

The FORUM 2023



The FORUM Staff

Advisor Ms. Laura Tyler

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Chloe Stossel

Taylor Kern

Susan Toth

The FORUM 2023



Prologue

A Blank Canvas...Has Unlimited Possibilities
Stephanie Perkins

What is the essence of the art of writing?
Part One: Have something to say.
Part Two: Say it well."
Edward Abbey

Dedication



The Forum is dedicated to Mr. Mark Crowley, President of Lake Catholic High School.

Mr. Crowley became the President in August of 2017. After 6 years, he has decided to retire.

His leadership has improved student enrollment and community support. He has crafted a strategic plan and hired additional employees to restore the future success of Lake Catholic.

He has a long history supporting Lake since his wife, Lea and sons, Kevin, John, Adam, Brian and Michael are all graduates of Lake Catholic High School.

Thank you for all you have done for the Lake Catholic Community. You will be missed.

He may be retiring from Lake, but he will still be seen at various events to support Lake. He will always be a cougar.

Once a Cougar, Always a Cougar.

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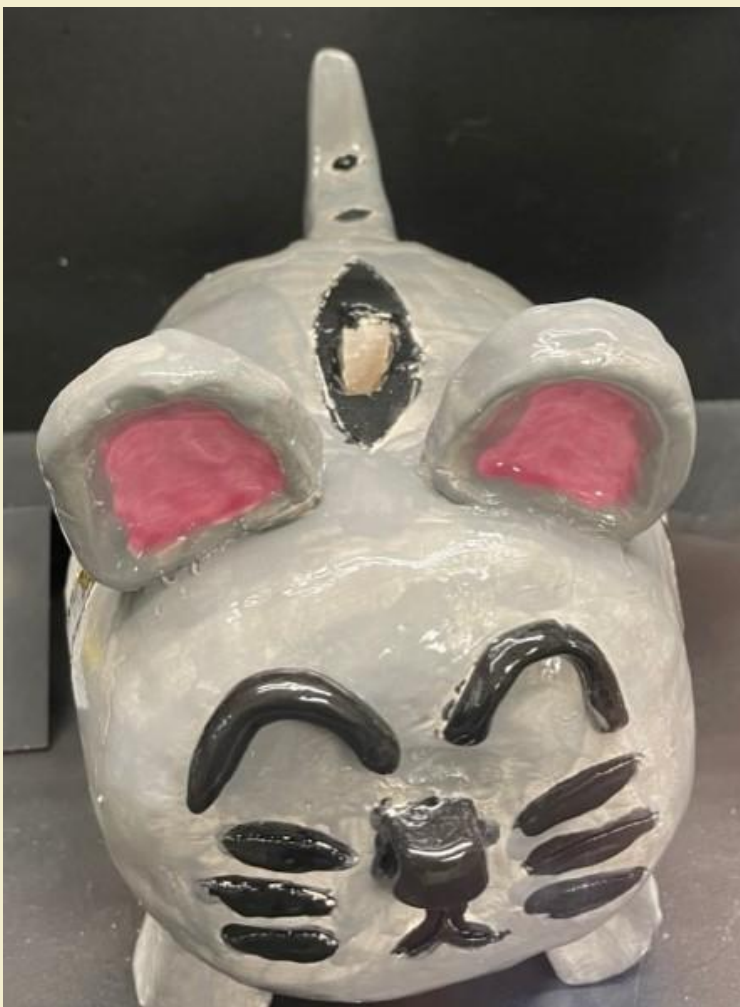
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Poison



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Lauren Olenik '23
Tunnel Vision





Gia Mazzolini '23
Lake Catholic Spirit

Carly Dondorfer '24

Abolition of Police Be Detrimental to Society

Particular groups of people in today's society believe that defunding law enforcement officers will overall result in less deaths of "innocent people ", and the transfer of funds to other societal issues like equality, gun laws, and poverty. This claim is invalid, and can be debunked with a series of objections to this deranged, and unrealistic goal that some people desire today. Defunding the police will defeat current police officers morale, increase overall crime rate, and enable criminals to cause chaos, because there will be no restraintment in order.

Choosing law enforcement as a vocation is a career that takes much courage and bravery. For many officers, this choice is made out of intentions to create law and order in today's society, and ensure safety for each and every citizen. Somehow, the police narrative has changed from someone people go to for help, on possibly the worst day of their lives, to the aggressor, someone who causes this violence and suffering. There is a dire need for police everywhere, and without them, there will be absolute chaos throughout America. The National Police Support Fund States, "Police officers around the country keep us safe from drugs, violence, gangs, domestic abuse, and myriad other threats to the American way of life. No other branch of government or social service agency can do the job in quite the same way"(NPSF). If police are not implementing this job, who will enforce the laws that keep citizens safe? The answer is no one, considering the harsh training these individuals endure.

The common misconception in today's time is that police are not experienced enough, and that most police are "bad". People who make this claim often do not even begin to look into how much work and dedication it takes to even start on the path of law enforcement. Opposing this statement of inexperienced police in duty, officers go through a series of extensive training to become a police officer. This process traditionally takes about six years. Most commonly, police officers study for four years, receiving a bachelor's degree, then partake in a written exam, physical abilities test, medical exam, background check, polygraph test, and an oral board interview. These individuals then have to go through the Police Academy, which usually lasts about six months. The Police Academy consists of emergency procedures, judgment situations, weapon use, self-defense, and ways to enforce the law. Following, police in training are set on a probation period. These police shadow, and work with another police officer on duty for about six months, until they have proved they are worthy for this position.

Carly Dondorfer '24

Abolition of Police Be Detrimental to Society

The common misconception in today's time is that police are not experienced enough, and that most police are “bad”. People who make this claim often do not even begin to look into how much work and dedication it takes to even start on the path of law enforcement. Opposing this statement of inexperienced police in duty, officers go through a series of extensive training to become a police officer. This process traditionally takes about six years. Most commonly, police officers study for four years, receiving a bachelor's degree, then partake in a written exam, physical abilities test, medical exam, background check, polygraph test, and an oral board interview. These individuals then have to go through the Police Academy, which usually lasts about six months. The Police Academy consists of emergency procedures, judgment situations, weapon use, self-defense, and ways to enforce the law. Following, police in training are set on a probation period. These police shadow, and work with another police officer on duty for about six months, until they have proved they are worthy for this position.

Not only will defunding the police greatly reduce officers keeping our cities safe, but the officers that DO still police, will not perform their jobs as efficiently. This roots out of fear for themselves and their families, no one that devotes this much time to better society wants to be constantly victimized for doing their job correctly. Nevertheless, instead of supporting the people that are their for them it desperate measures, society paints them as evil, and even refers to them as terrorists. As stated in *Demonizing and Defunding the Polices has Consequences*, “Resources and equipment can be built back up again, but it's a lot harder to replace good, seasoned officers – particularly right now, when it's difficult to imagine why anyone would want to become a police officer. Why would men and women sign up for a job where they are regularly characterized as the worst kind of criminals?”(Thune).

Carly Dondorfer '24

Abolition of Police Be Detrimental to Society

Following this last generation of cops, society will be left with no individuals willing to take on this vocation, and there will be no laws or regulations in place to ensure safety within. Candidates worthy enough of taking on this career are being torn down to the point where their overall mental state, and well being is at stake. Mental health is one issue that activists for defunding the police tend to speak up about. So why is it that the mental health of men and women who are first responders does not matter?

Additionally, a number of people within the democratic party advocate for a variety of societal issues they want to alter. For example, LGBTQ rights, climate change, and gun laws. These people plea for nothing but enforcement of these changes, but then continuously degrade the work of men and women in the police force. Ben Shapiro, a conservative activist makes an intelligible point in one of his podcasts called Daily Wire, "They want heavy regulations on virtually every area of life but they refuse to acknowledge the reality of regulations" (Shapiro). These people are blind to the fact that enforcing regulations is exactly what law enforcement does. A regulation sets a structure that society has to abide by.

Various leftist activists' dominant focus most recently is restricting use of guns, and several leftists even want to completely abolish gun use. This can lead to the question of self defense. If police are caught in a situation with an armed offender, how will the police tame him/her without this defense? This community is under the impression that defunding the police, and moving funds towards other civil projects will be more beneficial, while not considering the extenuous amount of consequences this action will result in, such as the crime rate spike. Referring back to the article, Demonizing and Defunding the Polices has Consequences, it states, "Crime rates have surged since "defund the police" became a rallying cry. It's no coincidence that cities that have slashed their police budgets have seen huge increases in violence. As of the end of May, Portland, Oregon, was on track to exceed 1,000 shootings for this year. In the first 14 weeks of 2021, New York City shootings were up 81 percent. In Oakland, California, carjackings are up almost 88 percent"(Thune). This evidence advances from current South Dakota's Senator, John Thune. Elected officials approximating to him, are bringing this issue up to the public, and addressing the situation and its possible consequences on American cities everywhere. Following the black lives matter protests, the topic of defunding the police was put into action in some areas. When this took place, there were instantly surges in crime rates not only in California, but across the country.

Carly Dondorfer '24

Abolition of Police Be Detrimental to Society

Criminals tend to be people that have suffered some type of trauma in their life, or suffer with a mental illness that makes them act out of context. In America, and everywhere on the earth for that matter, there are bad people, this is known. There are murderers, rapists, burglars, carjackers, kidnappers, hijackers, and a list of many more. This is a sad reality, but this is a reality that the world must face to endure, and make their lives safe and content. If someone commits a crime, and harms another individual, a police officer is responsible to do what it takes to prevent, restrain, and in most cases serve justice to the victim. Another quote by Ben Shapiro in his podcast states, "In the end if you resist arrest, if you refuse to obey the law, there will be a gun at the end of it" (Shapiro). Now that most liberal groups oppose the use of guns as protection, police are patronized when utilizing this weapon in times of its obvious need. If police officers were not armed, and trained individuals, they would not differ from the average person trying to protect themselves in these dangerous situations. This proves that not everyone is meant for this job, but to degrade the people that are, is only hurting the generation now, and the generations to come.

Defunding the police will defeat current police officers morale, increase overall crime rate, and enable criminals to cause chaos. Completing this action will have a sequential butterfly effect. By defunding police, society will be enabling these horrible people to continue in their terrorist acts. Shops and restaurants will be robbed, missing children will not be found, and the whole justice system will not exist. Law and order is a system that affects many areas of people's lives, without police, there will be no order, and no enforcement of laws in general. People in today's society that have been taken over by the influence of the media and others, will be a detrimental factor towards american safety and well being.

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Hope Barrows '26
Candy Land

Susan Toth '23
Weekends



Shelby Nagy '23
Imperfect Flower



Lex Padavick '23

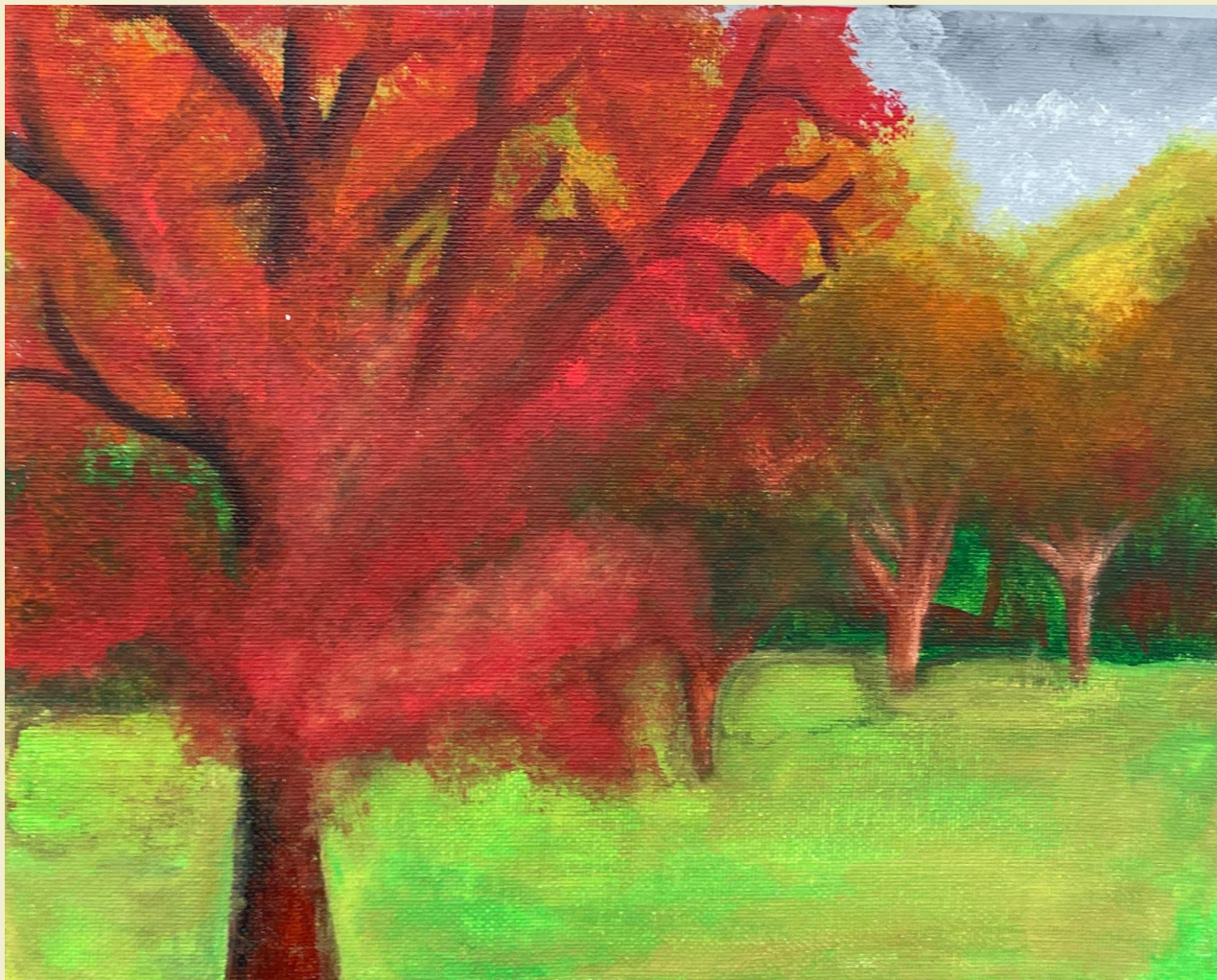
A Drop of Rain

A
Drop
Of rain is
Like a sudden
Knock at the door.
Unexpected, yet often
Welcomed with a smile. It
Can brighten your day or ruin
Your plans. It can make you laugh
Or make you sad. Weather the raindrop
Is moving fast or slow, or is big or small,
It always grasps everyone's attention. A rain-
Drop contains many secrets. It is a bubble of
Anticipation and surprise. It cleanses the earth,
It feeds the flowers, and fills the cracks. The
Raindrop is never silent, it bangs on the
Roof, spatters on the window, or
Splashes into a puddle.

Tristan Sanders '23

Acrostic Poem

Sun comes out from its winter hibernation.
Playing outside with my friends.
Running away from the cold frost.
Imagining the warm months that are ahead.
Never staying inside all day.
Getting ready for the flowers to bloom.



Susan Toth '23
Fall Trees

Sophia Trem '23

Modern Snow White

Claire was the most famous, popular social media star of her age. She always put content out for her thousands of followers. She was adored by everyone, and never got into any scandals. She was looked up to by many young girls, who wanted to be just like her. Until one day, her followers started to slip. To this day, she still doesn't understand why. She assumes at some point people just got bored of her. During this time of uncertainty, Claire didn't know what to do with herself. It was as if she lost her whole identity, and she would do anything to get it back.

During this time, Claire became desperate. She found an online website that she could buy followers from. She was so discouraged, she didn't think anything of it. She put all of her information in, and she was hacked. At that moment, she lost all of her followers on every account on every social media platform there was. The only way to get them back was to find her true love, and follow him on social media.

Claire began searching for him everyday. She just didn't feel like herself without her platforms. How was she supposed to find her true love if she didn't even love herself at that moment? She was so desperate to get her identity back, she didn't even really care who was her true love. With this mindset, she never found her true love. Her first goal was to find her purpose without social media. She got a job, went to school, and started volunteering. And the perfect man just fell into her lap. She did get all of her followers back, but used her platform in a different way than what she used it for before. She donated all of the money she earned from social media, because she had an actual job now. She volunteered in all of her free time now, and taught the importance of volunteering to her followers. She used her platform for good, instead of the selfish ways she was using them before, alongside her soulmate.

Aly Naro '24

Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer



Annabella Owens '25
The Grinch



AJ Konjevic '24
Knock, Knock Puddin'!



Gia Mazzolini '23
Crystal Tree



Luke Ianiro '23

Cantina Band

Arrangement

Cantina Band

For realies

Composed by John Williams

Arranged by Luke Ianiro

Tenor Sax 1

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16

18 19 20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28 29

30 31 32 33 34 35

36 37 38 39 40 41 42

43 44 45 46 47 48

50 51 52 53 54 55

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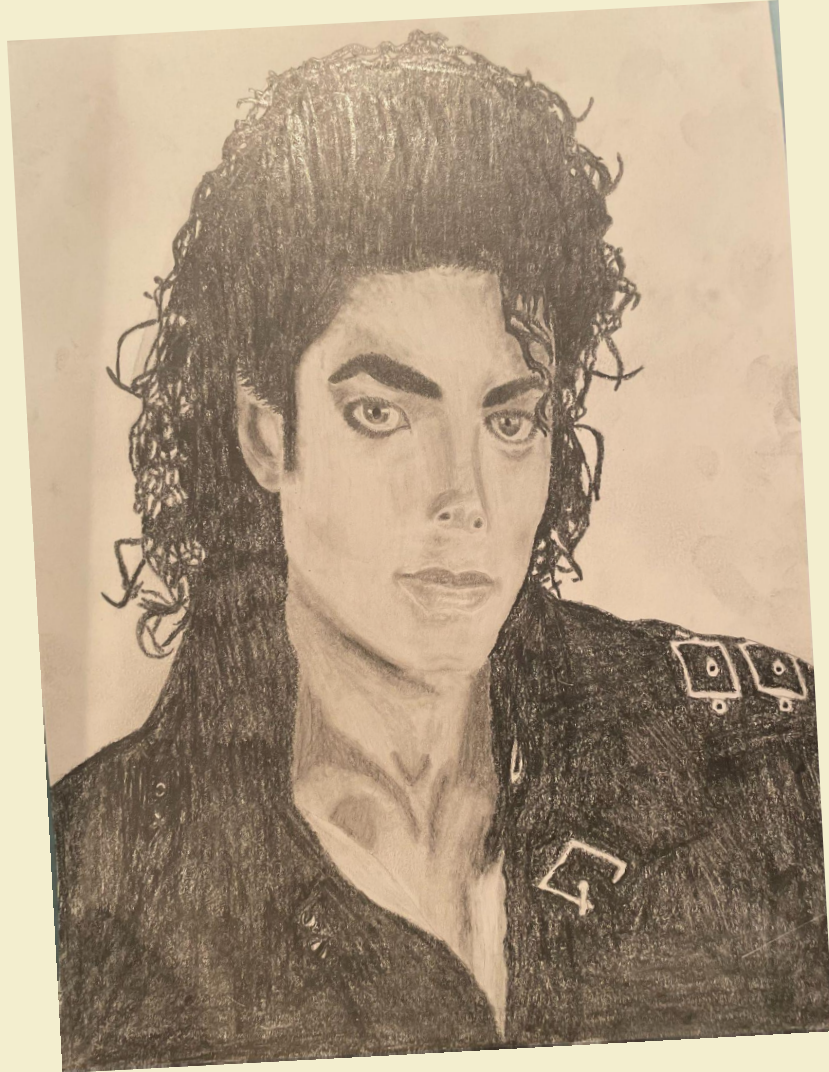
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Evan Sims '23
Michael Jackson

Marko Odorcic '24
Pink Flower



Bella Carcelli '23

A Tofu Thanksgiving

This year, my family switched up our Thanksgiving plans. We have always celebrated it here in Ohio, but this year was different. Our Thanksgiving feast took place at our relatives' house in New York. "I do not want to go there for Thanksgiving," Grandpa said. "They are going to cook the food all wrong. It will not be the same." Grandpa has experienced so many Thanksgivings here in Ohio that he did not want to change anything about the holiday. He thought that the location and everything else should be the exact same tradition, especially with an emphasis on the foods we usually eat.

"Don't you want to change it up a bit this year?" I said. "It will be so much fun to visit our family on Thanksgiving for once." My mom had been planning this trip with all of us for months, and was super excited to go to New York to visit her brother and his family. Although my grandpa would love to visit his son's house, he had other ideas in his mind, and was worried about the type of food that was going to be served over spending time with family.

"Of course I want to see my family, but I don't want them to be in charge of the food," Grandpa complained. "Everytime they cook something it is way too healthy. I want my own Thanksgiving food and canned cranberry sauce. They will make all vegetables and nothing good to eat. Who knows, they might not even have a real turkey!"

"I can assure you Grandpa that they will not surprise you with a tofu turkey," I joked. My aunt works for a food company that creates healthy recipes, but that is certainly not a reason for my grandpa to stay home. "Don't judge something new before you even try it. Who knows, you might love the food!" My mom and I promised my grandpa that Thanksgiving would not be ruined by the dinner and we convinced him to come to New York with us. We drove the eight hours up to New York with him. Just like us, he was super excited to see his family, however he was still skeptical about the dinner that was to be served the next day.

Bella Carcelli '23

A Tofu Thanksgiving

Thursday morning came, and the adults were slaving away in the kitchen to create a delicious dinner for our family. The room was filled with delightful smells of all the sides being prepared, as well as a real turkey roasting in the oven. I pointed to the oven and showed my grandpa that the turkey was real and in fact not made of tofu, but he was still not totally convinced. The whole morning, he moved around the kitchen examining everything that was being prepared, and questioned almost everything. We all reminded him that it would taste great and that he has to try it before he denies it.

When it was time to eat, the turkey and all of the side dishes were placed on the counter. Everything smelled amazing, but they looked even better. After all the hours of my grandpa waiting in judgment, his facial expression turned into being very impressed. We all gathered our plates and loaded them up with all of the delicious foods. Everything may have been fresh and organic, but it was absolutely delicious. My aunt even surprised my grandpa with his very own canned cranberry sauce, just like he would have eaten back at home.

We asked my grandpa his opinion, and he finally surrendered. After all the judging and complaining about this ‘New Thanksgiving’ dinner, he had been completely blown away by how amazing it was.

“You all have proved me wrong,” Grandpa finally admitted. “I surrender the cooking into your hands, because this is the best Thanksgiving dinner I have ever had.” I now have no doubt that Grandpa will suggest we travel to New York for Thanksgiving next year!

Lauren Olenik '23
Blooming Magenta



Lauren Olenik '23
Violet Speckles



Kailie Rozman '23
Mexican Rocks

Kate Powaski '24

Muslim Destruction

Everybody wants to fit in; from being with friends, family, and peers, the feeling of belonging is something that is craved. In China, the CCP (Communist China Party) is trying to demolish Muslim customs, and they are doing this by putting the people into camps to train them to be more “Chinese like. Around the world, nothing is being done to stop this genocide, but why? The news isn’t covering it, it is not being taught, and everything around the mistreatment of these people is being silenced. Almost like the Chinese know that they are doing something wrong. Knowing this and still proceeding to not do anything, The United States needs to take charge and help the ethnic Muslims in China, as the effects, not only in China, but also worldwide, are detrimental to the Islamic population.

China has an established Communist government. This means that the leaders are very focused on having the Chinese government be the means of power and of the highest importance, not religion. China is often considered to be “a culturally homogeneous nation-state composed solely of the Han-Chinese ethnic majority,” (Ciara 4). This is where the issue between Muslims and the Chinese takes place. In the Islamic religion, Muslims believe in Allah, an all-knowing god whom the people have to live in submission to. The CCP does not like this, and therefore wants to change the way that the Uyghurs are living. “The Uyghurs’ language, religion, and even physical appearance, in the eyes of the government, distinguish them from the Chinese population and connect them to neighboring populations in Central Asia and co-religionists around the world” (Omer Kanat). Omer Kanat not only expresses the Chinese’ way of thinking, but also their insecurities about having people even slightly different in their population. From religion to looks and everything in between, it is all seen as illicit and not allowed in China.

Kate Powaski '24

Muslim Destruction

Due to the ideology of the Chinese government, Muslims are being thrown into “reteaching” camps, and are being enforced into Chinese customs. Muslims are experiencing forced assimilation from the government and its workers. Inside concentration camps, prisoners are “forced to renounce Islam, criticize their own Islamic beliefs and those of fellow inmates, and recite Communist Party propaganda songs for hours each day” (Rushan Abbas). When forcing the Muslims to recite Communist songs and live Communist lifestyles, it is knowingly brainwashing the Uyghurs to change their customs and to learn nothing else except what the government wants them to know. Human abuses are also going on in the camps, which include many forms of torture, sterilizations, severe brainwashing, forced labor, and many more. Some of the forms of torture going on inside of the intermittent camps consists of people being drugged, electrical induced pain, wearing iron suits, waterboarding, medical experiments, and sexual torture. Rape and sexual torture are also very common. This includes gang rape, women having their genitals rubbed with chili paste, public humiliation, and electrical vaginal shocking. This alone should receive national attention, yet no one has heard anything about it. While this is going on, people are also being forced to pick cotton, work in factories, and get sterilized by tubal ligation. Multiple people have come forward about the abuses that they and their loved ones have suffered, but every time they do this, the Chinese government dismisses it and denies it to the public. Even with the officials denying these statements, people within the Islam religion know it is true and are trying to do something about it as quickly as possible.

While not every Muslim is not in a camp, abuses are still happening outside of them as well. Some abuses included are cohabitation, rape, abortion, organ harvesting, and forced labor. Government workers in China are forcefully inhabiting Uyghur citizens’ homes to make sure that they are not continuing to practice their religion. The close speciation of the people enforces a complete cultural ablation. People in the government got away with this by claiming that they were relatives to the people’s houses that they were moving into. Human Rights Watch has condemned the assimilation program in China as deeply forced. Women in China are also being forced to have abortions, especially when getting pregnant due to Chinese government workers’ rape, and among with this, organ harvesting in China has become extremely prevalent. The Chinese are using the internment camps to recover organs to then sell on the black market. Fast lanes were even created for the organs to have a fast way to get to the airport and then exported. Uyghurs are used to working in sweatshops outside of the camps. These shops are being used in the hope to reduce Uyghur population density, and the goal of demolition of Islam is being reached.

Kate Powaski '24

Muslim Destruction

Foreign fear and opinion on the genocide have extremely low value to China and are only somewhat recognized when China is in favor of a country's statements and actions. China's robust surveillance system extends overseas, with a special emphasis placed on monitoring the Uyghur treatment and way of life around the world. China's hacking of Uyghurs is so aggressive that it is effectively global, extending far beyond China's borders. Uyghurs in the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia have been detained and deported back to China. Rights activists fear that even as Western nations are creating movements to protest the treatment of Uyghurs, countries in the Middle East and beyond will increasingly be willing to move past the crackdown on members of the abusers. Around the globe, close to nothing is being done to counteract these forms of genocide against humanity, but why? The Human Rights Council condemned China's mass detention of Uyghurs, but fifty other countries supported China. The countries that disagree argue that diplomats who have traveled to China have not seen these abuses being carried out, and that essentially the media and people in it are lying. China has continued to deny any abuses being carried out, but then the UN (United Nations) decided that they needed to take a fact-finding trip to see what was happening, and when they went, thirty-nine countries left their side of support. Since then, China has denied all access for visitation from anyone from the UN or another country, and people who do visit China usually have to sign a document or swear that they will not produce any articles or statements pertaining to the treatment of Uyghurs in China. European nations have also been banned from visiting China. Currently, China has a man detained named Ilham Tohti, just because he was elected for the Sakharov Prize for Freedom and Thought. European countries have also induced travel bans and asset freezes because of the abuses. In 2020, the United States Congress passed the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act in reaction to the internment camps, and lawmakers proposed the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act requiring the assumption that all Xinjiang goods are made with forced labor and therefore banned. Imports have also been blocked, and the United States government was the first to declare that what is happening in China is genocide. Even with the imports being blocked, the U.S. relies on these camps to produce goods, so how can the government truly cut the importation of goods that Americans need? Small progress has been demonstrated in helping the Muslims, but more can be done.

Kate Powaski '24

Muslim Destruction

When witnessing something wrong happen, do we choose to be a part of the problem, or do we choose to be a part of the solution? That internal conflict is something people suffer with every day. In China, the Uyghur population is under forms of extreme genocide, alone and afraid, and the United States, with contributing minimum efforts to help the Muslims, needs to do more. People are suffering due to the expense of the needs of others, but what about their needs? The answer is simple; the answer is clear. Humility needs to be accepting of everyone, and as a country that prides itself on celebrating differences, we need to support the Islamic religion.

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Sammy Petrozzi '26
Breaking Bad



Belle Langer '24
Anti-Hero

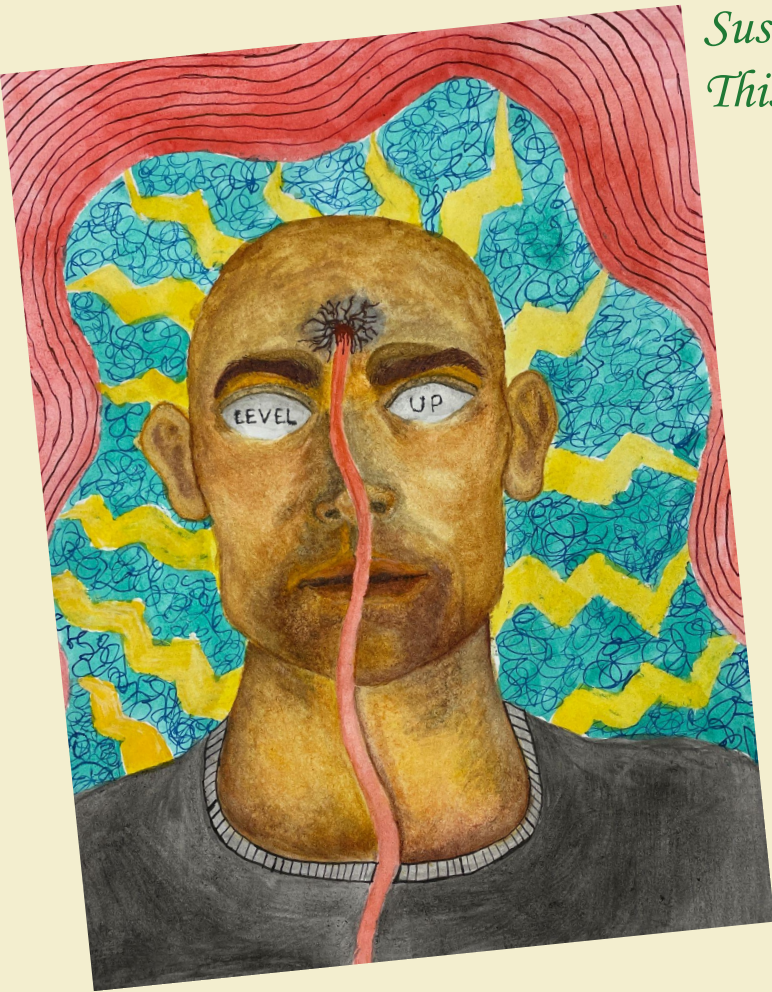


Kailie Rozman '23
Leading Lines



Natalie Gibson '23
Pianist





Susan Toth '23
This is Not a Game

Emma Madsen '26
Air Show



Haley Horen '24
Millie



Peter Skalicki '23
Jack Skellington



Tristan Sanders '23
Star Bright

Millions of bright light

In the night sky. Your

Beauty is beyond compare..

A burning glaze

all through the night.

Shine bright, shine

A shooting star in the sky

.

Studied with a telescope.

A star is beautiful.

That sets the night on fire.

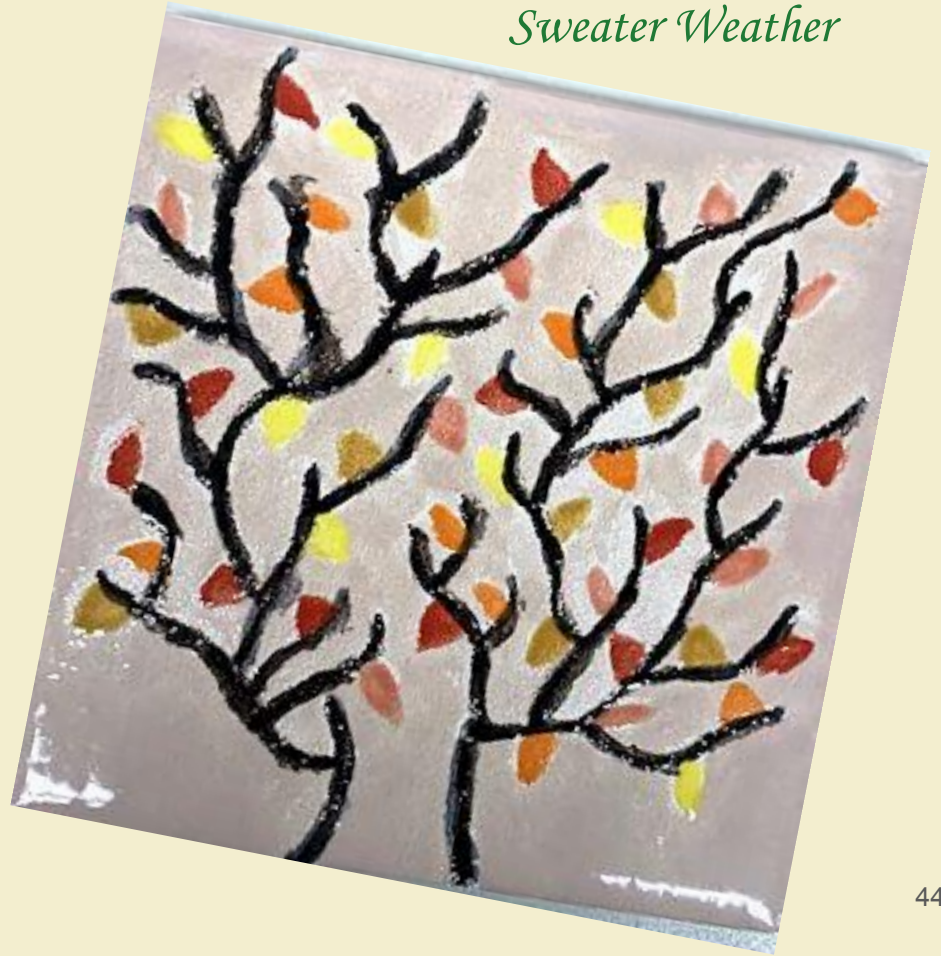
Kyra Walnsch '23
Spidey



Gianna Coreno '24
Reaching Out



Rylee Anderson '23
Sweater Weather



Out of the Ordinary part 1

My life has always been a little bit strange. Almost all of my teachers have called me gifted or special, and I have always been at the top of my class. This year, I am going into the third grade at a brand new school. I am so excited because now I don't have to wear a stupid uniform everyday and can finally wear my pajamas to school. My mom is worried though because this new school doesn't have the "accommodations" for me, whatever that means. I am not nervous about meeting new friends because I know some kids who go there who are on my soccer team.

This summer, my soccer team almost went undefeated, my mom tried to have me join the swim team, and I read 36 books. 2 out of those 3 activities I actually enjoyed. Swimming has never been one of my favorite things to do. I hate it because of the way the water gets in my ear, when my swimsuit wraps around my legs, and the constant fear of drowning. I love playing soccer and reading though. 36 was a record this summer.

The first day of school is quickly approaching, so my mom and I are going to Target to get everything that I need. I got my matching Lightning McQueen backpack and lunchbox, 2 folders, 4 notebooks, pencils, and pens. I am ready to take on third grade!

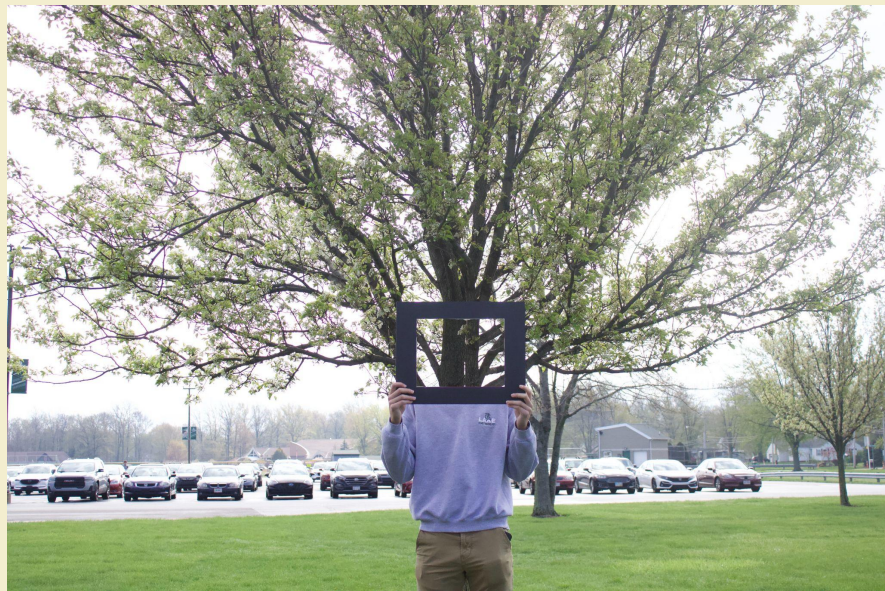
On the first day of school, I wake up promptly at 7 A.M., put on my blue sweatpants and gray shirt, brush my teeth and hair, and then go downstairs to eat Cheerios. The nerves were already setting in as I was reading *Harry Potter* and eating breakfast. We leave the house at 7:45 and get to school around 8. Since the first bell doesn't ring until 8:15, I have plenty of time to get settled into my desk. I put the red and blue notebooks on the right, and the green and orange ones on the left. Both folders went on the right, and the pens and pencils on the left. My desk is always very organized throughout the entire school year.

The first problem at this new school arise the second the first bell rang. Since I was a new student, the teacher makes me stand in front of the entire class and introduce myself. Then, during math, she makes me come to the board and solve a problem. I didn't even volunteer to do it, she just picked me. Again, during reading, she makes me read a section of the book out loud without me wanting to. Of course, I knew the answer to the math problem, and aced the reading, but I am awkward when she makes me do it in front of the entire class. But, I made it through the morning and it was finally lunch.

I sit by myself, which I am okay with, and eat the turkey sandwich my mom had packed for me. I read *Harry Potter* while eating, and brought it out to recess with me. Last year, I always read during recess and only on very rare occasions would I play soccer with some of the other kids in my class. While I am reading, 3 fourth-grade boys come up to me and laugh at the fact that I was reading. I ignore them and walk away, but they keep following me anytime I try to get away. I end up telling the recess teacher I have to go to the bathroom and finish recess reading in the second stall.

We finish the day with a craft activity, then it was time for my mom to pick me up. I tell her all about today; the very little good to the very bad. She said that it was just the first day and things will get better. She also said that if they don't improve, I will be going to a different school next year, one with the annoying uniforms.

Marko Odorcic '24
Me and A Tree



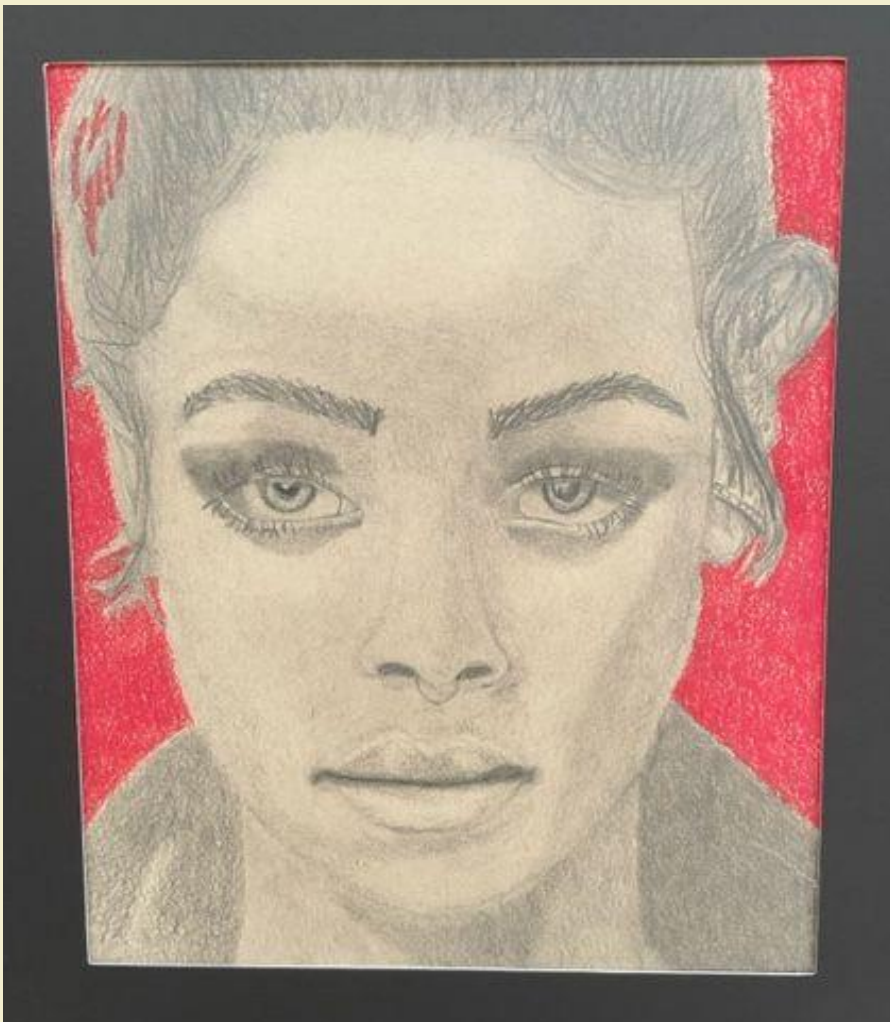
Natalie Gibson '23
Niya the Photographer



Jacob Bonnick '23
Vision



Lauren Olenik '23
Water Droplet



Haylie Baizel '24
Love on the Brain

Emina Spiros '23
My Happiness Died When She Did



Thank you

Lake Catholic Administration

Mr. Mark Crowley

Mr. Tom McKrill

Ms. Maghen Frindt

English Department

Art Department

Epilogue

Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.

Thomas Merton

Life is the art of drawing without an eraser

John W. Gardner