

THE AUGUSTINIAN

“Tolle Lege”

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St. Augustine High School

New Faculty, Episode 1: A New Hope



Three of Saints' new faculty members: Ms. Hammock, Mr. Segura, and Mrs. Serrano Nick Luzi ('22)



By Griffin Cappiello ('24)
EDITOR

With the arrival of a new school year at Saints comes the arrival of five new members of the staff: Ms. Rebecca Hammock, Mr. Ryan Segura, Mr. Will Cinelli, Mrs. Sage Serrano, and Mr. David Klapmeier. To provide a more in-depth look into our new faculty members, we will highlight three teachers in this issue of

The Augustinian and two in the next.

Ms. Rebecca Hammock, a religion teacher and the new head of campus ministry, had experience with Saint Augustine High School before her arrival this year. She grew up in North County, and her two brothers were students here at Saints. In fact, her younger brother was friends with our very own Mr. Wehbe. She was very jealous of the Brotherhood and the experiences her brothers had as stu-

dents here. She often heard stories of water balloons or NERF gun fights taking place during lunch.

After graduating from La Costa Canyon High School, she went on to attend Notre Dame where she double majored in business and theology. She then earned a Master of Arts degree in theology, specifically in ministry. During this time, she worked at a very large church in Houston with over seven thousand families as members of the parish. The CCD program there had four times the number of students as there are at Saints.

At Boston College, she earned a master's degree in theological studies, a degree more focused on the academic side of theology.

On a more personal note, Ms. Hammock is a fan of the Padres, as well as Notre Dame football. In her free time, she enjoys drawing, painting, and creative writing, particularly writing introspective personal essays.

She frequently shares stories from her life with her freshman religion class, saying, “Stories are the most effective way of teaching.”

Ms. Hammock is very excited to be here, and she is looking forward to sharing her experiences with her Saintsmen brothers.

Mrs. Serrano, an art teacher, is only here temporarily. She is covering for Mrs. Drummy, who is currently on maternity leave. She is a San Diego native who went to Canyon Crest Academy and graduated from UCSD with honors, earning a degree in visual studio arts. She continued her education by obtaining a master's

degree from SDSU in painting and printmaking, where she previously taught beginning drawing.

Mrs. Serrano was happy to accept Mrs. Drummy's offer to cover her maternity leave, as Mrs. Drummy had told her so much about Saints she “felt like she knew the school already.” Though she only expects to be here through the first quarter, Mrs. Drummy gave her the power to teach her class however she wanted. Serrano has been using the lesson plans and projects she was given, but has also added new elements to the course, including the art of Suminagashi marbling, which is on display outside her classroom.

Mrs. Serrano has greatly enjoyed her time here, saying she loves Saints and expressing her desire to come back as a substitute after her tenure is over.

Mr. Ryan Segura, who teaches freshmen and seniors religion, is a graduate of Saints from the class of 2016. During his time as a student, he served as an assistant cross country coach. He graduated from Gonzaga with a degree in political science, and he is currently two credits away from a double major in religious studies.

He returned to Saints this past spring to lead the Kairos retreat alongside Mrs. Yoakum. Afterward, he received an offer for an interview from Mr. Horne. After getting hired, he gladly accepted the chance to return to his alma mater. He said that it feels weird working alongside his former teachers, but that the experi-

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Cheering Crowds Return to Saints Sports



By Liam Haskett ('22)
STAFF WRITER

Just three months after the end of the Saints Super Season, the Saintsmen have returned to the field of play for the first normal fall season of sports in two years. The tradition of fall Friday night lights and cross country meets has finally come back to reality, along with the return of a popular sport at Saints, beach volleyball.

Beach volleyball at Saints originally was the idea of Saints alumnus Xavier Tan '19. By his sophomore year, he was already well-known in the beach volleyball community and wanted to bring the sport to Saints. English teacher Mrs. Palafox was the first staff member to be brought on board and was able to get the team recognized at Saints as a club.

Since then, the club has grown to the point where it has become a vibrant club sport at Saints. Over the years, the club has brought on many high-level coaches, such as Brazilian Olympian Rafa Asvolinsque and a UCSD men's volleyball assistant coach. The club truly gained popularity in the 2019-2020 school year, when it was deemed Halo Joe's Beach Volleyball, and had the most talented roster it had seen in its short lifespan. It was this year when it began to gain rec-

ognition at Saints as a true sport, and began the process towards being officially regarded as such.

This season, the team has retained only two players from their last season before the coronavirus shut them down in the 2020-2021 season. However, their opening win against Mission Bay showed just how much potential the team has, as they beat the Buccaneers 3-2 after stand-out freshman Noah Heuring helped secure a game 3 victory to win the series.

“That was a very important win because the speculation surrounding our team was that we wouldn't do well this year due to our lack of experience,” said senior team captain Bodie Kerr following the victory.

Kerr has been on the team since his freshman year, and he sports a 26-2 cumulative record over that time, including massive wins in the team's two undefeated seasons in his freshman and sophomore years.

Meanwhile, the cross country team started its fall season with the announcement that they were moving up to Division III in CIF, which means they will run against much more competitive schools, such as Cathedral Catholic and Point Loma High School. The team's top runner, Jimmy Markowicz, is ranked as one of the top juniors in San Diego.



Saints won their first game of the year at home against Steele Canyon. Nick Luzi ('22)

The team's top four are rounded off with three weathered and experienced seniors: Evan Williams, Michael Butcher, and Nalu Coons. They are currently in preparation for their first league meet which begins in two weeks' time. The combination of experience, intense preparation, and a new and improved roster leads to high hopes of winning the league and making a run deep into CIF.

On the football field, the Saints opened their season with a three-game losing streak, with losses to Oceanside, El Camino, and highly-ranked Santa Margarita. They won their first game of

the season against Steele Canyon, behind a 21-carry, 199-yard, 2-touchdown rushing performance from star senior running back Isaiah Pressley. His rushing performance has been outstanding all season, as he averages 130 yards per game, on over 20 carries each night.

The defense, led by senior linebacker Justin Stearns and defensive end Gracen Halton, was stifling, as they sacked the Steele Canyon quarterback 4 times and held the Cougars to 0 total points.

Despite the dominant rushing attack

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Saints Teachers Remember 9/11



Mr. Wallace grew up just ten miles from “ground zero.”

Getty Images



By Riley Scanlan ('23)
STAFF WRITER

A three-year-old boy is visiting his grandparents' home in Hoboken, New Jersey. The day is September 11, 2001. Hearing commotion coming from the living room, he finds his parents and grandparents glued to the television, horrified by what they are watching. He does not understand what is happening, but he feels their sadness. Watching his family react in disbelief to the Twin Towers crashing down across the Hudson River would become one of Joseph Wehbe's earliest memories.

That very day, in San Diego, a father is dropping off his son at daycare. He always comes in early because he has to get to his job as a teacher. When he checks in, one of the caregivers asks if he has heard the news—two planes have crashed into the World Trade Center in New York. Stunned, he continues on his way to school. Upon his arrival, he sees students and faculty gathered around televisions, watching the events unfold in real time. The

South Tower, which had been struck at 9:03 EST, had already fallen. In just a few minutes, John Vignol watches as the North Tower collapses, too, to the horror of all around the world.

Across the Atlantic, at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, the headquarters of the U.S. Air Force in Europe, an officer is on assignment working in the Inspector General's office. He is at the Base Exchange Gas Station on an otherwise routine afternoon, when another airman asks if he has heard what has happened. He learns that multiple commercial airliners have been hijacked and crashed into the World Trade Center. His parents are in Germany visiting him at the time, and soon they are all watching the news at a friend's house. He learns that the Pentagon, the headquarters of all five branches of the U.S. military, was also the target of an attack. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Slusher knew that his role in the U.S. Air Force would never be the same.

At the same time, a school maintenance worker in Encinitas, California, is beginning his day at work. He puts

on his ear protectors and starts up a leaf blower to clear out the parking lot before the school day begins. He is startled by a coworker, who gets his attention and tells him to stop what he is doing; he needs to see what is happening in New York. The maintenance worker is originally from Rockaway, in Queens, New York, just ten miles away from what will become known as “ground zero.” He grew up in a neighborhood many FDNY firefighters and NYPD officers called home. Brian Wallace tries all morning to call friends and family, but all lines are busy. He fears there could be more than one hundred thousand dead in the two towers.

These four Saints teachers were all affected differently by the tragedy twenty years ago. Because Mr. Wehbe was so young at the time, he would never know a world without 9/11.

Mr. Slusher proudly served in the U.S. Air Force and experienced 9/11 while thousands of miles away from home in Germany. He soon became involved in the deployment of U.S. forces to Afghanistan in response to the attack.

Eventually, Mr. Wallace got in touch with his family back in New York. He learned that several of his friends and family lost their lives that day, but he was grateful for the help of the first responders, without whom many more lives would have been lost.

Mr. Vignol arrived at St. Augustine High School that tragic day. For that day and several more to follow, there was little instruction as the world processed the scale of this disaster.

Mr. Vignol was reminded of other national tragedies such as the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Over the past twenty years there have been many stories shared, many tears shed, and many heroes recognized for their selfless acts. Time does not erase the pain from this day, but the nation comes together each year to remember the lives lost and reflect on the event that would forever change America and the world.

New Faculty

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ence as a first-year teacher is similar to that of a freshman. “Everyone here wants you to succeed,” Mr. Segura said. “Anything I need, they’ll move the world for me.”

Despite being a brand-new member of the faculty, Mr. Segura has already jumped in and embraced his role as a mentor to current Saints-men. He has returned to his position as assistant cross country coach and has taken over the job of moderating the Saints chapter of the National Honor Society. He is a fan of the Padres, the Chargers, Gonzaga basketball, and Notre Dame football. He enjoys listening to Fleetwood Mac and catching up with his former teachers. Mr. Segura is looking forward to taking part in the Saints experience as a teacher rather than a student.

In reliving the Saints experience, Mr. Segura is able to leave a lasting impact on his students' lives, just as his teachers did for him. He shares the vision of fellow teachers that returned to Saints to teach, joining the ranks occupied by the likes of Mr. Cudal and the da Luz brothers.

Sports

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and the stars on defense, the Saints have dropped two more games, a 35-14 loss to Helix and a 35-0 loss to Mater Dei. The team will look to the future in league play.

As Covid restrictions have lessened, the notorious Saints student section, the Pit, has returned. The Steele Canyon game was a prime example of the energy that the Pit can bring, as over 150 Saints-men showed up for the theme of “body positivity,” and made as much noise as possible during the Cougars' offensive possessions.

All in all, the return to a normal fall sports season has everyone in high spirits, as Saints-men succeed on and off the field. Each sport faces a difficult challenge this season, with each team battling adversity, from which they will surely come out stronger for the postseason.

Texas Law Effectively Bans Abortion



By Patrick O'Leary ('23)
MANAGING EDITOR

On May 9, the Texas state government passed a new law making it illegal to have an abortion after the sixth week of pregnancy. The conservative state had long since been on the front lines in the national debate over abortion, and they established themselves as the first to reinforce their stance with the “heartbeat bill,” labeled SB 8. Though far from their first attempt, SB 8 is the most restrictive abortion law in the country to survive initial judicial review in nearly fifty years.

After the new law took effect on September 1, abortion providers quickly filed a lawsuit in the Supreme Court, which refused to block the bill by a vote of five to four. The unprecedented legislation was specifically designed to withstand rejection in the high courts by an unusual method of enforcement: SB 8 prohibits state officials or law enforcement from directly carrying out the ban. Instead, it incentivizes private citizens to file a \$10,000 suit against perpetrators and awards compensation for legal fees if they win in court. Anyone found knowingly aiding women seeking an abortion, from abortion providers to pro-choice organizations providing financial support, can be sued. This would even include driving a woman to an abortion clinic. The organization

Texas Right to Life even created a website where Texans can report violations anonymously.

This “bounty hunter clause” in particular incited outrage among pro-choice groups; in mocking response, a law has been proposed by Illinois Democrats to establish a similar reward for turning in sexual abusers.

By making the general public the enforcers of the law rather than the state, Texas was able to sidestep existing laws that kept abortion legal. The justice system was unable to hold the Texas government in direct violation of the historic Roe v. Wade case. Since the landmark 1973 ruling, the United States government has maintained that the Fourteenth Amendment protects a woman's right to choose whether or not to have an abortion, independent of government restriction. The controversial ruling has since divided the pro-life Republicans and pro-choice Democrats.

Although Christian doctrine states that human life begins at conception, the “heartbeat bill” allows for legal abortion until cardiac activity can be detected, usually occurring after five or six weeks. It protects the fetus as soon as electric pulses can be detected, even though the heart has not yet developed.

Critics of the heartbeat bill argue that it does not provide women with a long enough window to safely get an

abortion. The law allows women to get a legal abortion within six weeks of becoming pregnant, the equivalent of a woman's period being two weeks late. Critics argue that the law takes effect before many women even know they are pregnant. It also makes no exceptions for rape victims, although it does for in cases where the life of the mother is at risk.

The principal author of the law, conservative lawyer Jonathan Mitchell, is no stranger to controversy; in 2016 he wrote a similar bill that was struck down in the Texas courts. In the years since then, he worked to refine his craft, mastering the art of crafting intricate wordings and indirect statutes to ferry his new legislation through the judicial system. His latest work may serve as a blueprint for future bills in other Republican-dominated states. Since SB 8, political leaders in other states, including Florida, Indiana, and Arkansas, have voiced their interest in similar actions inspired by Texas.

Since the law took effect on September 1, the Biden administration and Department of Justice voiced open resistance to the measure, saying that it violates established federal precedent and is unconstitutional. The Justice Department also formally requested that a Texas federal judge block enforcement of the law temporarily until

all legal challenges have been resolved. Their motion was denied, but the Biden administration is still set on overturning the heartbeat bill.

Though a massive win for conservatives, most high-profile Republicans have remained silent on the issue, refusing to comment. There has been speculation among political analysts that the victory may come at a cost, especially in upcoming elections. SB 8 has captured many headlines as it went into effect in September, diverting attention from the Biden administration's unpopular Afghanistan withdrawal. The law also puts the red-hot abortion topic at the forefront of politics. With the country's population fairly split on the issue, the definitive legislation has the potential to alienate swing voters. Republican lawmakers also fear potential implications in more liberal states, which could use the legal structure to pass their own controversial bills using civil lawsuits as a hammer.

The ripple effect of SB 8 may lead to further anti-abortion state legislation and pro-life victories in the near future, but they could come at the cost of congressional seats and public support for Republicans. Though the legal battle has quietly disappeared from the front page, the national debate is far from settled—it will take more than a law or court ruling to win the battle in the minds and hearts of the American people.

To Read or Not To Read, That Is the Question

Aidan Rickwa breaks down which English books are worth reading



By Aidan Rickwa ('22)
EDITOR

Every student at Saints reads many novels and plays during his time in English class, and most of them probably bring back memories of painful quizzes, boring discussions, and grade-destroying essays. But if you truly take a moment and think about everything you have read for English class, you have probably learned quite a lot and most likely even enjoyed some of the books. I have created a tier list of all of the English books that Saintsmen have had to read these past three years to let you know which books to dread and which books you will enjoy. I have graded these books based on three categories: how understandable the language is, how satisfying the ending is, and the readability of the book as a whole.

F TIER: Starting with the F tier at the bottom, we have but one book: *Utopia* by Saint Thomas More. For all of his virtues, the man couldn't write if his life depended on it. *Utopia* was the summer reading assignment for the freshmen on the Honors English track and immediately started them off confused and nervous. It defines what a truly utopian society would look like. If you enjoy reading the dictionary, you might like this book. It has been known to put lawyers to sleep.

C TIER: A few more books fall into this tier: *Old School*; *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*; *A Summer's Life*; *The Grapes of Wrath*; *A History of Rasselas*; *Prince of Abissinia*; *He-*

roses, Gods, and Monsters; *Invisible Man*. *Old School* is simply a worse version of *The Catcher in the Rye*—enough said. *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* somehow makes a thrilling journey out of slavery boring. *A Summer's Life* is the tale of a six-year-old felon who is also a Buddhist monk with a love-hate relationship with asphalt. *The Grapes of Wrath* tells a two-hundred-page story in five hundred pages. *A History of Rasselas*, *Prince of Abissinia* is basically a Disney movie, if you take away the plot and the singing animals. *Heroes, Gods, and Monsters* provides backstory for the characters of the classic *Percy Jackson* series. *Invisible Man* is basically nonexistent; you can't even tell who the main character is.

B TIER: *The Catcher in the Rye*; *Frankenstein*; *The Assistant*; *Othello*; *Death of a Salesman*; *The Crucible*; *The Jungle*; *The Great Gatsby*. *The Catcher in the Rye* discusses the tale of an introvert who wants to turn into a duck and gets depressed when he realizes that he can't. Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* ruins the long-standing monster established by Spirit of Halloween by incorrectly giving him the ability to walk and talk. *The Assistant* discusses a loser who takes on a job to get a shot at a Jewish store owner's hot daughter. *Othello* reveals how racism hasn't changed in four hundred years, and minorities still die at the white person's hand. *Death of a Salesman* describes the death of a salesman. *The Crucible* not only confirms the existence of witches, but details how to properly exterminate them. *The Jungle* discusses

how fingers and other human appendages are a delicious component of your diet. *The Great Gatsby*, despite being the most overrated book of all time, continues to fascinate English teachers with the elusive green light at the end of the dock, which has a similar effect to that of a laser pointer on a cat. "Do you see it?"

A TIER: *The Sun Also Rises*; *On the Beach*; *Animal Farm*; *Brave New World*. *The Sun Also Rises* launches into a precipitous tale about a man with an "old grievance" which prevents him from personal intimacy with his "free-spirited" lady friend. *On the Beach* is a delightful story about a nuclear apocalypse that confirms our theories that Antarctica is the most dominant country of all and that people from down under would survive the longest. *Animal Farm* presents the story of how animals cracked the code to Communism. *Brave New World* is a charming tale of adolescent bodily adventures and rightly emphasizes how society improves under

increasing government control.

S TIER: *To Kill a Mockingbird*; *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*; *Romeo and Juliet*; *Of Mice and Men*. *To Kill a Mockingbird* discusses the classic tale of racism leading to the death of an innocent man, and in the end, the albino white man is hailed as the hero. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* follows the development of a boy who starts racist and by the end becomes slightly less racist. One of the greatest literary works of all time, *Romeo and Juliet* has cracked one of the greatest secrets of modern-day drama: kill off everyone so there is no opportunity to make terrible sequels. *Of Mice and Men* warns that if you spend too much time focusing on your rabbit farm, your best friend may shoot you in the head.

Disagree with our choices? Think our S tier choices were F tier and vice versa? Think we missed the meaning of the book? Send us a DM on Instagram: @stanewspaper and let us know what you think!

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Team Spotlight: Cross Country Runs for Glory



The cross country team moved up to Division III this year. Courtesy of Nicole Yoakum



By Michael Luzi ('25)
STAFF WRITER

Welcome to *The Augustinian's* Team Spotlight series. This series is meant to shine some light on sports that typically don't receive as much coverage. This month's team spotlight is on the Saints cross country team.

With the start of the 2021-2022 school year comes the start of the fall sports season. The St. Augustine cross country program has been one of the most successful in San Diego County over the past twenty-five years. Dur-

ing that time, they have won eight league and seven CIF championships. They have also been CIF runner-up four times, and they have several All-League and All-CIF awards. The varsity team has been in the top ten in the state meet eleven times.

The sport takes place during the fall season, and Mr. Christian Yoakum is the head coach for the team. The team began training in June, almost three months before the first official meet. This year's season officially started on August 16 and will continue until mid-November. However, the varsity team is hoping to make it all the way to

the CIF championships, which would mean the top seven runners that qualify will not be finished running until December.

Currently, the team is in its "invitational phase." "The invitational races are a great way to see where you are mentally, see where you are physically. It's a great way to build confidence in the team," senior Michael Butcher said. The invitational races are a good way for the team to ease into the new season of cross country after Covid regulations altered last year's season. In one of the first invitational races, Jimmy Markowicz placed twelfth overall in the senior race, Nate Wilson placed fourteenth in the junior race, and Trent Torres placed ninth in the freshman race.

Junior Jimmy Markowicz and senior Michael Butcher are the team's main leaders. "Jimmy Markowicz is our best runner, he's one of the better juniors in San Diego," Mr. Yoakum said. Other standout runners include seniors Nalu Coons, Evan Williams, and Aidan Rickwa, and junior Nate Wilson.

A typical practice is usually either a hard practice or a recovery practice, with lifting twice a week. Their practices are significantly longer and harder than the meets. In a typical hard practice, the runners would be expected to run six 1000 meter repeats where they would have to hit specific times, and they would get anywhere from thirty

seconds to a minute and a half to rest in between each repeat.

In a typical recovery practice, they may run eight to nine miles at a relaxed pace, typically one to two minutes slower than their average race pace. The point of running more distance than the actual meet is to work on overall endurance and to be better prepared to cover the distance required. A recovery practice usually happens after a big meet, and the runners need a cooldown.

A majority of the season is just training and practice, so when it comes time for the meets, it just feels like another practice. During the meets, the runners will be under tremendous pressure, so their preparation is important for them to feel more calm and confident.

The team also has a weightlifting program, where they lift two times a week with Coach Sweat. They have the weightlifting program because a majority of the movement in cross country is based on strength and power. For example, when they need the extra energy to run the last few feet or power over a large hill, they will have the strength to meet those challenges.

Every cross country race is scored by ranking the top five runners of each team. Each runner will get a certain number of points based on which place they finish. For first place, a runner gets one point, second place gets two

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Idiocy of the Month: Imaginary High School Competes in Football Game on ESPN



By Manny Butler ('22)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Welcome to *The Augustinian's* Idiocy of the Month column! As expected, this new monthly column will focus on the past month's stupidest occurrence. If you, the reader, would like to nominate potential cases of idiocy, send us a DM on Instagram: @stanewspaper

On August 29 in Canton, Ohio, one of the strangest football games in history has just reached its end, as IMG Academy has put the finishing touches on a 58-0 victory over little-known Bishop Sycamore High School in a game televised nationally on ESPN. However, this was no ordinary blowout high school football game. In fact, even calling it a "high school" football game is factually incorrect, because Bishop Sycamore isn't really a high school! People are going to have lots of explaining to do.

In Columbus, Ohio, a school called Christians of Faith Academy welcomed its first students in 2018. Purportedly the "IMG of the Midwest," its students are all athletes. Unfortunately for them, their first season is less than successful. They win just two games out of twelve, losing eight and forfeiting the remaining two.

This is where normalcy ends and idiocy begins its reign of terror over Christians of Faith Academy.

The students that were recruited to Christians of Faith Academy were atypical of high school students in almost every way. Many of them were too old for high school, and four or five of them even had their own children.

These were not the finest kids around, as many of them had legal issues. At one point they had so many players with active warrants for their arrest that the team could not fly to away games. One player joined the team straight out of jail. Additionally, a former player claimed

that there were five or more fights at every practice.

The "school" itself was also more than a little rough around the edges. There was no campus to speak of, so the players lived in a hotel for five months. The only semblance of education that took place was a single visit to a public library. This was too much for most of the coaches, who quit during the football season, leaving the team with just two coaches and the mother of a player to instruct them. Even worse, the players were so poorly fed that they resorted to stealing food to keep themselves from starving, and the lack of athletic trainers meant that players were playing while hurt.

The administration of the school also had a myriad of issues. After the players finally moved out of the hotel, they were evicted by the landlords of numerous apartments because the head coach and leader of the group, Roy Johnson, had failed to pay rent. A series of suspicious financial activities sparked a federal investigation into the "school" for using counterfeit money and committing credit card fraud.

Needless to say, Christians of Faith Academy shut down. Unexpectedly, they returned in 2019 under the name Bishop Sycamore High School, which was really just Christians of Faith Academy with a new name and the same bumbling idiot, head coach Roy Johnson, at the helm.

In 2019, the team's 4-5 record masked the dysfunction bubbling below the surface. The team was kicked out of a tournament in Georgia because Johnson had neglected to submit rosters and book hotel rooms on time. However, sandwiched between the disaster of 2018 and the disaster of 2020, 2019 was a pretty tame year for Bishop Sycamore.

Though it would eventually become a dumpster fire, 2020 started off pretty well for Bishop Sycamore, as they of-

fered real classes for the first time in their history through a third party. This initial sign of progress proved too good to be true, as classes were canceled after five months because Johnson had neglected to pay for them.

On the field, the team was able to take advantage of the pandemic, as they were able to fill their schedule with games against actual powerhouse high schools facing cancellations. They went 0-6 and were outscored 227-42, including a 56-6 loss to IMG Academy that was indicative of the skill gap between the teams.

Despite their poor performance against the nation's top teams, Bishop Sycamore entered the 2021 season with the fourth-hardest schedule in the country, according to MaxPreps. In an embarrassing fundraising attempt gone wrong, the \$20,000 GoFundMe they started to fund their program raised only \$140, or seven-tenths of one percent of their goal. In their first two games of the season, they lost 38-0 and 19-7.

The focus of the story now shifts to ESPN, who aired the game on national television. They already had IMG Academy lined up to play in the final game of their High School Kickoff series. Unfortunately, ESPN's regular partner for high school games, Paragon Marketing, was unable to find another team for the game. They turned to Prep Gridiron Logistics, who contacted two hundred high schools to play in the game. The only team interested was Bishop Sycamore. Despite being a completely illegitimate high school with a history of dysfunction, they were selected for the game. Bishop Sycamore would take on IMG Academy on August 29 in Canton, Ohio.

Now, the stage has been set. The embarrassing history of Christians of Faith Academy-turned-Bishop Sycamore High School has been laid out. Time for the main event: their August 29 clash with

IMG Academy.

By the end of the first quarter, the score was already 23-0 in favor of IMG. At this point, the organizers of the event approached Roy Johnson to end the game via the mercy rule, but he refused. As the game continued to get out of hand for the Centurions, Johnson repeatedly declined to institute a running clock.

In the announcers' booth, commentators Anish Shroff and Tom Luginbill were very confused by what they were seeing. While on air, they began to question the legitimacy of the Bishop Sycamore team and expressed concerns for the safety of the players. Another member of the production team compared the game to "four or five star recruits versus a JV team."

As the game went on, more unsettling information concerning the unusual circumstances surrounding the game came out. Despite Johnson's failure to provide the required information on the school and team, the broadcast was permitted. The fact sheet that ESPN eventually got had names on it that ESPN knew were illegitimate. The game was played anyway.

Additionally, no one at ESPN noticed or cared that Bishop Sycamore had played their second game of the season two days before their game against IMG. The clear and obvious lack of due diligence on the part of ESPN was unprofessional and dangerous to the highest degree. It is absolutely appalling that the game was allowed to be played. ESPN deserves to share the Idiocy of the Month title with Bishop Sycamore.

As if all the events up to this point weren't stupid enough for them, there is one more nugget of idiocy to this story. After the game, the team attempted to pay for the hotel rooms with invalid checks, incurred \$750 in damages, and sparked an investigation by the Canton police. Congratulations, Bishop Sycamore—you are truly the paragon of idiocy.

Ty Woods Names the Best Worst Rappers Ever



By Ty Woods ('23)
EDITOR

10. Desiigner: This New York rapper is truly in a class of his own. His creative blend of uniquely inspirational lyrics and up-tempo beats gives listeners a completely premium listening experience. Fans never have to go long without a new hit from Desiigner, and he regularly produces hits that top the Billboard charts. Time and time again he has proven himself as one of the greatest of all time.

9. Tyga: Born Michael Ray Nguyen-Stevenson, the Compton-born rapper consistently releases musical masterpieces which compare favorably to the likes of Beethoven and Mozart. His laid-back beats set the tempo for carefully crafted rhyme schemes that deliver on every level. Tyga's humble, non-flashy demeanor sets an example for his younger fans, amassing over twenty million worldwide.

8. Lil Pump: The twenty-one-year-old rap phenomenon has made a name for himself in the hip-hop game. From his humble beginnings on Soundcloud to international fame and stardom, Pump has become a household name. From his power ballad "Gucci Gang" to the passionately melodic "Iced Out," Lil Pump's musical talent offers something exciting for everyone.

7. Blueface: Los Angeles rapper Jonathan Porter, or Blueface, has engineered a completely revolutionary style of hip-hop that has earned him international accreditation. This breakthrough "flow"

has been adopted by dozens of other rappers, as it allows them to stay on beat for the duration of the song. Blueface has extraordinary talent when it comes to rapping on the beat, and every verse sounds completely refined. His contributions to the rap genre will reverberate throughout the rest of human history, and Porter's accomplishments will never be forgotten.

6. Iggy Azalea: Australian rapper Iggy Azalea moved to the United States at the age of sixteen to pursue a music career, but little did she know that her songs would forever change the way rap is made. Azalea's music is geared towards the youth, especially high school boys, and she wants to inspire younger generations with her lyrics. The down-to-earth beats, combined with brilliant songwriting, produce superb tracks such as "Fancy" and "Black Widow," just to name a few. Iggy continues to create music that is impossible to stop listening to, and she does not intend to stop anytime soon.

5. Machine Gun Kelly: This hip-hop prodigy consistently elevates the standard for rap music in general, and his combination of hip hop with rock leaves listeners in awe of his talent. Some may know him as "emo boy," but no one will forget his heart on "Wild Boy." Kelly proved his superiority when he took on the lesser-known Eminem in a dramatic rap "beef." He easily crushed his opponent with lyrics that convey his positive attitude about a society that inspires and educates, as he is a major advocate for anti-hate messages online. He is generat-

ing a new culture of rap enthusiasts, all while making the world a better place at the same time. He has also demonstrated his musical talent by producing hits in the pop-punk genre.

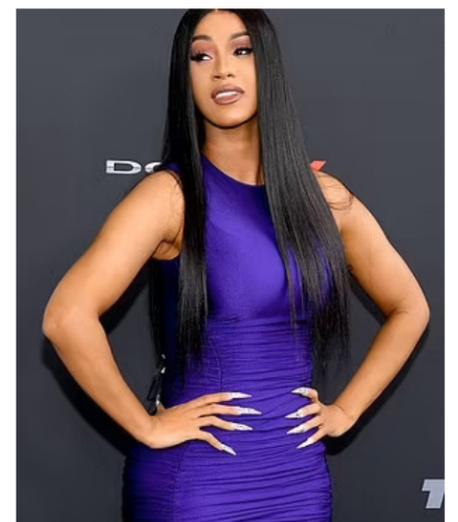
4. Chief Keef: Articulation is the name of the game for Chicago rapper Chief Keef. He gets his point across clearly and stands out from the crowd with his bold productions. This coherent message comes to listeners in "Kay Kay," and Keef's lyrics are on full display in the masterful "No Tomorrow." He has transformed average hip-hop beats into innovative, reactive works of art that convey a complex meaning to even the most casual of listeners.

3. Big Shaq: UK rapper and influencer Big Shaq continues to impress rap critics and fans alike with his commanding vocal range and diverse stories that he shares on the microphone. Listeners hang onto every word, as they are filled with the emotion and wisdom Big Shaq has accrued throughout his rapping career. His most famous song (of the nearly 160 that he has produced) is "Man's Not Hot," a revolutionary track that is filled with linguistic and mathematical brilliance. Despite the vast number of records he has produced, this rapper has maintained the same excellent quality and attention to detail in every single one of his carefully crafted pieces.

2. Lil Xan: Twenty-five-year-old rapper Lil Xan has worked his way up from his humble beginnings in Redlands, California, to become one of the most

recognizable influencers of this decade. His work is powerfully emotional and reflects his vulnerability while also maintaining crystal clear vocals that pair well with his "lofi beats." Although he almost lost his life to the "Hot Cheeto Crisis," he has fully recovered and is now well on his way to becoming an eternal rap mogul.

1. Cardi B: This female rapper is a lyrical genius. Her sharp, snappy beats complement her perfectly designed lyrics at every turn. Cardi's messages touch the soul, and her passion for music continues to shine with every record she creates. The vibrant, soulful attitude expressed in her work comes from the heart, all while maintaining excellent flow. She will forever be known as the greatest rapper of all time.



Cardi B rocking Saints purple. Getty Images

Why Eggleton Spends So Much Time in Ambulances



By David White ('23)
STAFF WRITER

NOTE: this article contains graphic descriptions of injured persons. It is not recommended for the squeamish.

Senior Thomas Eggleton did it again: after school, he found himself in back of an ambulance. Only in his case, it's not as the patient, but as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) intern. While most of his classmates spend their evenings watching

Ted Lasso on their couches, Eggleton tries to keep patients alive as he and his team transport injured people to the hospital.

Eggleton is gaining vast experience interning as an EMT. EMTs are licensed to provide basic levels of medical care and transportation. He loves to tell stories about intense transports of crazy people. Some of his stories are quite gruesome, but the high-intensity nature of his job is what appeals to him, and the blood and guts are just come with the territory.

Eggleton has seen lots of things that would likely distress most people, but he maintains a positive attitude to cope with the demands of his job. For example, he was checking the bone structure on an older woman who fell and needed medical assistance, and when he checked her pelvic structure, he felt that her pelvis was crunchy "like crushed ice," Eggleton, however, concentrates on providing the care his patients need rather than his own squeamishness and revulsion.

He also talked about how it wasn't uncommon for people to throw up their own blood, and he said that he has even watched some people die in front of him. He was very frank in stating that he's seen a lot of dead people, which is highly

unusual for a person of his age. Eggleton remains positive by reacting to the grisly parts of his job with a cool head. He said that after a while, he became desensitized to the gore.

Eggleton works an unusual job, so it's logical that he deals with a lot of colorful people. He said that a drug addict threatened to kill him because he ruined his high by administering medical care.

In scenarios where he had patients that were violent and needed to be restrained, sedatives were administered, and other times Eggleton puts "the party hat" on them. The "party hat" is a nozzle that keeps the person from biting or spitting at the EMTs.

Working as an EMT can be brutal, but Eggleton's love for what he does has helped him manage his stress. He said that one of his busiest shifts was when he worked for thirteen hours and did twelve calls, seldom stopping for a breather. The pandemic has only made the paramedics busier, he said.

Eggleton says his ultimate goal is to work as a critical care transport nurse. He is fascinated with this job in particular because it involves the highest level of emergency medical intervention. He is already on that path by taking Anatomy and Physiology at Saints, as well as attending a separate school for aspiring EMTs. He plans to attend the University of New Mexico and get a degree in emergency medical science, which would give him the necessary qualifications for becoming a paramedic.

To further specialize in his field, he wants to become a flight paramedic, where he would be working in a helicopter tending to the sick and injured from the air. Once he accomplishes this, he will be on the brink of achieving his ultimate



Senior Thomas Eggleton has a job as an EMT.

Courtesy of Thomas Eggleton

goal.

The old adage "You never work a day in your life if you love what you do" is the perfect description of Eggleton's attitude towards his job. Eggleton finds his work enjoyable and interesting, and he has a very well-thought-out path to advance in the medical world.

One would think that all this work Eggleton does as an EMT would be difficult to balance with schoolwork, but he manages the demands of his job and school very well. He says he has quite a bit of time in between getting home and going to work, so he completes his homework then.

He goes out to work at night, which means that he often gets very little sleep. He said that he isn't a great sleeper to begin with, so it doesn't have as much of an effect on him as it might on others. He has Sundays off, so he usually spends most of that day resting.

Eggleton's choice of career is uncommon due to the horrible injuries, gruesome diseases, and drug addicts he encounters on a regular basis, but he seems to have found his calling. Eggleton loves jumping into the intensity of such an unusual job, and it is clear that its exhilarating nature is why he has elected to pursue it as a career.

Saintsmen Commemorate 9/11 Attacks



Senior Julian Solis (center) assembles his memorial with fellow Saints students.

Courtesy of Julian Solis



By Angelo Riodique ('22)
STAFF WRITER

It has been over twenty years since the attacks of September 11, 2001, and America still retains the scars from the wounds of that day. Thousands never made it home, and countless men and women lost friends and family members. Round number anniversaries are often more noteworthy, and this year, the twentieth anniversary of the attacks was remembered by members of the Saints community in very special ways.

Senior Julian Solis spearheaded a project to plant flags in the sand at Mission Beach with the names of the nearly three thousand American

lives lost in the September 11 terrorist attacks. This project took over two months of preparation and was sparked by a visit to the heart of the nation.

"I got the inspiration to do this when I visited Arlington and saw how some of the soldiers' tombs had flags on them," Solis said, "and from there I thought I could do something similar to honor each person who died on 9/11."

Such an act has never been done before in Saints history. When asked how it felt to perform such an act of remembrance, Solis said, "Definitely an honor." Those who participated in the flag placing arrived at Mission Beach as early as 5:30 A.M. and stayed until

12:30 P.M.

He was aided in this effort by family and friends, including some of his rugby teammates and Mr. Dent. Solis hopes for more Saintsmen to follow his example of honoring and respecting the victims of other tragedies, such as the attack on Pearl Harbor, especially since he will not be here next year and is looking for someone else to take up the torch. Solis and his efforts were featured on both Channel 8 News and the Saints Rugby Instagram page.

The Loyal Sons of St. Augustine also remembered the attacks of September 11 in a unique way. A group of Loyal Sons volunteered to read the names of the fallen at the *USS Midway* on the morning of the

twentieth anniversary of 9/11. The school's participation in this event was the result of the hard work done by Saints alumnus Steve Lingus '69, Mrs. Brophy, and Mr. Wallace. Without their help, the Loyal Sons would not have been involved in the reading of the names.

Mr. Wallace's uncle has been a part of the tradition of reading the names of the victims on the anniversary of the attacks since 2003, and he saw this as an opportunity for the Loyal Sons to take on a greater role in the community.

"Reading the names is an expression of each of the core values of Saints," senior Max Graves said. "Unity because it demonstrates that Saints, twenty years later, truly cares about this tragic event in our nation's history and is deeply invested in the greater good of the country; love because we support and show love to those who still feel the pain and destruction caused by 9/11, and truth through reminding the world that such an evil exists, and the Saints community will not stand idly by and be complacent."

The Loyal Sons were awarded free admission to tour the *USS Midway* and were featured on the Saints Instagram.

Every Saintsmen learns about both community service and love for others. When asked how ordinary Saintsmen can honor the victims of the attacks, Solis said, "Be aware of it and generally give the day the respect and honor it deserves, especially since it happened fairly recently and has affected this nation and how we live our lives to such a great extent." These Saintsmen set a great example for the rest of the Saints community on how to exercise the core values and honor our country.

Then vs. Now: Academics at Saints in the 1970s



By Manny Butler ('22)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In the near hundred-year history of St. Augustine High School, much has changed with regards to the rules, learning environment, and general campus life. Having procured a student handbook from the 1972-1973 school year, we have been provided with great insight into the daily life of Saintsmen from nearly fifty years ago. In the first monthly installment of "Saints: Then vs. Now," we will focus on the academic aspect of the school and what was expected of the Saints students of the past.

Conspicuously absent from the student handbook is a discussion of the academic integrity policy. It appears that the administration had no need to remind the Saints students of the evils of academic dishonesty. Indeed, the only mention of cheating in the entire document is a note that it will result in a subtraction of five points from the student's citizenship grade.

This is, of course, very different from the student handbook of today, which contains numerous mentions of cheating. The "Academics" section contains a full page-and-a-half discourse on academic dishonesty, containing the Academic Integrity Policy, a list of twelve examples of cheating, a list of six examples of plagiarism, and a warning to students that turnitin.com will be used in their classes.

In addition to this discourse, the Honor Code of Saintsmen, found on the fifth page of the handbook, contains the statement that "A Saintsman's work is his own." The Saintsman's Pledge that is required for all Saintsmen to sign and turn in every year contains three statements on academic integrity.

One of the most jarring aspects of the old handbook is the course re-

quirements. The modern-day four-year requirements for religion, English and mathematics were still in effect, but four years of science, social studies, foreign language, and PE were also required.

Freshmen were required to take earth science, and physics was required for seniors. In addition to Spanish, French, and Latin, two years of German were also offered. In PE, freshmen learned first aid, as well as beginning a driver's education class, and sophomores finished driver's education and moved on to driver training in addition to the physical fitness training and games that are expected in PE. This four-year requirement was a product of the Kennedy administration, which made a huge push for such a requirement in public schools, and Saints decided to adopt this practice as well.

Other unusual classes that were offered at Saints fell into the categories of mathematics and social studies. In the sixties and seventies, the Saints math curriculum covered "business mathematics," "introductory analysis," and "bookkeeping" as well as the traditional algebra and geometry. Certain seniors were introduced to calculus, but an entire yearlong course dedicated to calculus had yet to come to Saints.

The social studies curriculum broke up today's World History class into two years of study, with freshmen taking early world history and sophomores taking modern world history. Additionally, the study of American government was a yearlong course instead of the one-semester Civics course offered today.

Another unusual aspect of Saints education in the seventies was that non-Catholics were exempt from having to attend Mass and take religion classes. Dr. Jerry Rey said that this was changed in the mid-1980s, but for many years, religion classes were

not mandatory as they are today. Non-Catholics had a study period in their schedules and showed up to school after Mass on Fridays.

The list of electives in the handbook is short. Just four are offered. They were: a one-semester typing course, Advanced Biology, Honors English 4, and Band. This is a stark contrast to the plethora of electives and weighted classes Saints offers today. It provides great insight into the development of the Saints educational experience.

Additionally, at this time, there was just one honors class and no Advanced Placement courses. This started to change in the 1980s with the addition of AP English and AP U.S. History classes, but for a long time, a GPA above 4.0 was nearly impossible. In the present day, where grade inflation is the norm and the leading GPAs at Saints can exceed 4.4, this may seem inconceivable, but this was not the case in the seventies.

This does not mean that the classes offered at Saints were not up to the academic standards that they are today; they were every bit as rigorous as the toughest classes Saints offers now. The writing program was especially effective and was a strenuous effort for the juniors and seniors. "The one thing every Saintsman knew how to do better than their peers in college was to write," Dr. Rey said.

Writing was emphasized in many different classes, as extensive writing was required in social studies, religion, science, and foreign language classes in addition to the English writing assignments we all know and love.

Currently, the daily schedule is split into six (or three) class periods of forty-five or eighty minutes each. If you think trying to remember your schedule is hard, just imagine what it was like under the modular system in the seventies. The modular system, used exclusively by the junior and senior

classes, consisted of twenty-four very short class periods that broke the day down into the smallest possible chunks to help structure classes.

While this may seem strange, the way Saints classes worked was also very different, hence the need for an unusual schedule. Classes met twice a week for thirty-minute lectures and twice a week for hourlong small group discussions. Additionally, there were "unscheduled modules," or times in the day when a student would not be in class. This time was supposed to be spent in a manner similar to today's office hours or the cohort periods of last year, but, as you can imagine, that did not happen. Students would have conversations, play games with their friends, and even leave campus if they could get away with it. These structureless breaks took up extended periods of time, not just the quick, five-to-ten minute breaks in between classes to which today's Saintsmen are accustomed.

While Father Max is known to teach a class or two during the day, he is the only one of the Augustinians that is also a teacher. This was not the case in the seventies. There were several priests in the Saints administration and several more that taught classes. Religion classes were taught exclusively by Augustinians until the mid-1970s when Saints began to hire laypeople to teach religion. Several Augustinians taught classes other than religion as well, such as physics, mathematics, and English.

Saints has undergone serious changes in course requirements, the academic integrity policy, the schedule itself, and the courses offered over the last fifty years. Some of these changes reflect the modernization of education as a whole, while others are examples of the way Saints has adjusted to meet the needs of its students. One can only imagine what changes the next fifty years will bring to Saints education.

Why I Trash the Campus



By Joe Trashman
GUEST WRITER

Greetings Saintsmen, my name is Joe Trashman, a fellow littering enthusiast. It is an honor to be featured in this incredible publication. I have been asked to write about why I consistently trash the campus day in and day out. I suppose I owe you ...perhaps that will provide some understanding for those of you who are upset by having to wear Mass attire three times last week.

There are several reasons that I leave my trash around the campus, but the most prominent one is my lack of school pride. I'm gonna be honest here, I don't really have much respect for Saints. Nothing fills me with more glee than scattering garbage across the ground. The fact that I'm supposed to keep the campus clean just isn't that important to me.

Let's be real, why would any self-respecting person waste their time and energy walking to the nearest trash can when the floor is a perfectly sanitary alternative? I mean, I might have to walk a whopping twenty feet before I find a trash bin! So I just throw it on the ground. Good thing my friends around me don't even correct my behavior. I consider that approval. Thank you, apathetic friends!

And speaking scientifically, most of it is all-natural anyway; there's a

good chance it'll disappear overnight. Then again, I do have a very low IQ. Candy wrappers ARE biodegradable, right?

Another reason why I trash campus is because I like wearing ties. You know just as well as I do that if the campus is a mess, Mr. O'Beirne imposes a tie day upon everyone for the next day. Sure, I could just wear a tie

everyday without trashing the campus, but where's the fun in that? I like seeing the whole school wearing a tie with me, so I can better experience the brotherhood. So if you have a low opinion of your school, little regard for others, and legendary laziness, look in the mirror: you might see Joe Trashman's reflection staring back at you.



Thanks a lot, Joe Trashman.

Manny Butler ('22)

Chaplain's Corner



By Fr. Max Villeneuve, OSA
COLUMNIST

With the conclusion of the freshman retreat, we have concluded Freshman Welcome Week and fully initiated the class of 2025 into our Saints community. In my homily to the class this past Sunday, I reflected on the theme of brotherhood and what it means to be a brother.

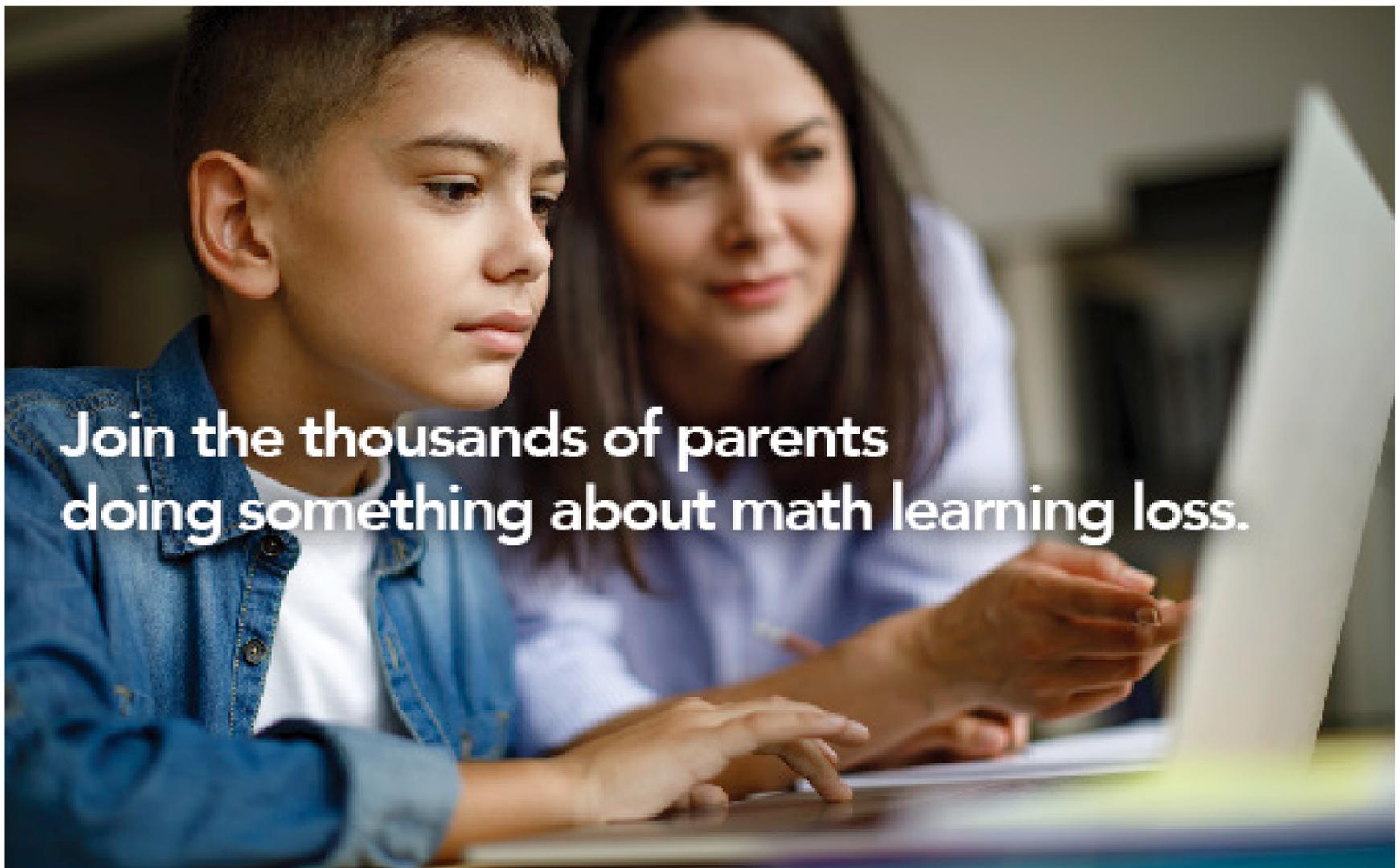
First, being a brother implies a vertical relationship with our good and loving God, who is father to us. It is through God that we have life, for it is we who are made in His image and likeness.

Second, being a brother implies a horizontal relationship of equality with others. This sense of equality comes through seeing our peers as possessing an infinite amount of dignity.

Equality, however, does not imply sameness. What makes Saints special is that we are not alike.

We bring with us different dreams, goals, talents, skills, and God-given abilities. We celebrate the talents others possess which we do not possess. We lift up in our brothers that which we do not hold ourselves. Isn't that interesting? To lift up what we do not personally hold!

Let us always lift up one another as we begin this school year—that we may always be one mind, one heart, and one brotherhood that is united on our journey to God.



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Cappiello Offers Advice to Teachers



By Griffin Cappiello ('24)
EDITOR

Traditionally, The Augustinian has written a welcoming message for incoming freshmen. However, we feel that in the past we have neglected to equip our beloved teachers and other faculty members with advice on how to succeed in this coming academic year. Since our teachers may have forgotten their usual classroom traditions over the summer, I have some advice for them so that they will be prepared for the coming year.

Do not assign any homework. Despite what you may think, homework is actually a hindrance for teachers. By not assigning homework, teachers can spend less time grading useless assignments. Students will have more time for their extracurricular activities, which are obviously everyone's number one priority.

Release your classes early. Don't want students to be late to your class? Easy. Tell the teacher of their previous block to release them from class early. By ending classes early, students will be able to travel from class to class stress free. Congratulations, now there's no more late students.

"But what about the blocks right before lunch?" Yes, on the surface, it may seem that students should not be released early. However, teachers are neglecting to consider how quickly the line forms at Marty's. Why should your students have to spend so long waiting in line because you insist on teaching right up to the bell? It can't be that hard to finish two minutes early.

Naptime. Need I say any more? Everyone loves naps. Everyone needs naps. Students and teachers alike will benefit from the wondrous joy gifted by napping.

Put your clock behind your desk. Students need to save their energy, so we shouldn't have to waste it squirming around in our seats trying to see the clock. It is also a waste of class time, so please just make it easier on us students. Put your clock behind your desk.

Don't have your air conditioning on full blast throughout the class. Not to call out any specific teachers (cough cough Mr. Okuley cough cough), but some of your classrooms are very cold. Don't have your AC on for the entire class. Yes, if it's hot outside, you should turn it on. But once it gets below 65 degrees, it can be quite difficult to concentrate in class.

Allow your students to use their cell phones in class. Cell phones are tools that should be utilized. If a student is on his phone in your class, he's probably studying. In fact, you should be happy that he's taking the initiative to use his class time wisely to improve his grade. Give him an A and a pat on the back for being a good student. Encourage his classmates to follow his example and use their phones too.

Allow students to talk in class. No, your students aren't being disrespectful. They're communicating with their classmates to achieve academic success. Allow students to talk to each other. In fact, give students that talk to each other extra credit for utilizing

their resources.

Decorate your classroom. It can be rather dull sitting in a boring classroom for eighty-five minutes straight. So let's spice things up a bit. Add some posters to the walls to make the class a little more festive. Bonus points if you put the answers to your tests on the walls.

Give all of your students an A. Let's face it—we're high school students. We all face crippling depression due to a lack of self-esteem. Teachers, you can fix this problem with one simple solution. Give all the students in your classes an A. Say goodbye to any self-doubt because there's no longer any reason to stress. Who knows? What if one of your students grows up and solves world hunger simply due to the self-esteem boost you provided him? You could directly save the world from destruction. The choice is yours.

Read The Augustinian in class. You should appreciate the effort put into creating this truly wonderful masterpiece. If you teach an English class, you can analyze the text, or, even better, write and submit articles to be added to our next issue. If you teach a math class, you can calculate the amount of time spent to create this issue (trust me, it's a lot). The possibilities are endless.

Teachers—if you are in need of advice throughout the year, send us an email at saintsnewspaper@gmail.com

Students—if you are in need of advice, or if one of your teachers neglects to follow any of the advice that has kindly been offered to them, send us a DM on Instagram: @stanewspaper

Cross Country Feature

Continued from Page 3

points, and so on. In the end, the team with the lowest point total wins. The lowest point total a team can get in any race is fifteen.

When it comes to scoring, teams do not want big gaps in between each runner. For example, if one runner can get first place, but the next runner can only get fifteenth, then it would be almost impossible for the team to win a meet. The team tries to make sure that there are no gaps between runners during practices, as those same gaps will open up during a meet. "No matter how good you are, one person cannot win a race alone," Michael Butcher said. A typical race distance is around three miles.

This year, the team has moved up a division and will face a real challenge against Cathedral. Based on the times for each team's runners in their recent races, the competition between them at the top of the Eastern League will be fierce. If Saints can close the gap to thirty seconds between the first runner and the fifth runner, they are likely to win the league championship. For CIF, the gap needs to be even tighter to come out on top, but it will be very close, and every second will count.

Like any sport, cross country takes a great deal of commitment. They began their first practice before school started, all the way back in June. They have practice every day. They lift two times a week. They have a strategy in the way they compete. If you see a cross country runner for Saints at practice or a meet, make sure to root him on!

A Message for Saints Freshmen



By Caden Webster ('23)
STAFF WRITER

Welcome, Saints freshmen! We are so happy you are joining our friendly community. Now that you have been here for a few weeks, you are starting to get the hang of things. However, I am sure you still have many questions, and luckily for you, I have the answers. Let this article act as your guide to a successful life here at Saint Augustine High School.

Have you stood in line for half of your lunch break waiting at Marty's for a cheeseburger and drink? Well, luckily, you no longer have to worry about that. Freshman privilege is something

that all freshmen are lucky to get. It allows you, as a freshman, to cut the line and go straight to the front. I recommend trying this around upperclassmen, who greatly support this policy.

Are the hot days too much for you? Is your tie too claustrophobic? No worries! Feel free to loosen your tie or untuck your shirt. Belts are more of a guideline here than an actual rule, and no teacher will make you lift up your sweatshirt to check for the belt. The faculty completely understand what you are going through and are very sympathetic and supportive, placing your comfort first. This is our way of making your first year special, so you can feel truly welcome!

Fashion statements are revered at Saints. Plaid shirts, checkered shoes, and short socks are highly respected by the administration. You will get noticed more for the longer hair and unkempt appearance than you would for collared shirts and slacks. Show off that new look!

Freshmen, I understand you have to keep up those snap streaks and check your DMs, so if you ever feel the need to do so in class, go ahead! Teachers are understanding of your need to fill up your social calendars and will gladly let you take class time to do so, especially Mr. Ozdowski.

Moving between classrooms can be difficult and stressful, so if you are late,

please, in order to put your teacher in a good mood, announce your arrival loudly and throw in a few jokes. Your teacher and class would love this comedic relief, and if you're lucky, you could receive a pink slip of congratulations and the chance to tell your joke to Miss Bayer.

Some of you have heard about Mr. Lamerato. For those that have not, let me tell you, he is the greatest fan of freshmen. I recommend giving him high fives in the hallway and acting like foolish freshmen around him. He finds it endearing. I guarantee you will receive a friendly high five back.

On a real note, good luck on your freshman year, and own your place in the Saints community. We are glad you are here to continue this long-standing tradition at Saints!

Freshman Welcome Week

by Hudson Daley ('22)

