



The Hellgate Lance

Hellgate Arabic Teacher Brendan Work Awarded Peacemaker of the Year

Amity Rogalski
Reporter

"It's not often that you get to fill a church like this without being dead," Brendan Work started his acceptance speech. Each year, the Jeannette Rankin Peacemaker panel determines an individual who has been an outstanding advocate for peace in the community. This year, the awarded Pacemaker of the Year was Brendan Work, Hellgate Arabic teacher and former journalist. He was noted as a controversial pick this year for many members of the board, as a result of his outspoken beliefs against the genocide in Gaza. Many thought that it would be more appropriate to honor a community member who stood firmly in the middle, taking a stand for neither political side, but uniting the group as a whole.

According to the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center, the awards are chosen based on three criteria: adherence to nonviolence, determination for environmental sustainability, and social justice. The criteria does continue to become much more elaborate, but is firmly based on these three ideas.

Work has been acclaimed for his work as an Arabic teacher, as the only Arabic teacher in all MCPS public high schools. He maintains the importance of this through cultural understanding and the ability to communicate with Arabic speaking refugee students. This is even more evident through his participation at Soft Landings, a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to assisting refugee and immigrant families in Missoula, who stress the importance of volunteers who speak Arabic.

Before coming back to his hometown of Missoula to allow Arabic to be taught in the local community, he was highly recognized for his journalism in Palestine. There his advocacy against the genocide in Palestine began. Before the war that

broke out, the situation in Gaza was still extremely tense and sometimes violent, though not fully declared war. Work saw, first hand, how the Palestinians in this situation lived, communicating to the American people the extreme circumstances in which he was working.

He continues his work and duty to Palestine in Missoula by organizing protests and rallies in support of Palestine with the Montanans for Palestine. Through this nonviolent work and dedication to the Palestinian people throughout his life, advocating for peace and justice in Gaza, the Jeannette Rankin Peace center determined him a worthy recipient of the Peacemaker of the Year Award. Despite this, one speaker made it known that the choice was not unanimous. Several members of the board of determiners felt that Work divided the crowd, rather than brought them together, being so passionate about issues that are highly controversial in the current political climate.

At Work's acceptance ceremony, he draped the keffiyeh over his suit, announcing that he would use his time to accept the award to spread more and more awareness about the horrors occurring in Palestine. "I don't need to tell you that today's circumstances are dire," he said, followed by, "Is due process right? Is international law a fiction?" He aimed to hold our government accountable for the major infringements on human rights that they have been committing, at one point including Donald Trump and Joe Biden as equally culpable war criminals via their military support of Israel.

As a display of atrocity, Work handed out lit candles and a sheet of paper, listing names and ages. He would describe the age beginning at infancy and moving to adulthood at eighteen. Each time that he read the age out loud, the person holding the candle and sheet with the corresponding ages was to blow out their candle, indicating the death of the children whose names covered the sheet. When all the ages had been called, there



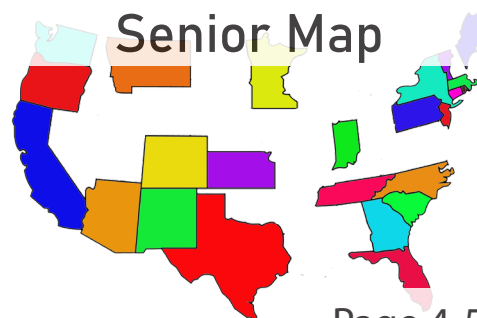
At Work's acceptance ceremony, he draped the keffiyeh over his suit, announcing that he would use his time to accept the award to spread more and more awareness about the horrors occurring in Palestine. Photo by Amity Rogalski.

were still a few candles left lit. "These are the survivors," Work said, following with words of encouragement to do what you can in order to make sure that these survivors have adequate food, care, and shelter. He urged the crowd to continue with him after the ceremony to a march through downtown Missoula in support of Palestine.

During the ceremony, the peace quilters at the Jeannette Rankin Peace center unveiled the quilt that was given to Work in honor of his award. The quilt was unveiled prior to Work's speech, sporting geometric designs and decorated in the back with the pattern of the keffiyeh, representing Work's lifelong dedication to the people of Palestine.



Page 3



Page 4-5



Page 7

June 2025

www.hellgatelance.com

Editors

Elliott Banziger

Will Hansen

Assistant Editor

Emma Puiggari

Reporters

Rita Anastasia

Eleanor Billingsley

Carsten Bowen

Rowan Hull

Emilia Johnson

Kingston Kimpell

Violet Pehan

Amity Rogalski

Quinn Stromberg

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.

Hellgate Knight Faith V. You Achieves Semifinalist Status for U.S. Presidential Scholar Program

Carsten Bowen
Reporter

This year one of our very own Knights, Faith V. You, has been selected as a semifinalist for The U.S. Presidential Scholar Program.

Faith You has attended Hellgate High School all four years of High School and will be continuing her education at Duke University in the fall of 2025. This is yet another addition to her list of accomplishments as a high school student. As a semifinalist, she is one of 600 high school students to reach this level of achievement.

When asked what the application process looks like You described, "Your semifinalist round is determined by your test scores. For Montana there is a certain cut off for SAT and ACT scores for boys and girls; I think there's one point difference between the two. From there you're given a portal to apply for. You have to have a teacher recommendation, for me that was Mrs. Wineman. After that you then have to answer four different essay questions." You emphasized the role of teacher recommendations when applying to things like this.

This has been a goal in mind for You, ever since her out of state friend won the title as a Presidential Scholar her sophomore year. "I had a friend who was a Presidential Scholar my sophomore year and I thought it was really cool so I tried really hard on my standardized testing," said You.

Every year, at the start of spring The Department of Education accepts nominations for The U.S. Presidential Scholar Program, which has been established since 1964. By executive order of the President, The U.S. Presidential Scholar Program is meant to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors.

The program has grown substantially since the 1960's by expanding their program for other fields that high school students excel in. In 1979, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative and performing arts. In 2015, the program was further extended to recognize students who demonstrate their abilities and accomplishments in career

and technical education fields.

These extensions have allowed for up to 161 students being named as Presidential Scholars each year, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. Students can be nominated for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program in a few ways. The most common way is through achieving a high score on the ACT or SAT. Additionally, students can be nominated by their Chief State School Officer (CSSO) or a Presidential Scholar partner organization. For example, students participating in the National Young Arts Foundation program can be nominated.

The selection process includes a rigorous evaluation of candidates, with semifinalists being chosen in late March and scholars being announced in May.

When asked for any final advice for students who want to pursue a similar opportunity she said, "Have good teacher recommendations, be close with your teachers, and try on standardized tests." You highlights the necessity of making connections and networking while in high school.

Results were supposed to come out in early May but have yet to be revealed. We continue to wait in anticipation for our very own semifinalist here at Hellgate High School.



Graduating senior, Faith Youth is a semifinalist in The U.S. Presedential Scholar Program, Photo courtesy of Faith You

Beloved Teacher Rachel Lunde Retires After 20 Years at Hellgate

Emma Puiggari
Assistant Editor

After 20 years at Hellgate High School and a remarkable 38-year career in education, a cherished teacher prepares to say goodbye leaving behind a legacy of compassion, humor, and intellectual inspiration.

History teacher Rachel Lunde, has touched countless lives through her passion for history and deep commitment to student growth. “I guess just really the day-to-day interactions with students, getting to know individuals, sharing humor, and seeing students grow intellectually... that’s been the most rewarding part,” Lunde said.

Before coming to Hellgate, Lunde taught at CS Porter and sought a new challenge. “I just wanted something different,” Lunde said. “Hellgate gave me that challenge, and a community.”

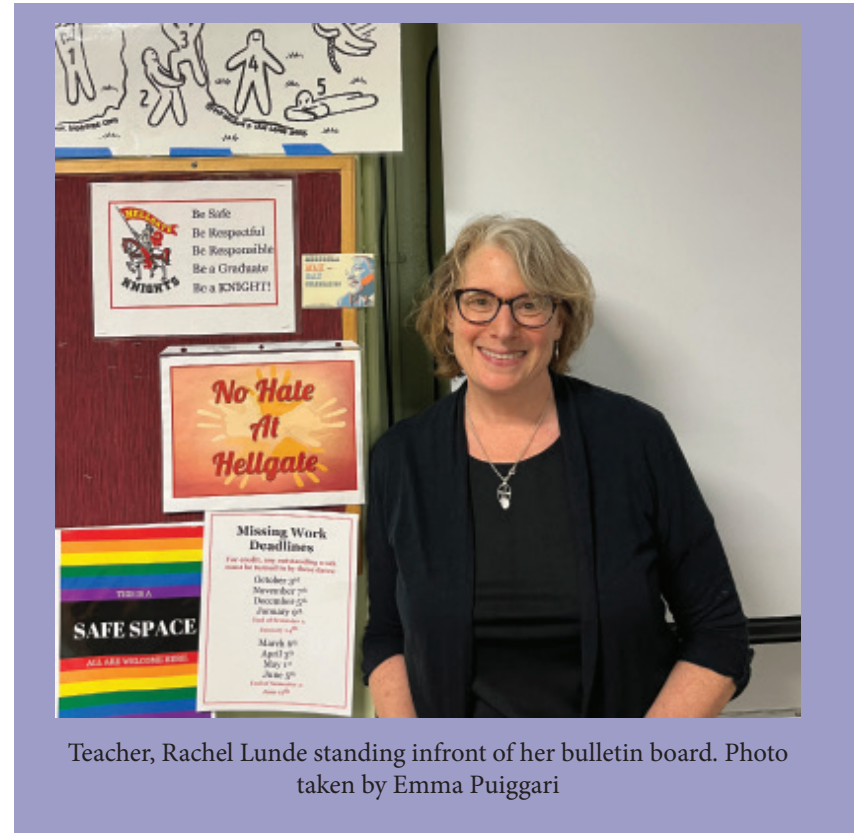
Lundes journey into teaching began with a love for kids and early experience as a summer day camp counselor. “I always loved that kid energy,” Lunde said. “I find I’m more forgiving of kids than adults. I just understand there’s always a story behind their behavior.”

Beyond the classroom, Lunde loves to travel, read, cook, and adventure with her family. “I’m really curious about the world,” Lunde said. “Travel opens my perspective and gives me new experiences. I’ll definitely be taking one international trip a year, and a couple domestic ones.”

“I’ve learned to be more compassionate, to understand that students have a lot going on in their lives that we may not see,” Lunde said regarding her time at Hellgate. “That’s shaped how I teach.”

When asked whether she had a favorite year of teaching, she responded that while certain years stood out, it was always the class dynamic and the relationships built that made the difference. “If there’s a good class vibe, that’s what makes a year feel special.”

When reflecting on how Hellgate has changed, Lunde noted the impact of social media and post-COVID dynamics in classrooms. Still, some things remain constant: “Each student has value and contributes to the Hellgate community.”



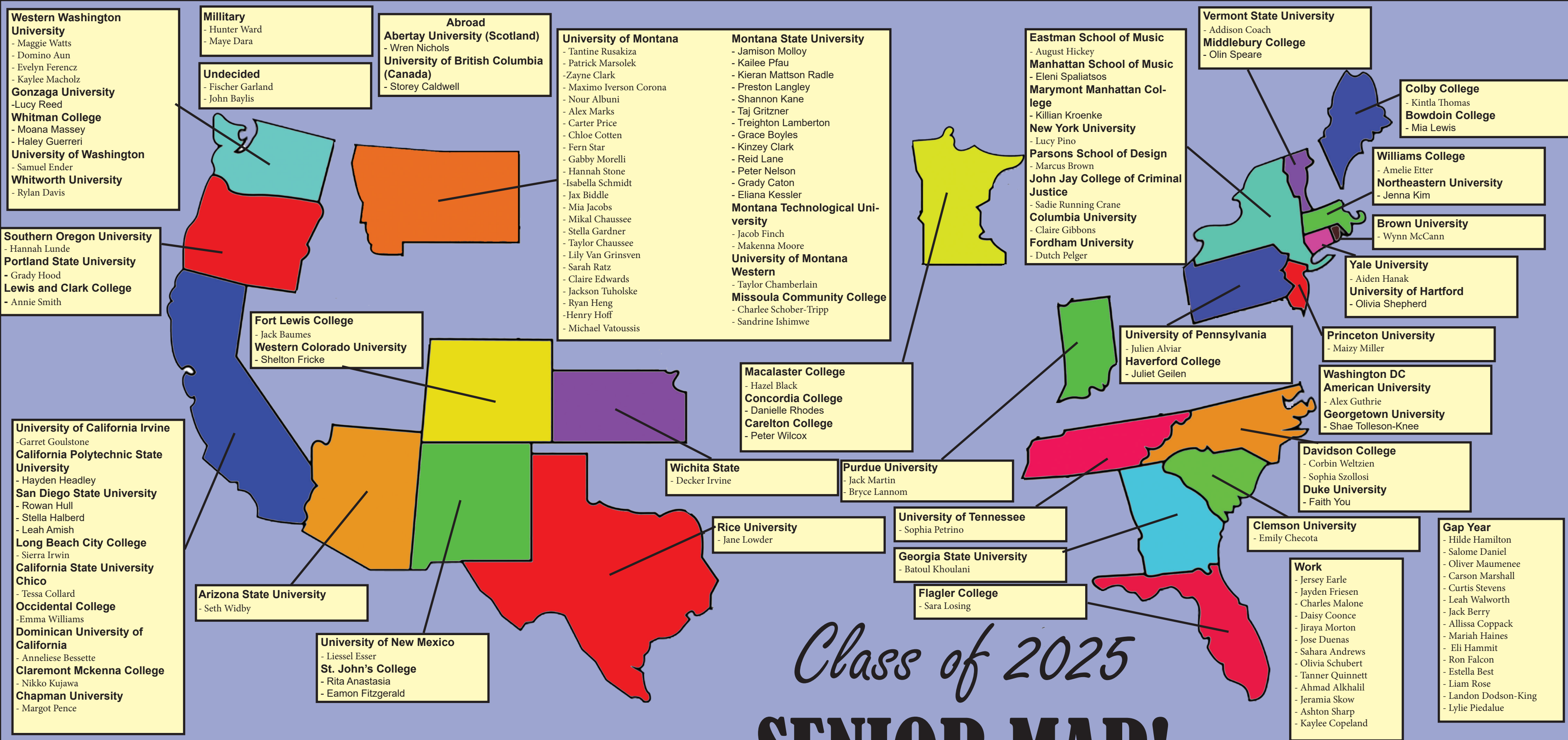
Teacher, Rachel Lunde standing in front of her bulletin board. Photo taken by Emma Puiggari

For new teachers at Hellgate Lunde advised, “Seek out veteran teachers, enjoy the community here, and don’t take everything too seriously. Remember to have fun.”

As retirement nears, Lundes plans include writing a book, catching up on sleep, reading more, and, of course, traveling. “I’m really going to miss teaching. I’ll miss the relationships between students, teachers, and staff probably more than I realize right now,” Lunde Admits.

Lundes dedication and warmth have left an incredible impact on the Hellgate community, and her legacy will continue to inspire teachers and students alike.

For decades, Mrs. Lunde’s classroom has been a place of laughter, growth, and support. Her presence, wisdom, and kindness are irreplaceable. And as she continues onto a new part of her life Hellgate will remember her.



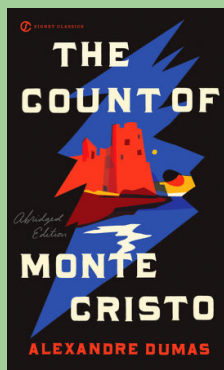
Perky Pages To Read

Eleanor Billingsley
Reporter

Getting immersed in a good book is the perfect way to relax and unwind especially with all of the stress that comes with the AP/IB testing, finals mid summer soon aproching! Finding that good book can be hard sometimes, here's what some of the students and staff at Hellgate like to read!



Sophmore Maggie Skinner
"I would recommend the Throne of Glass series!"



Freshman Petey Lofing
"I would recoment The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexander Dumas, it takes like a year to read!"



English Teacher Micheal Larsen
"I am the Messenger and All the Light We Cannot See. The Book! Not the miniseries."



Sophmore Camille Cellier
"A Girl Within a Girl by Nanda Reddy and Once Upon a River by Diane Setterfield! They are both really well crafted stories!"



Senior Leah Walworth
"I would recoment The Raven Cycle series by Naggie Stiefvater!"

Hellgate's Library is allowing students to check out up to five books to read for their summer break! The summer time is a great time to sit down and read a new series, the library is making it possible for students to check out up to five books they are interested in reading to take with them over the summer. For the underclassmen at Hellgate the checkouts start on Monday, June 2nd; for seniors who might want to check out a book, you can use Google Takeout. The books that get checked out over the summer will need to be checked back into the library early in September when school starts again next year!



Spring Sports Wrap Up for Hellgate Athletes

Elliott Banziger & Will Hansen
Editors

As the
school
year
comes

to an end, so does another fantastic season of Hellgate spring sports. Hellgate athletes put up wonderful performances across the season in track and field, tennis, softball, and for the first year ever, baseball.

Track and field had another great year, with many athletes setting personal bests in their events. Despite a slightly smaller team than in the past, 29 athletes were able to qualify for the state meet in Kalispell, with 12 of them setting PR's. Senior Corbin Weltzien placed first in the 110 meter hurdles, a race he's been dominant in throughout his career with Hellgate track and field.

"Girls team landed just shy of a trophy, and the boys got to show off a lot of the team's up and coming talent," said senior Eamon Fitzgerald, who ran the 1600 and 3200 at the state meet. The girls tied with Glacier for 4th place overall, landing just shy of a trophy, with the boys coming in 12th.

Fitzgerald was happy with both teams'

performances. "It's always easy to want more, but I genuinely think everyone did great," he said.

While the track and field team is graduating a number of their top athletes as seniors this year, talent on the team runs deep, and younger athletes will continue to step into the spotlight next spring. Hellgate softball had a good season. They won three games, which is a huge success compared to their last season where they only won one. "I think the season as a whole went really well," said junior Kaylie Moe, a pitcher for the Knights.

The softball team is looking forward to a successful season next year, as they have a relatively young team who started feeling very confident towards the end of their season. "It really started to click at the end," said Moe.

Baseball was introduced to Missoula's three AA high schools this spring, and with its introduction came a number of eager participants. MCPS approved the introduction of baseball to the schools in November of 2023, and the hiring process of coaches took place over the next several months. Players, a number of which had played baseball through middle school

but were unable to continue at a high school level, took to the diamond to represent their schools for the first time this spring.

"It was a really cool experience to be on the first team for [Hellgate]," said freshman Case Cottrell. "The coaches were amazing at helping all of us develop throughout the season, they helped me improve lots."

Because of the program's infancy, baseball had somewhat of a rocky start, ending the season with a 1-13-1 record. "The season didn't go quite as expected," said Cottrell. "We had many hard games and some tough losses."

Despite this, baseball's introduction gave many athletes the opportunity to play the sport they love in a high school uniform, and many of the bumps experienced this season will most likely shake out by next spring.

"I'm really looking forward to next year," said Cottrell.

Hellgate tennis had another dominant season. The girls were able to send nine people to state, which is taking six of the eight spots from the West. They sent Elliott Banziger, Shae Tolleson Knee, and Lucia Savoia in singles and the doubles teams of Kendall Adler/Wesley Banziger, Moana Massey/Anais Currie Inglizian, and Addie Terwilliger/Ar-iana Roberts. The boys succeeded in sending two singles players: Jack Currie Welch and Leo Ma, and two doubles teams: Sam Ender/Andrew Duman and Nikko Kujawa/Oscar Hanford.

The girls had an amazing run at state, securing a place on each podium and taking 2nd overall. Elliott Banziger won the girls singles division, securing her 3rd state title. While the doubles team of Adler/Banziger, and the late addition of Jane Lowder the girls alternate due to a ball to Banziger's head and resulting concussion, took 3rd place.

The boys team finished just short of placing. "I think overall we had a really great season and even though the whole team expected a better result, we came together and bonded. So in the end, it was worth more than a 1st place for the girls and a trophy for the boys," said boys captain Sam Ender. The team of Ender/Duman placed 4th after multiple 3-set matches. Welch also placed 4th after going through the same thing. "It didn't end how I wanted it to, but I had so much fun and gave everything I had." Said Ender.

Overall, the Hellgate Knights dominated the spring sports season and we are greatly looking forward to the next one.



The boys and girls tennis team pose with the 2nd place trophy.

Photo courtesy of Shae Tolleson Knee



Junior Kaylie Moe runs bases during a softball game.

Photo courtesy of Destiny Asks



The Hellgate Baseball team lines up before a game.

Photo courtesy of Destiny Asks



Anneliese Bessette completing her leg of the 4-by-400.

Photo courtesy of Kate Hansen

Senior Advice

Rowan Hull
Reporter

"Dont take too many hard
classes."
- Lucy Reed

"Its really easy to make mistakes sophomore
year, dont let them effect your future."
- Emma Puiggari

"Be where you are celebrated, not
tolerated." - Aluna Sabina

"Get a J. O. B'
- Quinn Fellin

"STAY GOATED." - Mattias Remes

"Don't skip school and be nice to the weird
kids." - Echo McTague

"Play sports and get
involved." - Shannon Kane

"Make school a priority but don't let it
consume you." - Soleil Plate

"Do homework in class so you can skip when
you really want to."
- Emmett Platt

"Get a 7th period
campus release."
-Hank Shattuck

"Retain your whimsy and try to make freinds with
people you wouldn't normally hangout with."
- Salome Daniel

"Be focused on growth.
Dont spend another year do-
ing the same thing."
- Silas Smith

"Invest
in
your
future"
-Asher Barnes

"Study hard." - Charlie Bell

"Dont forget to charge your airpods."
- Amos Taley

"Enjoy your familly while they are
still here."
- Landon Christensen

"Stay open minded and try as many new
things as you can."
- Margot Pence

"Act in your best interest."
- Dutch Pelger

"Go to the gym."
- Schuyler Fairchild

"YOLO." - Bo Muhsam

"Don't skip..."
- Sarah Craig

"Make sure you understand late work penalties and try
to stay on top of your workload, not
procrastinating." - Pete Wilcox

"Be social and enjoy the last year
with your classmates, you won't see most
of them again."
- Kailee Pfau

"Be a goldfish."
- Peter Nelson

"Surround yourself with people
who genuinley make you happier,
not who you think you should be
with." - Soraya Kiely

"Nothing is that serious,
have fun."
- Olivia
Harrington

"Take your classes seriously, but dont stress over perfection."
- Curtis Stevens

"Do it even if you feel unpre-
pared." - Faith You

"Don't procrastinate."
- Seth Widby

"Surround yourself with people who support your
goals and encourage you to be the best version of
yourself." - Tim Scott