



The Hellgate Lance

Hellgate Students & Staff Return to 'Normalcy' Post Covid

Julia Key
Editor

Sophia Marsolek
Reporter

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, many changes have taken place within schools. Whether it's new scheduling or mask mandates, these past three years have been far from normal. While the pandemic still remains present, this school year, Hellgate students attempt to return to a sense of normalcy.

The past three years have been hard for students, in life and in school. During all

the stress of the pandemic and irregular school, we as students kind of forgot...how to be students. Whether you were stuck at home doing school through online learning, or only attending two classes a week, the first full COVID school year was hard, and definitely took us away from some of the fundamentals of school and learning. While the second year had some ups like returning to full weeks and regular classes, COVID still affected many aspects of school life.

Already this year, students notice a new atmosphere surrounding COVID. "People are still wearing masks and a few people here and there get COVID but it's pretty rare now," said Hellgate senior Mia Edwards. "This year finally feels normal again," agreed Hellgate sophomore Evangeline Wright.

The first cases of COVID hit schools shortly after spring break of 2020. Cutting their freshmen year short, seniors now express frustration nearly three years later. "I feel as though I didn't get the full high school experience," said Edwards.

Now the Hellgate administration has decided it's time to have some normalcy this school year.

Many students and teachers felt the approach to this enforcement on the first day of school could have been better though. "It was a lot to take for students, you know, long presentations, but I think it was important," said Hellgate teacher Katie Wyskiver. "I think it can be overwhelming for a student to have seven different rules and syllabi from seven different teachers, and I think using (standard policy and procedure) to ground us to use common language, so that we are helping students understand that they have the same expectations, no matter how different the teachers are."

While students and teachers are working to have a more "normal" school year, there probably won't be an immediate change. Many of us are still working to get out of the more laid back headspace we had around school during the last few years. "I think that COVID will still happen, teachers will get sick, teachers' kids will get sick, students will get sick, but we have a much better system to come back to. And I think that the frequency and the amount of total derailments in class will be fewer and fewer," said Wyskiver.

Administration will continue to focus on students' needs during the school year, and focus on them to improve the Hellgate environment. "We take a lot of data, so we look at attendance rates, blue cards, detentions, as well as student behavior, that's something that we talk about weekly, and something that we did historically, so I think just revisiting those normal benchmarks will help," said Miller.

Looking back to a pre-COVID Hellgate and adjusting to a post-COVID world is the school's current approach to getting back some normalcy.

While we all try to return to a sense of normalcy, for many, the effects of the pandemic remain lasting. "I think we all had to grow from it and some of us are still having to grow from what it brought... maybe without even realizing it?" said Wright.



For the most part, masks have gone by the wayside this fall.

Photo by Sophia Marsolek

Holland Lake Lodge



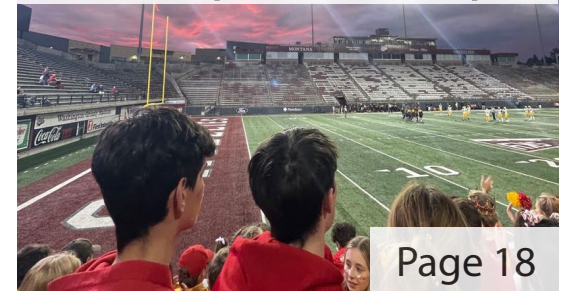
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Approaching Missing Work Deadlines: Needed or Neglected?

Devyn Deschamps
Reporter

As Hellgate students return to normalcy, so do the dreaded dead-

lines: the most pertinent being the monthly missing work deadline. This essentially is the final curtain call for assignment; any work turned in after the deadline will not receive credit. While many believe that this is an effective solution to missing assignments and showing immediate repercussions for lack of action, others imply that due to the values being taught and the immense workload for both staff and students, it's simply impractical.

Principal Judson Miller was the one to implement the deadlines initially. Throughout his time as an English teacher and during his time as an administrator, he noticed the keen similarities between students: disorganization and confusion. "Students didn't have clear guidelines on when to turn in work," said Miller. He consistently observed students attempting months after the due date, to get credit for assignments due in the beginning of the year. "There's just not a good connection," he said.

The emphasis Miller wanted on the Missing Work Deadlines was academic support. This system was to alleviate stress on faculty and students, which he said "puts everybody on the same page," as the year progresses, without letting students fall behind. Beyond that, the deadlines allow for students to have the opportunity to access "supports, find tutoring, find some other courses to sign up for next year," Miller said.

This system has proved effective in Miller's opinion. As analytics have shown, "Our office hours attendance goes up, and I would say the homework, the turn-ins are higher; because students are the ultimate procrastinators," said Miller. However, this data isn't binding, said Miller. "As we move forward, the data will tell a picture, and I'm certainly not opposed to changing things based on data."

Students, to an extent, have similar views with regard to the Missing Work Deadlines. Junior Lucy Hansen said, "It can help keep kids on track."

However, pressure has still been applied, even for those who get all their assignments in; heightened worry that something was missed, because while Infinite Campus is accurate most of the time, when the completion of assignments keeps piling up during times like the missing work deadlines, it takes an extended period for the gradebook to be accurate. Hansen emphasized just how students become increasingly stressed during this period, even if their grades are going up. "I don't like what they are teaching students with them," said Hansen.

This is where the lines have blurred, between the dominating analytics and the students' opinions; while both are

Missing Work Deadlines

For credit, any outstanding work must be turned in by these dates:

October 6th
November 3rd
December 1st
January 5th
End of Semester 1:
January 20th

March 2nd
April 6th
May 4th
June 1st
End of Semester 2:
June 9th

The school-wide poster informs students when the next deadline is.
Photo by Devyn Deschamps.

important, which should be prioritized? The middle ground stays within the hands of the teachers. The intended beneficiary of the system, but still has to take the responsibility to grade the overwhelming amount of assignments and be the one to pull to trigger on giving a student a zero if an assignment isn't turned in before the deadline.

Spanish teacher Connie Moothart, for one, has that job. "When I first heard about the missing work deadlines, I was a little skeptical, but intrigued to see how they would work," she said. Moothart had cases in the past where students attempted to turn in all missing assignments right at semester's end, which she said "put a lot of pressure on me to quickly turn around and grade them."

The implementation of these deadlines helped alleviate this end-of-semester worry, but it goes further than that. "I think they help keep students and teachers more accountable and consistent with work," said Moothart. "Having some wiggle room for students who struggle, while still keeping a boundary to help teachers out, is a pretty good compromise!"

So while students and teachers may not be in agreement, the potential of the deadlines being revised with more student involvement is still there. Ultimately, there are both pros and cons for the missing work deadlines, but for the foreseeable future they are here to stay.

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Holland Lake Lodge Proposal Causes Backlash

Iris Lowe
Reporter

Holland Lake Lodge has been located on the shores of Holland Lake in the Swan Valley of northwestern Montana since 1925, and provides a great view of the Swan mountain range. It contains a 41-site campground. On Thursday, Sept. 1, owner Christian Wohlfeil partnered with POWDR, a Utah based ski resort, and proposed an expansion of the development, adding new lodges, cabins, a restaurant and parking lots. The proposal has drawn in more than 5,000 comments and concerns from the public and prompted a public forum.

Many of these concerns surround the potential impacts on the environment surrounding Holland Lake, between the Mission and Swan mountain ranges. The proposed expansion would nearly triple the existing footprint, which means the portion of land at a waste landfill that is covered by waste is expected to triple in size.

The other concerns are what other changes might occur if the US Forest Service gives the go ahead to the project. The lodge expansion is assumed to bring in crowds of tourists, as well as opening the gates for more development in the valley. The complaint was that this was another example of out-of-state interests trying to reshape northwestern Montana. According to NPR, POWDR made an announcement addressing concerns that said, "We're from Utah. Our values align very closely with the values you have here in Montana." Along



Stickers placed around Missoula raise awareness about the Holland Lake Expansion. Photo by Iris Lowe.

with that, Grace Siloti, co-owner of the Mission Mountain Mercantile, said, "It's not going to stop with the Holland Lake Lodge." Siloti, along with other citizens, believe that the expansion will only be the start of a string of developments.

Another concern that was proposed was that POWDR would eventually attempt to add Heli skiing and a ski lodge to the Swan Valley. Although the proposed plan doesn't include a ski lodge, it is possible to add in the future.

Many people reposted the expansion on their Instagram stories, unhappy with the proposed idea.

"It's not going to be the same as it was when I used to go there."

- Sophia Miller, junior

16-year-old Sophia Miller, said that she and her family used to do day trips to Holland Lake when she was a kid. Miller said that hearing about the proposal was "disappointing." "It's not going to be the same as it was when I used to go there," She said, Miller speaks for many Montana residents who have been visiting Holland Lake for years and are disappointed that out of state businesses are trying to change the place that means so much to them.

Owner, Christian Wohlfeil and POWDR are working to inform the public that this plan will not negatively affect the place that has been the same for so long, it is merely continuing a legacy and satisfying the increased demand for lodging in the area. Wohlfeil made it clear that they care about the environment and promised to be a good steward of the land, as well as adding that the expansion will not go beyond the proposed idea. But the public is not convinced, and according to Montana Public Radio, over 100 people gathered near Holland Lake Lodge last Thursday for an informal public meeting discussing the expansion.

Before construction can begin, the Forest Service has to pass the requested proposal from Wohlfeil, But he can only submit one proposal every 10 years, so it has to include everything they want to accomplish in the next 10 years. Due to this, it will be a while before they can begin construction, so all we can do now is wait.

Miller, along with other Montanans who spent summer days at Holland lake fishing and recreating, are not happy about this new expansion, changing the place that has been the same for years. The work will not be able to begin until a special use permit is acquired as well as multiple approvals and a completed environmental assessment, leaving ample time for the public to give their input and work to keep Holland Lake the same.

Hellgate Celebrates Their Homecoming Week

Kahlia Loewen
Reporter

Homecoming Week is always full of exciting outfits, wild people, and school spirit. Through the week of Sept. 26-30 we saw just that. Monday was color day when freshmen wore pink, sophomores wore blue, juniors wore green, seniors wore orange, and the staff wore rainbow. People from every class were looking very colorful, vibrant and ready for a whole week of odd outfits and surprising fun.

Tuesday, day two, was Teen Beach Day when students dressed as either people on vacation or badass bikers. People came dressed in all leather or tacky tourist clothes.



Wednesday was Decades Day. The Freshman were the '50s, the Sophomores were the '60s, the Juniors were the '70s, the seniors were the '80s, and the staff were the '90s. There was all kinds of styles from the past, ranging from poodle skirts all the way to hippie flare pants. Many students dug through their parents' closets trying to be as authentic as possible.



After Decades Day, we had the traditional Hellgate bonfire consisting of an estimated 150 boxes of Little Caesar's pizza that were all demolished by the



student body and several games of tug of war where teams fought for the title of champions. Lastly, there was the sacrifice of a large paper mache eagle created by the Hellgate art club meant to symbolize



Hellgate's hopeful defeat of the Big Sky Eagles. On day four of Spirit Week people dressed up in their baggiest of shorts and tee shirts like Adam Sandler



or their most 2000s style of low-cut jeans and flashy colors like Paris Hilton.

On the last day of Spirit Week Hellgate students dressed head to toe in red and gold to show support for our school and our sports teams. We ended the school day with a pep-rally and declaration of Homecoming Royalty. Later in the day, we ended all of Spirit Week with a long football game against the Big Sky Eagles where students in attendance screamed their heads off in hopes of cheering our



team to victory. Our crowd was led in lots of new cheers as encouragement for our team. Sadly even though the Hellgate crowd had twice as much spirit, the Hellgate Knights lost to the Big Sky Eagles by 1 point, the final score being 19-20.



Although we had to end our Spirit Week with a very sad loss, Hellgate banded together the entire week in order to support each other, and even with the loss all of Hellgate had a very good week working together and having fun in school.



Standardized Testing: The Constant Debate in Education

Ila Bell
Reporter

In recent years, many schools and universities across the nation have begun to abandon the practice of standardized testing. In addition, while traditional practices of education are

being called into question, educators and school boards are grappling with

different approaches to take in regards to testing.

On Oct. 12 most of Hellgate's sophomores and juniors gathered in the upper gym for 3 hours to take the PSAT. The PSAT is a precursor to the SAT, however what the test is mostly known for is the National Merit Scholarships. These scholarships are extremely hard to get. According to Spark Admissions, students usually have to be in the top 1% of their states scores to receive the \$2500. Substantial scholarships such as the one given out by the PSAT can be a big factor for students who are in need of support financially after high school, and is a large reason why standardized testing has stuck around. The PSAT also gives recognition to students and can be crucial in finding outstanding students. The issue with the method of merit based scholarships from standardized testing is often that more privileged students receive them, solely because of their access to resources.

Many factors contribute to a standardized score; access to tutors, stable food, enough sleep, for example. Because of these factors, which are often out of the control of the student, standardized tests have come into question on the legitimacy of their measure of intelligence.

Similarly, resources that more privileged students have, like tutors and test prep, widen the gap of inequality in standardized tests. College tutors commonly cost upwards of \$100 an hour. The extra help of a tutor has been shown to increase test scores. According to a study done at Portland State University, the relationship between a tutor and a student, along with individualized attention helped improve performance in school and on tests.

Test scores on standardized tests are often a reflection of a student's situation outside of the classroom as well. According to a study done by Inside Higher Ed, the students receiving the lowest SAT scores are students from households where the annual incoming is \$20,000 or less. Low income households don't have the same access to high-end tutors, and the test scores reflect that. The cost of the test itself is also a limiting factor for many. According to the College Board, the PSAT costs \$20 each time you take it, and the SAT can cost up to \$100.

The argument in favor of standardized testing often lies in the fact that it is a way to easily collect data. It ensures that all students are being evaluated on a level playing field and that they are receiving information from their teachers. Hellgate in particular has a history of doing well on standardized tests in relation to other Missoula County Public Schools. Montana's average ACT score is 19.5, this past year Hellgate's average ACT score was 26.2 and 20.6 the year prior. Hellgate also has been awarded the most National Merit Scholarships in the district. Despite Hellgate's success on these tests, the debate surrounding them still continues.

Hellgate's Assistant Principal, Susan Bageant said she has seen the debate first hand. "It is a touchy subject for sure," said Bageant. Bageant said that the way in which standardized testing is approached has changed significantly in recent years and especially post-Covid. Bageant said one issue that comes up with educators in regards to testing is how teachers approach preparing students for these tests while still leaving room for a well rounded education. "The money, resources and time ends up being pushed to those subjects that are tested and all teachers are expected to support the standards that are tested regardless of their subject area" she said.



PSAT handbook and Study Guide given out to students prior to taking the PSAT. Photo by Ila Bell

Bageant said that the advocacy for standardized testing is often that it is a "baseline measurement to know if students are meeting a standard." Large groups of students can easily be measured on their knowledge through these tests which can be useful. "Since teachers and curriculum differs throughout the Nation it is difficult to compare grades with any fidelity," said Bageant, highlighting how grades in different school districts can often mean different things.

On the contrary, Bageant said that she has seen the argument against standardized testing be based on the fact that a test is not a comprehensive picture of a student's knowledge. "Does it take away the thought process and replace it with regurgitating facts and limit student potential?" said Bageant.

Like Bageant, school administrators and teachers are constantly grappling with how to approach a world of education, which includes standardized testing.

As education evolves, standardized testing will continue to be a topic with many differing opinions. While standardized tests begin to move out of the normal practices of education, the scholarships attached to them are beginning to be re-evaluated with them. Many students are or will be studying for and taking these tests as the year progresses, with that, the debate will continue to be at the forefront of education.

Hellgate Students Feel Stressed and Overworked

Wilson Freer
Editor

This school year, Hellgate High School has finally returned to a more normal schedule and an overall more normal school experience, but are students feeling the effects of burnout?

Students have always struggled with some type of stress or burn out, whether it starts early or comes with finals. This year, it has become increasingly clear that this may be becoming a serious issue. One of the reasons may be the changing of the school structure and workload students are now facing.

Kaitlyn Skinner, a junior at Hellgate, is taking a full schedule of seven classes, including four IB courses. Along with these classes, she is a part of HOSA, Student Government, SAVE, MMUN, and a varsity cross country and track runner. It can

be challenging to stay motivated and in a good mental state when teachers are piling up homework every night. “I usually have about two hours of pre-calc homework per night, and I would say a total of about four hours a night. But if I miss a day for cross country that can really pile up and it just gets overwhelming,” Skinner said.

Not only is this busy schedule affecting the time Skinner has at home, but it puts heavy pressure on her social life as well. “I want to go out to eat or have lunch with my friends on the one day when I don’t have a club, but it’s more beneficial to just stay in and work on homework to just try and have less at night,” Skinner said. “But it’s also hard to find that balance for my mental health because I do want to actually hang out with friends.”

Some of the other students facing serious stress and work loads are those who are taking the IB Diploma Programme. Beatrice Shimanek, a junior, is one of the four students enrolled in

this program at Hellgate. Shimanek also balances many different clubs and extracurriculars along with this rigorous course load. The IB diploma requires students to take courses that are all IB throughout their junior and senior years. Shimanek is already having to choose between her extracurriculars and school work.

Many students are also feeling the need to prepare for future plans when picking their schedules. “The main reason I’m doing all of this is for college applications,” said Skinner. “I don’t even know if it feels like a leg up but if I don’t do it I just feel like I’m behind everyone else.” Shimanek also had similar reasoning: “Although I don’t have a particular college in mind, the main reason I’m doing (the diploma) is to keep my options open and hopefully get college credit in the process.”

So, while students are trying to prepare for the future and get through school, are they taking on too much and making their mental health suffer?



Kaitlyn Skinner, junior

“I’m really having to choose between my mental health and getting my school work done.”

Beatrice Shimanek, junior

“At this point if it comes down to it, it’s just better to miss a cross country meet so I can just keep up with my school work because if I’m gone it becomes too much.”



Eden Maxwell, senior

“I think that across the board, people are pretty stressed and overwhelmed. They’re starting to figure it out, but it’s been a very drastic learning curve.”

Will Blocking Sex Ed in Schools Help Anyone?

Julia Key
Editor

Erasing LGBTQ+ education is nothing new to American politics, but Louisiana Representative Mike Johnson wants to take it a step further. Johnson just proposed a new bill entitled “Stop the Sexualization of Children Act” to Congress, and it seems many of his ideas are skewed.

This bill aims to stop discussion of gender and sexuality for children under 10. It also blatantly lies about what is being taught to children in K-5, largely stretching the truth to make health education seem corrupt and inappropriate.

Louisiana, where Rep. Johnson serves, actually has quite strict laws on sex education. Louisiana does not require sex ed at any grade level, but it can be taught from grades 7-12. The state encourages teaching abstinence as well as forbidding the discussion of sexual orientation, or “materials depicting male or female homosexuality.” So what is Johnson so worried about?

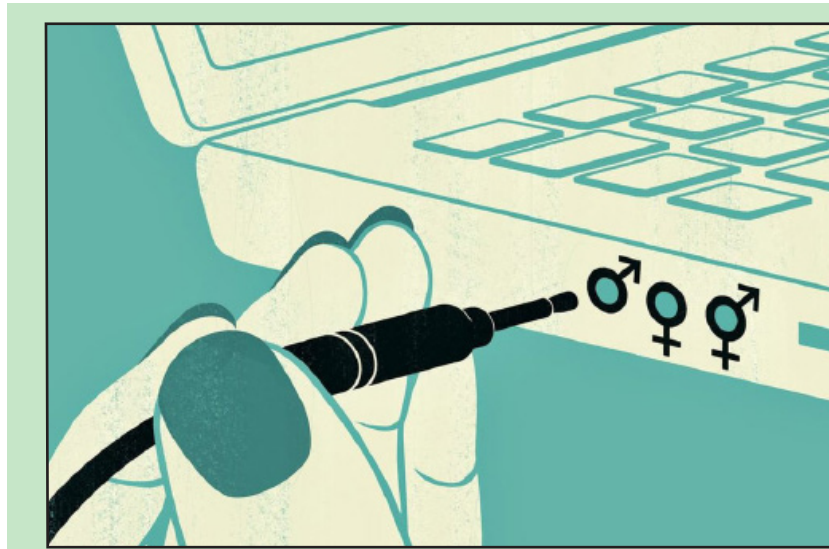
He may have been nervous to hear about Illinois implementing a more comprehensive sex education curriculum throughout the state. Many Republican lawmakers seem to believe that Democrats are trying to groom children through more comprehensive sex ed, but the topics in the recently implemented, more socially aware curriculums are doing the exact opposite.

This is happening all over America, and even recently Montana passed a new legislature on sexuality education entitled SB-99. This bill is less intense than Rep. Johnson’s but it will still give way to blocking many students from receiving sex education.

This bill requires schools to notify parents

of any human sexuality instruction before it is taught, and gives the parent the right to opt their child out of it. This type of legislature further shields students from the topic of sexuality, putting them at risk for unwanted pregnancies and STDs. These kids being opted out are the same kids who aren’t being told about safe sex at home, which could lead to many issues when they come to discover sexuality for themselves.

This bill also blocks using any instruction material created by abortion providers. This means



Graphic Courtesy of Harvard Health Policy

schools wouldn’t be able to use educational materials (yes, all material, not just abortion) created by organizations like Planned Parenthood, which is currently the nation’s largest provider of sex education resources.

SB-99 has also changed the definition of Human Sexuality Instruction to make it much larger and target LGBTQ+ oriented topics. This bill will affect many parts of schooling, not only our health classes.

You can’t discuss this topic without discussing the agendas of the political parties fighting it. On the left leaning side there is a more care and respect oriented approach, and in the right lean-

ing communities there is an attempt at shielding students from needed topics.

When researching this I had a hard time fully agreeing with either side, I think that there is a sweet spot that neither side is considering.

The left’s solution is to get more comprehensive, to try and teach every aspect of human sexuality and gender expression. This to me is not the worst idea, teaching tolerance and respect is at the core of these values, but are they really the most necessary ideals in health education for kids under 10?

On the other hand, completely shielding elementary aged kids from the real world topics of gender and sexuality is only going to hurt them in the long run. These ideals completely erase kids with queer parents, and students who are starting to discover their own gender and sexuality.

After reading over many K-5 health education curriculums the most important topics I saw had nothing to do with gender or human sexuality: boundaries, consent, emotional wellness, physical wellness, and for older kids puberty and growing bodies. A few of these important topics could disappear if this bill is passed though.

Both parties are pushing many of their political views through the discussion of health and sex education, and not focussing on what is best for these kids to be learning.

As a student I feel unseen by the fighting over what I should or shouldn’t be learning. Political leaders are sitting around arguing about what’s best for students while barely acknowledging our existence.

Instead of focusing on political ideals, we should be focusing on our students growing up to be happy and healthy, which does include the discussion of gender and sexuality, but it also includes tons of other topics.

The Climate is Changing, Why Aren't We?

Sophia Marsolek
Reporter

The first time I visited Glacier National Park, I was about four years old. Though I was young, I still remember the bright blue and green colors of the glacial runoff, the towering white capped

mountain peaks, throwing snowballs in July, and most vividly, I remember my younger brother, Patrick, falling into Avalanche Creek. It's memories like these that I hold onto most dearly. Well, not the part about my brother, he's fine by the way, but I do care deeply about the beauty and preservation of Glacier National Park. Because I know that 10 years from now, Glacier just won't be the same. In fact, according to the National Park Service, Glacier National Park is predicted to be glacier-free by the year 2030. Climate change is a crisis that's not just affecting our national parks but holds the future of our entire planet in its grasp. If we as a society don't start working towards an effective solution soon, the damaging effects of climate change will become irreversible.

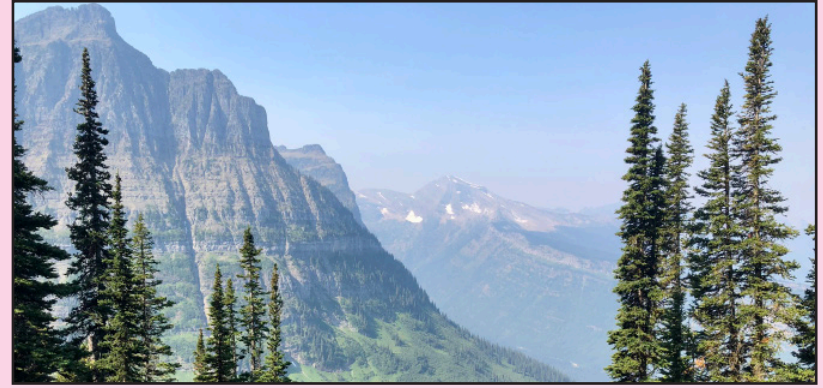
There are many ways we can fight the climate crisis. But I would argue that one of the most effective ways we can tackle this issue is through educating the public. Starting with our youth. Lack of climate action has already had a negative effect on various industries. According to the Montana Wildlife Federation, "Visitors to Montana and residents alike will face hotter summers and a significantly longer fire season. Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks will see a dramatic decrease in visitation resulting in the loss of 3,300 jobs and \$94 million in wages." Because tourism is one of Montana's largest industries, these effects could be detrimental to our local economy. If more people were equipped with accurate information and became knowledgeable about these negative effects, they could take action. Raising a generation of climate conscious citizens could help shift the course we are on, one informed decision at a time.

Climate change affects another one of Montana's major economic drivers, agriculture. An article by Yellowstone Public Radio reports that since 1950, annual average temperatures in Montana have increased between 2 to 3 degrees Fahrenheit. This increase has led to severe drought across 98% of the state. Drought drives down hay production, increasing the cost and in turn has a detrimental effect on the cattle industry. During this past year many ranchers have been forced to sell off 20-80% of their herds before reaching full market value. Imagine if the next generation of farmers and ranchers came into the field educated about the effects of climate change and how to prevent them.

I understand that some people aren't exactly passing time thinking about what kids are learning in school these days. However, I challenge those people to consider how my education will ultimately impact their future. Climate change is just as significant, if not more so, as any math or English class. If I need to know the Pythagorean theorem to graduate, I should also need to know why the island of Tuvalu is literally drowning due to rising sea levels. I should better understand why polar bears are at risk of extinction due to rapidly melting sea ice. I should learn about why we continue to experience longer and more intense natural disasters worldwide. We should all care about keeping education current and relevant. Because when we learn about those important issues, we become better equipped to take action.

The idea of integrating more climate education isn't a new thought. Public support has been expressed, especially from students. According to the Brookings Institution, in the U.S. 80% of parents and 86% of teachers believe climate change should be taught in schools. High school student Maeve Lange said, "I think it's incredibly important for students to stand up and vocalize their need for action." Students who are not receiving climate education in school are choosing to protest and take things into their own hands. Sarah Sriraman said, "We're not educated enough to make demands of our politicians, of companies, of our school board." Student protest organizers, like Sriraman, say education systems aren't doing enough to teach kids about climate change.

Let's think about the positive change that can come as a result of climate education. Education informs our actions, and action is what can lead to positive change. Whether it's future policies, voting opinions, or the jobs we choose, we as the younger generation influence the future. In the past, Montana legislation has tried to suppress climate education. For example, in 2019 there was a proposed Montana bill that would require public schools to teach that climate change is NOT caused by humans. Fortunately this bill was tabled, preventing the spread of misinformation in our schools. In contrast, countries such as Finland encourage climate education and it plays an important role in the curriculum of their schools. Finland will achieve carbon neutrality by the year 2035 while the U.S. likely won't be able to reach carbon neutrality until 2050. I think



Going-to-the-Sun Road, Glacier National Park
Photo by Sophia Marsolek

it's safe to say that there is a direct correlation between climate education and climate action in Finland.

Costa Rica is another country leading the way in climate education. Costa Rica set out to achieve carbon neutrality by 2021, and remarkably, they have achieved that goal. Veragua Rainforest in collaboration with University of Costa Rica is linking its scientific investigations and climate change research with new environmental education programs. Costa Rica prioritizes environmental education and integrates it into versatile research across the education system. Countries like Finland and Costa Rica are moving in the right direction, and American schools have a lot of catching up to do. According to the Brookings Institution, "Recent research shows that if only 16 percent of high school students were to receive climate change education, we could see a nearly 19 gigaton reduction of carbon dioxide by 2050." Imagine if more students received climate education globally, we would be in a very different place today.

So what exactly can we do? We can follow in the footsteps of countries such as Finland and Costa Rica that are leading the way to well-founded climate education. According to an article by EducationWeek, there are three main ways to take action. Takeaway number one: increase awareness. There are many resources available that can be used to increase awareness about the immediate and long-term effects of climate change. Use them! Takeaway number two: Build relationships. Get to know the White House's Environmental Justice initiative and the members of its council from your region. We must ensure these members know us—our school system leaders, advocacy organizations, youth, and parents—so that educational outcomes are part of the climate agenda. And finally, takeaway number 3, organize and act. Federal, state, and local education leaders must explore the local impact of climate change and direct greater funding towards improving our archaic school curriculum. Most importantly, education leaders should develop community wide climate priorities with youth, educators, parents and advocates.

Climate education is vital in the fight against climate change. We've discussed the importance of climate education and looked at examples of climate-focused education systems. We've established ways that people like you and me can take action and make an impact. Let's keep in mind a long held principle of the Iroquois Nation; the decisions we make today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future. So who are those future decision makers? Current students are the future adults who will become the politicians who make sustainable policies. They are the entrepreneurs who will develop climate conscious companies. I am the future voter who will decide who is in office. We are the consumers who will make eco-friendly purchases.

In the future, I hope to continue to visit Glacier National Park and all the beauty it has to offer. The bright blue and green colors of the glacial runoff, the towering white capped mountain peaks, and of course, throwing snowballs in July. When I return to Glacier, I actually want to see the glaciers! I believe that if we change climate education, we just might change the climate.

Senior Year is Much Easier Than You Would Think

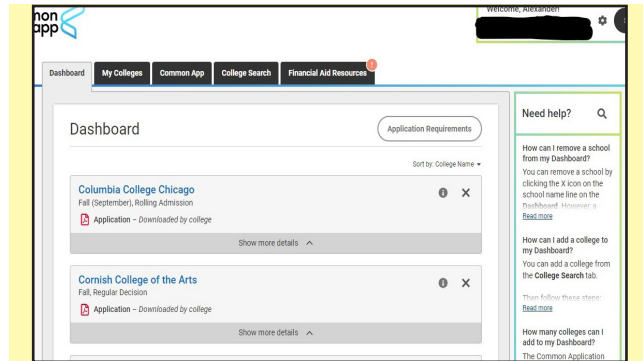
Alexander Blaide
Editor

At the end of my Junior year, I was anxious for what was to come, both during and after my senior year. Being stressed about that as well as taking part in a 12 week behemoth of a musical, I got diagnosed with and started taking medication for anxiety. Now that I have reached the point that I had dreaded for so long, I realize that I had nothing to worry about and it is easier if you set yourself up for and allow your senior year to be easy.

First off, I had attended enough of the core classes needed to graduate that I ended up with two free periods. Two free periods where I can do whatever I need or want to do. The only classes I'm taking this year are ones that I need to graduate, like government and English 4. The other "classes" are ones that I wanted to and chose to take again because I liked them that much, things like choir and writing for this newspaper. This means that I get to spend more time on things like college or job searching. I suggest that you get as many core classes out of the way first so that you can be in a similar position, but it's fine if you end up taking more classes anyway. Now that I had all this time to do what I needed, I had to figure out how to actually start looking for colleges.

One of the things that I was so worried about was if I wanted to go to college or not and how that would look for me wanting to pursue a career in arts and entertainment, most likely as a writer or actor. I knew that I wanted to leave Missoula for more opportunity, but where would I go? Do I go to the same school my dad went to, or stay here to go to UM? Or go somewhere else entirely? If I wanted to pursue writing and acting, I knew I'd have to go to a major city like Los Angeles or New York or somewhere where there was more opportunity. I have a friend who took a gap year and he's done all sorts of acting jobs around Missoula. Maybe I can do that? A second friend was accepted to and attends school at Pace University, a private university just south

of Manhattan. Over the summer, I was talking to that friend's mom about colleges and she suggested a website called CommonApp, a website that made my life infinitely easier. CommonApp is basically a centralized hub for college applications. You fill out



Commonapp Homescreen with my list of potential colleges.

Photo by Alexander Blaide

a base application and then send that application to all the colleges you're interested in, simplifying the entire process. From there, you can just send your application to just about wherever you want. Some schools may have more requirements than others, or have you write one more essay than another college, but that's it.

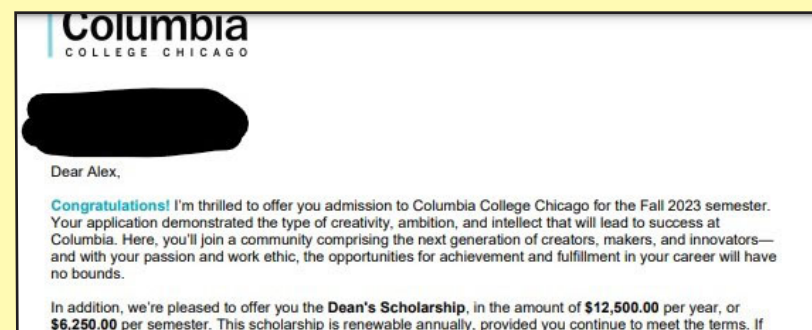
In all honesty, the more difficult part was waiting for a response on my college applications. Then came the FAFSA application, which is definitely more intense, but as long as your information is current (otherwise it'll take a few more days to finish your application, all because your mom remarried and that threw off the IRS), then, once again, it is easier than you would think. Once the FAFSA is done and submitted, DON'T DO ANYTHING! Just wait for the email or letter from your college. Messing with FAFSA basically restarts the process and could limit how much financial aid you receive. That seems to be the main thing when it comes to college applications and

searching: how much waiting you'll be doing.

I sent off my applications and after waiting roughly four and a half weeks for the rolling admissions, I got my response. For the 2023-2024 school year, I have been accepted, with honors and a scholarship to Columbia College Chicago, a private arts school in downtown Chicago, which after doing research, was more affordable than Los Angeles or New York, while still providing incredible writing and acting opportunity, and having a very similar climate and culture to Missoula. It will be a fantastic city to learn and establish a career for myself in as an actor and comedian, and while I will miss Missoula, it will be very exciting to be in a new and different city like Chicago.

The counselors' office here at Hellgate has all sorts of super helpful resources for students who aren't sure what to do after graduation. There are pamphlets for colleges, different branches of military, and even some things about which scholarships to apply for. All of the colleges are in or around Montana, so if you are interested in out of state, I suggest emailing and talking to your counselor. They are there to help you and will be able to answer any question you may have.

If you are a Junior or Senior worried about colleges and what to do, it isn't as stressful as you may think. All the information is really easy to figure out and then once you get it done, it's just a matter of waiting. If there is something that you need help with, your counselor or teacher will be more than happy to help. It'll all be fine and good luck!



My acceptance letter for Columbia College Chicago. Edited to remove personal information.

Photo by Alexander Blaide

Good Knight Theatre Company Presents Charlotte's Web Sophia Marsolek

Hellgate's Good Knight Theatre company brought Charlotte's Web to the stage for this year's fall play. Based on the book by Joseph Robinette, Charlotte's Web tells the same story about a courageous spider who uses her weaving ability to save a pig named Wilbur. "It's a play about friendship," explained stage manager Mila Yedinak. When Wilbur (played by junior [name]) is slaughtered by the farmer, Charlotte (played by senior Mia Edwards), with help from a rat named Templeton (Lillian [name]), weaves a web around Wilbur in her web, to persuade the farmer to let him live. First "Some Pig" then "terrific" and finally "humble." Her producing and laying her eggs, Charlotte becomes too tired to return to the farm and dies in Wilbur's stable at the fair. Bringing this heartwarming story made its audience both laugh and cry.

Cast and crew started rehearsals back in September and were hard at work ever since. Costumes remained relatively simple, but there are many challenging quick changes "because everyone is constantly changing characters. But it's really cool when you can do it." The set included a large web platform as a backdrop as well as hay bails lining the stage. Director Laramie Dean discussed the challenges but assured, "Overall, It hasn't really been super challenging, especially after doing Little Mermaid last spring, which was a huge cast, a choreographer, lots (and lots) of singing, and a blizzard of costumes ... this has been easy in comparison." When asked about the inspiration for choosing this show for the fall play, Dean explained, "Charlotte's Web was my favorite book growing up."

When asked about the inspiration for choosing this show for the fall play, Dean explained, "Charlotte's Web was my favorite book growing up."



e book by E.B. White and adapted
ave her best friend, a young pig
(Max Manhan) is in danger of being
(Young), writes messages praising
plan works wonderfully but after
ching as well as comedic elements,
ely simple though Yedinak explained
en it all comes together." The set
e mess working with hay brought
was a giant musical extravaganza
parison."
ny favorite book when I was in first

grade. I was obsessed! I read the copy my parents bought for me to literal pieces. The story is so necessary right now, about friendship and community building and working together to solve scary problems." Categorized as a children's book, Charlotte's Web is generally aimed at younger audiences. Yedinak said, "We're really excited to have kids come and watch it because it's more of a children oriented thing." However, children and adults alike came to enjoy the show that week. Yedinak added, "It's more lighthearted than our past plays have been." The show ran Oct. 27, 28 and 29 in Hellgate's auditorium, filling up nicely with Hellgate students, as well as community members.

The cast included 21 members from all different grade levels. "It's a smaller group than previous plays so it's been more closely knit," said Yedinak. The play also included many animal creatures, including a goose, gander, sheep and chicken. "It's been really fun to experiment with all the animal characters," said Yedinak. Other parts came with different demands. "The long monologues have definitely been the most challenging but I actually tackled them," said senior, Mia Edwards, playing the lead character of Charlotte.

"We've all been having a blast, the cast, the crew, we just laugh all the time. So much fun." Edwards agreed, "I feel like it's been a really positive experience," Dean said.

The Good Knight theater company celebrates another successful show and are excited for the next one. Dean hopes the audience left with the message, "Be kind to each other. We can learn to celebrate our differences instead of using them to be divisive."



Photos Courtesy of Rachel Morgan

Social Media Impacts at Hellgate

Evyn Good
Reporter

Say What?!

Whether it's an account linked to a school club or sports team or if it is an account designed to spread and create drama, social media accounts at Hellgate have taken hold of the student body. We asked students and staff to weigh in on how these social media accounts affect their time at Hellgate.

Ruben Marrow (sophomore)



Have you ever been posted to one of these social media accounts?

"I haven't but my friends have and I had to reach out to the account and tell them to take my friend off of the account. They were saying things that you shouldn't say or post on social media."

Juliet Geilen (sophomore)



Do you think that these social media accounts should be taken seriously?

"I think if they are hurting people's feelings then they should be taken seriously by staff and students."

Judson Miller (Principal)



When did these social media accounts first start?

"Since Al Gore created the internet. These accounts have always been around since Myspace was first introduced. It provides people with anonymity. When I was a kid we would pass notes and be mean to one person and no one else would know. With social media accounts, a person can be mean to a person and a lot of people can hear about it and face little repercussions."

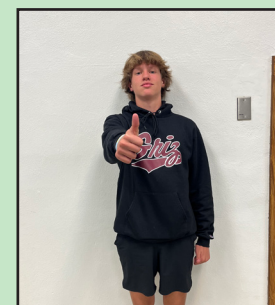
Mckiel Cooper (freshman)

When did you first hear of these accounts?

"First day of school."



Vince Pahfhausen (freshman)



When did you first hear of these accounts?

"2 years ago." (7th Grade)

Artist in Focus: Alishon Kelly

Julia Key
Editor

Hellgate student Alishon Kelly has been creating art for as long as she can remember. If you go to Hellgate there's a good chance you have seen her art around, in the art hallway, the commons or even on posters around the school.

Missoula has created great opportunities for Kelly, especially

in the skate community, she said. "Chris Bacon, the owner of Board of Missoula, has given me the opportunity to put my art on stickers and shirts; he's always excited to see new stuff that I'm working on," Kelly said. She also recently released skateboard decks with her art at Board of Missoula.

Kelly said she is most inspired by her mother. "She is also an artist, and she's the one who's always bought me my art supplies and

taught me about indigineous art." Not only does skateboarding create support for Kelly's art, it's also where she draws much of her inspiration. "Skateboarding plays a lot into my art style, ledger art is the biggest inspiration for my art, and I take inspiration from album covers too," Kelly said.

Skateboarding isn't the only thing that motivates her art, she is also influenced by her experiences in the indigineous community

and her history as an indigineous person. It's her biggest motivation to create. "Native Americans aren't given a fair opportunity to express or communicate the issues that go on in our communities," said Kelly.

She creates art based on her experiences and the world around her. "There's always inspiration, just keeping up on current events, reading books about my history or things that have happened in my community within the last hundred years are all good places to find inspiration," Kelly said. She also creates based on her experience living on the reservation. She created her favorite piece in an art class last year titled 'I Love Indians.'

"My art style is kind of just a reflection of who I am," said Kelly. But art isn't the only way Kelly expresses herself, in her free time she writes, reads, listens to music, skateboards, or she's at Board of Missoula.

When it comes to her plans post high school Kelly said, "There's a lot of different routes that I've been thinking about going in 'cause I really like math, I like to write, I have a lot of interests and art is just one of them."

Kelly shares most of her art on Instagram, but you can also find her work on Etsy, as well as in Board of Missoula, where she has stickers, shirts, and skate decks.



"Just Keep Trying" is a modern take on ledger art that originated in the 1870s. This piece highlights the trial and error processes that exist within skateboarding.
Art by Alishon Kelly.

Dahmer Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story

Liz Gray
Reporter

Jeffrey Dahmer, who is also commonly known as the Milwaukee Cannibal or the Milwaukee Monster, was a serial killer active between 1978 and 1991. Dahmer was responsible for the murder and dismemberment of seventeen men and boys. Now there is a drama series on Netflix about him.

For most true crime fanatics, this series was exciting, especially because there aren't very many dramatic retellings of the crimes Dahmer committed. "My Friend Dahmer," which came out in 2017, does a great job showing how Dahmer's childhood and adolescence might have looked. The Netflix series "Dahmer," on the other hand, seems to be more focused on the crimes themselves, showing how Dahmer attracted his victims and what eventually led to their end.

"Dahmer" isn't 100% of the story though. There are a few things that the story got wrong. One being that it portrays Glenda Cleveland as Dahmer's next door neighbor when she actually lived in another apartment building. Glenda and Dahmer never even talked to each other. The series also brings to light just how much the cops ignored Dahmer's crimes due to the fact that his victims were minorities and queer.

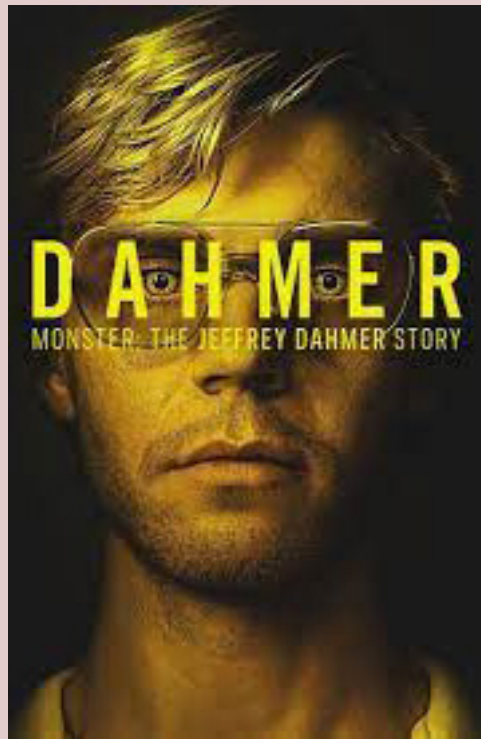
Another thing that "Dahmer" got wrong was the part where they showed him and his dad, Lionel, driving around looking for roadkill. Dahmer's father only ever taught him how to clean bones; Dahmer himself would go out and look for roadkill.

According to an article from the New York Post, Lionel is considering suing Netflix because he was not contacted about this series or "Conversations with a Killer: The Jeffrey Dahmer Tapes" which included audio recordings that were taken by the family's lawyer during the trials in 1992.

Inaccuracies like these can discredit how terrible Dahmer actually was especially if people watch the series and have no prior knowledge. Inaccuracies do benefit the story, though, because it's

keeping a fair amount of details private to protect the families, though they are also torn up about the series since they also were not informed about the series before it aired.

As someone who enjoys true crime media, I think "Dahmer" was overall a good show to watch. Unlike a lot of dramatic retellings, it didn't romanticize Dahmer for the things he did. It showed what it could of the crimes and relied heavily on



the actors to portray the story with body language and dialect.

The use of sound in the back ground throughout the series is very limited, and I feel like that's a nice touch, showing that even though it's a dramatic retelling, it doesn't rely heavily on sound to keep the storyline going. By choosing not to rely on sound in the background it was really on the actors to carry the story which, I find to be a nice touch.

Evan Peters is known for his roles in *American Horror Story*, *Never Back Down*, *One Tree Hill*, and many more. Peters himself seems to bring a lot of attention to his shows due to his attractive nature. Honestly I think the resemblance between Dahmer and Peters is insane and made the series even more creepy. According to an article from Pop Buzz Peters said that Jeffrey Dahmer was one of his hardest rolls to play because Dahmer was a real person who did really terrible things.

With the rise in interest in true crime, I think that "Dahmer" was a nice addition to the hundreds of other forms of media. What I found most interesting about "Dahmer" was that it showed just how normal he seemed. It showed how he'd interact with everyone and yet still managed to commit these terrible crimes and blame the smell on either his taxidermy hobby or by saying that his freezer broke. I found this series very very entertaining, but I don't recommend it if you are sensitive to graphic materials.

If you're interested in more about Dahmer I think that "Conversations With a Killer: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story" is a good way to hear the story, especially because its actually Dahmer's voice.

I also think that a good watch that isn't too graphic, or as not graphic as it can be for a serial killer movie, is "My Friend Dahmer." It came out in 2017 and stars Ross Lynch as Dahmer. It shows how Dahmer's childhood and teenage years based on a 2012 graphic novel of the same name by John "Derf" Backderf who was freinds with Dahmer in high school.

If your looking for more media about true crime in general, I really really enjoy Bailey Sarian's YouTube channel and her podcast Dark History. She does a great job talking about these hard topics and she gives as unbiased as a story as she can. She also makes sure to give as much respect to the families as she can.

TikTok is also a place where there are a lot of accounts where they cover alot of different aspects of true crime, plus the videos aren't very long and you can listen to a story in less than 10 minutes most of the time.

The Missoula Cruisers Gather Around Cars

Layla Wilkerson
Reporter

In the movies, car shows look like lot's of fun. Thousands of people from all over the area gather to see people race and show off their beautiful rides. Did

you know that we have those same events in Missoula?

The Missoula Cruisers are an unorganized and unincorporated group of car enthusiasts who meet every Saturday at 7pm. Most nights the show is located on Reserve Street. The Ross and Famous Footwear parking lot is where you'll find the majority of the crowd. The Missoula Cruisers were started because they wanted to bring some nostalgia back into Missoula.

The community there is full of car enthusiasts, tuners, mechanics, and many more of both professional and garage-learned skill. Trinity Lampen, a 17-year-old who has been going to the shows for about a year said the community is "super nice and I wouldn't want anything else."

There are a few rules everyone follows to make sure everyone has a fun, safe experience. Firstly, no burnouts, doughnuts, or other dangerous behavior in the parking lots. Dangerous driving is not promoted, but everyone knows the feeling of the wind blowing in your face as you zoom down Reserve. The adrenaline rush you get when doing doughnuts. So they have set aside safe spaces to enjoy these aspects.

Another rule is to not go around touching and getting in peoples' cars without asking permission. Chances are you will be invited to ride with people you may not know. Safety is a big concern in that situation, so make sure you always tell someone who you're riding with and where you guys are going. Sometimes a cop will show up to shut the show down. You are expected to leave quickly and respectfully. All they ask is that you're safe and respectful to the businesses. As long as everyone follows these simple rules, as they have been, the show is allowed to continue and people will continue coming from all over Montana for this one night a week event.

The car show has many activities for everyone, from watching the show to having races. You can make new friends, and you can admire and talk to owners about their cars and what they've done to them. Allena Avery, a 17-year-old, says her favorite activity is "watching the cars, exploring, and listening to the music." Cars of all kinds are welcome, old, new, sport, antique, or even just cars that catch your eyes.

People of all ages come to enjoy this experience. You might even see little kids cruising the lot on their own some nights. They spend the night running around to explore the cars and see all their family friends. Pets are allowed if they are friendly and are kept on a leash. Finally, the best thing about this show is that everyone strives to make sure there is no negativity in the community

Taylor Callison, a 17 year old, said, "No one wants to listen to someone's nega-



One of the many unique cars that stopped by the show.
Photo courtesy of Taylor Callison.

tivity." No one wants to hear something bad about their car. Just like you don't want to hear something bad about your shoes or hair. They really do give just as much respect as you do.

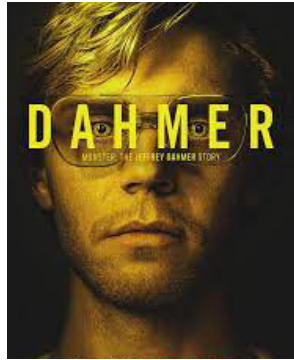
Tons of people put so much time and energy into their cars for us to enjoy them. They come for everyone to be able to enjoy and admire their hard work.



One of the sports cars that can be frequently found at the show.
Photo courtesy of Taylor Callison.

Hellgate Knight's are..

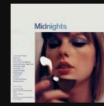
Watching:



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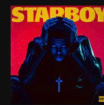


hellgate most listened to



Anti-Hero

↓ Taylor Swift



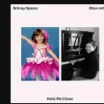
Die For You

The Weeknd



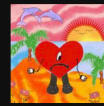
Bad Habit

E Steve Lacy



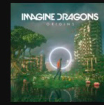
Hold Me Closer

Elton John, Britney Spears



Tití Me Preguntó

Bad Bunny



Bad Liar

Imagine Dragons



Rap God

Eminem



Unholy (feat. Kim Petras)

Sam Smith, Kim Petras



Eleanor Rigby - Remastered 2009

The Beatles

Trista Jean & Devyn Deschamps
Reporters

Stensrud's 3-Win Season Leads Hellgate In Rainy State Finish

Brennan Labbe
Reporter

Anna Stensrud medalled in all six AA Montana High School golf tournaments Missoula Hellgate participated in during the 2022 season. She won three of them too. With a 50% win rate, Stensrud led her team into a gritty state tournament at Green Meadow Country Club in Helena in the closing week of September

The week before, the junior took Montana Western AA Divisionals by a margin of over 10 strokes. "Heading into State, I honestly had no expectations," said Stensrud "The golfers in the east are tough competitors."

With the mindset of playing the course and not her competition, Stensrud, as she has all year long, pin-pointed her renowned self-mentality. "My goal for state was to play my best regardless of the outcome."

The Knights' outstanding third year starter went 82-78 for a total of 160-two day total score in Helena. She was one of only four people in the field to shoot in the 70's on the windier, rainier, and colder second day. She had two birdies on day two - both occurring on the back nine, paired with a couple of sparse bogeys. It was a testament to Stensrud's determined psyche, to save her round and break 80, after needing a better back nine than her starting front side.

"The weather conditions were tough. I didn't have a stellar front nine, and honestly didn't know where I stood compared to other girls." Like she has proven all year, Stensrud held her own and bared down for her Junior finish.

"I ended up battling the weather, and I had a great back nine leaving the day satisfied."

Stensrud beat out every girl in her group the second day, which wasn't a surprise - she hasn't come in last in her grouping in every round she has played in this year. Her lowest place of the year was arguably better than most in the field's best. It was for 5th in her first tournament of the year back in August at Great Falls. Every round since then has only gone up. "My golf game was on a different level than it has in the past couple years," explained Stensrud. "I put in so much work in the off season, and it was so rewarding to have the season that I had this year."

Looking back on an unbelievable 2022 run, in her senior season Stensrud looks to keep up her unbelivable pace for the Hellgate Knights and build off of three years under her belt. With state being held in Billings next year, all eyes are on what Stensrud can accomplish in her final season in red and gold. "I'm as motivated as ever heading into my final season," said Stensrud. Even more work, preparation, and motivation will go into one final push in the offseason preliminary to fall of 2023. "I'm primed and feeling confident with my game at the highest it can be."

Anna Stensrud defied all odds for Missoula Hellgate in 2022. She jumped from medalling honors, to First Team All Conference, and finally First Team All State. In addition she led her team to a first place finish in the Western Divisional AA tournament in Kalispell, with this being the first year since 2013 that Hellgate has had a full girls team. Follow her journey next year through her final season, looking at the bright future that lights her path ahead!



Stensrud tees off from hole eight at Green Meadow Country Club. Photo Courtesy Of Grand Marshall

ANNA STENSRUD- 2022 TOTALS

Great Falls Invite- Round One- 83, Round Two- 84 (167)

MCPS Invite- Round One- 82, Round Two- 80 (162)

Butte Invite- Round One- 84, Round Two- 86 (170)

Flathead Invite- Round One- 75, Round Two- 76 (151)

Divisionals- Round One- 83, Round Two- 76 (159)

AA MT State- Round One- 82, Round Two- 78 (160)

TOTAL- 969 | AVG ROUND- 80.75 | AVG TOURNY- 161

Hellgate Knights Tear Up 2022 Montana AA Fall Sports Competition

Brennan Labbe
Reporter

The 2022 Hellgate Knights secured three Western AA Division trophies, two state titles, and many athletes received medalling honors as well as all conference and all state. This fall, Hellgate represented all five fall AA sports with leaders in each pack. (Regular Season Totals)

FOOTBALL

Connor Dick led the Knights football attack with over 1,000 passing yards, 8 touchdown passes, on 85 completions. First-year starter Parker Link won Montana AA Freshman of the Year award. Leo Filardi teamed up with Dick, collecting 569 receiving yards on 28 total receptions and 3 receiving touchdowns.



Photo by Ila Bell

GOLF

Anna Stensrud medalled in every tournament she played in, leading the Hellgate girls golf team to a Western AA trophy.



Photo Courtesy of Bella Cory

VOLLEYBALL

The Hellgate senior-studded volleyball team was rounded out by Camille Sherrill, collecting 188 kills and 264 digs. Moana Massey, the only starting underclassmen for the Knights showed a light in Hellgate's future, with an unbelievable season- by leading the team in assists for setting with 340. She also collected 47 digs on 6 kills. The phenom sophomore was duoded by Morgan Meissner, one of the only other second-year players on the varsity squad. She gathered a kill and 38 digs.



Photo Courtesy of Hellgate Volleyball

SOCCER

The Knights boys team secured their 4th state title in a row, defeating Billings Senior in a 1-0 thriller. They were led by Brady Reed, who finished with 11 goals and 23 assists to finish an immaculate season for the boys. The Lady Knights soccer team was led by junior Carmen Anderson who scored 22 goals, and picked up 16 assists, en route to another City and Western AA title, finishing the season with an 11-1-3 record.



Photo Courtesy of Mae Michelson

CROSS COUNTRY

Kaitlyn Skinner PR'd a 19:21, and marched the Hellgate girls cross country team to a state championship. Finneas Colescott PR'd a 15:40, and led the Hellgate boys cross country team to a second place state finish in Missoula.



Photo Courtesy of Brigitta Freer

Missoula Hellgate Lady Soccer Wins Western AA Conference Championship

Brennan Labbe
Reporter

Led by junior forward Carmen Anderson, the 2022 Lady Knights soccer team finished an unbelievable season, recording an 11-1-3 record. After knocking off crosstown rival Missoula Big Sky 8-1, in the opening week of October at the Rattlesnake fields, the red hot Knights secured their Western AA Conference Championship- their second ever in program history (2008). To that point, they had showcased nothing but state championship-level soccer. "I felt great about our undefeated season so far," said Anderson. "The team had done really well, and I think we all exceeded our personal, and team expectations."

The Knight's dynamic of team-first really shined on their season as an entirety, and their boasting record. "I think we really came together as a group, and it's fun to get to be a part of," Anderson said.

Anderson led the offensive attack against Big Sky, with

four goals, one unassisted, followed by Sadie Richardson scoring two on the day. Riley Lumpkin and Maizy Miller chipped in with a goal each to boost the Knights to a boasting eight goals.

Sophie Dissa, the Knights' superstar goalie, also kept pace on her amazing season by only allowing one goal in the entire match.

"That game was a big win for us," said Anderson. "Not only did we become city champions, but we also became conference champs." The two first steps going into the postseason for the Knights were what they already accomplished, supporting their 11-0-1 record (at the time). "I think earning (city and conference) titles pumped us up even more for our postseason games, and trying to win that state title," Anderson said.

Many other names made the stat sheet for the Knight's as well. En route to a big blow out against their crosstown rivals, Lumpkin picked up two assists, and her

goal was assisted by Anderson. Izzy Beaton had an assist as well, and Molly Dombrowski and Sydney Yung each added an assist to boost the team to another tick in the win column.

"We felt good, both a lot of nerves but excitement too," Anderson said.

Looking ahead can get lethal and over-shadow what is still left preliminary to the postseason, which is exactly what Anderson focused away from: "We wanted to do well and keep winning games, but at the time we were focusing on taking the rest of this season one game at a time."

Anderson is joined by Junior defender Chloe Larson for the prideful captain spotlight. "It's been a lot of fun to be a co-captain on the team this season," Anderson said, explaining that the dynamic of two captains play off of each other immensely. "I think me along with Chloe are both very honored that we were voted team captains this year. Everyone contributes to this team, and because of that and the fact that everyone is so good at their positions, it makes my job as a forward pretty darn easy."

"Me and (Anderson) are very cohesive, and have similar views on the team," said Larson. "We have also worked a lot to create a good team chemistry, and I think that's really been helping us pull out the wins."

Larson is set at a defender position, and has led her defense to an incredible season in front of Dissa backing up her goal. "I was excited to finish the regular season with our record, and we really worked hard to be number one, and it was so fun to see it paying off. We were all ready to step up and excited to get redemption from last year's postseason, but it was tough to see the outcome."

These Knights had an amazing season, from the morning practices before school at the Rattlesnake fields, to the final whistle in their loss against Billings West in the quarterfinal game of the AA Montana High school Soccer State Tournament. These Knights are young and look forward to coming back next year with confidence and experience.



Hellgate Knights Girls Soccer (Photo Courtesy of Soccer Moms!)

Hellgate's Fall Favorites

Pumpkin spice, colorful leaves, warm sweaters; all sure signs that fall is making its return, and with it comes many fun fall activities. So, what are some Hellgate students' and staffs' favorite things about fall?



"My favorite thing about fall is to watch the leaves change and watch scary Halloween movies, or like, get pumpkin coffee and go on a nice fall walk. And everybody should make a leaf pile. Everybody should do that."
- Camille Sherill, senior

"I love the colors on the leaves and the weather. And also just the vibes you get in fall, it feels so warm and homey. You can stay inside or go out and still enjoy the weather. It's all just very relaxing,"

-Sophia Miller, junior



"My favorite thing is watching spooky movies and fall baking with friends. I just love the fall feeling and baking with pumpkin spice is my favorite."
-Gia Petrini, freshman



"I love that I switch to drinking hot coffee versus cold coffee. I love that the mornings are really crisp and it gets colder at night. I love when the leaves change. I just think it's really beautiful in Missoula in the fall. And then I love pumpkin spice everything. I also like switching out my candles at home, now they're like apple and pumpkin, vanilla."

-Jessica Gustafson, english teacher



Photos by Kahlia Loewen