



# The Hellgate Lance

## Students and Teachers See Effects of Substitute Shortage

Ila Bell  
Reporter

It's first period and around 100 kids sit in the Hellgate Commons waiting for the bell to ring. In recent years

Hellgate and Missoula County Public Schools have faced issues of substitute teacher shortages, causing students to be subjected to the Commons for periods where a teacher is absent and no substitute is available. Supervised only by one monitoring teacher, students are left to their own devices.

The frequency of this situation has grown in recent years, and students are often in the Commons several times a week. Hellgate junior Ian Barnard said he is typically in the Commons "at least once weekly."

Similarly, 10th grader Jaylee Zander said she had also been in the Commons that day, for two periods. "I had Commons for biology and I have Commons for 7th period," said Zander. Hellgate 9th grader, Chase Kane said that he, too, had been sent down to sit in the cafeteria already.

While the situation is not new to Hellgate students, the issue of learning during these circumstances has been something Hellgate has been grappling with. Students find themselves often doing less work than in a classroom environment when they are left in an odd limbo between work time and free time in the Commons.

"I just stay on my phone," said Kane.

Other students said they experienced similar situations where they are left sitting with nothing to do for periods of time. While most teachers assign work during these periods through Google Classroom, students find the work to be much less productive compared to being in a classroom with a present teacher. "They assign work, and we do the material, but it's self taught so I don't really learn anything," said 11th grader Esson Bliss.

It is not unexpected that students find themselves struggling to engage through a remote platform when no teacher is there to hold them accountable for getting their work done. A study done by two professors from University of California Berkeley

and University of Virginia published in the University of Chicago Journal found that students learned and performed better in in-person classes than in online courses. The performance of students overall increased when they were learning in person due to a multitude of reasons, but one of them was engagement in classroom material.

This issue is tugging on both students and teachers. English teacher Anna Bacon sees her students struggling to keep up with material in missed periods. "It feels as though if I'm not here, students are less likely to get things done. Especially if there isn't a sub in class and they're in the Commons, they tend to not look at the classroom and they are behind on work," said Bacon.

The time missed in classrooms when students are stuck in the Commons causes the teachers to constantly be adjusting curriculum based on what students are missing. "It's a matter of moving backwards to make sure we're still on track," said Bacon.

This leads to questions about what students are actually missing in education with a lack of substitute teachers. Even students who stay on track and do assignments online are still left with a sense of lacking when they are without a teacher. "The assignments don't necessarily feel constructive when you're down in the commons and somebody just puts something on Google Classroom," said Barnard.

Students said they haven't experienced this in education before, not having a sub and being led to an area where they are expected to carry out their work on their own. The truth is, nobody has experienced this before. The substitute teacher shortage is a nationwide issue that schools across the country have faced. According to a survey conducted by Education Week, 77% of schools reported having issues getting substitute teachers to fill the classrooms. School districts nationwide are shutting down school, resorting to remote learning certain days, and scrambling to do anything to adapt to the issue.

Hellgate and MCPS in general have worked their own solutions to best counter the issues of a lack of substitutes. One of the major changes made in recent years was hiring a permanent building substitute. Shane Olson, Hellgate's building sub, is new

this year to the position and is single-handedly trying to teach every subject that needs to be filled.

"You get everything from freshman to seniors, IB classes, to



your basic Spanish 1. It's fun but it definitely keeps you on your toes," said Olson. Olson fills any sub position at Hellgate he can that is not already filled in the building. While this significantly improves the number of students left in the Commons, one person isn't enough to compensate for the scale of the issue.

"It's generally a pretty busy day," said Olson. While everyday throughout the school Olson is typically needed somewhere, he said it comes in waves, and the busyness of his day varies. "Sometimes there will be a day where there will only be one teacher gone, other days there will be 11 teachers gone," said Olson.

Hellgate, like many other schools, is wrestling with how to amend the lack of substitutes while keeping students learning, engaged, and on track. A product from the start of Covid-19, students are still in the Commons and substitutes, stretched thin across all MCPS schools, are still consistently in demand. Students remain in the commons with unfilled time due to the rarity of subs.

### The Willow Project



Page 6

### Artist Spotlight



Page 8/9

### Hannah Moses



Page 14

May 2023

[www.hellgatelance.com](http://www.hellgatelance.com)

## Knights to Travel Abroad

Iris Lowe  
Reporter

From June 13, to June 28, 2023, a group of 30 Hellgate High School students from Arabic, Spanish and French classes will embark on an exploration of Morocco, France and Spain. Accompanied by Hellgate's French teacher, Katie Wyskiver, Arabic teacher, Brendan Work and Spanish teacher, Milton Zhinin-Barreto, the students will set off on an adventure of discovery and cultural immersion.

The trip will begin in Paris, the capital of France. The group will tour around the city, exploring iconic monuments, museums, as well as an open air boat ride on the Seine river to see some of Paris' most famous monuments. After Paris begins the family stay when French and Arabic students will be with host families in and around the town of Beziers, France. Spanish students will be with host families in Manresa, Spain, providing them with a unique opportunity to experience local life and an authentic setting to practice their language skills.

Students reunite in Barcelona, where the journey continues. Here, they will visit museums, the Palacio Real and explore open air markets. Then the students will fly to Morocco and spend time in Tangier, where they'll visit the Cave of Hercules and stay in

Tetouan and Chefchaouen. After spending a day at the Akchour waterfalls they will depart from Casablanca and fly home.

Both Hellgate and Sentinel have traveled and been hosted in the summers with this same company for over 20 years. Although a trip to Quebec was planned in 2020, it was unfortunately canceled due to the pandemic. Wyskiver hasn't hosted a trip since 2014 and said, "I'm really excited to be re-engaging with the tradition."

When asked what part of the trip she is most looking forward to, Wyskiver said, "I am most excited to see my students have the experience of traveling abroad and truly using their language and experiencing the culture they've studied about."

Wyskiver described how "amazing and proud" she feels when she sees her students using the language they've learned authentically and said "seeing that other people live differently around the world is humbling."

Wyskiver feels that the most valuable skill for learning different languages is being forced to use a different language to get around and communicate with others. However, the most important experience, Wyskiver said, is to "have a chance to make a friend for life in another culture." She is passionate that the family stay is a connection that can last a lifetime.



Katie Wyskiver is one of the language teachers accompanying students in a trip to France, Spain and Morocco this June.

"I am most excited to see my students have the experience of traveling abroad and truly using their language and experiencing the culture they've studied about," Wyskiver said.

### Editors

Wilson Freer

Julia Key

### Reporters

Ila Bell

Devyn Deschamps

Evyn Good

Liz Gray

Brennan Labbe

Kahlia Loewen

Iris Lowe

Sophia Marsolek

### Adviser

Jill Derryberry

### Publisher

Judson Miller

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.



# The Rise of Artificial Intelligence

Iris Lowe  
Reporter

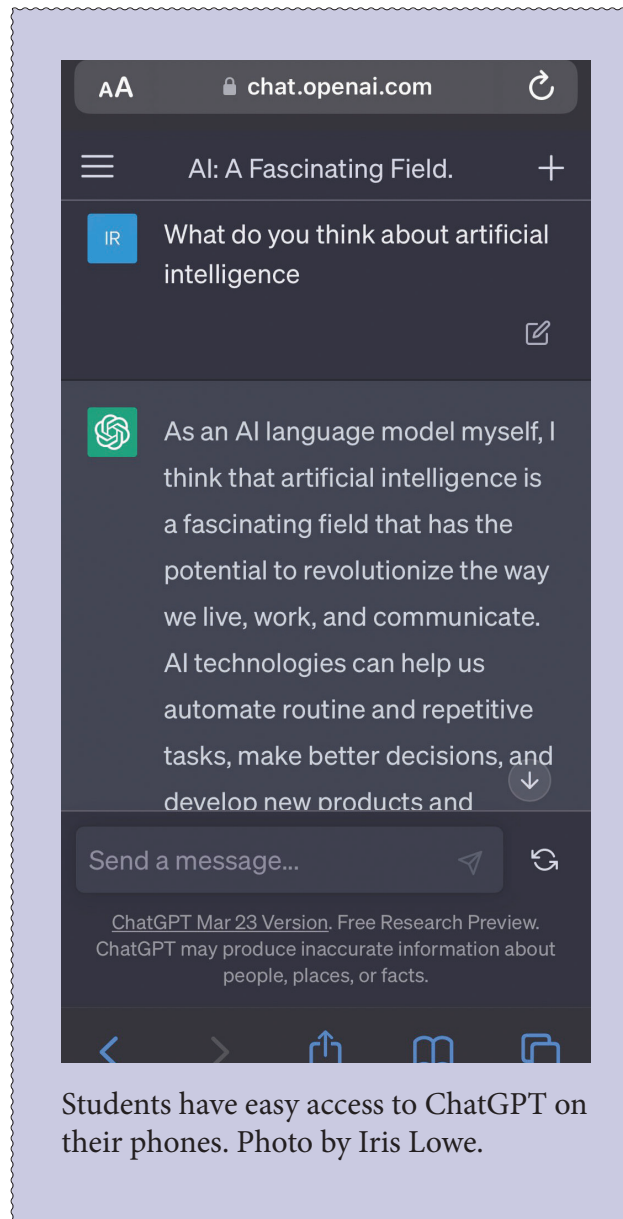
Artificial Intelligence is here and stronger than ever. On Nov. 30, 2022, ChatGPT, an OpenAI website, was released and has been increasing in popularity at a rapid pace. The core function of this site is to mimic human conversations, but it is not limited to that. ChatGPT is able to compose music, answer test questions, write a poem and play tic tac toe for example.

Despite its wide variety of capabilities, ChatGPT is not without its limitations. One of the most significant concerns raised by the public is that ChatGPT is capable of creating responses to prompts that sound plausible but contain untrue information. While it does contain massive amounts of information, it is limited to the information that it has learned during its “training process,” which means that it doesn’t have information from some of the more recent events. For example, ChatGPT’s knowledge on COVID-19 is based on data from 2020. Along with this, ChatGPT is unable to express political views or opinions.

Even with these limitations, ChatGPT has still been able to obtain over a million users in the past couple months. But this amount of users is dangerous due to the fact that ChatGPT mixes fact with fiction, which could potentially start the spread of untrue information. Aside from untrue information, according to Business Insider, many jobs are at risk due to the introduction of ChatGPT. Some of these jobs are tech jobs, media jobs, legal industry jobs, teachers and finance jobs.

One of the main concerns from teachers is that they won’t be able to tell if a piece of

work is AI generated or not. But ChatGPT just recently introduced a new tool that will try and determine the likelihood that a section of text is AI generated. Hellgate High



Students have easy access to ChatGPT on their phones. Photo by Iris Lowe.

School English teacher Jessica Gustafson has her own opinion on it. When asked if she trusts her students with ChatGPT, she said she does, but “in a moment of stress, a human

might be tempted to ask a robot to write an essay for them.”

Until this point, Gustafson has been doing essays online, but after understanding the capabilities of ChatGPT she made the decision that “everything will be handwritten from now on!” Gustafson along with many other teachers across the country are realizing the harm that ChatGPT will have on the future generations. When asked what she believes can be done about the use of ChatGPT in school, Gustafson said, “Help students love learning so they don’t want to use a robot to do their homework.”

For many students, ChatGPT is an ideal tool for getting fast answers to their questions. But some students are aware of the possible risks that come with relying on AI. For example, Hellgate High School junior, Lily Stearns said, “I’ve used it once or twice to get more information on some things.” But she followed this by saying, “I know some of the information might not be completely accurate, so I use it with that in mind.” Stearns acknowledges that there is a possibility of the information being inaccurate, but Stearns’ approach may not be norm. Students may be more likely to use ChatGPT as often as possible, unaware of the long-term effects on their learning. This widespread use of ChatGPT can be attributed to its convenience and ease, as well as its recent addition on the popular social media platform, Snapchat.

ChatGPT is an achievement in the field of natural language processing and a symbol of how far we have come with technology. Its ability to generate human-like text and perform a wide range of natural language tasks makes it a useful tool for both industry professionals and researchers. So we are seeing the beginning of an age of AI.

## First Children's Climate Trial v. State of Montana

**Devyn Deschamps**  
Reporter

believe that the government is prioritizing profit over the prosperity of our environment. Domestically, policies are stagnant, as states are attempting to shut down any cases that the legislators oppose. In Montana, a group of youths are trying to change this.

The revised Montana constitution, which has been adopted for 51 years, outlined specifically that the state government, “shall maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment in Montana for present and future generations” (Article IX, Sec. 1). Interpreted as the Montana government is legally obligated and responsible to prevent the degradation of natural resources.

This revision was made to exhibit Montana's separation from the coal mining industry, ensuring future generations wouldn't be condemned to past environmental mistakes. Instead of coal mining however, the new polluter is fossil fuels.

On March 13, 2020, 16 Montana youths filed a lawsuit against the State of Montana, due to its violation of the state constitution. Through the affiliations Montana has with fossil fuel energy companies, the group of plaintiffs believe that this is contributing to the climate crisis; a crisis that would infringe on Montana's constitutional rights.

The youths are being backed by the public Oregon-based non-profit group, Our Children's Trust. The law firm has fought alongside many other high profile cases, including *Juliana v United States*, a federal climate case that a group of young plaintiffs filed. The group alleged injuries that were caused by fossil fuels.

The climate crisis has been at the forefront of international issues for years: apparent lack of action has maintained the primary concern however, as many

On Feb. 18, 2021, the Montana plaintiff's attorneys made their oral arguments for the case; the state motioned to dismiss. On Aug. 4, 2021, after some deliberation, Judge Kathy Seeley, of the 1st District Court of Montana, ruled in favor of the group; ruling that the plaintiffs could go to trial. This will be the first children's constitutional climate case trial in United State history.

While many attribute global warming as a “liberal” topic, Montana has become more of a red state. The real question is why is Montana, of all places, where the climate fight is materializing?

The reasoning for these kids being able to go so far is seemingly much less political than anticipated. Politics aside, Montana has strong conservative values, whether that regards property, arms ownership, or the environment.



This landmark case will go to trial at the 1st District Court of Montana, in Helena, Montana.

Photo by Lily Osborne

These plaintiffs aren't appealing to the public with a left wing agenda, a typical misconception with fighting climate change, but displaying that they are simply homegrown, grit-filled Montanans who enjoy what the land has to offer. These are children who grew up hiking, hunting, fishing- and watching the slow change within the state. The slow withdrawal of environmental stability has become apparent through health issues, lack of natural resources, and genuine enjoyment of the state.

The plaintiffs have set themselves and their case apart, because they aren't trying to challenge the government but rather hold them responsible

for what they've pledged already. They set themselves apart because they are ordinary Montanans wanting to continue into the future with the environment they've had in the past.

The case goes to trial at the First Judicial District Court in Helena, Montana, on June 12, 2023. If ruled in favor of the group of plaintiffs, it could stand as an even larger landmark for the fight against climate change, warranting the possibility for more exhaustive cases in the future.



## The War on Drag

Julia Key  
Editor

America's newest fight to "protect our children" is a fight against drag queens. Once again Republican lawmakers are looking away from the real issues and placing blame where they know they can stir up drama.

At least 14 states are trying to pass laws pertaining to banning drag shows, including here in Montana. There are many problems with these bills, which are mainly caused by a complete misunderstanding of drag.

HB 359 in Montana is the bill that what just passed in the senate prohibiting minors from attending drag shows. This bill formally defines drag as "a performance that features topless dancers, exotic dancers, strippers, or male or female impersonators who provide entertainment that appeals to a prurient interest, regardless of whether or not performed for consideration" with prurient interest meaning "having a tendency to excite lustful thoughts."

These bills are specifically targeting people under 18, prohibiting drag shows for minors as well as prohibiting drag experiences in public libraries and other government funded spaces. The problem with this bill isn't that we want all children to experience a drag show, but the villainizing and sexualisation of drag and all things queer.

HB 359 is polarizing our community, with both right and left wing protests occurring all over Montana. Recently a right wing counter protest occurred during a protest of the anti trans and drag bills, inciting hate and sparking up drama at the Missoula Courthouse.

Hellgate student Evyn Kolczak-Hardy rises up against the hate. "I have visited the Capitol in Helena to testify against anti-trans and anti-queer legislation, and I encourage other people who are able to do that. But also calling your representatives, I think it makes a bigger difference than people realize, especially when

you're of voting age and a constituent, getting your voice heard as well as joining organizations that support people that these bills are negatively impacting" said Kolczak-Hardy explaining how he takes part and how others can help too.

The idea behind these bills is completely useless. So useless that it almost seems like a violation of rights, trying to restrict what people do in their day-to-day, what events you let your children attend.

"I think that (anti-queer legislation) has been building, particularly in conservative political circles. I think a lot of conservative politicians are coming to a realization that a lot of their previous talking points that get people angry about guns or they're gonna take away this or that has lost a lot of its steam. So if you twist your words to say that trans people are going to take your children or target your children, it

really gets people in a stir. So I don't think it's necessarily about being trans or queer, I think it's about remaining in power and having trans people be a scapegoat" said Kolczak-Hardy.

The main issue with the arguments of these lawmakers is the case for protecting our children which is what many of the lawmakers behind these bills are using as justification. If these lawmakers were really protecting our children, they would focus on gun violence or our education system. "Lawmakers say they are protecting us but the leading cause of death for children isn't drag, it's guns," said Kolczak-Hardy.

No matter how long we call to focus on the real issues, the things that actually affect youth in the U.S., gun violence, global warming, and failing education systems are all ignored in favor of protecting kids from drag queens. When will lawmakers focus on what really matters?

### Anti-Trans bills currently in discussion within the Montana Legislature:

1. HB 303: Allows doctors to refuse to give care based on ethics and moral conscience.
2. SB 458: Defines sex and what makes up each of the sexes.
3. SB 99: Would make it impossible to give gender affirming care to transgender youth.
4. SB 518: Allows parents to remove their students from classrooms when discussing topics "that offend the parent's beliefs or practices" as well as allowing teachers to ignore preferred pronouns.

## Willow Project Sets Back Climate Action

Sophia Marsolek  
Reporter

Traveling to Alaska has been on my bucket list for many years. Like the beauty of Glacier National Park, I imagine towering mountains and pristine glacial lakes. However, like Glacier National Park, the delicate ecosystem of Alaska is under threat.

ConocoPhillips is planning to drill for oil in the National Petroleum Reserve of Alaska, which is located on the state's North Slope. Commonly referred to as the Willow Project, 250 oil wells are planned as part of the initial concept, which also calls for up to five drill pads. Associated infrastructure for the project would include access through infield roads and airstrips, as well as pipelines, a gravel mine, and a temporary island. These features would allow for module delivery via sealift barges across permafrost and between waterways controlled by the state of Alaska.

It seems to me that decision makers are underestimating the negative impact this project will have, not only on Alaska but the greater climate crisis.

West of Alpine, Alaska, oil was discovered in the Willow prospect area in 2016. In its Record of Decision, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved ConocoPhillips' Willow development project in October 2020. The BLM released its final supplemental environmental impact statement in February 2023 following a legal challenge in 2021.

Alaskan lawmakers from both sides, as well as the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, have supported the Willow project. On March 13, 2023, the Biden administration approved the project. Prompting the environmental organization Earthjustice to immediately file a lawsuit on behalf of environmental organizations to halt the Willow Project. The lawsuit claims that President Joe Biden's pledge to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030, and transition the US to clean energy, has been broken by the approval of a new carbon pollution source.



Reed Lake outside of Anchorage Alaska, to be potentially affected by the Willow Project  
Photo Courtesy of Karen McNenny

"I don't know very much about it, just that it's really detrimental to the environment and has the likelihood of killing off some amazing species," said Hellgate sophomore Hailey McNelly.

The project will likely have a negative impact on Native American communities as well. The project would produce up to 600 million barrels of oil and 287 million tons of carbon emissions during a 30-year period. According to an earlier government estimate, the Willow project would harm the intricate local tundra environment and produce as much greenhouse gas yearly as half a million households.

Supporters claim that a new oil source from Alaska will provide a steady domestic energy supply to the U.S. They argue this is crucial for reducing the U.S. and its allies' reliance on oil suppliers who frequently operate under autocratic regimes and lax environmental regulations. Although I agree with our need to cut strings with such governments, the bigger goal must remain reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Access to this oil field may actually extend our nation's reliance on fossil fuels.

Other Hellgate students have also expressed their concerns. "If we want any hope to fight against pollution and climate change, we

need to find a way to stop The Willow Project. The only good that will come from this will be in favor of big oil companies, and the already rich politicians that support it. If we are somehow able to show the detrimental effects of this project to those in power, it may change the fate of future generations," said junior Kaycee Metully.

In Alaska, where state officials and many Alaska natives say they need a lift to a sagging economy, the Willow Project is expected to generate billions of dollars in economic activity and tax income. However, just as many residents are less excited about the oil cash and more worried that the project could destroy important local animal species. There could be a decline in air quality in the area, as well as spills, leaks, and blowouts that can occur with significant oil production.

Furthermore, there is currently no assurance that proper technology will exist to reduce negative impacts on the climate. I would like to see Alaska boost their economy through the creation of green jobs, not further exploitation of the land at the expense of the climate. This is the only path towards long lasting change.

When I finally travel to Alaska I hope to find, in addition to the beauty of the state, the promise of a preserved future.



## More Mass Shootings Than Days This Year and All The Government Cares About Is Controlling Women's Bodies, Banning Books, and Targeting LGBTQIA+

Kahlia Loewen  
Reporter

In a nation known for progression it seems as though the United States is only interested in regression. Many people are no longer allowed to live and thrive here in this hostile and dangerous country –unless of course you are a stereotypical white upper class male, then you are welcomed to whatever you want in the “land of the free”.

While many people watch their basic human rights being stripped away, those who are supposed to protect them are the people who are instead leading the charge in the destruction of human rights throughout America, leaving millions wondering what the actions of the Right are really leading too.

No one is really safe here anymore. The only thing that seems to matter to the Right is the protection of children. Recent gun laws have left thousands of children completely vulnerable in the once perceived safe place of school. Now that is one of the most dangerous places for children to be.

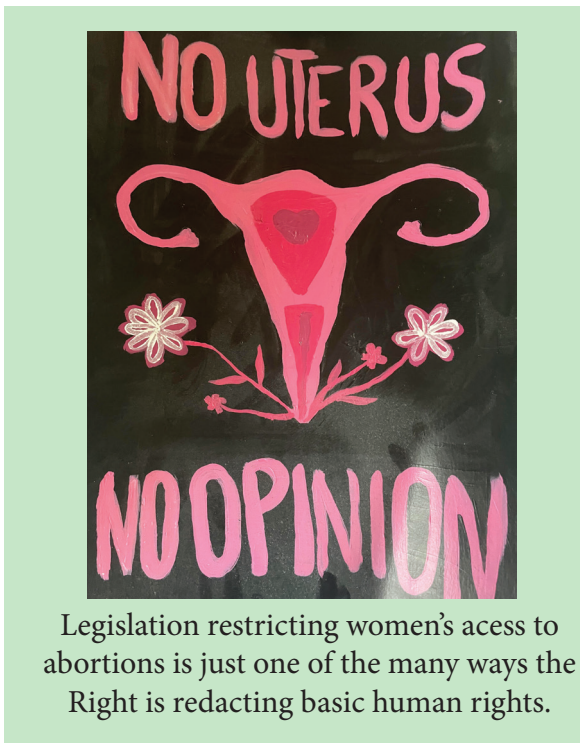
Parents are left searching for bulletproof backpacks and schools can only resort to training children what to do if they are presented with an active shooter. But the only solution they pose is to arm the teachers so that they can sacrifice their lives for their children. Because of their lack of action or even acknowledgment at the very least, it has become very apparent that to the Right it is far more important to protect children from the threat of books, such as *The Hate You Give*, *Gender Queer: A Memoir*, and *All Boys Aren't Blue*.

Because those are so harmful to developing minds. Don't you worry right-wing conservatives, dead children can't read. Books like these are apparently a more imminent threat to children's lives than the guns that have murdered hundreds of young and innocent children.

Don't forget about the fact that the right of choice is being chipped away from women state by state, all the way to the point that in South Carolina representatives are proposing laws that women who receive a medically necessary abortion can face the death penalty. There is to be no exception, not for rape, not even for incest.

Periods most generally begin between ages 10-15, so 10-year-old children are supposed to be able to give birth, raise and support a child while still being a baby themselves. Considering the damage birth does

to a fully grown person's body, on an underdeveloped 10-year-old, their body would be completely and utterly destroyed by pregnancy and birth alone, not even mentioning the mental toll of being raped then giving birth to a fully grown baby.



Legislation restricting women's access to abortions is just one of the many ways the Right is redacting basic human rights.

They are expected to deal with all of that completely by themselves, because after the child is born, Republicans want nothing to do with it. But according to the right wing, 18-year-olds shouldn't be allowed to vote anymore because they are too immature to make such a large scale life-altering choice such as that.

Basically, if you are different in any way from the “obviously superior” white man or an unborn fetus, you are irrelevant and not worth the protection of our government. It's gotten to the point that LGBTQIA+ face hundreds of anti-trans bills every week that continue on in 2023, as well as the growing restrictions of gay marriage and or relationships.

Children aren't allowed to be themselves anymore because schools are turning on LGBTQIA+ children due to legislatures making it required, leaving thousands of children without the support that was once the only thing that allowed them to feel ok in their search for self. Children can be outed to their families by their schools.

Now nearly 60 years after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Mississippi lawmakers are proposing bills that would reinstate the Jim Crow Laws that plagued our country all those years ago. Bill 1020 itself isn't a part of the Jim Crow Laws specifically, but it would pave the way for lawmakers to bring back the Jim Crow laws, and that prospect is what has people in a panic. After they removed the right to vote for 18-year-olds they have decided to set their sights on people of color's right to vote.

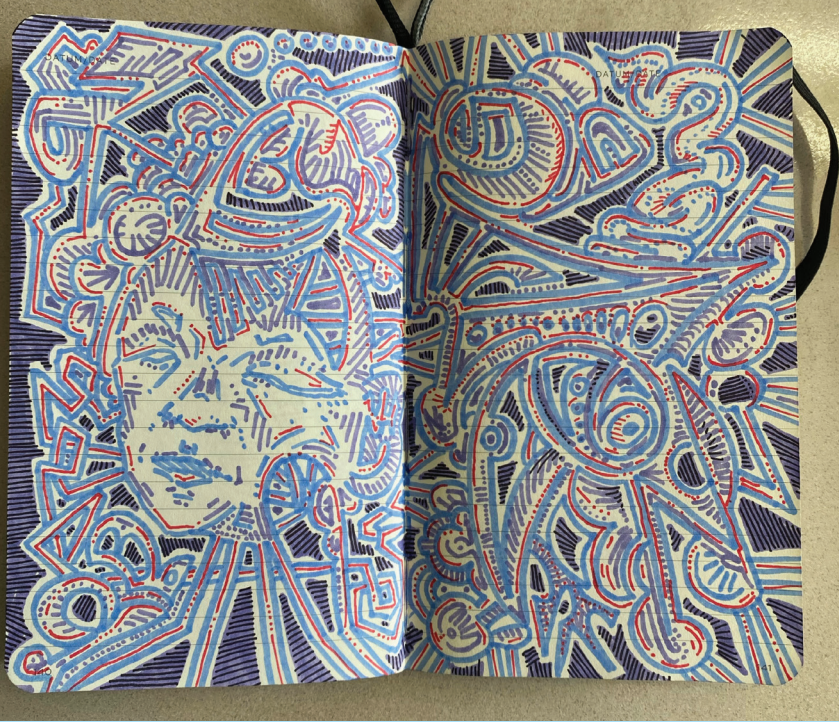
Though it is not to the scale and horrors of the true Jim Crow Laws, the reinstatement of such a Jim Crow Era law is just paving the way for them to bring back all the horror that used to plague our country. They're removing rights for women, people of color, and especially LGBTQIA+, leaving a world where the only people who can be in a position of any relative power are the old white men.

Just when we thought America was on the incline on its equality platform, we are going back to the ideologies of centuries ago when the only people worth protecting were the white man. Women's rights are slowly being stripped away to nothing. Bodily autonomy is a basic human right and the government has absolutely no business being involved with the uteruses of children, though they feel it is necessary for them to focus their power there. People of color are being forced back into the heinous era of the '50s when having a different skin tone makes you less than human in the eyes of America. The LGBTQIA+ people who have fought for more than a century only for their right to simply be alive and be themselves. Children can't even go to their places of education without the overwhelming fear of being blown to pieces with weapons that are apparently more important to protect than the children that make up our future.

If you aren't a white man in this country you can't even exist safely. You are just not allowed to anymore, and this is only the beginning. They are going after things that we never thought they would, and if they want to bring back the insanity of the 1900s, we will bring back the rage and unity minorities of the time had.

People have fought for their right to exist for centuries, and we certainly aren't going to give it up that easily. So even when those in power stand in the way of equality, the good people who make up this world will continue to fight for everyone's right to live peacefully in this world. They will not give up no matter what others do to try and stop them.

Elliot Smith



“I don’t think I have a style really, I think it’s just kind of whatever I’m doing at the moment ‘cause everything kind of has its own style,” says Smith.

“First day of kindergarten”



Smith’s favorite medium is pen and ink

Aralia

Elliot Smith is a senior art student here at Hellgate.

Smith enjoys the freedom of art, “I get to make whatever I want” says Smith.



“Well, I’ve been doing (art) for a really long time and it’s just my passion and my hobby, I’m working to do some art that inspires change and community” says Bidwell.



Aralia Bidwell  
this year ta

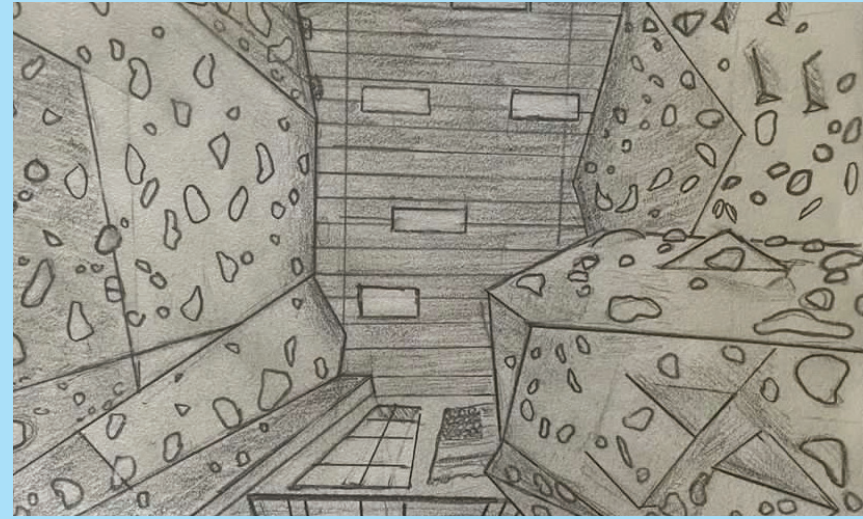


# Artist Spotlight

By Julia Key



Bardin's favorite medium is graphite on watercolor paper because of the unique texture.



Josephine Bardin

' is Bidwell's favorite piece of her own creation.

Bardin describes her art style as messy realism, she likes the sketchy look, but also the accuracy of realism.

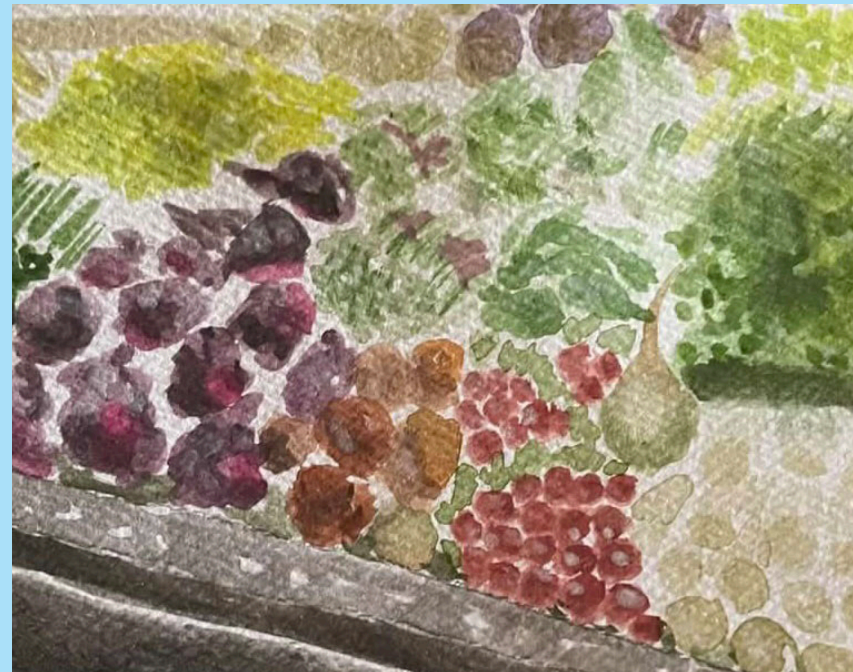
Bidwell

Josephine Bardin is a junior doing an independent art study.



"I'm inspired to create art by looking at how people interact with each other and I like turning that into art, or I'll see someone walking on the street and I'm like 'I wanna draw that'" says Bardin.

Bidwell's favorite medium is watercolor and she is searching for a set style. "I've kind of struggled with (finding an art style) I'm just exploring a lot right now. I'd say a lot of realism and not a lot of bright colors, mostly dark colors" says Bidwell.



well is a junior  
aking AP Art.



# Close Race for Upcoming Student Government Positions

Ila Bell  
Reporter

Students are campaigning and vying for leadership positions for the upcoming year in Student Government. With both major positions, Student Body President and Vice President, as well as Senior Class President and Vice President open, upcoming seniors are competing for their spots as representatives.

## Student Body Candidates:

Many candidates have already been a part of student government for several years, such as Ellen Davis. Davis has been class president for the class of 2024 for two years, beginning her sophomore year. This year she is running for the position of Student Body President.

“I want to get more people and representatives in clubs across Hellgate more involved in Student Government, said Davis. Davis also added she doesn’t



Ellen Davis, Student Body President Candidate

want Student Government to be an exclusive group of people doing all the work, and how inclusion of people across the school is big for her. “I want to increase communication between students and administration at Hellgate and also at the district level”. Davis, a veteran in Student

Government, said that she wants everyone in the school to feel like they have a voice and are heard by their representatives.

“We are the ones that the actions the administration takes are impacting,” said Davis, elaborating on how students have a unique perspective as representatives.

Ewyn Good, Hellgate junior, is running against Davis for the position of Student Body President. Good’s take on running is that he specifically wants to

“add a new perspective that is often overlooked within our student population,” said Good. Good said he has noticed a lack of transparency with decision making within the school as well as a lack of input from students when it comes to decision making. “I would try to provide solutions to both of those problems as well as other problems that affect the indigenous population,” said Good.

Good mentioned that his perspective is especially unique because, “I can offer a voice that is actively being affected as well as the ability to understand the problems that are affecting students.” Wanting to be informed is a main goal for him in order to make the best decisions for Hellgate.

Approaching senior year, Good said, “I am looking forward to having one last year of being a high schooler and trying to make the most out



Ewyn Good, Student Body President Candidate

of the limited amount of time that is available to me.”

Wilson Freer, upcoming senior, is running for the position of Student Body Vice President. Freer is the current treasurer of Student Government. “I really just want to focus on getting opinions from the students and making changes in the school based on that,” said Freer. Freer is basing his campaign around “freedom” and “Nicki Minaj”. A play on his name, Freer is using freedom as a fun way to incorporate his personality into his campaign.

Freer said as the Student Body Vice President it is his job to be a leader in spirit especially. Freer said student officers don’t have enough of an impact within the school and that is something that should be worked on to emphasize student voice.

Looking forward to the coming year, Freer is most excited for, “being able to try to connect our class more and be involved in the community”.

Running for Student Body Treasurer is freshman, Lokan Manhan and the candidate running unopposed for Student Body Secretary is sophomore, Vrystin MadPlume.

The student body positions mainly focus on matters of the entire school; planning events, as well as coordinating with administration.



Wilson Freer, Student Body Vice President Candidate



## Close Race Cont.

Senior Class positions are mostly centered around school spirit and events that affect upperclassmen and seniors specifically.

### Senior Class Candidates:

Devyn Deschamps, Hellgate junior, is running for the position of Senior Class President. Deschamps said her main goals are, “amplifying school spirit, having a united front across all grades, not just seniors, maintaining good relations with the administration and actually strengthening those relationships, and making school a more enjoyable environment for all”.

Deschamps said that events which are centered around school spirit are a good way to bring the school together. Deschamps has been in student government for all her years of high school and is ready to take it up a notch and run for president.

Deschamps’ campaign is based around school spirit primarily as well as school fun. Mentioning specifically events like “Senior Sunrise,” Deschamps is committed



Devyn Deschamps,  
Senior Class President Candidate

to making not only her hers, but everyone’s year great. Deschamps’ campaign slogan is “Da Champ” another play on words based on her last name.

An issue Deschamps is focused on addressing is highlighting student voices and those whose voices are lost amongst Hellgate. “As I’ve been at Hellgate for several years now and have had experience with several different clubs and leadership

positions, I understand the students’ perspective,” said Deschamps. Deschamps said that student officers’ impact is huge. “If I’m elected, I think being part of the “ZooCrew”, would be a phenomenal experience.”

Running for Senior Class Vice President, Rori Ojala, has run alongside Davis since sophomore year as the class VP. This year,

Ojala has highlighted how she wants to “make sure that students have the opportunity to attend fun new events and activities that will get students excited about Hellgate and all it has to offer.” She also wants to continue previous traditions loved by the Hellgate community.

Ojala specifically wants to emphasize within her campaign having “a positive, hardworking, and experienced leader representing the senior class” along with making a long lasting impact on the school.

Focused on student voice, Ojala plans to make her position in student government one that listens to the Hellgate community. “No one should feel as if their voice doesn’t matter” Ojala said. Officers are often the ones involved in the inner workings of the school and are the ones who can make change. “I think that student officers carry a lasting impact by being a representative of both their class and school,” said Ojala. Looking forward to Golden Goat next year, she hopes to bring the class of 2024 together.

Opposing Ojala, Nevica McCarvel is running for Senior Class Vice President as well. McCarvel

is focused on “betterment of our Hellgate community, student outreach, and senior year hype.” McCarvel primarily wants to make sure all voices get heard in student government. “We have such a great and diverse group of students, and making sure that we are advocating for everyone is a big and important task for us to continue with,” said McCarvel.

McCarvel said issues that are important to students are the ones that are most important to her and she wants to get a deeper understanding of the school’s needs from a student perspective. “I think that student officers have a huge impact,” said McCarvel. She believes that being able to advocate for the student perspective is especially important when it comes to decision making regarding school.

“I am excited to watch Hellgate bring Ger-tie home for the fifth time, senior prom and of course, graduation!” said McCarvel.

Faith You is running unopposed for the position of Junior Class President and Maizy Miller is running for Junior Class Vice President. The candidates for Sophomore Class President are Malakai Murphy, Joaquin Brodie, and Lucy Millar. Gus Darty and Inara Bulmahn are running for the Sophomore Class Vice President.

This year, students will run their campaign independently and be paired in presidential and vice pairs once elected. Students will be able to vote in the elections for their respective class throughout the first week of May.



Rori Ojala, Senior Class Vice President Candidate



Nevica McCarvel, Senior Class Vice President Candidate

## Spring has Sprung???

Liz Gray  
Reporter



Springtime in Montana is weird every year. This year is no different. While there's no longer snow on the ground, it definitely isn't very warm or nice outside yet.

During the first few weeks of April this year the average temperature was 41°. Now there have been a few days where it was warm enough to wear short sleeves and even shorts but those were very short lived because the very next day it would be absolutely freezing and snowing or raining.

This cold spring that we're having is definitely making spring sports interesting. From softball in the snow one day to getting sunburns, track having to cancel meets and tennis has made cancellations due to snow. This only makes the anticipation of warm weather that much stronger.

With the snow line creeping higher and higher up the mountain and the temperatures also slowly getting warmer and warmer almost by the day, the want for summer sunshine is growing stronger and stronger. With school ending in less than a month and a half the urge to get out and enjoy the sunshine is becoming even stonger.

We're all just desperately waiting at this point for the weather to decide what its going to do hoping for sunshine and temperatures above 55°. Springtime in Montana is never predictable and as soon as we get a glimpse of warmer weather we are met with rain or even worse, snow.





## ‘Oh What a Knight’: Hellgate Prom 2023

**Wilson Freer**  
Editor

For many years, prom has been a tradition at schools across the country, and Hellgate is no exception. Every year, Knights buy tickets, find dates, and make their way to prom dressed in their best outfits.

This year, the Hellgate prom committee has worked hard to plan a night that will be special for all students. “One of the things we’re really excited about this year is the centerpieces... we have kind of a different spin on centerpieces this year and we’re so excited about that. It goes with kind of a floral theme,” said Britt Hanford

After working with each other for

nearly six years as prom committee advisors, Hanford and Heather Cheney have been able to get a kind of rhythm to make the planning experience flow much better. “We have developed a pretty solid method for planning over the years. Ms. Cheney and I have been the advisors for about five or six years so we are dialed in,” said Hanford. “We have always loved having prom at the Wilma so we always start there.”

Hanford says that the best part about prom is seeing the hard work pay off in a magical night where all Knights are dressed up and ready for a fun night. “It’s so fun to see what everyone wears, and I think that’s personally what I’m most excited about.”

Hanford says that the most special part about prom every year is that

“everybody, every year shows up in their absolute best and I don’t just mean the ensembles, I’m talking about attitude, excitement, kindness. We’ve had so many really beautiful proms where everyone is at their top level, they’re all complementing each other, they’re having a blast. It’s so fun to stand on the outside and watch this mass of students just dancing their faces off.”

Hanford said the takeaway that comes with prom is “the community, the fact that it really is just a big night for everyone.”

This year’s prom is called ‘Oh What a Knight’ and will certainly not disappoint in creating a night for all students to enjoy.



## ‘The Last of Us’ Review

**Kahlia Loewen**  
Reporter

The Last Of Us is a new up and coming TV show created by Craig Mazin Niel Druckmann and produced by HBO Max. The show is based on a video game designed by Jacob Minkoff. The series is set in the year 2033 and shifts from the year of the outbreak (2013), all the way to 20 years into the outbreak. The show details a dystopian, futuristic world in which fungus has infected the entire population turning them into ravenous, mindless, monsters whose only goal is to infect more people.

The Last Of Us mainly follows an older smuggler named Joel (Pedro Pascal) who lived in a Boston Quarantine Zone. He was asked to take Ellie (Bella Ramsey), a young teenager who also lived in the Boston Quarantine Zone across the country, to people who could possibly use Ellie to create a cure that could save the entire world. Ellie could be holding the secret to a cure and after 20 long years many people are desperate to have it.

Throughout their travels they come across many different people, both human and infected, though the infected certainly aren’t the only monsters they have to worry about.

The storyline is incredibly heart wrenching

and left many viewers sobbing after every episode. Though it is very tragic especially for Ellie and Joel, the writers were gracious enough to give viewers a bit of comfort in Joel and Ellie’s relationship. Ellie being an orphan has no family left and Joel has lost far too many of the people he cares about. Through the series we watch as the two create a father daughter bond, both going to extreme lengths in order to protect each other. In the end, both are willing to give up everything for each other risking everything they have worked for and ultimately their own lives.

The series can be very graphic and requires a trigger warning for many of the episodes due to the more mature topics covered in the Last Of Us. Even with its horrific nature, the show has quickly shot to the top of HBO’s top hits and reached top viewership in a few episodes.

Having only been released Jan. 15, 2023, the show has already been renewed for a second season that viewers are dying for. The second season is supposed to begin production in late 2023 with a mid to late 2024 release date.

The show has snagged the hearts of many viewers already and likely will continue to do so throughout season two, creating many lifelong fans who adore the show, actors, and storyline. It will likely go down as one of the many amazing dystopian futures that the world has to think of in case of an apocalypse, though we can only hope that when faced with such horrors we would have the precautions in place to where we could survive it.



## Hannah Moses: Vaulting Into The Future

Wilson Freer  
Editor

At last year's state track and field meet, current senior Hannah Moses set a new school record and pole vaulted 11' 9 to win her the first place title. Last fall, Moses had to undergo shoulder surgery and faced other small injuries along with it that left her unable to compete and posed a big challenge for Moses. "Just coming back from a shoulder surgery last fall has created a ton of obstacles to get through," she said.

Not only did this injury cause physical challenges, but it also started to take a toll on her mental health. "Not being able to compete had a huge effect on my mental

health and it was very challenging to keep a positive outlook," Moses said. However, Moses has been able to remain optimistic and is ready to be back and stronger than ever. "I feel although it sucks at the time, it makes you a better athlete and competitor."

Support from others has also allowed Moses to make progress with her recovery. "The support of my friends and teammates has helped me so much to stay positive and keep progressing back to normal," She said.



Moses vaulting at the MCPS Invitational meet, 2023. Photo by Wilson Freer

Recovering from injury is not the only thing Moses has had to work hard for. In 2021, Moses was unable to even qualify for state, which made winning the last title even more special. "I worked super hard to get from the mid range bottom, to PRing almost every meet and lastly at state which got me the title," said Moses. "I found my love for pole vault and I had so much fun doing it."

After graduation this year, Moses is planning

to continue her track and field journey at the University of Montana and is planning to study exercise science. "I am super excited to be able to continue improving my vaults and sprints! I'm also excited to meet all of my new teammates and continue being coached by some awesome people."

Moses knows that the switch from high school to college sports will not be easy and she will have to continue to work hard for her improvements and success. "I do think the transition from high school sports to the college level will be challenging, but at the same time, very rewarding," She said.

Not only is Moses ready to face whatever challenges may get thrown her way, but she is looking forward to it. "The next four years will definitely be a grind, but I'm here for it."



## Hellgate Softball: One Pitch At a Time

**Brennan Labbe**  
Reporter

MISSOULA- Sometimes it's not about high-lighting numbers, rather than athletes. That is exactly what Missoula Hellgate's 2022-23 Softball program is about. The Knights who fill the lineup card every game day for Hellgate are not focused on the outcome of the contest. Or their opponent.

In rebuilding stages, Hellgate's softball players' aim every day their starting-nine takes the field is to come away with lessons they can carry onto the next matchup. Sophomore Kaija Nagle, junior Keira Babbitt, and senior Maddy Petrino light that path for the Knights.

And the fire that was struck by that trio burns bright into the late stages of the season.

Nagle is a second year starting third baseman for the Knights. As one of the younger leaders for Hellgate, she relies heavily on her driving passion to compete. "Always staying positive and being supportive to my team, through good and rough times," said Nagle, on what she carries throughout the year with her. "Always being a whole no matter what, and trying to reach not only our personal goals, but goals that we have as a team."

With two years of eligibility left, Nagle looks to continue to be a rising leader for this young team that is growing in age and experience every year.

"I think we all have the mindset to want to get better and achieve our goal, and that is a great way to bring us all together," said Nagle. "Though we are a young developing team, we all have the drive to want to be on the field and work through every game."

Babbitt is Hellgate's starting shortstop. She is one of nine Knights who also showcase their ability over Missoula's respective club teams. The Missoula Avalanche, Sparks, Elite, and Riot are all composed of prep Missoulian athletes.

"My number one goal for the team is to grow on and off the field, and to stay positive even when we are faced with defeat," said Babbitt. "I think that will help us improve a lot."

Babbitt played her freshman year for the Knights, before taking a year off and then returning as a junior. "I think the energy and the drive to be better {what is special about this group}."

"There is not one girl out there who is not giving it their all," said Babbitt. "I love to be a good teammate on and off the girls, and have a fun time with my team when we are playing."

Finally, Hellgate's lone senior Petrino rounds off the resilient group of athletes who compose this spring's team. "My biggest goal for the team is to lead by example, and show while teaching some of the young girls how to also be leaders, and the little details that make the game," said Petrino.

Hellgate's senior phenom currently has two college offers from competitive out-of-state colleges in Minnesota; Crown College and Concordia College.

"My favorite part of softball is how much of an individual sport it is, while also being a team sport," said Petrino. "I love how much we have come together to be successful."

But as the athlete that she is, Petrino has decided to take her talents to Boise State, and manage the women's basketball team.

"I look forward to showing everyone the talent that I have while also helping the team learn the different game situations", said Petrino, on how she plans to set up Hellgate's team for future success.

So as these groups of athletes continue to build up their program to one that will soon be competitive at the Divisional and State level, they are winding down their 2023 Spring campaign with their last home stand. Come out and support these awesome players on Friday May 12, and the following Thursday and Saturday (May 18-May 20) at the Rattlesnake fields as they take on Glacier, Gallatin, and Helena to close out their 2023 season!



Maddy Petrino takes an at bat during Hellgate's game against Sentinel on April 4, 2023, at the University of Montana softball field. Photo By Amelia Richmond

# Knights Reflect on Highlights of Year

By Devyn Deschamps & Eryn Good



As the school year is nearing the end, students and staff alike reminisce on their favorite moments of the year, whether that be the experiences they shared or the friends they met- 2022-23 has certainly been a memorable one.

Elliotte Banzinger  
(freshman)

“Meeting new people. I didn’t know a whole lot of people coming in this year and it’s been super fun getting to do a bunch of things and to meet a lot of new people. I’ve made some of the best friends that I’ve ever had this year.”



Jarred Bickford (senior)

“The first football game of the year, where me and a bunch of dudes went shirtless and painted our chest with ‘Hellgate Knights.’”



Rachel Lunde (teacher)

“The whole school year-in that it is: much more normalized school year than it has been in the past couple years because of Covid. So this year we really got back to systems and higher expectations and students are more engaged. I just think that it’s helped to have structure that everyone feels comfortable with.”



Rocky Molgstad  
(sophomore)

“Definetely my teachers, they’re just sweet.”



Lucy Johnstone  
(junior)

“Theory of Knowledge- I really like that class. Or the tennis season.”



Mila Younick  
(senior)

“Being involved in clubs throughout my school, so that I could make a bigger impact on my community and my school.”

