

# THE WARRIOR NEWSPAPER

The Fall 2021 Issue



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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to *The Warrior*, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic High school's very own student-run newspaper. We are honored to present this publication, which includes topics ranging from our school's community, programs, and clubs, to world news that embraces varied cultural and societal aspects. We aspire to create an interesting and educational newspaper that entertains and informs. Both the students and the faculty that assisted in making this newspaper invested considerable time and effort into creating it, and we are excited for our work to be published. We wish you all the best, and hope you enjoy the articles!

Brianna Giangrasso

Editor-in-Chief

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Jaiden Rodgers  
Ella DeGuzman  
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If you are interested in writing for the newspaper, contact either the moderators, Mrs. Katz or Mrs. Pinelli, or the editor-in-chief, Brianna Giangrasso.





## SCHOOL NEWS

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### THE RETURN OF THE OLL THEATRE COMPANY AFTER COVID

November 23, 2021

By Gianna Desdune

In March of 2021, the Lourdes Theater Company was in the home stretch in preparation for *Beauty and the Beast*. It was going to be a spectacular show, and everyone was so excited! Then came the shutdown, and along with it, the hopes that the Theater Company could still perform. For the majority of the year, singing and acting was limited, if not altogether prohibited. The spring musical was just not to be, and as they say in theater, the Lourdes Theater Company went dark, until this new school year.

By spring of 2021, the OLL Chorus and Performing Arts students collaborated to bring live music back to the Our Lady of Lourdes campus with an outdoor cabaret billed as *Scenes and Songs*. This incredible compilation of Broadway and screen favorites was chosen by students and performed in the school's courtyard under the direction of Mrs. Cathy Crocco and Mr. Tom Lawrence. *Scenes and Songs* left the audience with fond memories and cheerful spirits, and for the first time in a long time, live music rang through the courtyard.



Recently, the Lourdes Theatre Company made a strong return as they staged a November production of *The Spoon River Project* in the Monsignor Brinn Family Theater. *The Spoon River Project* is a beautifully haunting play based on Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology*, in which the former residents of Spoon River examine life and their longing for

what might have been. As the citizens reflect on the dreams, secrets, and regrets of their lives, they paint a gritty and honest portrait of the town as all of their pasts are illuminated.

Tom Lawrence, the director of the Lourdes Theater Company, says, "It is great to be back and to see the students working together to bring the magic of live theater back to the school."

The production dates were Friday, November 12th at 7:00pm, Saturday, November 13th at 7:00pm, and Sunday, November 14th, at 2:00pm. An incredibly strong cast led the audience through a deeply emotional journey in one act.

The Lourdes Theater Company is planning to present "A Charlie Brown Christmas" on December 11 and 12. This will be a fun, family-friendly show with a Cookie Walk fundraiser. Be sure not to miss this classic brought to life by the cast and crew of the OLL Theater Company.



The cast of The Spoon River Project

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## SPIRIT WEEK AT OUR LADY OF LOURDES 2021-2022

November 23, 2021

By Mia Lin

After a unique school year at Lourdes last year, this year has been off to a much better start. This year, the students enjoyed dress-down days for the entire Spirit week. Each day had a different theme: Monday was pajama day, Tuesday was twin day, Wednesday was tie-dye day, Thursday was USA day, and Friday was Warrior Spirit day. Throughout the week, we got to see a lot of creative and theme-fitting outfits from the students, faculty, and staff.

Although this week was a special week in the school year, the most special day was at the end of the week. On Friday, Lourdes students, faculty, and staff shared in a day of fun with Warrior Spirit Day. The students got plenty of exercise with a walk down Zach's Way, and were surprised by the tubes of colored powder that were launched at the students', as well as some of the faculty's, shirts. After we finished the walk, we went to the back of the school for more fun and a picnic.

In the school's backyard, there were many appealing food stands as well as some entertainment stands. Each club had their own unique stands that sold food to raise money for their club funds. The crew team sold hand-packed candy, Pro-Life Club sold coffee and hot chocolate, Model UN/Student Government sold homemade fried rice, News and Views sold

apple cider and fall flavored pastries, and the Spanish club sold churros that sold out with lightning speed. These were just to name a few, but there were many more yummy food stalls. Additionally, there were entertainment stands like a dunk tank and a bouncy house. As the day went on, there was an egg toss game that the students enjoyed as well.

As the day ended, the students and staff started to get excited for the homecoming game! It is important to note that we had won the game that night, and everyone was very excited and proud of the players. The day after was the homecoming dance, which many students also enjoyed. After not having spirit week or the homecoming the year before, it was so exciting to see the Our Lady of Lourdes Warrior spirit come alive again.





## THE TURKEY BOWL: A NEW LOURDES TRADITION

November 23, 2021

By Jamie Watson

This year, OLL hosted the first annual faculty football game, The OLL Faculty Turkey Bowl. On Tuesday, November 23, the faculty and staff came together to play flag football in order to encourage participation in a food drive for our local community. Everyone, including the students, expected it to be entertaining and eventful. The school community collected canned goods for the Holy Trinity food pantry for entry into the game. The two teams that competed in this Flag 2 Flag game were the Blue team and the Gold team. The Blue team included: Fr Connolly, Mr. Herles, Mrs. Ormerod, Mr. Rutigiano, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Wettles, Mrs. Philipbar, Mrs. Gateson, Mrs. Beyer, Mr. Petruzzelli, and Mr. Clement. They played against the Gold team: Mr. Weiler, Mr. LaRocca, Ms. Pam Zazzarino, Ms. Jen Zazzarino, Mr. Hansen, Ms. Orton, Mr. Forr, Mrs. Merryman, Mr. Damiano, Mr. Fernandez, and Mr. Cassidy. The faculty practiced and prepared for this game out on the field after school for several days to prepare for the big event. To build the excitement before the game, various faculty engaged in some friendly trash-talk to intimidate the opposing sides. They came for each other over the morning and afternoon announcements. Both teams were confident that they could win. In spite of freezing temperatures, the competition got hot as the teams competed to see who would take home the coveted Turkey Bowl Trophy. Ultimately, the Gold team was victorious and took home the trophy for their coach, Mr. Krieger. The competition between our teachers was fun to watch and served a great cause.





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## POSITIVE PROGRESS SINCE COVID: A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

November 22, 2021

By Izzy Ferro

Imagine for a second that we have a time machine and we decided to go back to 19 months ago. Congratulations, we have traveled to March 2020, when what many students thought to be just a "two week vacation", quickly spiraled into a much longer fiasco that has disrupted our lives as we knew them. We went from class trips to remote learning in the blink of an eye, and nobody saw it coming. However, this year is different. Because of hope and determination, we believe that we see the light at the end of the tunnel. This year, things will be different; in truth, they already are.

I am only a freshman, so I do not know how things operated at Lourdes during the height of the pandemic. I knew of some people in the Lourdes community, so I heard things here and there, but I never experienced it myself. To find out more about what it was like last year here at Lourdes, I interviewed senior Julia Morales. Julia said, "Last year it was very unusual having smaller classes and only coming in two to three times a week. Most of the clubs did not run, so it felt like there was a lack of school spirit. Even though the sports did their best to run with all the different regulations, it is really nice to be back to regular sports with no masks outside. School without cohorts seems more lively. I am extremely happy to be back for a more normal senior year!" This is a sentiment I think we can all agree with.

Even though I was not at Lourdes, I clearly remember the start of the pandemic. I was sitting at recess, talking to my friends, when the topic of Covid came up. My friend had asked the monitoring teacher, "Do you think we will come back after spring break?" My teacher replied, "Yes, of course. I do not see why not". Well, she could not have been more wrong. Friday the 13th was the day we got the notification call that, due to the increase in Covid cases in our little town, we had to stay home from school. At first, my thought was "Great, an extra day of spring break!" Well, over the course of spring break, emails were sent continuously, trips were postponed, and musicals were canceled. The musical being cancelled hit especially hard, since I had finally received a lead role and we were set to perform upon our return from spring break. After spring break, we started online learning: Zoom meetings, Google classroom, and a lot of confusion. I am sure all students can relate to this when I say it is incredibly hard to focus on a computer at home for a school day. There are loads of distractions: phones, the wall, a pen, really anything that was near. Our teachers tried their best to make learning fun while we were stuck at home, but it was just not the same as sitting in a classroom. Unfortunately, we continued the rest of the year online, returning to in-person learning in the fall.

In the fall, a lot of things were different than what we consider normal: temperature checks, health forms, masks, and cleaning constantly were just a few of the changes. In addition, we still lacked class trips and certain traditions, those especially for the eighth graders; however, we adapted and came out stronger by developing new ways to run things and have fun.

This year has barely even started, yet we are making strides bigger than we ever could have imagined: at Lourdes, we have had many football games with our cheerleaders and spectators, and our sports are mostly back to normal. We've been able to enjoy spirit week, our Warrior Spirit Day, as well as our homecoming game and dance! Not to mention, everyone is 100% in person; no more hybrid learning! The Lourdes Theater Company is back with excellent performances, and the music program is up and running in a new and expanded environment. As a school community, we have made tremendous progress, and I think I speak for everyone when I say, I cannot wait to see how far we will go!





## POLITICS AND WORLD NEWS

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## THE EUROPEAN UNION TO REQUIRE USB-C CHARGING AS STANDARD

November 22, 2021

By Jaiden Rodgers

Millions line up at stores all over the world for the annual release of the latest iPhone. With each release comes a new design, a new feature, and a new charger. It is that last item that the European Union seeks to regulate with a proposal that would affect smart devices sold within its 27 member states. If the proposal were to become law, however, it is likely that most companies would simply update all of their products worldwide. Outlined in the proposal is a plan to help reduce electronic waste by requiring devices such as smartphones to adhere to a common charging standard, USB-C.

The use of USB-C is already widespread, meaning that the change will not come at great cost to consumers. The proposal also limits the bundling of chargers with smart devices, which helps tackle the growing electronic waste problem. Hundreds of millions of smart devices are sold yearly, and with them come a multitude of different chargers that are likely to end up forgotten in a drawer or thrown in a landfill. Electronic waste is particularly dangerous as it contains hazardous materials which complicate its clean up. Furthermore, items that frequently become electronic waste, like phone chargers, are often made of valuable materials that could be used for other purposes.

A direct casualty of this proposal would be Apple's iPhone and its proprietary "Lightning" connector. It is no surprise that Apple has come out against the move, citing their belief that the proposal will harm consumers because it limits innovation. Apple has also pointed to the millions of "Lightning" chargers that currently exist which will become obsolete if the proposal becomes law. The European Union remains largely united in favor of passing the proposal, but only time will tell.

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## THE QUESTION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN AFGHANISTAN

November 22, 2021

By McKenzie Cooper

Throughout the last twenty years, Afghanistan has been one of the important topics of American politics. It recently became more controversial when President Biden announced that America would be evacuating Afghanistan. When American troops left, the Taliban took over power in Afghanistan. The Taliban is an Islamic group that strictly adheres to Sharia Law. It held power in Afghanistan during the late 1990's and early 2000s. Now that the Taliban are in power once again, they have made many radical changes in Afghanistan's government and women's rights.

About two decades ago, when the Taliban last had control, it was illegal for girls to attend school. All females had to wear a full burqa and be accompanied by a male at all times outside of the home. Women also could not hold power in the government or have jobs. Now that the Taliban have regained control, many worry that women's rights will be stripped away once again. This is a concern that on television, the Taliban deny.

Zabihullah Mujahid, a representative for the Taliban, pledged that the new government would respect women's rights. However, the Taliban's actions tell a different story. Girls are not permitted to attend secondary school with male teachers or male students, and subjects have been limited for girls in primary schools. Girls can also only be taught by female teachers and in separate classrooms from male students. Likewise, the presence of women is being limited in places of authority in the government.

The new Taliban government has not finished establishing the new laws and policies. All the decisions they make and how the world responds will decide the fate for women and girls for this generation and beyond.


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## CULTURAL REPRESENTATION & INCLUSIVITY IN MEDIA: MARVEL'S SHANG CHI

November 22, 2021

By Olivia Cassieri

*Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* is Marvel's first Asian-led film. Furthermore, it is the most successful movie of the pandemic, making about \$370 million worldwide! This enthralling film is about Shang-Chi, an expert in martial arts, who has to face his forgotten past in order to take down the Ten Rings organization and embrace who he is. It is a comedic, family focused, and exciting film for all Marvel and non-Marvel fans alike. *Shang-Chi* sheds light on how important culture in media is to our modern society by rejecting stereotypes and lack of Asian representation.

First, the film is important because it addresses stereotypes of the Asian culture. For instance, in the original Marvel comics, the character of Shang-Chi's father, written by Sax Rohmer, was named Fu Manchu. He made his debut in *The Mystery of Dr. Fu Manchu* in 1913, and he was a dangerous antagonist bent on global domination. This is important because in world history, the "Yellow Peril", defined as the threat of rising influence of Asian people posing a threat to Western civilization, was a common excuse for discrimination against Asians. As one can see, a villain who was oriental and wanted to dominate the world "ticked all the propaganda boxes" for the time period. Therefore, the writers of *Shang-Chi* wrote out Fu Manchu's character and replaced him with the Mandarin, a man who just wants his family.

Another example of *Shang-Chi's* elimination of stereotypes of Asian people is their casting of Simu Liu. Most known for his work on *Kim's Convenience*, Simu Liu was cast as the lead role of Shang-Chi. In an interview with *The Washington Post*, director Destin Daniel Cretton said, "The primary hope for 'Shang-Chi' was to find an actor who would help to break the stereotype of a kung-fu Asian dude." Cretton wanted the character to be relatable for anyone watching. In addition, Cretton reflects on his leading actor by saying, "I do think that Simu, without even trying, is already breaking stereotypes as an Asian male lead in a big movie like this."

Second, *Shang-Chi* is important because it has what the media is lacking: Asian representation. For example, the amount of Asian speaking or named characters, along with directors, in the media is flawed. The USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative's annual study for "Inequality in 1,300 Popular Films" established that in 2019 the top 100 films consisted of only 7.2 percent Asian characters. Another statistic showed that of these top 100 movies in 2019, 3.6 percent of directors were Asian. This is essential because less than 10 percent of actors in the best movies of 2019 were of Asian culture. The movie for *Shang-Chi and The Legend of the Ten Rings* (2021) is the next best movie to have a full Asian cast and crew since *Crazy Rich Asians* (2018).

Additionally, many kids and adults who are watching this film get to see characters whom they can relate to, a feat that is monumental to the cast and crew. Actress and comedian Awkwafina, who plays Shang-Chi's best friend, portrays the Asian-American experience in the movie. In an interview with ABC7, Awkwafina shared her thoughts on cultural representation: "This film takes representation to even another level because, within it, there are so many different perspectives of the Asian experience." Also, Simu Liu said to *Entertainment Weekly* that kids growing up will have "the ability to watch the screen and to really feel seen." It is important to know the actors involved in this project have a deep pride and dedication towards their culture's image.

*Shang-Chi and The Legend of The Ten Rings* will not be forgotten as Marvel's first fully Asian-inclusive film. The writers and director made sure to portray the Asian culture as more than the stereotypes. While Asian representation in the media may not yet be at its finest, there are high hopes for future Hollywood movies.

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Image courtesy of imdb.com

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## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH & THE OLL SPANISH CLUB

November 22, 2021

By Ella DeGuzman

National Hispanic Heritage Month in the United States lasts from September 15 through October 15. This time period was first designated to celebrate Hispanic heritage in 1968 and was extended in 1988 by Congress to honor the contributions and achievements of those from Hispanic communities. These dates were chosen to line up with Latin American independence anniversaries that are celebrated during these fall months. Independence days are celebrated by Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica on September 15, Mexico on September 16, Chile on September 18, and Belize on September 21. Since its establishment, the month has been celebrated nationwide through festivals, art shows, conferences, community gatherings, and much more. Hispanic Heritage Month also includes holidays that recognize Hispanic contributions such as the Virgin Islands-Puerto Rico Friendship Day, which is celebrated on the United States Virgin Islands.

This year, especially, effort has been made by the federal government to acknowledge the contributions of Latino scientists and doctors who have striven towards our country's efforts in fighting COVID-19. Additionally, the United States Department of Education reached out on social media to discuss Hispanic contributions towards education and the work of Latino educators, scientists, artists, and other professionals towards making communities more equitable and resilient (Source: <https://sites.ed.gov/hispanic-initiative/national-hispanic-heritage-month/>).

The OLL Spanish Club has been central in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month here at Our Lady of Lourdes. Señora Geihoff, moderator of the Spanish Club, said, "This year the OLL Spanish Club participated in activities to bring awareness to this important month. Working with Mrs. Vilardo, the Spanish Club members wrote short biographies for notable Hispanic Americans, which were read during the morning announcements. Mrs. Vilardo also used this time to pray in Spanish."

During meetings, the Spanish club created a colorful bulletin board in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. It reads: **La Herencia Hispana: Somos Unidos**, meaning, "We Are United," and includes flags of Spanish speaking countries, representing the many communities of the Spanish-speaking world (Source: OLL Spanish Club). As a student body, we are blessed to be able to celebrate together.



# CAN MOVIE THEATERS REBOUND?

November 22, 2021

By Jaiden Rodgers

The survival of movie theaters has been uncertain in recent years despite, at one point, being an unquestioned part of the average American life. These once-bustling social centers of entertainment are experiencing a decline, one that has only been accelerated by COVID-19. The issues that underlie this decline are best explained by examining the origin of the modern movie theater.

The first "movies" date back to the 1890s; they were displayed in dedicated viewing rooms and looked nothing like the multimillion dollar productions of today. They were black and white silent films, displayed using tiny projectors. What impressed viewers of the first movies was not the content, but the technology on display. Public viewing of movies had its start in 1896, and at the same time, the first public theaters gained public attention. The growth of theaters from there was exponential, largely due to the simultaneous growth of movie technology. Films with sound came about in the late 1920s and were very successful, to the point that movies became one of the most important and successful industries, even as the Great Depression raged on. In fact, the Great Depression helped the growth of theaters by serving as a place to escape the harsh realities of life. From there, the technology only got better; color, increased screen size, better visuals, and improved sound quality pushed the industry to exciting new heights. Massive, elegant theaters were constructed as movies reached their golden era. With all this momentum, what could have possibly slowed things down?

Many point to the advent of DVDs and video streaming services as the culprits of movie theater decline because these options tend to offer the convenience traditional theaters lack. While this certainly contributed to a dip in sales, many still prefer the social experience of the movie theater over watching movies at home in solitude. Arguably, the real cause of the steady decline of movie theaters is stagnation in the movie industry. For many studios, sequels and reboots are far easier and safer to produce than original works. The problem is that this strategy is not sustainable in the long term, and with no major technological improvements to dazzle moviegoers' eyes, going to the movie theaters has become less exciting and appealing.

In contrast, the quality and originality of productions on streaming services has only been increasing. This alone would have been enough to cause a decline in theaters, but the COVID-19 pandemic has crippled them. With no movies to watch, or places to watch them, people took up streaming services for entertainment. Big studios quickly adapted and began pushing digital and streaming service content in an attempt to capture the market. Now that we are through the peak of COVID-19 and vaccinations have become widely available, many theaters have reopened. However, the question that arises is, has the damage already been done to the theater industry or do movie theaters still have hope? The answer is complicated.

Just as movie theaters have not replaced traditional theater, streaming services will not replace movie theaters. Each occupies a separate niche, and it would take a major event for any one of them to collapse unexpectedly. What has been made clear is that movie theaters are unlikely to ever see the same heights they did in the mid-twentieth century. The consequences will especially be felt by smaller productions that, without the power of big names, will face significant disadvantages from the immediate effects of COVID-19 restrictions and the process of building themselves up to notoriety.

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## MUSIC ON THE MIND

November 22, 2021

by Jaiden Rodgers

From the catchy jingles in advertisements to the elaborate scores composed for the latest blockbusters, music is ubiquitous. For many, music is inseparable from daily routines, whether it be during a workout, a study session, or meditation. Music's grip on people's hearts and minds has been the subject of countless studies. Some research indicates that the brain's innate ability to recognize patterns may be part of the reason humans have a fondness for the intricate structures present in music. Regardless of scientific research on the matter, the fact remains that music is simply popular. It is in many ways a universal form of expression, one that transcends boundaries and unites people to enjoy the moment. The music that has done this, as well as its methods, have changed over time. Like any art form, music has evolved to reflect its ever-changing audience.

Until the late 19th century, listening to music meant attending a live performance at an opera house or concert hall. These establishments hosted symphonies from the Classical period, and while classical music today is often tied to tired notions of affluence, 18th century music venues actually supported those ideas. Regular attendance was almost exclusively reserved for the wealthy. For most people, the next best option was learning to play the pieces they wanted to hear. Reasonably affordable music consumption first came in the form of phonograph records in the 1880s and 1890s. However, it would be the widespread adoption of radios in the 1920s that would change music forever. This technology meant that more people around the world had access to music, broadening the musical experiences for all audiences.

The Silent Generation, those born from 1928 to 1945, came into a world already exposed to radio, profoundly impacting the way they experienced music. Listening to music on the radio was a daily pastime for many families, something that was unthinkable just a few decades earlier. This generation mainly enjoyed jazz and its subgenres, big band and swing. Then, as young adults, this generation began to develop rock and roll. The Baby Boomers, those born from 1946 to 1964, were influenced by this style of music and adapted it, leading to the development of hard and progressive rock. Generation X, those born 1965 to 1980, would similarly be influenced and adapt hard rock into grunge. Many from this generation, particularly African Americans and Latino Americans, would also be important figures in the development of hip-hop. Millennials, those born between 1981 to 1996, were again influenced by the previous generation's music, with most of today's pop artists coming from this generation. Something major, however, happened during the lives of Millennials: the advent of the internet.

Advances in technology have always affected music, but arguably none have had as great of an effect as the internet. Television and radio brought music to the home, but the internet and similar technology put music into pockets. Music streaming services have since dominated all other forms of music consumption. Generation Z has grown up in a world where music is never far away. In addition, music in digital formats ensures that music is preserved forever. The result is a generation with diverse musical tastes, and one look at the Our Lady of Lourdes student body supports this. A survey conducted by the News and Views club gathered the responses of 123 students from all grade levels. Every person surveyed listened to music, but the similarities stopped there.

Of all respondents, 24% listened to music for more than three hours every day. That is more music listened to in one week than most people living in the 1800s listened to in one month. However, the majority of respondents listened to music for less time than that, with 37% listening for two to three hours every day and 30% listening to music for about one hour every day. An overwhelming 71% of respondents listed Spotify as one of the places they listen to music. The second most popular choice was Youtube Music, with 44% of respondents using that platform. Interestingly, live performances were listed by only 9% of respondents, although it is likely that this figure is a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In terms of genre, the results are even more diverse. Over 30 different genres were listed by one or more respondents, and the most popular genre was pop, listed by 78% of respondents. Following this, 50% of respondents listed hip-hop, 34% listed rock, and 31% listed country. Both jazz and k-pop, two very different genres of music, were listed by 13% of respondents.

Finally, respondents were asked whether or not they had a favorite piece of music. Surprisingly, 36% of respondents did not have a favorite piece of music, and those that answered yes were given the option to express why they liked their favorite. The responses were varied, with some citing their enjoyment of a rhythm while others found meaning in lyrics. A trend among responses was the role emotion played. For many, their favorite music made them feel a certain way, whether it was happy, optimistic, or calm. It is clear that music fills an incredibly unique and irreplaceable role in the lives of this generation. Nothing else can evoke the types of responses that people have to their favorite piece of music. As one respondent puts it: "[It] can always express how I feel when I listen to it, no matter what I'm feeling at the time, which I think is really cool."

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SPORTS

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### LOURDES WRESTLING RETURNS

November 23, 2021

By Liam Gilmartin

After a year without a season, the Lourdes wrestling team is finally back. Along with the long-anticipated return, the team will also be wrestling in their brand new training room under Coach Price, who previously coached the Warriors and revitalized the program years ago, before moving on and leaving the team in the hands of Coach Richard McHale. Along with Coach Price's return this year, there are many other bright spots in the upcoming season. Of these many bright spots is a \$10,000 donation allocated to the team by OLL President, Mrs. Merryman. Another promising aspect of the team is Lourdes senior, Jackson Wainwright. Wainwright, having won the Section 1 title his sophomore year, is most likely a contender for the State Championship. In addition to Wainwright, seniors Hayden Heunis and Jack Mulcahy are coming off impressive sophomore seasons and will most likely be the guys to watch when it comes to the Section Title in their respective weight classes. The distant future is also looking quite hopeful for the team with numerous new additions this year who will surely be shaped into promising wrestlers under the experienced coaching staff.

Coach Price has taken an extremely proactive approach in preparing the wrestlers for the upcoming season. From inviting nutrition specialists to bringing former Lourdes coach, Coach Meyers, in to run technique clinics, Coach Price has shown his dedication to provide his wrestlers with as much insight from as many points of view as possible.

Also, it is not just insight and technique that is being built in the team, but there is also a hunger: a hunger for competition after a lost season. There is a drive to make up for lost time, felt among the seniors especially. With one final year in Section 1, now is the time to make things happen for the Warriors.

### THE OLL FENCING TEAM RETURNS FROM HIATUS

November 23, 2021

By Ella DeGuzman

In the upcoming 2021-22 winter sports season, the OLL Varsity Fencing Team is making its return following a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the excitement of renovated facilities and new equipment, the fencing team is ready to be back in action. Practices have begun and the fencing team is utilizing the newly installed dance studio in the OLL athletic facility to prepare for upcoming January tournaments. The team has a roster of 13 boys and 7 girls this season, and is training mostly new fencers from all classes. Under the supervision of Coaches Shannon Gauzza and Alex Acevado, as well as assisting alumni Andrew Gauzza and Griffin Downs, substantial progress has been made towards training new fencers for the approaching season. There are several returning Juniors and seniors, and captains will be named in the approaching weeks. As stated by Coach Shannon Gauzza, "The majority of the team is first time fencers, which is an amazing opportunity. We are very excited to be back after not being able to compete last year and we look forward to a great season."



## RECAP OF THE 2021 OLL VARSITY TENNIS SEASON

November 23, 2021

By Izzy Cho and Ella DeGuzman

Although it was a short season, the OLL Varsity Tennis Team packed a punch. This year, the tennis team made a trip to the team finals and achieved wins over schools such as FDR and North Salem. The roster for team finals included singles players Erin Carlini, Adjoua Kirton, and Kayla Joseph. Doubles teams included Becky O'Connor and Ceci Mak, and Ella DeGuzman and Paige DeMino. To top off their success, three players qualified for the postseason sectionals tournament: Izzy Cho, Adjoua Kirton, and Erin Carlini. Adjoua and Erin competed as a doubles team and made it into the second round. In addition to the success during the season, the tennis team also had a successful year off the court. One highlight for the team was this year's senior night. After a 7-0 sweep against FDR, the tennis team said a heartfelt goodbye to five seniors and ended the season with a celebration.





## LOURDES ANTICIPATES MOVE TO SECTION IX

November 23, 2021

By Grace Morra

As many have heard, Our Lady of Lourdes will be making a change in our athletics department. As of the 2022-2023 school year, the Warriors will be part of New York State's Section IX, as opposed to continuing in Section I. This news has caused a major upset in some athletic departments, and student athletes feel as though they have earned their spot in Section I. For years, Lourdes has had success in section I, so a switch to a smaller section has some athletes puzzled. So what is the difference between Section I and Section IX? And what changes does this mean for our school's athletic programs? The main difference between the two sections is location. Schools that are members of Section I are mostly those that are in Westchester, schools like Carmel, Somers, John Jay East Fishkill, and Mahopac, among many others. Section IX is more of the middle part of the valley, including schools like Mariboro, FDR, Valley Central, and our close neighbors at Beacon. Many schools in Section IX are much smaller than those in Section I, and therefore the competition is more varied than the strict and harsh competition we have seen in Section I for decades. No matter where the Warriors play, Section I or Section IX, the athletes will continue to shine and show everyone what it is really like to be a Lourdes Warrior!

## FLIPPING TO SUCCESS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

November 23, 2021

By Madison Montemayor

The Our Lady of Lourdes Cheer Season for 2021 has been filled with excitement among the team as well as the school as a whole. Supporting and cheering on the boy's varsity football team not only inspires the athletes on the field, but also the entire student section which comes to support their games. The loud shouts and hollering is what completes the fun vibe of the fall football season. Learning new tricks, stunts, and dance moves comes with exhilaration as the cheerleaders prepare for games. Not only this, but bonding with teammates and making new friends is what really brings the season together. For anyone considering joining cheer, whether it's for football or basketball season, you'll have the time of your life!

## NEW ELECTIVE GYM CLASSES

November 22, 2021

By Isabella Cho

With the arrival of the new athletic center, Lourdes has broadened its gym class selection offering with classes like weight training and dance. Mrs. Vilardo has kicked off the new programs with her dance class. She is no stranger to the dance floor and has been dancing since she was six years old. With this class, she provides another gym option for those who prefer a different style of gym class. Her class teaches different styles of dance like jazz and ballet. In addition, students learn the different techniques individually before putting them together in a routine. The student response to this class has been incredibly positive. Persephonie Rodriguez, one of the students taking dance this semester, says the class has been a great experience. She also says the class provides good exercise and strengthens different aspects of health more than a regular gym class. The best part is that the class is beginner-friendly, so anyone is welcome to join!

Weight training is another new gym class. It is taught by Mrs. Imperati, who is in her first year teaching at Lourdes. Mrs. Imperati is a personal trainer who has been weight training since she was in college. Her class teaches students how to work out different muscle groups. Despite the name, it is not only limited to weight training. There are a variety of different exercises taught, so there is something for everyone! This class offers a safe space to build lifelong fitness habits and focus on one's own well being. Each student is encouraged to go at his or her own pace, so students can find what works for them without pressure. It is a great way to learn fitness for beginners and seasoned enthusiasts alike.

The athletic center has been a great resource for both classes, and each class is run by a passionate teacher. If you are not interested in taking a regular gym class or want to explore something new, these classes are great ways to do that. They are both single-semester classes and are open for next semester.

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