 4x200 relay, where freshman Erynn McNulty, freshman Valentina Tate, sophomore Lauren Jackson, and junior Kayla Francillon placed 10th overall with a final time and PR of 1:54.52.

The girls team was very dominant throughout the season going undefeated 4-0 throughout the Catholic Conference meets and more specifically dominated in the sprinting events. This is not to mention that the Malden Catholic girls team went up against larger schools and still came out

on top. Some of the bigger competitors for the girls team this season were Ursuline Academy in Dedham and Fontbonne Academy in Milton. The boys team beat some familiar opponents as well in the Tri-County League Division 1, the Catholic Con-



Photo Courtesy Malden Catholic  
MC's girls varsity indoor track team poses for an official picture in Brother Gilbert Stadium.

ference plus Brockton, at the state meet including Melrose and Masconomet among others. The boys team placed 18th out of 30 teams at states.

Because of Covid concerns and precautions, the season was not that of a normal season with standard track meets but instead featured more meets in the style of invitationals within the Catholic Conference instead. Having invitationals instead of standard meets meant that there was no team scoring at these events and only individual performances. This however offered more in the way of flexibility for entering athletes into certain events that they were most qualified to compete in. Nearly all of the track meets for both teams were held at the Reggie Lewis Center at Roxbury Community College this season.

The practice leading up to these meets can be intense and with good reason. As an endurance sport, indoor track requires not only physical prowess and ability but also mental fortitude and the guts to fight the pain and keep going. Leadership and teamwork are also important traits for a successful indoor track team to have, as a team that moves as one cohesive unit will more than likely than not be more effective and competitive than a team that is less so. The MC indoor track teams have taken these aspects of a team into consideration and made them into reality as there has been widespread improvement across the board on both teams.

After talking to both athletes and coaches about the season and some of their achievements, Kayla Francillon exclaimed, "I was proud to represent Malden Catholic at the State Meet and happy that my hard work paid off and got me as far as it did. I'm looking forward to competing in the spring and improving all my times". Luke Overgaag, an athlete on the boys team, affirmed that "Lots of improvement was made across all of the athletes and we all showed great team spirit throughout the season". When asked for a comment on the Girls team, assistant coach Susan Viscosi says, "We are so blessed to have such a wonderful group of girls sign up and join together and to coach an amazing group of women" and finally assistant coach Jared Belliveau of the Boys team stated, "There were some great performances this season, and many of the boys made strong improvements... we are looking forward to the start of next season"

## Girls Hockey Ices Out the Competition

By: Lily McDonough  
Staff Writer

The Malden Catholic girls hockey team has had an outstanding season, charting first in the independent league and second in the division with a record of 12-7 overall in the regular season. The hockey program has to grown four times its size since last season, with 32 players over two teams. The program plans to grow even more next season, hopefully welcoming many ninth graders eager to get on the ice.

Starting off the season strong, the Lancers went on a three game winning streak, beating Latin Academy with a score of 4-1 and Woburn High School, as well as Andover High School by one goal. Especially with this being just the team's second year, they have worked very hard this past season trying to prove that they are eager to compete; however, they aren't done yet.

Making their way to the tournament, junior captain Danielle DeJon voiced her expectations for the outcome. She said, "We've had ups and downs throughout the season, but we are heading to the tournament with a determined mindset."

Although the team took some tough

losses this season, they learned from their mistakes and learned from moments of failure in positive ways to become a stronger team.

"This season, I've learned how much of a mental game hockey is. It was clear to me that what's stuck in your head will show on the ice," said DeJon. "It can be hard to shake it off, but the best thing to do is to surround yourself with a positive environment, which for me was my teammates. Also, don't put unnecessary pressure on yourself."

The members of the team have created close bonds with one another and are excited to continue strengthening their relationships into next season while claiming wins. To them, having a good connection is the key to success. DeJon commented on the strong bond of the team stating: "I want to continue to learn and grow, as well as form stronger bonds with my teammates. There are also some new players coming next season, and I want them to have a welcoming environment."

This season has also taught the team many valuable lessons. Commenting on their growth during the season, player Maya Plant shared, "I've learned to be mentally tougher," while player Laney Harold stated, "I've learned to control what I say and how I act.

No spot is guaranteed, and hard work shows."

Next season, the team is planning on getting more interest from newcomers, and continue building this new hockey program to be even greater than it is already. Though it is fairly new, over time it will get to the level of the boys hockey team and will be enhanced to its full potential.



Photo Courtesy of Malden Catholic

Freshman Gianna Holland skates across the ice for the MCs girls varsity hockey team.

# Felder, Boys Basketball Team Dominate

By: **Brandon Wong**  
Staff Writer

It was a slam dunk of a year for the boys' basketball program, as it proved to be one of the best in the state. With head coach John Walsh and his staff at the helm, the Lancers rallied off a historic season, as they accrued an impressive 17-2 record and went 8-2 in Catholic Conference play. A lot of pressure surrounded the varsity team, which was consistently at the top of the MIAA power rankings and entered the playoffs as the number one seed in Division II. Despite the attention, the team knew it had to take one step at a time to attain better chemistry and meet such lofty expectations.

Coming off a Catholic Conference title, the program continued to ride this train of success to a season full of highlights. In the team's 71-45 season-opening victory over Dracut, senior guard Tony Felder Jr. made his way into the school's prestigious 1000-point club when he drained a corner three in the first quarter. Furthermore, the varsity squad accumulated numerous blowout victories, including 102-57 and 99-61 wins over Acton-Boxborough and Xaverian respectively, where the team played stellar offense and lockdown defense.

Expounding on the coaching staff's phi-

losophy, assistant coach Brian Dunn stated, "Our main philosophy is just getting our guys to play their hardest. We can put in all the sets and schemes in the world, but it doesn't matter unless the kids are willing to buy in and play hard." Additionally, Dunn mentioned how players like Felder, Jahmari Hamilton-Brown, KC Ugwuakazi, and Nick Martinez were prime examples of leaders who exerting maximum effort on and off the court.

Regarding the overall depth of the program, Felder raved about how several key underclassmen were integral components of the team's success: "People stepping up beside the normal starters are freshman guard Matt Gaffney and sophomores Preston Kellman and Damante Vanheyningen, who play with so much effort and improve as leaders by being vocal." On the team's goals for the postseason, the senior captain relayed, "We just want to win one game at a time. Drowning out the noise is something our team is honestly trying to get better at. The goal is obviously a state title."

Following a series of tough losses to rival BC High, the team rebounded to finish the year strong, culminating in a crown in the Spartan Classic tournament. Behind the star-studded play of stretch-forward Hamilton-Brown, who racked up a couple of 30-plus point games and big man Ug-

wuakazi, who has been a rebounding machine, MC fended off Division I powerhouses in Beverly and Springfield Central to capture the tournament title; Felder captured MVP honors after averaging nearly 24 points a game in the two contests. The varsity team looks to extend their success in the playoffs.



Photo by Eddie D'Angelo

Senior Tony Felder runs the point against rival BC High.

# Girls Basketball: From Crystal to Causeway

By: **Jorge Ortiz**  
Staff Writer

Whether in the Malden Catholic gym or on the historic court in TD Garden, the girls basketball team has made the MC community exceedingly proud with their commitment and skill. The varsity players put in work this season, showing up to practice six days a week. Their dedication and



Photo by Eddie D'Angelo

Senior Kyliya Reynoso drives at the TD Garden.

collective talent led them to achieve a phenomenal regular season record of 19-2. They were especially dominant on the glass with senior captains Lily Mineo and Kayla Jackson grabbing upwards of ten to twenty rebounds on any given night. The team's ability to outrebound their opponents and get second chance points assisted them in comfortably outscoring their challengers who were unable to match the Lancers' efficiency on the glass.

This team's hustles on every possession is a testament to their focus; they leave everything out on the court every game. The fluidity and intensity of their offense and defense are spectacular. One game that stood out was the match against Notre Dame Academy, in which the team defied the odds to secure a victory in the last quarter after being down over ten points. When prompted, Kylie Bragg discussed this essential win: "Coming into the game against Notre Dame Academy, we didn't know winning that game would clinch us the conference title. We went into it like every other game and played our hardest until the end." She added, "Hearing that we were conference champions was the best thing ever. This is what we as seniors have been working for the past 3 years. We still have other things we want to accomplish this basketball season but having that is amazing."

Whether they are playing in man-to-man or a 2-3 zone, the varsity girls apply pressure on their opponents with very persistent guards senior Kyliya Reynoso and junior Mia Mitchell locking down the perimeter, and seniors Kylie and Kelis Bragg always eager to gain control over the ball. The MC girls generate easy offense by playing hard on defense every possession. On offense, even without fast breaks, the team's ability to facilitate and get everyone involved is a sight to see, and as the playoffs ap-

proach, the varsity Lancers will continue to shine.

The girls were also given the opportunity to play at the TD Garden, home of the Boston Celtics, for The Andrew James Lawson Foundation Invitational Event. Despite the long-anticipated event being postponed for almost a month, the MC girls maintained their excitement and spirit, earning a notable victory over Cardinal Spellman. When asked about this opportunity, junior Mia Mitchell said, "It was an amazing opportunity to play with the team at the Garden. I can truly say we worked super hard to get to this point, and most of these girls have been waiting 3 years to play at the Garden. Finally playing there has been an awesome experience."

The girls basketball program also held their first senior night as this season marks the first year in Malden Catholic history in which the program had players ranging from freshmen to seniors. Seniors Kayla Jackson, Lily Mineo, Kyliya Reynoso, Kylie Bragg, and Kelis Bragg made up the starting five in a blowout victory against KIPP Academy on senior night, with each scoring and playing their best at home. As the basketball season comes to an end and their playoff journey begins, the girls look upon their record and future with pride, as senior Kelis Bragg said, "Of course coming off the Covid season, there were many things uncertain about how this year would play out. Even though the season isn't over yet, as a senior, I am very happy with what our team has been able to accomplish thus far. We have won our conference, which is a huge accomplishment as it is the first girls varsity basketball banner being hung in the gym. We are currently ranked 6th in the state and start playing in the state tournament March 4th. I am very confident in our team's ability to win it all."