

Merciette

Mount Mercy Academy

The Seniors say Good-bye!

> Turn to pages 2 and 3 to read the emotional, final words from the Class of 2018!

Spring Sports

Spring sports are off to a strong start despite the chilly and wintry weather. It is hard to believe that we are in the final stretch of the school year and spring sports have already begun. The softball, lacrosse, tennis, and track teams are all looking forward to a great season supported by many dedicated and hard working athletes. Two athletes, freshmen Megan Reilly and Rheanna Welsh, members of the track team, weighed in on their outlook of the season.

Megan Reilly, who previously played Varsity soccer and JV basketball at Mount Mercy, joined track hoping to continue her grammar school career. Rheanna Welsh, a first time Mercy athlete, also ran track in grammar school and decided she wanted to continue her career as well. Megan and Rheanna both spend an hour and a half each week-day improving and advancing their skills and stamina, whether it is on the track or out in Caz Park. Both Reilly and Welsh agree that balancing sports and school

work is challenging at times, but have concluded that if you manage your time efficiently, it becomes easier.

Getting into the flow of the season and getting into shape for the rigorous road ahead was a tough challenge that Megan and Rheanna both faced. To overcome this obstacle, Reilly and Welsh worked hard and stayed focused at each and every practice. In addition, Rheanna thought that encouragement from her teammates and coaches helped her persist and overcome hardships. A good coach, as observed by Megan, is someone who gives a lot of encouragement and is accepting when you make a mistake. They offer good tips, tricks, and advice that help you become a better athlete, as expressed by Rheanna. They both agree that it is important for teammates to support and encourage one another in order to make the team stronger and to strengthen bonds between members.

Rheanna believes that participating in a sport

by Angelina Larivey

is important because it builds teamwork and it allows you to meet new friends, including upper-classmen. Megan also feels that participating in sports is important because you learn many life skills and develop important qualities such as time and stress management, good sportsmanship, leadership, and confidence.

This season, Reilly and Welsh are both looking forward to becoming better and stronger athletes, as well as meeting new friends. Both conclude that playing sports is not just about winning. It's about making memories, learning from your mistakes, and having fun! But most importantly, the bond that you form with your teammates, during a challenging game or a hard earned victory, is a bond that will last a lifetime. Good luck to all of the teams! Let's go Mercy!!!



Inside this issue:

Dear Catherine	4
Final Reflection	2
Senior Center	2
Seniors Say Good-bye	3
Spring Sports	1

Senior Center

by Grace Ippolito

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

As the end of the school year comes quickly to an end for seniors, it's time for choosing colleges and guiding your own path. Picking a school can lead you to be indecisive, which is perfectly normal. It is not easy planning out your entire life at seventeen, especially when the pressure is on to choose a school and get started on your new chapter in life.

Senior Fiona Danahy chose Chatham University located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in mid November. Fiona thought it was a great environment and she is very excited to play division three hockey. Fiona believes Mount Mercy has prepared her for college and the outside world. She has learned to step out of her comfort zone, try new things, and become more responsible these past four years. She will

be majoring in Psychology at Chatham. Fiona thanks the Mount Mercy Academy faculty and staff, her friends, and her family for the support she has been given all of these years.

Senior Yamilet Montanez chose Mercyhurst University after deciding between there, Iona College, (NYC), and Brockport College (Brockport, NY). Yamilet believes Mercyhurst is the best option for her and she cannot wait to officially become a Laker. While touring Mercyhurst, Yamilet noticed many similarities between the college and Mount Mercy. Both schools have similar ties and Yamilet felt very comfortable and reminded of home while visiting. Yamilet is double majoring in Criminology and Psychology.

Senior Christina Billittier

is currently deciding between the University of Cortland and the University of Buffalo. Christina plans to attend medical school and is majoring in sports medicine. She came to Mercy two years ago after her former school, Immaculata Academy, unfortunately, closed. Mercy was very excited to welcome her and everyone else into our school and we are all so proud of all that everyone has accomplished.

A piece of advice from an anonymous senior is, "Appreciate Mercy. Appreciate your teachers, your friends, and family. One day, you'll be looking back at all of the memories you have created here, and that someday, might just be around the corner. So make good choices, slow down and take your time. Life isn't supposed to be rushed."

Final Reflection

Mercy was my first choice for high school. I really never had any desire to go to another school. I wanted a place that would challenge me and provide me opportunities that no other school could offer me. Mercy fit the idea of what I wanted my high school life to be like. That's a choice that I definitely don't regret.

Mercy has allowed me to meet some amazing people- teachers and students alike. I felt supported and loved and respected in a way that I had never experienced. Coming to Mercy allowed me a fresh start, a way to build the person I wanted to become. With the help of my amazing friends and some incredible teachers, I was able to do just that. I have learned how to be empathetic, how to care for others, how to open my mind to the world. I truly feel that the Mercy community assisted me in becoming the person that I am today. Without Mercy, I don't know where or who I would be.

I'd like to take this time to thank some people. Thank you to Phoebe Palmisano, Skylar Pasternak, Emily Michalski, Danielle Lewis, Colleen Keane, Abby Swiger, and Lindsey Szumigala for becoming some of my best friends. I don't know what I would have done without you. Thank you to Ms. Licata, Ms. Weld, Ms. Welch, and Miss Burns for being some of the most empowering women I have ever met. Thank you to my stats class and my digital photography class for always keeping my spirits up. Thank you to administration for helping me through my years at Mercy and for always believing in me. And finally, thank you to my class as a whole. The Class of 2018 is made up of some amazing young women who I know will go on to do great things. Thank you all for being so great to me and helping me through some

by Shea Halpenny

difficult times. Thank you Mercy. You have done a lot for me and I don't think I can ever repay you.

To all those still waiting to graduate... don't rush it. Things get tough and stressful and some days you may feel like dropping out is your only option. But trust me when I say, it will always get better. One day, you'll sit in a study hall talking about whether you're wearing heels or not to graduation and it will hit you: you're leaving Mercy. Mercy will be unlike any college you attend where it might get even more stressful. Let Mercy prepare you for your years of adulthood. Enjoy your time, do not wish it away. Make these years great so you don't have any regrets when you move on. I hope you all find the happiness at this school that I have found.

Seniors Say Good-bye

Leaving Mount Mercy is something I am not looking forward to doing, but is also a step I am fully prepared to take. Although my decision to attend MMA was an easy one because of my three sisters that came before me, it was certainly the best path for me. Being enveloped into the family-like atmosphere here for four years and meeting the most influential people in my life thus far is something I do not believe I could have achieved at a different high school. I am so thankful for my incredibly fun and rewarding privilege to be a part of the Mercy community. I have shared the hardest laughs, most challenging assignments, toughest sporting events, and greatest memories within my experience. Entering my new journey at the Pennsylvania State University will be made easier because of all that these four years have taught me. Thank you forever, Mercy! I will be back!

-Mary Barnes '18

Attending Mount Mercy Academy was the best decision I have ever made. It has been the best four years of my life in which I will never forget. I never noticed how welcoming a school could be until I stepped through the doors and saw how everyone got along so nicely and how comfortable the students and faculty made me feel. The best advice anyone could get coming into Mercy would be to cherish every single moment here and try new things such as a sport or a club because you won't regret it. It gives you a chance to meet people and to make new memories. I am so thankful for my years at Mercy and getting to meet many friends and have the best laughs. However, I am also entering a new life at Roberts Wesleyan and am taking everything I learned from Mercy. My four years here have impacted every decision I made in the real world and Mercy has given me a huge advantage in preparing me for college. I wish I could rewind and restart my high school years at Mercy.

-Paige Siebold '18

For me, Mount Mercy has been a second home. I've grown to be so comfortable here, and I feel like I can truly call my fellow classmates my sisters. Mount Mercy has taught me so much more than just the academics (although those were helpful too), it has taught me how to act as a woman of Mercy. My high school experience has also

helped me discover my passion for history and politics, thus helping to shape my college and major decision. I am so thankful for my Mount Mercy education, and I feel prepared going into the world knowing that I have this education with me.

-Emily Burns '18

Mercy has been the best decision I was forced into. Unlike most girls, I did not really have a say in where I was going after Immaculata closed, but I'm so happy I got to attend here. I made long time best friends at Mercy and I wouldn't trade them in for the world. If I could offer any advice to the underclassmen, I would state three main rules: 1. WALK ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE HALLWAY, 2. Don't start gossip...You're with these girls for 4 years, trust me, stay on good terms, 3. Do **NOT** procrastinate. You do not want to be doing that Burns research in April. I was so grateful to spend my time at Mercy with all these wonderful students and staff!

-Abby Lopez '18

As Senior Year is coming to a close, I have begun to reflect on my time at Mercy. I can't believe how fast this time has went, and that it is time to say goodbye to all of my friends. Going to Mount Mercy was the best choice I could of made, I have made countless friends and many priceless memories. I know that leaving MMA is going to be one of the hardest things that I will have to do, but I am ready for the future and the new experiences I will be making at Saint Bonaventure University. Make your four years here the best possible because they are truly like no other.

-Olivia Andriaccio '18

To start off, I would like to acknowledge the reason I came to Mount Mercy Academy was to be a part of a family. A family who cares about me, watches over me, and would always be there for me. The friends I have met at Mercy inspired me to reach for the stars and strive for whatever I may want to do in life. To underclassmen, please cherish your moments here at Mercy because soon the time will flash forward to your Senior retreat looking back on all the happy moments with one another. Even though it may appear sad to think about leaving everyone you've grown close to behind, spend time on those precious moments. As for Mercy, I've realized I still want to keep the family connection within the schools I applied to. I am

happy that I will continue my education at Canisius. Although each and everyone will be moving on to bigger and better things, we have come a long way but I know I still have a family to look forward to coming back to.

-DesTINY Overton '18

I originally came to Mercy because I knew so many amazing Mercy girls and I knew I wanted to be like them. Choosing Mercy was the best decision I've ever made. Going to school here taught me to always stay positive, work hard, and gave me so many opportunities. Now, because of the many internships I was able to complete as a part of The Academy of Healthcare and Science, I know I want to become a part of the healthcare community. I look forward to studying Brain and Cognitive Sciences at the University of Rochester, and expanding my knowledge of Biology and American Sign Language.

-Mary Bala '18

The four years at Mount Mercy really fly by, without me even realizing it. I have had an amazing experience at Mount Mercy Academy because I was exposed to so many opportunities. If I could give one piece of advice for high school, it would be to enjoy the now, and worry about the future when it comes, because it will truly be here sooner than you realize. Good Luck to everyone! :)

-Olivia Cudney '18

Growing up as a kid I always knew I wanted to go to Mount Mercy. When the time finally came I could hardly believe it. I knew that it was going to be the best four years of my life, and it was. The friends I have made here will be life long, and the knowledge I have obtained here will get me through my biggest struggles in life. I cannot thank Mercy enough for giving me the opportunities to thrive in life.

-Audrey Welsby '18



Dear Catherine

Dear Catherine:

The year is coming to a close but prom season is just beginning. I am worried about prom. I do want to go, but I don't have enough money to afford a really nice dress or rent a limo. I'm worried about going and not looking like everyone else at prom. It



makes me so nervous, to the point that I don't even want to go! What should I do? Should I even go to prom?

-A Troubled Junior

Dear A Troubled Junior:

I can totally see why you're worried. The idea of not fitting in is scary; we don't want to be different and draw extra attention to ourselves. However, that doesn't mean it's bad to be different. Do not let the fear of not spending hundreds of dollars hold you back. No one will be able to know how much your dress cost and you can't bring a limo inside the dance with you. Buy a dress that fits you

from Amvets and ask your parents to drive you. Don't worry about a date or spending \$100 to get your hair done. Do what makes you happy; what others think is not important to you. Prom is not a competition to see who can spend the most money. Go with a group of friends and just dance until your feet fall off!

Dear Catherine:

The year is coming to a close... and finals are coming up. I tried my best all year and kept my grades up. But now with finals coming up, I am worried that my final grades might not be what I want them to be. Taking tests has always been hard for me. I am worried that I'll make mistakes or I won't be able to study hard enough to pass. How do I get rid of this stress? How do I pass!?

-Failing Freshman

Dear Failing Freshman:

This time of year is never easy. Trust me, I've been through almost four years of high

school finals and it's always a difficult time. It seems everything sneaks up on you and then you're left with a million things to do. The best advice I can give you: DO NOT FREAK OUT. The stress is not going to help you. Time management will be your best friend. You must prioritize. Do not spend two hours studying for a final you have in six weeks when you know you have a final coming up in six days. Studying ahead of time can help, but make sure you know which tests you need to study more for. If you can solve math problems in under a minute but you have no what the human body is, study more for living environment. And do not forget to sleep and eat. Maintaining your physical health will keep you mentally and emotionally healthy. If you're sleeping and eating, you'll be able to focus better and remember more. Just remember: one exam will not ruin your life. It's stressing you out now, but this stress will pass. Just stay hopeful and try your best!

Merciette Staff

Shea Halpenny, *Editor*
 Grace Ippolito, *Editor*
 Phoebe Palmisano
 Kate Marabella
 Emily Burns
 Angelina Larivey
 Mary Bush
 Mrs. Weld, *Advisor*

Staff Members would like to extend our best wishes to the Senior Staff Members and Editors. Thank you for your years of dedication to The Merciette!

