



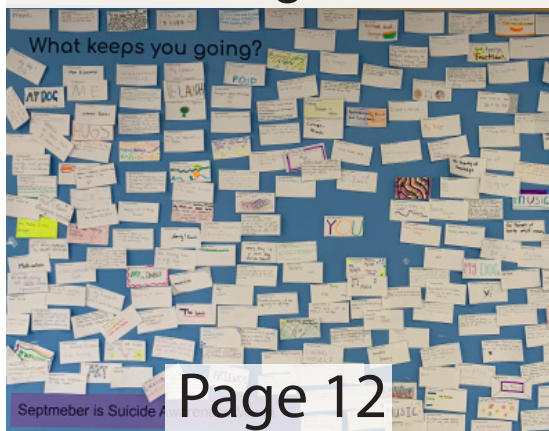
# The Hellgate Lance



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# MCPS Schools Face a Substitute Shortage

Maggie Vann  
Co-Editor

COVID-19 cases are at an all time high in Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS), which has led to students and staff missing classes and an extreme

substitute shortage. Many students are without a teacher, instead forced into the Hellgate “commons” area because substitutes are difficult to find during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, if cases rose above 25 cases per 100,000 people, the county was considered to be in the “red zone”. According to the Missoula County Health Department, as of Nov. 16, Missoula had 35.7 new cases per 100,000 people. Not only is Missoula seeing a rise in COVID-19 cases, but as of Nov. 5, the county also has the fifth largest number of infections in Montana, according to the Montana Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS).

The MCPS District Health Services Supervisor, Brooke Krininger, stated that it took only two weeks into the school year to surpass the infection rate that took nine weeks to reach the previous year. This is partially because the Delta variant is more transmissible, so the infection rate of COVID-19 is higher. This has resulted in a larger amount of hospitalizations.

Due to the higher number of positive cases this year, Krininger’s job is as chaotic as ever. She said that more than 90% of her job during this time is COVID-19 related. From processing positive cases and close contacts, to providing education and guidance constantly, her day is far from routine. Before becoming the MCPS District Health Supervisor, Krininger was a nurse in the Intensive Care Unit. Despite her rich history in medicine, she said, “I don’t think in my 20-something years of nursing have I ever dealt with an illness that so many people address based on their opinions versus scientific facts and what we know.”

According to Krininger, this is complicated because the science on the virus is ever-changing and developing, so “that’s played into why people do just end up reverting back to their opinions.” Nevertheless, balancing the spectrum of individuals who want to take every precaution necessary and the individuals who take no precautions is difficult.

Due to the surge of cases in the country, finding staff and substitutes for schools has been hard to manage. David Rott, the Executive Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations for MCPS Schools, said, “I think if you drive up any of our streets you’ll see that the labor market in Missoula is particularly difficult. There just aren’t available workers.” As to why people are not subbing, the numbers have declined over the years. Even students recognize that substitute teaching is a hard job to fill - high school students are not exactly sunshines and rainbows.

In order to find more substitute teachers, Rott said that they advertise regularly on their website, Craigslist and The Job Service, and attend events such as the University of Montana Job Fair and the Hilton Garden Job Fair. Additionally, the hourly rate was raised last year, and staff members who refer a substitute are eligible for a referral bonus of \$100. Rott said, “We are progressively trying to do whatever we can to bring people in.”

On a given day, Rott explained that it isn’t infrequent to have 100 staff members out, “which is a difficult challenge to try and have a temporary work staff of 100 people.” This year, in all of the Missoula County Schools, there are permanent substitutes. This means that each school has at least one person who is hired full-time to be a substitute teacher “that helps in case of an immediate need if something happens.”

The substitute shortage is a particular problem on occasions in which

teachers or staff are unable to put in for an absence until the day-of. Rott said, “If we have positions that we know in advance, they are easier to fill, but if it happens on the day-of it’s harder to fill.” The scenario in which students don’t have a substitute teacher is somewhat chaotic because students must sit in the common area and are expected to work on assignments the teacher has given them.

Rott said that although this year has been difficult, “we have a fantastic teaching staff that steps in when they can to cover. We also have administrators that try and help cover. I think it’s an all-hands-on-deck approach to it, so everyone is pitching in and helping out.”

Vincent Giammona, the COVID-19 Response Coordinator, said, “The priority and goal, as recommended from the CDC, is providing as much in-person learning as possible.” Giammona, Rott and Krininger agree that the only way schools would shut down or go into remote learning is if the staffing shortage were to be too great to support in-person learning. Giammona said, “We have seen several districts, including AA, who have been forced to go to remote learning because of staff shortages due to COVID-19.”

However, Giammona explained that the goal for the year is to keep students in school. He said, “We have added additional staffing to help with contact tracing, and we will look to hire additional nursing staff or contact tracers if we need.” The MCPS COVID-19 Task Force meets periodically based on district needs or changes in “local, state or federal health requirements or recommendations.”

During the apocalyptic times we are living in, there are a few things you can do to stay safe. Krininger said that everyone should stick to small social circles, continue to wash their hands, minimize time in crowded spaces, continue to mask, get vaccinated and stay home if you experience symptoms of the virus.

The times we are living in right now are like no one could have ever imagined. Many people believed that the 2021-2022 school year would be closer to normal than the previous one. However, it has been far from normal. Students, teachers and staff are all adjusting to what life is like with a pandemic wreaking havoc on schools. With no end to the pandemic in sight, schools are pushing to stay in-person while also keeping all students and staff as safe as possible.

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The Lance is an award-winning, school-sponsored student publication of Hellgate High School. The Lance has been publishing since 1964. Ad rates are available upon request.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the entire paper, its advisers or Hellgate High School.



Students are forced into the “commons” area when their teacher is absent and a substitute is not able to fill in for them. Photo by Wilson Freer.

## Clara Tallent Leads Student Government Suicide Awareness Initiative on to the Soccer Field

Ali Caudle  
Co-Editor

con, eight teenagers in the Flathead Valley have died by suicide in the past 16 months, seven of whom attended Kalispell Public Schools (KPS). They include two soccer players at Glacier High School, one from the girls team and one from the boys team.

When Tallent read about this crisis, she felt compelled to act. "One night I heard about it and it just really affected me in a way that I didn't expect," she said. "I thought since they were both soccer players it should be something incorporated into soccer and you know in school in general."

"I'm a person who likes to be in control. And this issue especially is something that feels so out of my control. So you know just doing something helps me feel a little bit better about it," said Tallent.

Once she knew she wanted to take action, she talked to her Senior Class Vice President Lauren Dick. Together, they suggested that Student Government organize something around suicide awareness. With Student Government advisor Melissa Henthorn's help, they set up several projects.

Student government designed and hung mental health awareness posters around the school, providing resources and information for students. They also organized a schoolwide project where teachers had students write down a response to "What keeps you going?" on a notecard. Those cards were compiled on large posters and hung in the commons.

Tallent and Dick also brought the issue up with their soccer coaches, Natalie Hiller-Claridge, Rachel Eull and Crystal Herzog. Tallent wanted the team to do something ahead of their upcoming games against Flathead High School and Glacier High School - the two KPS high schools in the middle of the crisis.

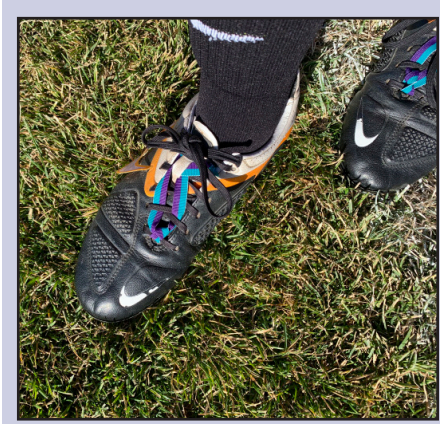
"It stemmed from what's happening in the Flathead Valley right now with some of their teams, the teenage suicide that's happening up there," said assistant coach Eull. "Clara said she did a deep dive of some of their accounts and it just seemed to resonate with her, but also I think it kind of scared her, you know. And so Natalie and I started talking about it more... We want to address it because it's happening in our state, but it's also something that I think people deal with in high school."

The coaches fully supported Tallent's idea and agreed to purchase the ribbons for the team to wear. They also took the opportunity to have a conversation with the whole program about suicide and mental health.

"I would hate for one of our players to be going through these feelings and thoughts and us being completely unaware of it," said Eull. "I want to have these conversations, I want to be the kind of coach - and I know it's the same with Natalie and Crystal - we want to be the types of coaches that we're not just here for the soccer. We're here because we want to be positive role models, we want to be that person that if they have no one else to talk to they can come to us and they feel comfortable talking to us about that."

"It's happening all around us and it's just one of those things where it can be stopped with as little as a check in, a conversation with somebody, you know," she added. "We want the team and beyond to know that we have the power to be there for each other and to open those conversations and check in with each other. I think that's part of what being a team is too, is being there for each other."

These are difficult conversations to have, but they're necessary. "Asking about suicid-



The teal and purple ribbons laced through the team's cleats represent the suicide awareness colors. Photo by Ali Caudle.

al thoughts or feelings won't push someone into doing something self-destructive. In fact, offering an opportunity to talk about feelings may reduce the risk of acting on suicidal feelings," said a guide from the DPHHS.

Tallent wants this initiative to have a real impact, and she hopes that Hellgate leans in to having these conversations. "I think that they should take this project seriously, you know, that's the biggest thing. When we talk in student government, we worry about students not, you know, caring about this issue," she said.

Most importantly, she hopes this initiative encourages students who are struggling to reach out for help. "Just make sure that if you are ever struggling, make sure you are reaching out and telling someone. That's really going to make the difference, is letting someone else know and finding help. That will hopefully make it a little easier," said Tallent.

Hellgate has support systems in place - if you're in need, reach out to a teacher, counselor, or the school psychologist for help. Additional resources for schools can be found in Montana's Crisis Action School Toolkit on Suicide (CAST-S). If you or someone you know is dealing with an emotional crisis or suicidal thoughts, dial 1-800-273-TALK (8255). You can also text "HELLO" to 741741 to reach the Crisis Text Line.



The soccer team huddles ahead of their game against Glacier High School on Oct. 2, 2021. Photo by Ali Caudle.

# Missoula's Hub Closes After 10 Years

Alexander Blaide  
Reporter

"As far as I know we're still open," is what we had to tell people who called or asked. They all saw the same Facebook post saying that The Hub Family Entertainment Center would be closing. That announcement was never official and came from the radio station, 96.3 The Blaze. The evidence presented was a listing from Missoula real estate agent, Katie Ward, who was contacted for this piece. Unfortunately, I wasn't given much information, only that the potential selling was 45 days away, the middle of October.

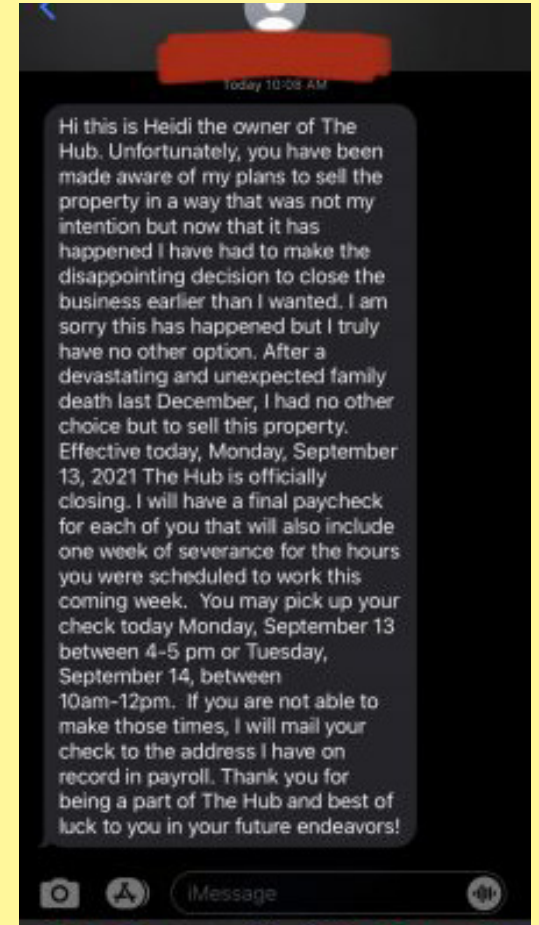
On Sept. 13, it was officially announced that the Hub would be closed after nearly 10 years. As a former employee, I was hired at the beginning of the end.

Shortly after my birthday, I got a call from Chris Whilborg who was the head manager. I was in class at the time and didn't see the voice-

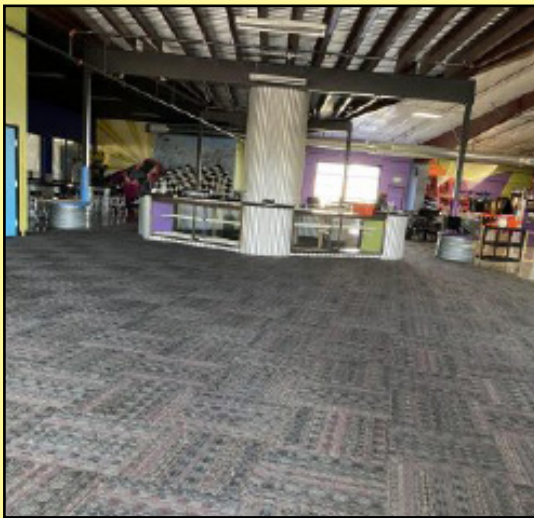
mail he left until after school got out. He asked me to come down for an interview. After some coordination and a brief interview, I was hired as a part time Hub Employee in February 2021. I quickly adapted to working there and did just about everything: from handing out prizes to running games of laser tag. In March, I met Heidi Feeney, a very nice woman who was the owner of The Hub. I learned that she lives in California and also runs a funeral home. The Hub seemed to be doing well and I thought I would have the job for a while, despite my theater endeavors, which did place a strain on scheduling at times. Those issues were always cleared, or a compromise would be met.

In early April, the Pit Stop Kitchen closed on weekdays because people weren't ordering enough to justify keeping it open. The managers ran the kitchen and stopped making food for the public. Employees could order food, and pizza was still provided for paying birthday parties. On weekends, the kitchen was up and running like normal. We hired a former chef to run the kitchen in May, but at that point, too much profit had been lost and he was later relegated to the go-kart track, so the kitchen was closed permanently. The summer came and went and otherwise, the place was still working just as it had when I was hired almost four months earlier.

On Aug. 27, my mom texted me an article. It was an opinion piece from 96.3 The Blaze about The Hub being rumored to close. Unfortunately, the thought had crossed my mind because of how difficult it was to schedule things, not only for myself, but for everyone else. If one person was gone, it threw off the schedule. The next morning, Aug. 28, Whilborg had a meeting with the staff, confirming the rumor and apologizing for how we found out and how he knew almost a month before us employees did. He told us how we were supposed to respond to questions: "As far as we know, we're still open."



The text I and all other employees received on Sept. 13.  
Photo by Alexander Blaide.



The inside of the Hub when I went to get my final paycheck.  
Photo by Alexander Blaide.

There was a sort of macabre feeling about the place as employees joked about the eventual closing as a way of coping. The analogy I described to my family was being able to see the writing on the wall and not being able to read.

On Sept. 13, Feeney texted and informed all employees that the closing went through and that was the end of it. I worked the Sunday right before and expected the place to be open a bit longer. I found out that I was clearly incorrect. Hopefully, a similar place opens soon for all Missoulians.

## Short Staffing Forcing American Businesses to Close

Sierra Meissner  
Reporter

This past year restaurants, hospitals and other businesses around America have been facing major staffing issues. There are many reasons for this, one is because millions of people are refusing to go back to low-wage jobs with no benefits. The COVID-19 pandemic changed what people want and expect from a job, which could be why so many are reluctant to return to their jobs.

The nation has been dealing with nursing shortages since 2012 and this is expected to last until 2030. With the large number of COVID cases, hospitals started experiencing an even worse nationwide nursing shortage that they are still battling today. There weren't even enough hospital beds for all the people who were sick.

There are two huge factors that are causing the nursing shortage: the largest population of older adults ever and burnout.

The generation that was born between 1946 and 1964 is one of the largest in history. The CDC reported that one half of American citizens aged 65 and over have two or more chronic health conditions.

Nursing burnout happens because nurses are given so many hours that they start to feel emotionally and physically exhausted.

Aside from nursing, restaurant chains have started raising hourly wages and even offering benefits and bonuses to attract new workers. McDonalds, the world's largest fast-food restaurant chain, expects to attract up to 10,000 new employees with their new pay tab. If they are successful, it will put many more local restaurants out of business.

32-year-old Audrey Walker works three jobs to support herself and her daughter. "All of my jobs have been dealing with short staffing, and until we

hire more employees I will have to continue working 24/7. I hardly ever have time to see my daughter, which is really hard for both of us. It's so tempting to quit my job and work fast food for \$20 an hour," she said.

Overall businesses have been forced to temporarily or permanently close because of the labor shortage. Nurses are quitting their jobs, leaving hundreds of Americans without access to health care. Fast food is taking over expensive locally owned restaurants. If America doesn't think of a better way to handle this labor shortage things will get much worse and more businesses will have to close their doors.



Jiffy Lube experiences serious short staffing issues, causing them to temporarily close down.  
Photo by Sierra Meissner.

## Drought Parches the West

Win Duerk  
Reporter

The Colorado River is depleting. Over the past decade, the nation's two largest reservoirs connected to the Colorado River, Lake Powell and Lake Mead, have receded to record lows.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, Lake Powell and Lake Mead have dropped over five trillion gallons of water, according to CNN. The 21-year warming and drying process has left the Colorado River watershed parched, leaving those relying on the water questioning what to do.

The continued dry years across the west have made it apparent that there is too much demand on the river's water supply, and drastic steps must be taken in order to provide water to the largest users of the river's water supply like California, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah.

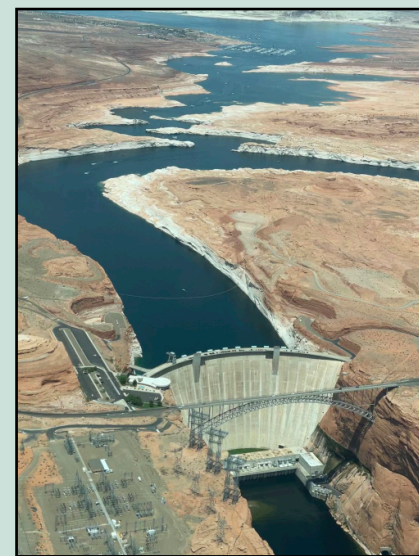
How have we gotten to this point? Other than increased carbon emissions leading to worse and worse droughts,

management of the Colorado River has been set up for failure ever since the installation of the Glen Canyon Dam.

The dam was authorized for construction by the Colorado River Storage project in 1954. Seven years and 300 million dollars later, the dam was finished to provide electricity for the town of Page, Arizona according to Kenyon University.

Not only was it poor practice to put a dam in the middle of a desert, but the Colorado River has separated from its natural state of being a sediment rich river. A UC Davis study says this has disrupted the natural ecosystem for fish species, as the sediment that had provided for their habitat is now sitting at the bottom of Lake Powell.

With the ongoing drought bringing up such a grim and slow moving crisis for the communities relying on the Colorado River water supply, water managers, farmers and city planners have clearly been able to identify the problem, but have not yet been forced to change water usage. The Colorado River is unable to meet all the demands of Midwest communities, and it's up to its biggest users to decide who has to rely on it less.



Plane's view of an empty Lake Powell above Glenn Canyon Dam. Photo by Win Duerk.

# Meta Announces New Safety Features and Future Plans

Asa Stuart  
Reporter

On Oct. 4, 2021, Facebook and its sibling apps went down for around six hours because of a router update error. The outage affected all who relied on Facebook and its services, such as companies who advertise on Facebook and use their services to communicate. Some Facebook employees were reportedly unable to enter their workplace as they use their Facebook accounts to enter.



Frances Haugen speaks at Web Summit 2021 in Lisbon, Portugal. Photo courtesy of Flickr.

Facebook reported that the outage was caused by a router error, causing all services that used that error to malfunction. Some speculated that the whistleblower exposing the company had caused the outage, but Facebook denied it. The whistleblower, Frances Haugen, had gone on 60 Minutes, a show created by CBS News, the day before and exposed that Facebook had been making decisions that made them more money instead of protecting users and the general public. Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook, has personally responded to those claims, stating, “We care deeply about issues like safety, well-being and mental health. It’s difficult to see coverage that misrepresents our work and our motives.”

Along with Haugen’s claims, she provided documents on how Facebook and Instagram are harmful

for teenagers, specifically girls, and how that has led to damage in their mental and physical health. Also included is how Facebook’s algorithms spread and promote hate and misinformation, and they know it. Facebook has announced that they will be adding new safety features to Instagram and Facebook, aimed at teens. These will limit political and harmful information shown, give parents more control over their teens’ accounts, and add a time reminder that encourages teens to take a break from Instagram or Facebook. How exactly these will work, when they are coming out, and how effective they will be is yet to be known.

When asked about Facebook’s plans to make Instagram safer for teens, many said that they were unsure that Facebook could make it work. One teen said, “So far the Facebook and Instagram algorithm have proven to not work so I don’t think that it will do much. I don’t think an algorithm will be able to catch everything”. Facebook’s algorithm has been the topic of many discussions in the past, when it was shown to have fueled 2020 election campaigns that many called propaganda. Facebook seems confident in their algorithm as they have not stated that they will be fixing or upgrading it after Haugen revealed that their algorithm doesn’t work the way they present it. The idea that Facebook will change the feed and ways that teens view Instagram was not appealing for many.

Another student said, “Parents should not have access to their teens accounts without their permission. Teens need to get online experience for later in their life, they need to learn to deal with social media’s effects and how to ignore them. Facebook should find a way to make their apps safer, but this isn’t the way.”

On Oct. 28, Zuckerberg announced the rebranding of Facebook as “Meta” at the online Facebook Connect event. Along with the rebrand, Meta will be creating a ‘metaverse,’ which is defined as a “hypothesized iteration of the internet, supporting persistent online 3-D virtual environments through conventional personal computing, as well as virtual and augmented reality headsets.” Meta’s metaverse will include their VR headset brand, Oculus, as well as their social media and communication apps, Facebook, Instagram and Messenger. One feature seems to be a virtual version of yourself, like an avatar in

the metaverse which would be used in video chats and Meta’s virtual reality game, Horizon Worlds. Meta is currently looking for 10,000 people to help create and build the metaverse with no set date on when they will begin building, or the release date.

Within the metaverse are several different projects. Horizon, Meta’s beta only virtual reality game, will be expanding with new subgames and areas, such as an improved Horizon Workroom and Hori-

The Meta logo, featuring a blue infinity symbol followed by the word "Meta" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Facebook’s new brand name and logo.  
Photo courtesy of Meta.

zation Worlds, and Horizon Homes will be added. Oculus will be adding new games as well as fan favorites such as Grand Theft Auto in VR and AR. Along with the updated games and new features, Meta says that they will be creating a safe and healthy environment for the VR and AR, and that they will be partnering with several different companies for safety, as well as games.

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## Apple's New iPhone 13 Offers More Pros Than Cons

Maggie Vann  
Co-Editor

### iPhone 13 Cameras and Display

The display on Apple's iPhone 13 is much better and easier to read in direct sunlight compared to the iPhone 12 Pro. According to Tom's Guide, the Super Retina XDR display is 28% brighter than the iPhone 12. It also seems to show more color and contrast than previous iPhones.

Perhaps the largest change in the new iPhone is the camera quality. According to Tom's Guide, the camera gathers 47% more light than the previous iPhone 12. The wider camera also captures more landscape and has a better low-light setting. And if you weren't a fan of the Apple iPhone's usual color temperature, in the camera app and even while taking pictures, you can switch the styles from vibrant, standard, rich contrast, warm and cool.

### iPhone 13 Video

The iPhone 13 also has a new feature called Cinematic Mode. The feature allows you to feel like a director for a movie shoot and even focuses on objects in the frame without needing to touch the screen. The Cinematic Mode can capture faces, skin tones, animals and so much more. It also does a better job of cancelling out background noises, which is ideal for video footage. If you are looking for a phone that is phenomenal at taking videos, the iPhone 13 may be for you.

### iPhone 13 Battery Life and Charging

The battery life on the iPhone 13 is now better than ever because of its larger battery. It lasts up to 1.5 hours longer than the iPhone 12, which is always more convenient for work, school or adventures when you don't have a charger handy.

The iPhone 13 charging is also exceptionally better than previous models. When you purchase the new phone, it comes with

a charging cord that you do have to buy a separate charging cube with. However, this is beyond worth it because this new charging cord charges the phone faster than ever.

### iPhone 13 Known Issues

Although the iPhone 13 is overall amazing, there are a few issues to consider before purchasing. Some people argue that there are minimal changes to the phone, so it isn't worth the price to buy. The selfie camera is also unchanged, which has left some people annoyed.

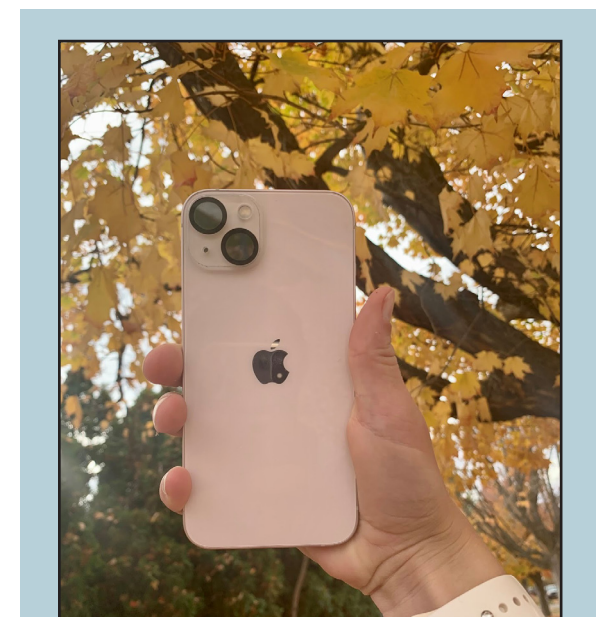
### iPhone 13 Verdict

Overall the iPhone 13 is a great addition to Apple technology, as it has many new advancements. Personally, I love the huge improvement of battery life, storage and of course camera quality. I think that if you want to change up your current phone, then the iPhone 13 is the way to go. From a good price to awesome quality, you can't go wrong with this device.

### iPhone 13 Colors And Design

The iPhone 13 is offered in more colors than ever and has a few minimal changes to the design. The new colors include red, starlight, midnight, blue and pink and are sure to make your phone pop. Personally, I really love the colors because they look great with any clear phone case.

The design is very similar to the previous Apple iPhones. However, there are a few differences. The most noticeable is probably the diagonal cameras. The cameras are also slightly larger than previous models and it's important to protect them with something similar to a screen protector since they stick out of the phone, which could make it easier to crack when dropped. The only other noticeable difference is that the power button and the volume buttons are also lower than on the previous iPhone models, however, this doesn't make a huge difference in usage.



iPhone 13 offers new advancements.  
Photo by Wilson Freer.

# Bringing Equality to Women's Sports

Millie Reynolds  
Reporter

For as long as we can remember, women have been fighting for equality in almost every aspect of life. Throughout the past 75 years, the fight for women's equality has risen. Although the problem has gotten better, it's still a global issue. Even in the 2021 Olympics, according to Amy Woodycott from CNN, Norway's women's handball team decided to opt-out of wearing bikinis as their uniform and ended up with a \$1500 fine.

Women in sports are dealing with being told their jerseys aren't appropriate, then changing them and being told they're covering too much, being paid less, physical and verbal harassment, and so much more. Even though we are supposed to be in a time of "social equality," women are still being judged, undervalued, and discriminated against.

Different cultures and ages are affected dif-

ferently by this, but it is still happening everywhere. 16-year-old Callie Kaiser said it's been really hard over the years, putting in equal to more effort than the guys, and still being looked down on. Stories from different ages, races and professions are being brought to society's attention more and more.

Sports are a reflection of our society and the disparity between men and women. Women make up 40% of athletes, according to Macaela MacKenzie, a writer for Glamour. Between basic anatomy and traditions, the idea of them being equal remains controversial. Many people think that since biological males have certain physical advantages over biological females, they are superior.

In most cases, men are capable of achieving more muscle-wise, but that's not saying women aren't putting in the same amount of effort. Everyone's body types are different. A female beach volleyball player is going to train a lot differently than a male beach volleyball player, but that's

not saying they aren't putting in the same time and effort to excel in their profession.

The Women's Sports Foundation has reported that male athletes get \$179 million more in athletic scholarships than female athletes each year. They have also revealed that the WNBA takes home no more than 22.8% of the league's revenue, while the NBA gets paid over 50%.

CNBC writer, Abigail J Hess, stated that the 2015 Women's World Cup soccer final had the highest viewership ever for either gender, with 25.4 million viewers. Then, the Women's 2019 World Cup Final had a 22% higher viewership than the Men's World Cup Final in 2018, yet both women's events still had a smaller payback.

Despite this, society has come a long way and will continue to evolve as we put in the effort to change. From the beginning of women being able to participate in sports to the 2021 Summer Olympics showing more gender equality than ever before, the fight for equality in all professions is at its highest point in history.



Team support is an important part of equality in women's sporting events. Photo courtesy of Craig McCollum.



Hellgate's girls basketball team shows support and cooperation. They are a great example of how women's sports have evolved. Photo courtesy of Alex Covill.



## Social Media Isn't Real

Millie Reynolds  
Reporter

Social media is a place where people can post the most exciting moments in their lives. It's supposed to be a place to "express yourself," but in reality it's doing the opposite. The things people post are the minuscule parts of their lives that they allow others to see. It's hard not to compare yourself to other people's lives when all you see are pictures that make yours feel meaningless.

Social comparison has been linked heavily to social media. Either someone is comparing themselves to others, and their self-esteem worsens, or they do it to make themselves feel better about their lives. In both cases, either subconsciously or consciously, their self-esteem is still depleting. The act of comparing your-



The majority of teenagers spend a lot of their time on social media, inevitably leading to health issues. Photo by Millie Reynolds.

self to someone to make you feel better comes from a deep psychological feeling of self-hatred and jealousy. When people are fully confident in their skin, there is no need to put someone else down to make themselves feel better. Social media has made this so much worse because there are endless things to compare to yourself and your life.

We all love social media. In reality, we're so used to it we'd almost be nothing without it. Everyone's identity revolves around what they decide to share with others, but they don't realize its effect on our mental health. Pew Research Center has shared that over 69% of adults and 81% of teens use social media. That is a considerable amount of the population with an increased risk for higher depression and anxiety levels. That can lead to more issues like body dysmorphia, eating disorders, self-harm, and other things that aren't talked about enough.

If the effects of social media are so harmful to our mental health and self-image, why do we use it? "It feels like I have nothing to show for my life if I don't post the exciting things I do," said sophomore, Jaclyn Lukas.

The common fear of missing out is what keeps most people from stopping. Social media defines our self-worth, and it gives us constant reassurance that we're worthy. Whether you're the one posting to get comfort from others or the one hating on them to reassure yourself, it will never be enough. It doesn't matter if half the world sees you as the most beautiful person on Earth. If you still don't feel enough, then you aren't.

No one else is ever going to be able to define it for you. We've seen it, and we've lived it. People give away their bodies to get the praise they can't give themselves. Some change their entire personality so people will like them, and others physically hurt themselves to fit the "beauty standard." It never ends because no one knows



These Posters can be found around Hellgate. You can use the barcode displayed to contact school resources for help.

Photo by Millie Reynolds.

how to make it end. Most people aren't willing to put in the work or don't know where to start.

Making an effort to change your habits, including creating social media time limits for yourself, changing who you follow, and eliminating what makes you feel unworthy, is a good start. Try to use social media in healthy ways, such as getting in touch with people you've lost contact with, getting motivation from inspiring celebrities, and meeting new people that you share common goals and interests with. The most important thing is to remove any negativity it's causing you and do things that make you feel fulfilled. Social media has so much potential. We just need to learn to use it in healthier ways.

# Montana Must Implement Online Voter Registration

Ali Caudle  
Co-Editor

The U.S. government utilizes the Internet for hundreds of different government functions and transactions. In the past two decades, everything from filing taxes to managing Social Security benefits has been digitized. Just last week I applied for federal financial aid using the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) website.

So why can't we register to vote online?

Montana is one of only 10 states that doesn't offer online voter registration: Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, New Hampshire and Maine.

Of those, Oklahoma passed legislation authorizing online registration in April 2015, the state just hasn't enacted it yet. Additionally, North Dakota is the one state that doesn't even require voter registration. Voters just need to bring a valid ID and proof of residency to the polls, or can apply online for an absentee ballot.

Regulating elections is a power reserved for the states. In Montana, eligible voters must be a US citizen at least 18 years old, have lived in the state for at least 30 days, and not be serving time in jail. Citizens can register by mail during the regular registration period. Late registration requires citizens to register in person at the County Elections Office.

In addition to these requirements, the most recent legislative session passed several bills (HB176, SB169 and HB506) that make it harder for Montanans to vote. They eliminate same-day voter registration, restrict the types of IDs voters may use to register, and prevent ballot distribution to soon-to-be eligible voters.

I consider myself a fairly politically engaged citizen, but I still had a difficult time registering to vote. On Oct. 29, I found myself racing around Missoula, trying to make it to the County Elections Office before they closed.

I turned 18 on Oct. 3, 2021, but because Montana closes regular voter registration 30 days prior to the election, it was too late for me to register by mail. I wanted to vote in the municipal general election on Nov. 2, and in order to do I had to register in person.

The Missoula County Elections Office, located at 140 N Russell St, is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. While that may be normal business hours, anyone who works normal business hours, or is in school, will find it difficult to make it there on time. Between school, sports and extracurricular activities, I went almost all of October without a chance to register in person.

The office finally expanded their hours to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. the week before the election. I registered to vote at 5:45 p.m. on Oct. 29. It was one of the last possible days, since registration now closes at noon the day before the election: this year, that was Nov. 1.

Prior to the election, Hellgate's AP Government class spent some time talking in small groups about barriers to voting. For youth like us who want to vote, there's two main things stopping us: we don't know how and we feel intimidated by the process.

Online voter registration is one possible solution. It makes the process more convenient and accessible, and allows voters to register in a format young Americans are much more comfortable with. Youth ages 18-25 are the least likely to be registered to vote and have some of the lowest rates of voter turnout; reaching these eligible voters virtually is the key to converting them from passive to active actors in our democracy.



Co-Editor Ali Caudle in front of the Missoula County Elections Office on Wyoming Street after voting on Oct. 29.

In the 2020 election, Montana's voter turnout rate was 81.33%. While high, the raw numbers show that 612,075 votes were cast out of 752,538 voters. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that roughly 820,000 Montanans were eligible to vote in 2020. That's nearly 70,000 Montanans who could register to vote, but haven't.

That's similar to the nationwide numbers estimated by the Pew Research Center in 2014: about 20% of eligible Americans were not registered to vote.

However, states that have enacted online voter registration see increased voter registration rates and turnout. Notably, Arizona was the first state to implement online voter registration in 2002. They've since seen large increases in voter turnout among youth and minorities.

That's another major benefit of breaking down barriers to voter registration. According to Pew Research Center, white adults are historically the most likely to be registered to vote and turn out to vote, compared to other racial and ethnic groups. Online voter registration would help reduce these inequalities by expanding access to historically disenfranchised minorities.

Additionally, online voter registration helps the government. Online voter registration is arguably more secure than traditional paper forms, and is more efficient. It extends the registration period and lessens reliance on the U.S. Postal Service. As an online tool, it minimizes data entry errors and shortens processing time. States don't have to pay clerks, so it reduces administrative costs.

Online voter registration also ensures increased accuracy of state voter lists, which can reduce confusion and delays at the polls. It's useful year-round as a tool for voters to check their status, update their information, and for groups to easily register voters from anywhere with just a mobile device.

The easier and less costly we make it to vote, the more people will vote. It's a simple solution for a bipartisan issue. Some of the most Democratic-leaning states and some of the most Republican-leaning states have implemented this.

Montana has no incentive not to increase access to voting, and this is a proven effective method to do so. Increasing political participation should be a primary goal for Montana, especially if we want our representatives to truly represent Montana's interests.

## Hellgate Welcomes New Staff

Maggie Vann  
Co-Editor

School is finally back in swing, and with a new school year comes incredible new staff. The new additions to Hellgate include: Bookkeeper Cheri Ferguson, Art Teacher Joanna Laporte, Admin Secretary Susan Elliott, Latin Teacher Brent Harper, Spanish Teacher Ned Gall, Student Services and English Teacher Walter Pfau, School Resource Officer Charles Burton and Counselor Morgan Troutt. Each new staff member is excited to be part of the Hellgate community and they look forward to what the year will bring.

Joanna Laporte, the new addition to the art department, is thrilled to accomplish her goal of returning to Hellgate after student teaching here years ago. Laporte said that she “loved the school energy and that the students were so creative and fun to work with.”

Before coming to Hellgate, Laporte taught art in Alberton for five years and worked as a traveling art teacher for the Art Mobile of Montana, and eventually became the director of the organization. The majority of Laporte’s artwork is about raising environmental consciousness and she enjoys outdoor activities such as skiing, rafting and mountain biking. Laporte is excited to watch her students “thrive in the arts,” and if you get on her good side, she makes really yummy cookies.

Jim Johnson (JJ), the School Resource Officer (SRO) that everyone knew around the school, retired from his job last year. Charles Burton, the 6’6” new face seen in the halls, wanted to take on a challenge in his law enforcement career and became the new School Resource Officer. Burton had an eventful first week at Hellgate with the school shooting threat, but said that he loves “how polite and friendly everyone has been. Everyone seems to be in good spirits throughout the day and excited to be here.”

Burton graduated from the University of Montana and, before coming to Hellgate, was an officer assigned to the Patrol Division for the Missoula Police Department and a State Trooper prior to that. When he’s not on the job, Burton enjoys training Jiu Jitsu with his partners from work and you can often find him watching the University of Montana’s college football games. Burton hopes to serve as a “positive role model for all of our Knights” and is excited to get to know the students and staff members.

Cheri Ferguson is the friendly face seen when you first walk into Hellgate High School. She is an experienced bookkeeper and worked in the administration at the University of Montana for ten years. She looks

forward to getting to know everyone. “One of the reasons I took this job is because I thought it would be more rewarding than working at the University, and so far it has been,” she said. Ferguson added that working at Hellgate has been more busy than working at the University and that she “loves the kids and how active it is.” This awesome new bookkeeper is a crafter. She does Dollar Tree crafting, wreath making and other crafts and looks forward to applying her skills to the bookkeeping job.

Many people would recognize Walt Pfau from the subbing he’s done in years past, or from the classroom observation he did with Britt Hanford. His dad, grandfather and aunt all graduated from Hellgate, which added to the draw to the school. First, Pfau took a student services job, and then, a creative writing teaching job. Before coming to Hellgate, Pfau enlisted in the army in 2013 in Boston, Massachusetts, and was stationed in Fort Luis for 3.5 years. After he served, Pfau obtained an English Teaching Degree from the University of Montana and is now a licensed English teacher for grades K-12. He also has a minor in journalism.

Pfau was thrilled to be named the new creative writing teacher at Hellgate and believes “the only way to get better at writing is to write more and write often.” As of publication, his class is reading *The Most Dangerous Game*, by Richard Connell. In the future, Pfau said that he “wants to give a lot of choices to the students” around what the structure of the class will look like. The goal of the class is to “change the way people think about writing, from something that people feel like they should give up on, into something they feel like everyone can do.” When he isn’t writing or helping out students, some of Pfau’s hobbies include cycling, photography and cooking and his superhero skill is that he is “patient to a fault,” which is more than ideal for working with high school kids.

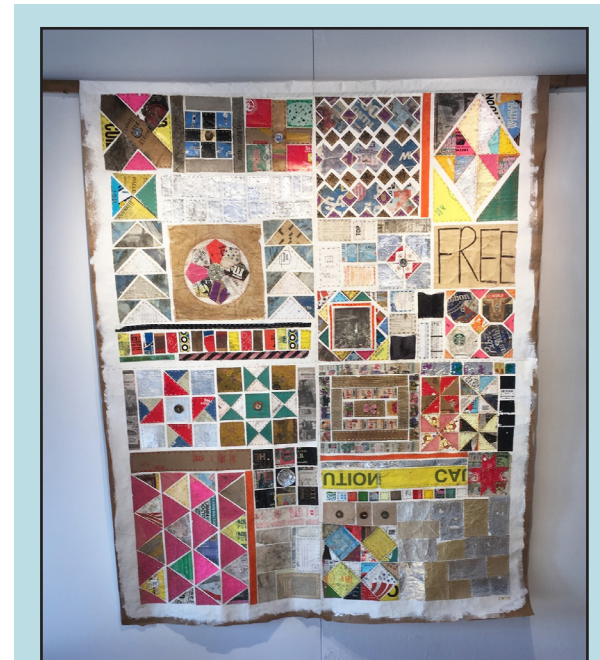
Hellgate is known for its excellent language classes, and this year’s addition to the language department is Hellgate graduate Brent Harper. Before coming to teach at Hellgate, Harper taught Latin and English at a private school in Seattle, Washington. After hearing that a position was open at his old high school where he found his passion for Latin, Harper jumped on the opportunity to become a student teacher. He said his favorite part about the language is that “you can read works that were written 2,000 years ago and understand them. It’s fascinating to deal with a whole literary and political situation that’s far removed from the place that you are.”

Harper is excited to be back at Hellgate. “I really love the people here, it’s really neat coming back to a building that I knew 20 years ago and seeing all the changes,” he

said. The Latin teacher also enjoys rock climbing, paddle boarding, jogging, and playing Dungeons and Dragons and other board games.

If you are ever wandering around Hellgate and run into a nice lady with a Southern accent, it’s most likely counselor Ruth Troutt. In January 2021, Troutt and her husband, who is a brewer at Bayern Brewing, moved from the Home of the Blues and Birthplace of Rock ‘n’ Roll in Memphis, Tennessee, to the “hippy dippy” town of Missoula, Montana, as Troutt calls it. Before becoming a Hellgate counselor, Troutt obtained her counseling degree from University of Memphis and was a counselor at an elementary school in Tennessee. So far, Troutt loves Hellgate because the students “have so many cool opportunities that I didn’t necessarily have [in high school].” She also enjoys the “laid back nature of the town.” Outside of work, Troutt enjoys reading, thrift shopping, watching reality TV and hanging out with her hound dog Jolene who will “steal your man.” Be sure to stop by and visit Troutt when you get the chance, her accent will be sure to teleport you to the South.

The new staff at Hellgate each bring something new and valuable to the table and look forward to their time at the school and meeting the students. If you get a chance, stop by and talk to the new members of the Hellgate community to get to know the incredible new staff.



Shown above is the Northside Garbage Quilt made out of trash Laporte collected in the Northside.

Photo courtesy of Joanna Laporte.

# Mental Health at Hellgate

## Community sees increase in mental health concerns

The last few months have proven to be a struggle within the Hellgate community. Getting back into the normal school groove hasn't gone as smoothly as expected, which caused a decline in the mental health of many Hellgate students.

According to one of the school's current social workers Tracy Ledyard, "We are seeing record high numbers of students who are suffering from anxiety, [and] lots of maladaptive ways of coping with all the things that are stressing them out." These complicated times are putting lots of students in a stressful place.

Hellgate used to have 3 CSCT (Comprehensive School and Community Treatment Program) teams, each one consisting of a licensed therapist and a behavioral specialist from outside of the school. Each team can work with about 18 students at a time, but the school is now down to just one team, said Ledyard. These teams can see students as their clients inside of school. Lots of students greatly benefit from this, but now many kids who could use this resource are having to be put on waiting lists, postponing getting the help they need, due to the shortage of teams. The CSCT program is also exclusive to students with Medicaid, which makes the cut off for who can and can't get help even more exclusive.

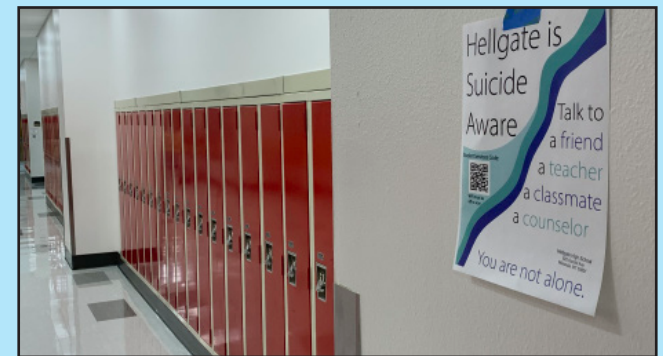
However, Hellgate has many staff members trained to help students in need. This includes Camille Barraclough, a school psychologist, and Tracy Ledyard, a school social worker. Students can request to meet with them or may be referred by a teacher or other staff member.



School psychologist Camille Barraclough. You can find her in Room 211 in the second floor hallway above the library.



One of two school social workers, Tracy Ledyard. You can find her in Room 206A in the Student Services Area.



Many of Hellgate's resources are located in or near the Student Services Area and the second floor offices along this hallway.



School counselors Katie Boynton, Jessica Buboltz, Ben Martin, Morgan Troutt. The counseling office is also on the second floor.

## These people are here for you.

Photos by Julia Key and Ali Caudle.

One of the school's resources for students is the blue card system. When a student is having an especially hard time, they can talk to their teacher about a blue card. When you ask for a blue card you are given a few minutes outside of class for a breather. If that wasn't enough you can head to the student services area on the second floor, where they have created a safe space to reflect. In the blue card room, someone will come to check on you and you can have a talk, or you can just take a few quiet minutes if you don't feel like talking. This resource has proven very beneficial for many students who just need a few minutes of peace outside of class.

Julia Key & Ali Caudle  
Reporter & Co-Editor

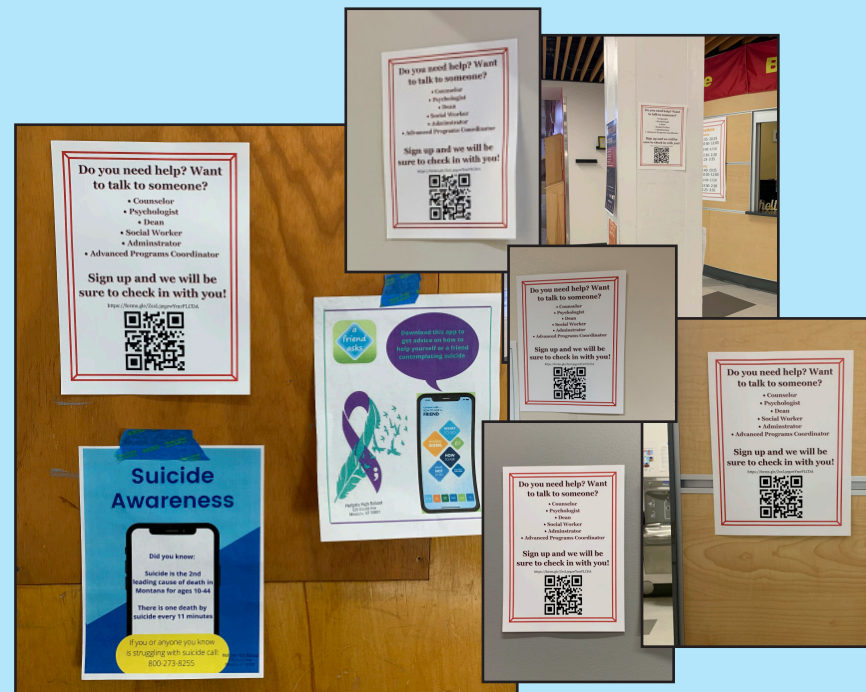
# And remember no matter where you are in life or with your mental health, you are not alone.

If you need to speak directly with someone, there are QR codes all over the school, in the halls and on bulletin boards that lead to a Student Services Request Google Form. With this form you can request to meet just about anyone you might need in the student services area.

You are also welcome to pop by student services anytime you are in need and there will usually be someone to help you out, according to Martin.



Posters with responses to “What keeps you going?” from Student Government’s Suicide Awareness Initiative hang in the commons.



Signs hang in the halls of Hellgate to connect students with mental health resources.

The school is working on gaining more resources to broaden the help that they can give. According to school counselor Ben Martin, the school has been working on getting a second social worker. As luck would have it, we just did.

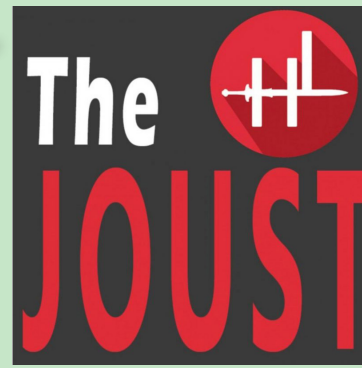
The new social worker, Lani Gallegos, serves as a support system for students in need. According to Ledyard, “She is here to check in with students who come up (to student services), and find out what they need for extra support, why they’re out of class, and what we can do to help them get back to class or problem solve whatever is going on.”

Having extra support for students makes it easier for anyone in need to get the help they deserve. Mental health is a serious issue and something that is especially prevalent in these times. No matter what they are struggling with, every student at Hellgate deserves to feel supported.

## Reach out to someone, talk to a counselor, it can (and will) get better.

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Say What?!



# Parking Podcast

Darian Davalos  
Reporter

Parking at Hellgate has been a problem for many years. Without having a parking lot for students, students are left with parking on the blocks and neighborhoods near the school. Teachers have a dedicated parking lot for them at the school, but why can't the students? With many parking tickets occurring each week, we interviewed different students and teachers to get their thoughts on the situation here at Hellgate.

Devan Tripp - Junior



Photo by Darian Davalos

"We should have more parking lots. We don't have a single parking lot, besides teachers, and we should be able to park at the church."

Cam McNelis - Senior



Photo by Darian Davalos

"I personally think our parking situation is very bad, and there's not many places to park as a senior, and I think we deserve to have a parking lot as a senior."

Braden Kopp - Senior



Photo by Darian Davalos

"I live out of town, and I have to leave my house early to get good parking, and it's hard to leave at lunch to get parking again with my truck."

Tyson Warner - Teacher



Photo by Darian Davalos

"I ride my bike, mainly for the practicalities, since it's easier both to bike to school and to get a parking spot."

**You can find our podcast The Joust at [hellgatelance.com](http://hellgatelance.com) and on Spotify.**

## Hellgate's SAVE Steps Up For a Cleaner Missoula

Julia Key  
Reporter

Hellgate's SAVE (Students Against Violating the Earth) club is making big strides this year in raising awareness about climate change and the environment.

SAVE has many ongoing and new projects happening this year, with a main focus on educating students about how they can be climate conscious.

The group's current treasurer, Lauren Riley, had a lot to say about what SAVE has in the works. "This year we want to get our name out there, and we would like to continue recycling, gardening and composting, as well as do some more community outreach, especially in MCPS (Missoula County Public Schools)," said Riley.

This year SAVE is working on an Elementary Outreach program. Riley considers educating students "the key to figuring out the climate crisis."

The Elementary Outreach program includes lessons through presentations and activities that they will share with Missoula's K-5 students. Their goal is to make learning about climate change and the environment more exciting for elementary age kids. Riley believes teaching a younger crowd about the environment will make them more encouraged in the future to learn and speak up about the climate.

SAVE is also working on projects within Hellgate. They currently have a greenhouse at the school and are working on doing more gardening. They also have recycling and composting, which they encourage Hellgate students to use.

Iris Swanberg is the current head of SAVE's composting committee. The composting committee keeps the food scrap recycling system running. Composting is super important to some of the group's current projects for the school year. By collecting compost during the fall and winter, they will be able to have fertilizer for their



2021-2022 SAVE club members posing in the courtyard.  
Photo courtesy of Lauren Riley.

greenhouse, which they plan to begin planting, and creating and maintaining a watering schedule for this spring.

### Lauren Riley considers educating students "the key to figuring out the climate crisis."

The biggest takeaway in talking with Swanberg is the importance of Hellgate students in SAVE's mission to create a better environment and keep SAVE relevant. "I'm hoping for higher turnout at club activities as well as an increase in membership. Both of these things would help a ton to allow S.A.V.E. to make a bigger impact,"

she said. "SAVE is a really fun environment where you get to choose how much you contribute to the program and which offers fun volunteer opportunities that make a difference, even if it is just schoolwide. We have a number of different committees (including gardening, composting, recycling, and fundraising) so you're sure to find the right fit where you can have an impact!"

Riley wants her fellow Hellgate students to "Come to a meeting and check it out, it's really fun and we're doing important work, for a really big issue." Keep your eye out for upcoming SAVE events - they meet in room 287 on Thursdays at lunch - and show up to do your part for a cleaner, more climate conscious Missoula.

# Behind the Scenes: "Little Women" Adaptation

Alexander Blaide  
Reporter

After two years, the GoodKnight Theater Company have put on their first fall show since "Sleepy Hollow." Adapted by Hellgate Theater teacher Laramie Dean, "Little Women" is different from its 150-year-old sibling. I was lucky enough to be part of the production.

The 2020 pandemic halted original plans and radio shows were produced, starting with "The Gorgon Sisters," also written by Mr. Dean and ending with adaptations of episodes from the "Dark Shadows" TV show. A live show, "7 Friendly Sins," written and directed by now graduated Hailey Chabotte, was performed in May 2021. With the pandemic still raging on, it wasn't clear if we'd have live theater. However, on Sept. 8, 2021, auditions were held for the play.

Doing a regular audition again was nerve wracking. I filled out my form and was given the side, the segment of script that we'd read from, and was paired with Elio House, a senior I'd been friends with since my freshman year. They read the part of Jo March, the protagonist of the book, while I read as Laurie, Jo's best friend in the book. We were given 10 minutes and after that, had to act the scene as rehearsed. After watching several pairings go up and be dismissed, Elio and I took the stage and ran the scene. After the other groups finished, Dean listed the actors he wanted to call back, and I was one of them. I read another line for Laurie and one for the Father role. After that, I was dismissed to leave the auditorium, anticipating the cast list reveal.

The next day, the cast list was uploaded to Google Classroom. I was Laurie. House was Jo. We all attended the readthrough that Friday with two more people, Lillian Young and Sean Jean, two actors who had impressed at the auditions and were meant to be understudies should anything go wrong during the course of the show.

In our interview, Jean said, "[Dean] was happy with my audition and wanted me to be part of the performance due to how impressed he was from the overall audition. But COVID was and is still running rampant in the world unfortunately. So being Mr. Dean, he had a smart backup plan to bring Lillian and I on the cast to help out and be ready in case the worst happened." He went on to say that he was happy to be part of the show, even if he may not end up being onstage.

After that initial readthrough, we began blocking rehearsals, going over the movements of the play, including where we stand, walk, enter, exit, basically every motion involved. That's the most grueling part of any rehearsal because of how tedious it is, but for some actors like myself, is integral to line memorization. The most common complication to the process is changing location. With the fall season, there are several concerts in the auditorium, so it's likely to have at least one or more rehearsals in Mr. Slater's band room or the Knight Hall. Thankfully, that wasn't much of an issue here, and most of the rehearsals took place in the auditorium as expected. A simple set was constructed, just a raised platform and some

stairs were the main set pieces.

After a few weeks of rehearsing the blocking, we had our first tech day, a day that was mainly dedicated to figuring out costumes for the actors. Actor and costumer Hazel Seagrave said, "This show was difficult and easy when it came to costumes; people like the chorus were mostly easy because it was just getting them everyday clothes plus some add ons but all of the 19th century outfits were really hard." The play jumps between the 1860s and modern day, so most of the actors required two costumes personalized for their characters. The ease came from the fact that the actors provided their own modern clothing. We ended that tech day by watching Greta Gerwig's Little Women, released in 2019.

Oct. 18 was our first off book day for Act 1. That's

the perfect voice inflection. During these rehearsals, props and lights take place and despite the lack of audience, it's a real show.

Nov. 11 was the day we all had been waiting for: The opening night of the show and the culmination of nine weeks of work. Everything we had rehearsed was to be put to the test on our first real audience. "Opening night is always when I feel like I want to puke and I'm super nervous," Seagrave said. She said that after that, the other show days are exciting. I agree with her, and we all have our own ways of dealing with that performance anxiety. Seagrave was laser focused backstage, standing statue-like and waiting for her first entrance. I would pace back and forth in anticipation. The show went amazingly for everyone, both actors and our musician, freshman



The cast and crew of "Little Women"  
Photo courtesy of Rachel Morgan.

the day where we are no longer allowed to carry scripts onstage, and you need to have your lines and movements memorized. You are allowed to call "Line!" should you forget anything. These rehearsals are easier and really allow the character choices to be made. You are free to try anything and keep or change it if necessary. We ran like that for a week, completing two more tech days consecutively. The first tech day involved painting the set, securing the set to the floor, and hanging up the posters, designed digitally by our stage manager, Oliver Moon. He finds it "bizarre" to see his art hung up all over the school, but found it exciting each time he saw one. The second day involved rehang and refocusing the lights exactly where they needed to be, a very tedious process that I was not part of. On Nov. 1, 10 days before opening night, that was our last day to call "Line!" If you forgot something, you had to make it work and would be given notes by Dean. The first few days of these full runs have the most notes. These notes can range from how lines should be said to changing costume pieces. As the week progresses, the notes get more and more precise, including exactly when to pause or

Grady Hood. He got involved by auditioning to act, and while he didn't get any parts, he was the only person who auditioned that could play piano. In fact, this play was Grady's first time playing the piano in a performance setting. The Thursday show was the strongest audience, laughing at everything and ending with a standing ovation, some even meeting us with misty eyes. The Friday night show was just as good, but for the Saturday show, some changes had to be made.

Unfortunately, Nora Myers, who played one of our Chorus members, had gotten sick and was unable to perform. Sean Jean filled in and described the experience: "I was notified at 1:30 that day that I was filling in for Nora." He got the script at 3:00 and started rehearsing at 4:00. Despite the fears that something may go wrong, workarounds were made and none of the audience knew that Jean was not the original actor. All the cast became very close friends with one another, and for Jet Burns, the only acting freshman of the show, they described it as terrifying being the freshman, but felt proud when upperclassmen would compliment how well they did. Hazel Seagrave



Elio House as Jo March writing at their laptop.  
Photo courtesy of Rachel Morgan.



The March Family  
From left to right: Sage Fife as Amy March, Gretchen Morgan as Meg March, Hazel Seagrave as Marmee, and Morgan Best as Beth March.  
Photo courtesy of Rachel Morgan.

and Miles Biddulph had one of the most emotional scenes of the show and Seagrave talked about doing the scene in which Father, played by Miles, walks out and leaves his family. Hazel talked about that scene, "Miles made it worth it! That is a type of scene that you have to have a good amount of trust in your scene partner, which I think Miles and I definitely developed." She explained that to do that, they both had to get into that emotional space and never really had any solid blocking, just some basic movements they both did.

Little Women ran Nov. 11, 12, and 13 with standing ovations and crying audience members for all three shows. The show united new friends and was the best reintroduction to live theater after the pandemic.



# Top 10 Lord Huron Songs

Gabi Wilson  
Reporter

Lord Huron is an indie rock band based in Los Angeles. Their genre is Alternative or Indie. The band is composed of Ben Schneider, Mark Barry, Tom Renaud and Miguel Briseno. Lead singer and guitarist Ben Schneider founded the band.

Let's be honest, ranking these songs is not easy. Lord Huron makes amazing music and I attempted to rank my top 10 songs from worst to best (in my personal opinion) and why.

## 10. *Love Like Ghosts*

This song starts out slow and has the same melody as "The Night We Met." This is also from the *Strange Trails* album and is the first song in the album. It is almost foreshadowing what the song will be at the end because it has the same melody as "The Night We Met" which is at the very end of the album. "The Night We Met" and this song have many similarities including the motif of ghosts. Lord Huron sings, "Yes I know that love is like ghosts" in "Love Like Ghosts" then sings, "I don't know what I'm supposed to do haunted by the ghost of you" in "The Night We Met." "Love Like Ghosts" is almost like a long intro for "The Night We Met." I ranked this as 10 because even though it is still a good song, it seems repetitive next to "The Night We Met."

## 9. *Frozen Pines*

This song is from the *Strange Trails* album. The song has a strange start that doesn't seem to match the rest of the song. This is because it is a continuation of the song before, "The Yawning Grave." The song finally picks up and has a new beat, while still carrying on the original start in the background, at around 15 seconds. This is also a good song to have on in the background while you can still jam out to it. This is a good song but it doesn't keep you interested enough to fully pay attention to it.

## 8. *Ends of the Earth*

This is the most played song from the *Lonesome Dreams* album. The beginning of the song starts out slow like many of Lord Huron's songs. It picks up around 50 seconds with faster tempo and beat added. The

best lyric in this song is "To the ends of the earth would you follow me?" This song has a really happy and upbeat tone. The song is about someone seeking to explore the world. The song ends on a melancholy tone with the lyric, "I guess I'm going alone."

## 7. *Wait by the River*

This song is from the *Vide Noir* album. The song starts out with a slow beat and a whirring noise that steadily increases. This is a good song to put on for background music and start doing your homework or cleaning. It's a good song to listen to for motivation and to keep you on track. This song is one of the two most played songs on the album.

## 6. *I Lied (featuring Allison Ponthier)*

At first listen, this song seems like a sweet, relaxing song. When you listen more and hear the lyrics, you realize the song is very melancholy as they sing, "told you I could never love somebody else, but I lied." It is from the *Long Lost* album and one of the most played songs on the album. Allison Ponthier and Ben Schneider's voices blend well together in the song. This is a slow, sad song to listen to when you are in a low mood.

## 5. *La Belle Fleur Sauvage*

This song is also on the *Strange Trails* album. The song starts slow with a peaceful, upbeat tone. As the song continues, the pace slowly picks up and more beats and a faster pace are added. The lyrics of this song are very wholesome as the song is a man describing his feelings about a woman he loves. The chorus of the song is, "I'd give it all to love that girl. I'll be the one to pluck that fleur." Fleur means flower in French and the title of the song means "the beautiful wild flower" in French. The title is apt as the song describes this man's love for a beautiful girl and how when he dies he wants her lying by his side.

## 4. *Fool for Love*

This song is another from the *Strange Trails* album. The song starts out by the ending of "La Belle Fleur Sauvage" transitioning into the beginning of this song. "Fool for Love" is a song with a lot of life and energy in it, it's very upbeat and fun. It's also a good song to jam out and dance to. The lyrics of this song are fun as it's a little story of a man being in love with a woman and he has to fight another man to get her. Many of the lyrics are wholesome as he says, "I know she's gonna be my wife. Gonna fall in love, I'm gonna live my life with her." The final lyrics of the song are, "I drift

into the great unknown. I really don't know where I'm going."

## 3. *The Ghost on the Shore*

This is a great song for when you are in a relaxed mood and are looking for chill music to listen to. I think that this would be a good song for a morning drive. This is from the *Lonesome Dreams* album. The song starts slow and the calming melody carries throughout the song. One of my favorite lyrics from this song is, "lie where I land, let my bones turn to sand. I was born on the lake and I don't want to leave here." Unlike many of his songs, there isn't anything in particular about this song or the lyrics that anyone can relate to. I think that many can relate to the emotion he carries in the song. The ending fades out with the same sound the song started with.

## 2. *Meet Me in the Woods*

"Meet Me in the Woods" is also from the *Strange Trails* album. It has a slow beginning and the pace and sound picks up as the song continues. This is a good song to dance to as it has a fun rhythm to it and is a great song to jump around to. This is also a great song to scream the lyrics to. The chorus has a lot of passion that makes you want to shout out the lyrics.

## 1. *The Night We Met*

A classic. This song is from the *Strange Trails* album. It's definitely one of their most popular songs, which was unfortunately further popularized by Tik Tok. "The Night We Met" is most likely known by many because the song can connect with many people. It starts out with a slow beginning and starts to intensify over the course of the song as the emotion grows stronger. The lyrics of this song are relatable for many people who are possibly experiencing a breakup or distance with someone special as he sings things like, "I had all and then, most of you some and now, none of you", and "take me back to the night we met." The song is placed at the end of the album almost as a save the best for last. This is the most popular song on the album. I placed this song as number one because everything about the song is so well done with the lyrics and the musicality of the piece.

The band has 6 albums with their most recent being *Long Lost* which came out May 21, 2021. What are your favorite Lord Huron songs and how would you rank them?

# Adele Releases New Music After Six Years

Wilson Freer  
Reporter

After a six-year hiatus, Adele has returned to the spotlight with her new song "Easy On Me" that was released on Oct. 15

This song is the lead single off of her extremely anticipated album "30" released on Nov. 19, 2021.

"Easy On Me" broke Spotify's record for the most streams in one day, racking up over 24 million streams in just 24 hours. The previous record was held by Olivia Rodrigo's "Drivers License", which had 17.01 million streams in one day.

'30' is suspected to be primarily about her divorce from Simon Konecki, who is a charity CEO and moved to London when he was ten. The divorce was finalized in March of 2021. The singer told *Vogue* that the album is an attempt to explain the divorce to her 9-year-old son, Angelo Adkins,

when he's older.

The couple was thought to have been married in 2016, however in an interview with *Vogue*, the singer revealed that they were actually married in 2018. The couple then filed for divorce in 2019.

When talking to *Vogue* about the divorce, the singer said, "I was just going through the motions. I wasn't happy." She continued, "Neither of us did anything wrong. Neither of us hurt each other or anything like that. It was just: I want my son to see me really love. And be loved. It's really important to me."

Not only was the song very well received by fans, but critics as well. *Rolling Stone* said that the singer "reduces the world to tears" with "Easy On Me". *Billboard* wrote, "Instead of offering more tear duct-ravaging balladry focused on long-gone exes or scorned romances, 'Easy On Me' presents a different type of devastation: a plea for understanding, following a breakup that has caused too much collateral damage."

The 33-year-old singer said, "It made him really unhappy sometimes. And that's a real wound that I don't know if I'll ever be able to heal."



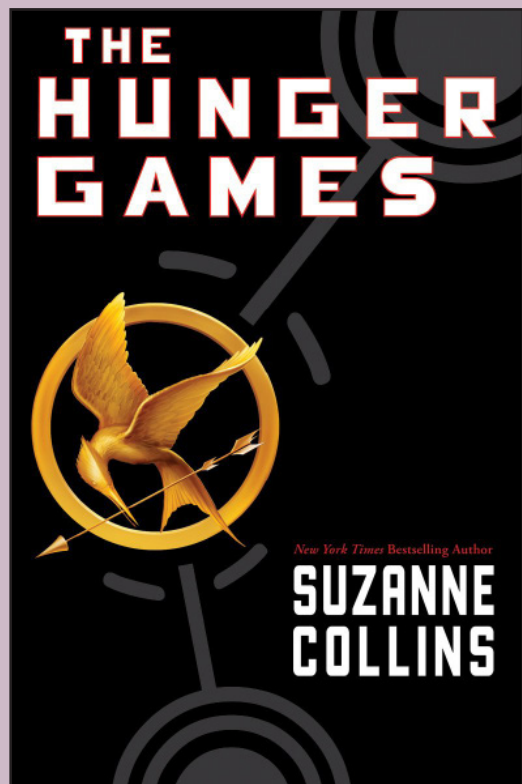
Official 'Easy On Me' cover.

## Two Amazing Books You Should Read

Sierra Meissner  
Reporter

Ever since I was little I have always loved to read, whether it was books, magazines, or even poems. I started getting into reading when my 5th grade teacher assigned books for the class to read. Since then I have read many more books but my two all time favorites are *My Side of the Mountain* and *The Hunger Games*.

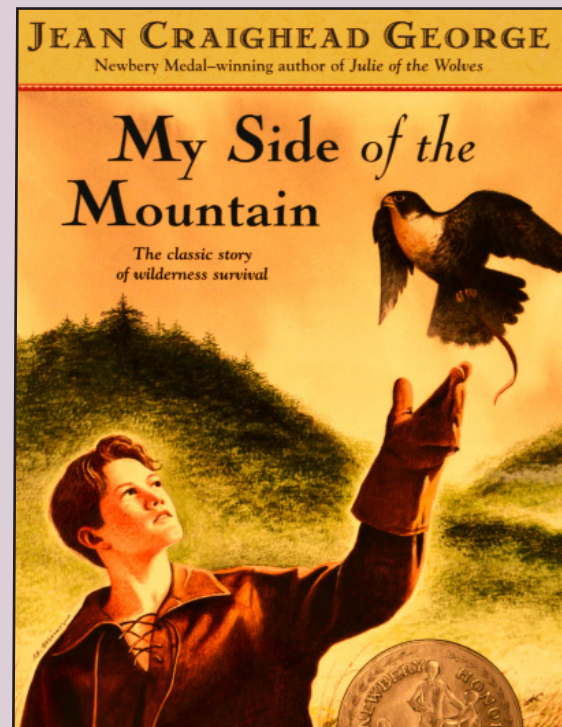
*My Side of the Mountain* was written by Jean Craighead George and is by far my favorite book I have ever read. The first time I read it was in 6th grade, and then I decided to read it again my freshman year in high school. This book is about a young man named Sam Gribley who leaves home at just 12 years old to live off the land in



the Catskill Mountains of New York State. Sam learned how to be independent and brave. I have always enjoyed reading books and watching movies about survival, but this book was unlike anything I have read. What amazed me the most was that Sam carved himself a home out of the inside of a huge Hemlock Tree. Along his journey Sam discovered a little peregrine falcon who he named Frightful. Sam spent many long hours training Frightful how to hunt and they became a miraculous team. My favorite part about reading this book was it had lots of room for imagination and I liked picturing what his homemade home looked like.

*The Hunger Games*, written by Suzanne Collins, is my second favorite book because not only is it about survival, but it's also about love and loyalty. My mom suggested this book and at first I thought it was weird but as I read further it got so much better. The main character is Katniss Everdeen, a young teenage girl from District 12 being controlled by the Capital. Each year the Capital hosts The Annual Hunger Games where two tributes, a man and a woman, from each district are chosen to fight to the death until there is only one survivor. Katniss volunteered to be a tribute after her sister Prim-Rose was chosen to fight. The other tribute chosen from District 12 was Peeta. Peeta and Katniss trained together even though they were enemies.

When the games finally began Peeta and Katniss worked together to take out the other tributes. I enjoyed reading about their strategies to survive and I tried to predict what would happen. Katniss had a hard time trusting Peeta because she knew that there could only be one survivor and that he could kill her at any time. However, Peeta stayed loyal to her because he loved her. Both Peeta and Katniss made it out alive because of their love for each other. This book was definitely a page turner. I had a hard



time finding a good place to stop because there was always something exciting happening. The ending was also happy which made the whole book even better.

*The Hunger Games* was also turned into a movie. I didn't think the movie was as good as the book because they left out several important things that the book covered. The movie was still really good though. I was surprised because the characters in the movie were almost exactly like what I had pictured in my head while reading the book.

If you enjoy reading about survival and romance I highly recommend reading these two books if you haven't already! These stories inspired me to look for more books. I plan to read the whole series of *The Hunger Games* at some point. There are a few more books that have been recommended to me including *When All Hell Breaks Loose*, *Hatchet*, and *Into Thin Air*.

## Dear Evan Hansen Is More Disappointing Than Heartwarming

Julia Key  
Reporter

Over the last few years, filmmakers and streaming services have jumped on just about every Broadway musical they could get their hands on to adapt into film. From Disney putting a live performance of *Hamilton* onto their streaming site to *CATS* getting a full film adaptation, musical theater fans are getting their fair share of onscreen musical action.

“Dear Evan Hansen” is one of the more recent musical to film adaptations, and its reimagination has created an uproar from critics and musical theater fans alike.

In the film, Evan Hansen (Ben Platt) is a socially anxious teen, tasked by his therapist to write letters to himself. When one of his letters gets into the wrong hands, Evan is left dealing with a family grieving the death of their son and brother.

This movie was two hours and seventeen minutes of pure cringe, the outstanding issue being Platt’s portrayal of Evan. Platt played Evan in the musical as well as the movie, but there is a big difference between film and live performances, especially in this case.

People have been commenting on Platt’s appearance

in the movie since the first trailer came out in May of 2021. Platt was 27 at the time of filming, portraying a 17-year-old, and it is extremely noticeable in the film. From the looks of it, the makeup crew did everything they could to take a few years off of Platt’s appearance, but the prosthetics and cakey makeup did not do any justice.

The creepy, almost inhuman makeup made the already unsavory character of Evan Hansen even more unlikeable, and super hard to take seriously.

The looks weren’t the only problem, though; anyone familiar with the musical would know that Platt’s character Evan isn’t the most likable guy. During the course of the movie Evan lies about being friends with Connor Murphy (Colton Ryan), a fellow classmate who had recently taken his own life. Not only does he lie about it, but he exploits the grieving family of his former classmate to get closer to his puppy love crush on Conner’s sister, Zoe (Kaitlyn Denver), as well as receiving money from the family for college.

The movie (especially towards the end) wants us to feel sorry for Evan, they play off his web of elaborate lies as a quirky mistake made by a socially anxious teen. But Evan has no redeeming qualities. Despite his never-ending apologies throughout the course of the movie,



he says sorry only once at the end, and not even to the family or any of his friends, just a quick ‘I’m sorry’ for his Instagram.

The ending was very dragged out, and in the last 15 minutes, we got a few sad “heartwarming” scenes that resolved no conflicts from the previous 2 hours. The end of the movie shows the lack of character growth and remorse from the movie’s beloved main character Evan. I think it’s fair to say that Dear Evan Hansen probably should have stayed on Broadway and out of movie theaters.

## Squid Game Takes Over the Internet

Asa Stuart  
Reporter

*Squid Game*, the South Korean Netflix original show released on Sept. 17, 2021 has become an international sensation. The show has been number one in dozens of countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and South Korea. *Squid Game* follows the success of many other international tv shows, such as “*Money Heist*”, a Spanish show which came out over four years ago and “*Lupin*”, a French show that is ongoing. The show revolves around Seong Gi-Hun, a South Korean man with a gambling addiction and a massive amount of debt. He joins hundreds of others in a series of children’s games with a violent twist and makes allies and enemies on the way.

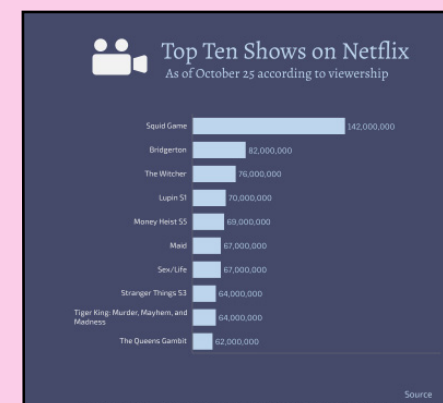
More than just an international sensation, *Squid Game* has made waves on social media. Some of the show’s popularity can be credited to the amount it’s talked about online. TikTok, the social media video app, is one of the main reasons why *Squid Game* has blown up so much, so

quickly with trends such as the Dalgona Candy and the deadly game of “red light, green light.” Dalgona, which is a South Korean honeycomb candy consisting of melted sugar mixed with baking soda and flattened then stamped, is one of the biggest trends right now. The “red light, green light” game consists of a giant child robot that spins around while singing, “mugunghwa kochi pieotsumnid,” which means red light green light in Korean. It has become a trend as videos are made as parodies of the robot, the game and the contestants.

Along with social media success, *Squid Game* has made online gaming success. Roblox, the popular online browser site has several *Squid Game* copycats. Players go through the games in a server designed like the show, and try to survive.

*Squid Game* has not been officially renewed for a second season as of Oct. 6, but the director has spoken about possible plot ideas for the second season and the overall theme that will occur in it. The theme for the first season is pretty obviously about wealth, inequality and the exploitation of the poor. The director said in an interview

with *Forbes* that the theme for the second may be about the police misconduct in Korea and America, which both countries have been struggling with recently.



*Squid Game* is in the lead by millions of views. Photo by Asa Stuart.

# The Hellgate Dance Program Transitions to No-Cut Model

Gabi Wilson  
Reporter

Hellgate Dance is back and has become a no-cut program. After many people came to tryouts on May 28 and 29, many cuts had to be made to fill the set number of members allowed on the team and not exceed that number. In the end, Coach Annika Charlson decided to make a new dance program with no cuts.

When the Hellgate Dance Team first started at Hellgate, there were only a few members on the team, about five people. The team has grown each year. “Now, there is such a high interest from Hellgate students to be a part of the dance community within the school, we have expanded from just one ‘Hellgate Dance Team’ to now be a multi-team ‘Hellgate Dance Program,’” said Charlson.

Members who have been on the team for a while were asked their opinions of the no-cut program this year. Senior Ana Ward said, “I think the two teams are good because it gives you motivation to improve if you were placed on JV and you can still be part of the dance team. No cut is good



The varsity dance team posing in front of the student section at the Homecoming game. Photo courtesy of Annika Charlson.

because the more the merrier.”

Senior Audrey Kurz said, “I think having it no-cut this year is nice to let everyone have the opportunity. However, it does take away from the honor of actual dancers who made the team. We will see how Anni (Charlson) is able to handle both of us on her own - it seems like a lot of work for her.”

Coach Charlson had the job of coaching two teams while she looked for an assistant coach. She hired Grace Nolan as the assistant coach for the Dance Program this year. She creates choreography and helps Charlson when needed. Nolan is an experienced dancer as she is also a part of a professional modern company in town and participates in various dance activities.

Senior Elena Vesovich said, “I think that it’s interesting that we have two teams this year, but sometimes change is good. I don’t think it should be a non-cut sport because we have limited uniforms and resources so it’s not really fair for non-dancers to be a part of the team. Don’t get me wrong I appreciate everyone but no-cut just seems like it will make HHS dance a lot more difficult.”

When asked what they are most looking forward to this year, Charlson said, “I always look forward to having multiple performance opportunities for the dancers. That is my favorite part of every season. I love to watch my students perform and do what they love to do!” She continued, “Specifically for this year, I am also looking forward to bringing back previous performances and traditions, such as our Lil Knights Dance Camp fundraiser, Spirit Wars and traveling to the State Basketball tournament - pandemic willing of course.”

Vesovich said, “I’m looking forward to basketball games and being able to perform for student sections. I hope we get to go to state this year.”

“I’m looking forward to dancing with my friends as always,” added Kurz.

“I am looking forward to going to basketball and State and cheering on Hellgate ‘til the very end!” said Ward. State basketball is a large event



The varsity dance team practicing their routines at morning practice. Photo courtesy of Annika Charlson.

that the spirit teams look forward to each year.

When talking about how this season will be different, Coach Charlson responded, “This season for the Hellgate Dance Program will of course be unique, as it is our inaugural year of the multi-team program. Although, as I move into my third year as head coach of Hellgate Dance, I can reflect on how each year has been unique in and of itself! I guess there isn’t a ‘normal year’ to ever compare to!”

At the end of Charlson’s first year coaching, the COVID-19 pandemic hit and was a large aspect during her second year as well.

The Hellgate Dance Program had Team Placement day on Sept. 13. The JV and Varsity team rosters were sent out by Sept. 14 and their first practice was Sept. 15.

“Lastly, I’d just like to say how amazed I am by the strong talents of the dancers here at Hellgate. I am proud to be able to work with these students each year and to be able to help grow their skills from season to season,” said Head Coach Annika Charlson. Many can agree that the Hellgate Dance Program has a great season ahead of them.

## Hellgate Knights Football Has Up and Down Season

Darian Davalos  
Reporter

With a fresh start to the season, the 2021 Hellgate Knights Football Team looked promising after a rough few years.

With junior quarterback Connor Dick leading the way, the Knights started the season going 1-1 with a loss to CMR and a win against Belgrade. Receivers Ian Finch, Leo Filardi, Sam Swain and Asher Topp, and a built offensive line, led by Tommy Nilson and Layne Cooney and running back Jake Sweatland, gave the Knights high hopes coming into the season. A close game against CMR with the ending score of 37-35 and a blowout win against Belgrade with an ending score of 42-20 started a good season for the Knights.

In a season filled with COVID, the Knights had to cancel their game against Sentinel due to four people testing positive for the virus.

The Knights faced Helena High in the homecoming game at the Washington Grizzly Stadium to contest their 2-1 record. Helena High had a scoring average of 23.3 coming into the game against the Knights, with a 38.5 scoring average. The Knights took a tough loss against Helena with a 6-63 score at the end of the game. Junior quarterback Connor Dick had a total of 90 rushing yards and 298 passing yards with 388 total yards on offense going into the game against Helena High. Hellgate ranked #56 in the state of Montana while Helena High ranked #23 with their 2-1 record.

Senior running back and linebacker Jake Sweatland led the Knights in tackles for the start of the season averaging 9.5 tackles a game going into the third game of the season for the Knights. The Knights student section was packed with students in the Washington Grizzly Stadium for the homecoming game.

Following the tough loss to Helena High, the Knights took on the Flathead Braves. Coming in with a different outlook for that next game, the Knights looked to have a great game at their home stadium in Missoula.

With a 2-6 record ending the season, the Knights ultimately fell short to the Glacier Wolfpack in their last game of the season.

With a great look coming into the season led by Junior Quarterback Connor Dick, the Knights had a season filled with many ups and downs. The Knights fought hard with one of the better seasons they've had in years past.

After the end of the season, the Knights look to get it done next year with many incoming seniors ready for the upcoming season. Go Knights!



Senior Linemen Layne Cooney and Tommy Nilson lined up with senior Linebacker Jake Sweatland ready for the play. Photo courtesy of Jamie Gunlock.



Hellgate display shows spirit for the Knights Football team. Photo by Darian Davalos.

# Hellgate Golf Competes at State Finals

Win Duerk  
Reporter

After golf divisionals finished up in the beginning of October, five golfers from Hellgate: Willy Philliber, Trey Mattson, Brennan Labbe, Bella Cory and Anna Stensrud, advanced to the state finals. Mattson and Philliber are the top Hellgate golfers and pushed each other all season. They felt prepared to face opponents from across Montana.

After talking to Philliber before divisionals, he sounded very optimistic about the season.

Philliber is a captain of the golf team and he said that Hellgate has “the best golf team in 6 or 7 years,” and that “the team is getting better.”



Trey Mattson at Cottonwood Hills Golf Course. Courtesy of Mike Mattson.



The green at Cottonwood Hills Golf Course. Courtesy of Mike Mattson.

Mattson is another captain at Hellgate, and after divisionals he sounded calm and ready to compete in state finals.

Reflecting on his performance in divisionals, Mattson felt like he could have done better, even though he ended up walking away with a medal.

Mattson said that divisionals were “hit or miss” for him, however both days he had a great back nine. Mattson said, “I was the weekend golfer on the front nine, and I get to the back nine and that’s when the party starts.”

Philliber said that he and Mattson have been “neck and neck” this season, and have been “battling each other for the number 1 seed at Hellgate.” Both have enjoyed competing against one another this year, and feel that battling each other pushes them to do better in the competitions. Mattson said the competitive attitude “keeps the season interesting.”

Interviewing Philliber the week after state finals, he said, “I did the best I could have done, but there were definitely a few shots I choked.” He shot 82 the first day and 76 the second day, Mattson shot 77 the first day and 79 the second day. Philliber was not surprised to report that Bozeman won the finals.

Even though Philliber said he felt like he was “putting on marble” at times, he wasn’t hanging his head. Despite hoping to get lower scores in finals, he felt that overall, the individuals that advanced to compete at state did a good job of representing the Knights.

Interviewing Philliber again a month after the golf season concluded, he felt pleased with the season and said, “I’m pretty happy with my performance at state, it was pretty much the best I could have done.” It sounded as though the team had no regrets after state, and that Hellgate had a good golf season.



Trey Mattson at Cottonwood Hills Golf Course. Courtesy of Mike Mattson.

## 2021 Hellgate Cross Country Season Recap

Wilson Freer  
Reporter

Fall sports at Hellgate are wrapping up for the year, so how was this season different for the Hellgate Cross Country team (HKXC)?

At the beginning of the season, Henry Smith, a senior on the HKXC team said “I would say there’s just gonna be a lot more team dynamics and stuff because we get to actually do fun extra activities with the team...I was lucky last year I got to run at every meet, but this year, more people will get to run and it’s kind of important because it’s sort of hard to have a cross season if none of the teams can actually participate.”

“I would say... last year, I think for a lot of people it was kind of sad,” said Harry McGovern.

Being able to go back to the big competitions and have the same team experiences was something many members of the team were looking forward to.

Senior Kensey May said, “I’m excited to go to the races we weren’t able to go to last year [because of COVID]... bigger competitions, out in Idaho, and everywhere.”

This year, the team had a much more “normal” season, giving everyone a chance to go to all of the meets. Last season, only a certain number of people were able to run at each meet, so not all athletes got a chance to race.

“This season there was more competition, and bonding outside of practice,” said May. “Personally, this year I felt more motivated and healthy.”

Even though most meets were back on, one meet that got cancelled was the Nike Cross Nationals (NXN) which would’ve been Dec 4, 2021 in Portland. The qualifying meet for NXN is Nike Cross Regionals which, for Hellgate, was held in Boise on Nov 12-13. In the Girls varsity race, HKXC took third, and in the Boys race, HKXC took 10th.

May said, “I definitely didn’t think NXN would be cancelled but I’m super grateful that Footlocker is still happening.” Footlocker is another regional meet being held in L.A. on Dec. 4.

HKXC boys took first at the MHSA State Meet and the girls took second place to Bozeman by 15 points. At NXR, the girls were able to beat Bozeman by 26 points.

Although things aren’t exactly as they used



HKXC team gathering together for a cheer before a race.  
Photo courtesy of Hellgate Cross Country.



Clare Castleberry running at Bridger Creek golf course in Bozeman. Photo courtesy of Aaron Derry.

to be, HKXC was able to keep up the team experience that comes with it. “I think we’re a happy little family,” said May.



Teammates Stella Diaz and Sophia Miller hugging after a race. Photo courtesy of Loren Orr Photography.

# QUIZ: Which Hellgate teacher are you the most like?

*Answer the questions, then see which teacher your responses line up with the most!*

**What is your favorite activity outside of school?**

- a. Biking, playing outside with my family, playing piano
- b. Hanging with my family
- c. Outdoor activities with my family, hiking, camping
- d. Hiking with books on audio



**What is your dream vacation location?**

- a. A remote surf beach or the mountains far away
- b. Cross-Country road trip - starring me as Clark Griswold
- c. New Zealand
- d. A week-long trip on the Orient Express

**If you wrote a book, what genre would it be?**

- a. Short stories about the ridiculous happenings in everyday life
- b. Horror - the protagonist is our national debt
- c. Murder mystery (students think my Ashes of Problem Students jar is a joke. Mwah ha ha!)
- d. Young adult with a hint of fantasy. I look old, but I am about 10 at heart

**What is your favorite emoji?**

- a.  b. ;- ) (I'm old school)
- c.  d. I like the smiley face because it conveys good cheer and sanguinity with out being up in your grill

**If you could spend a day with somebody famous, who would it be?**

- a. Kamala Harris
- b. Charles Barkley
- c. Melissa McCarthy. We might get into a lot of trouble but we'd sure have fun
- d. Steven Pinker or Jon Stewart, but I wouldn't mind talking to Leonardo da Vinci

**What is your favorite ice cream flavor?**

- a. Espresso heath, cookies & cream, or huckleberry
- b. Cookie dough
- c. Any flavor with caramel
- d. Homemade vanilla

**What was your favorite subject when you were in high school?**

- a. Film classes
- b. Gym
- c. Math, of course
- d. Art

**Where is the best place in Montana?**

- a. Missoula, duh!
- b. Flathead Lake in August
- c. Red Lodge, there's no place like home!
- d. Swiftcurrent Lake, Many Glaciers

**Mostly A's?**



*Caroline Lurgio, English*

**Mostly B's?**



*Steve Klimkiewicz, Business*

**Mostly C's?**



*Michelle Beatty, Math*

**Mostly D's?**



*Courtney Christopher, History*

*Designed by Ali Caudle*