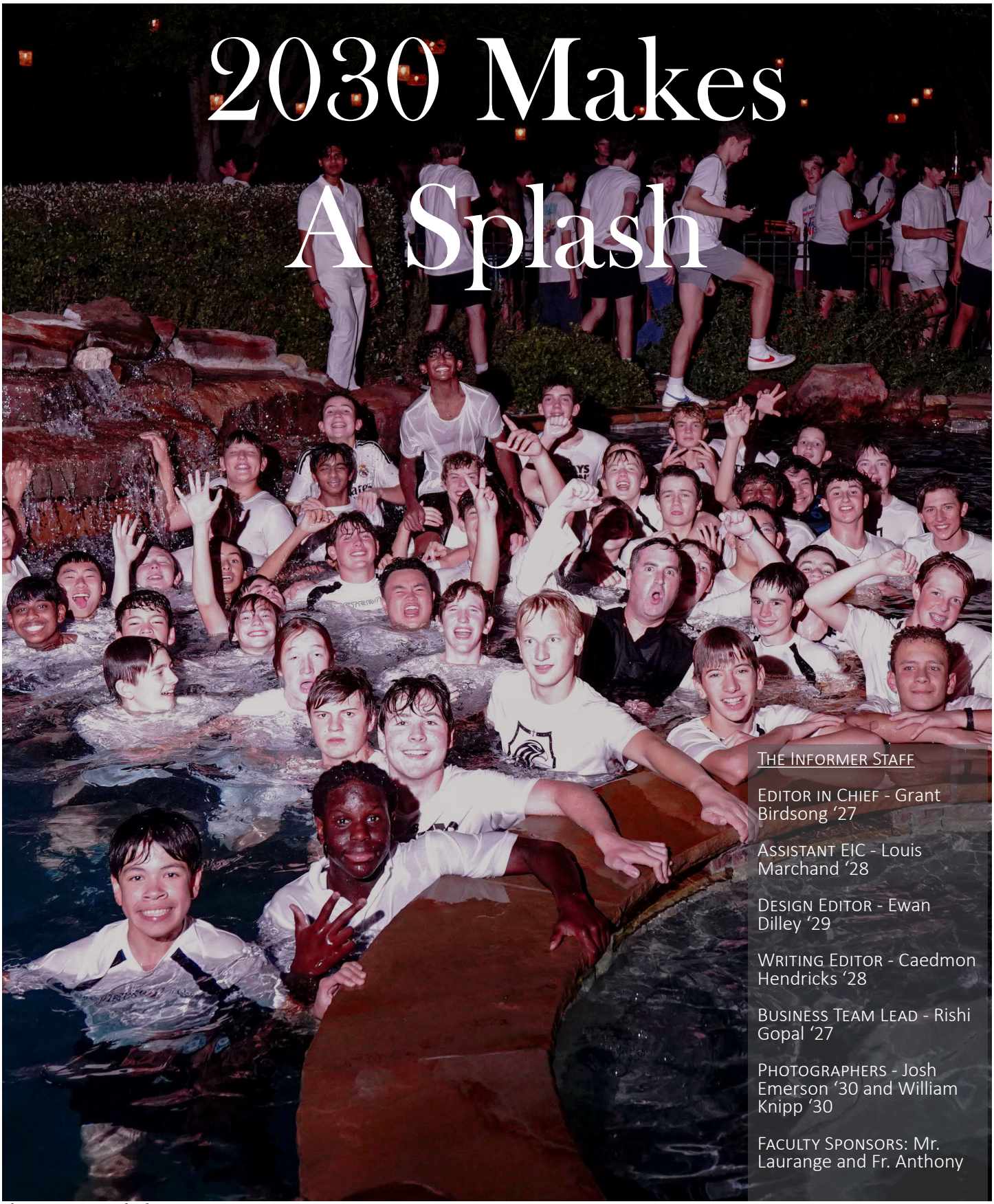
Cistercian Informer

Volume LVIII Issue II

2030 Makes A Splash



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Photo From: Fr. Raphael

Mix it up!

Upper School's newest members mingle and hula with the cohorts of Ursuline and Hocka-day!

By: Nathanial Pingle '30

The Class of 2030 entered into their first of many social events of their high school career: The Freshmen Mixer. If this year's Freshmen Mixer was anything, it was visible proof that no Zach Bryan concert could take away one of Cistercian's greatest traditions. As per tradition, Form V was tasked with the setup of the mixer the evening prior. They worked hard that evening and returned the following day for nearly 4 more hours of setup. Through it all, however, the Freshmen looked forward to the mixer itself, a moment they had awaited throughout their middle school years. Sam Maxwell '30 says that his favorite part of the mixer was "talking to everyone." Sam Maxwell also managed to get 15 numbers.



Photo By: Fr. Raphael

The new DJ did a great job according to Asher Smith '30, as he said, "Very loud but solid job." Luke Nevitt '30 also complimented the new DJ and exclaimed "DJ Patricia was FIREEE!"Daniel Pozo '29 had some other thoughts on the DJ with the quote "The remixes were horrible, but she played like 3 really good songs. Like she would play a really good song but then ruin it with like the party-get-the-kids-moving-2X Premium." After the freshmen girls had left, the boys had to clean up. Caleb Link '30 quotes,"Takedown was quicker and more fun."

The boys worked hard, earning stellar reviews from Samantha Kaness, "I loved the inflatables in the entrance" The freshmen boys' hard work really paid off. Caleb Link continued to say that "It was a lot of work to do, but it was fun." All of the freshmen had a really great time meeting new people and overcoming their fears of talking to the other gender.

Splash!

The boys of 2030 get Launched into 5th Form!

By: Charlie Dinh '30

On the night of September 4th, the Class of 2030 took part in one of Cistercian's most fabled traditions: The Freshmen Launch.

Although some of the boys were a little nervous, like Asher Smith '30 who said, "I thought for a second that they were not going to get me up," all of the Freshmen had a remarkable time.

Andrew Abraham '30, the first freshman that was tossed in, said that "I was worried about getting to the shallow end, but it was fun getting tossed in."

Being launched as a freshman is truly an achievement. It marks the end of middle school and the start of the entirely new ballgame that is Upper School. Matthew Dilley '30 echoed this, saying that he felt "accomplished" afterwards.

Freddy Luth '30 similarly indicated that he felt "inducted" after being launched.

Fr. Anthony, the Form V Form Master, said that he noted that the boys "walked with more confidence in the hallways and were more comfortable with each other" the week following the event.



Photo By: Fr. Raphael

A massive thank you must go to the student council and to the Garza family for helping put on the tradition. Now, the Freshmen look forward to making their mark on the Upper School and to their first Homecoming in only a few weeks' time.

Sportsball

Dane's highly controversial takes on the NFl. (Argue at your own risk)

By: Dane Walker '29

"The Cleveland Browns will not win the Super Bowl"

-Mr. Saliga

The NFL has finally started, and after our six-month starvation period, we have all reclaimed our favorite pastime of watching physical specimens in tights chase one another on national TV.

This article is for those people who did not spend nine hours every day this summer checking ESPN to see which players their team signed.

Here's everything you missed: The Rams were supposed to be the best team this millennium after trading for Myles Garrett and bringing Aaron Donald out of retirement. They are now facing a lawsuit for false advertising. Puka Nacua caught three passes and their highly touted pass rush was about as effective as an umbrella in a hurricane.

On the flip side, the 49ers looked solid and may be actual contenders if they can stay healthy (Spoiler: not likely).

Other highly competitive teams include the Seahawks, who have not regressed from last year's championship team, the Bills, who added receiver DJ Moore in free agency, and the Broncos, who were Super Bowl contenders before Bo Nix's late season injury last year.

As for the Patriots, they need a quarterback who doesn't work a second job at Subway before I take them seriously.

The Chargers replaced all three interior O-linemen and will now look to run the ball through a schedule harder than a Dr. Newcomb math class.

The Eagles have found yet another OC to lead them to an above average but ultimately disappointing season, and the Texans will look to ride their defense to the playoffs, as their offense has all the firepower of a defective nerf gun.

When it comes to the Bears, I believe like a flat earther at the edge of the world. They have all the pieces to go on a deep run, and I truly believe they will have success this season.

Some teams have more question marks. The Giants are capable of success in John Harbaugh's first year as a coach, with Jaxson Dart, Cam Skattebo, and Malik Nabers leading the way. They could also retain their current status of being more relevant to Fantasy Football than actual football.

The Commanders' season hinges entirely on Jayden Daniels. They could be a playoff team if he returns to form, or lose more games in a season than anyone outside Cleveland. It remains to be seen how much the Bengals O-line will hold back an otherwise competitive team.





Back for more?

Fr. Augustine returns for his 3rd form, right after finishing up with the Class of '26.

By: Ewan Dilley '29

First Form. Most of us have lived it, and all of us have seen the little guys running around the hallways. Going straight from 8th form to 1st form, is veteran Form Master Fr. Augustine. A well-known face around the senior hall, seeing him back upstairs is definitely a shock to the system. I had the honor of interviewing the illustrious man himself at a crisp 7:30 on a Wednesday morning.

Speaking mostly about his experience of transitioning forms and the new challenges of being a "gen alpha" Form Master, Fr. Augustine reaffirmed a major philosophy that has carried him through the years. "I'm just going to keep doing what I'm doing until I've helped to form all the kids that God puts in front of me."

No matter how many forms Fr. Augustine has gone through, there is no stopping him! When asked about his previous class in comparison to this one, Fr. Augustine thought of the future. "Those relationships that got so strong, that (process) took years. And I've only had a few weeks."

I then asked him about balancing the personalities of each student with a goal of growth and learning. "The biggest challenge is kind of solving the mystery of each boy's background, so how they've already learned to study or not, or how they've already learned to socialize well or less so."

That is something that everyone at Cistercian can relate to. To round out the interview, I asked Fr. Augustine about the generation gap between his mid-2000s graduates and his new 2015-ers. "I have to kind of make a lot of room in my mind for new scenarios that even now, after all these years of being a Form Master, it's still possible for the human race to surprise you once in a while."

I loved talking with Fr. Augustine and took some serious lessons from him. Being a Form Master is a long process and takes all eight years. You have to form deep relationships with the kids under you, and doing that individually is a really tough gig. These first formers are lucky to have such an experienced Form Master in Fr. Augustine, and I encourage you readers to say hi to the newest members of the Cistercian community, as well as their overworked Form Master.



Photo By: Mr. Reisch

The Candy Man

Where to get your candy fix on campus

By: Jonathan Humphries '29

Fr. Anthony: "All the candy" resides in his office, hurry or it will be gone.

Ms. Williams: Come with a riddle or a joke and get rewarded with some Halloween candy

Nurse So: Join the firsties and get a mint during ten minute break

Mr. Spence: Enjoy the chocolates, but make sure you schedule ahead of time

Fr. Ambrose: See if you can steal some Stuco snacks

Coach Harris: Chef Harris is always known to have something cooking, whether it's his world renowned "wangs" or some other delicacy.

Madame: Bonjour à la Jolly Rancher

Mrs. McGinnis: You can get a mint...but only if you have a book checked out



Off to a flying start!

An update on the first three games of the Hawks' season.

By: Josh Emerson '30

After only three weeks of the season, the Hawks are off to a flying start. On Friday, August 28, the Varsity squad had their opening game of the season on the road versus Coram Deo.

The Hawks soared to a commanding 59-27 win that day, riding a fierce rushing attack and 3 defensive takeaways to victory.

The following Friday, the Hawks played their home opener against St. Marks.

While that result did not turn into what they had hoped for, Coach Bruce, Head Varsity Football Coach, believes that this team has much potential this year, but that there is still a task to actualize that potential.

The Hawks took their first step in doing that the following Friday, taking another commanding victory this time over Bishop Dunne 34-27, with Harrison Hart '27 having zero respect for Jayden Daniels with 5 touchdowns, making 9 on the season.

The Hawks began their conference play against St. Stephens on September 18th. They have started the SPC conference with a 1-2 record, after beating St. Stephens, but falling to both FWCD and ESD Friday night.

As for JV, their first game against Frisco Legacy



Photo By: Josh Emerson '29

resulted, unfortunately, in defeat. In their next game, however, they showed much improvement, with a score of 20 – 14, the first JV win in 4 years. They commenced the game by recovering an onside kick, leading to a TD by Alden Kenny '30.

On the first defensive possession, Ewan Dilley '29 blocked a punt and recovered it for a 30-yard TD. Rejoice, Hawks, as Cistercian Football is well and truly back on the map.

On the trail of greatness!

The Red Rocket and co. take on another season of XC.

By: Marshall Kariger '29



Photo By: Marshall Kariger '29

Cistercian Cross Country once again enters the season with high hopes. Led by captains Will Oliver and Rishi Gopal, the Hawks are set for another year of success. Each morning the team arrives bright and early for their 6:30 A.M. practice. While it can prove to be a trial to arise out of bed hours before the sun rises, the team has welcomed the challenge. The group has embraced a culture of challenging each other, often pairing with a partner to race up to the top of the abbey hill.

Many runners are already showing great potential, including incoming freshman Syler Weedon (V). Despite his young age, Weedon is already keeping up with the leaders of the team and ran a rapid 19:19 at his first 5K meet.

Other returning runners are steadily improving, with Isaac Licata (VI) shaving off more than two minutes from his time last year and Caedmon Hendricks (VII) running an 18:33, more than a minute quicker than his previous best.

Coach Harris, the team's Head Coach, has put an emphasis of making sure the Hawks are consistent in the weight room. In order to cope with the scorching heat that the team often faces, Coach Harris has assured that each athlete continues to maintain a strong core through rigorous Thursday workouts.

Coach Phil has also been a great help towards the team, aiding with sore muscles, ice baths, and the recovery of our injured teammates.

The Inside Scoop on *The Outsiders*

Cistercian goes to Tulsa 1967

By: Knox Shurley ‘29





Photos By: Mr. Reisch, Fr. Ambrose

Cistercian’s actors and crew starred on this year’s high school play, *The Outsiders*, culminated in a stunning performance. *The Outsiders* is based on the award-winning book by S.E. Hinton.

The story takes place in Tulsa, Oklahoma in the 60s, where the Soc’s, the privileged upper-class group, and the greasers, the less privileged, poorer, greasy-haired group are embroiled in a relentless territorial conflict with each other.

Starring Knox Shurley ‘29 as Ponyboy, Samuel Aleman ‘29 as Johnny, William Thomas ‘27 as Dallas, and many other talented actors, including four girls from across the Dallas area, *The Outsiders* has turned out to be a very impressive show.

The show was chosen by Mrs. Magill and the group of seniors in her theater seminar who collectively came to the decision to put it on. Compared to the usual, often Shakespearean shows put on by high school, *The Outsiders* is highly contemporary.

While certainly exciting and new, doing a contemporary show meant that Mrs. Magill and the actors had to adapt to a completely new style of directing and performance.

Furthermore, the cast and crew encountered difficulty with an extremely tight rehearsal process. As the senior seminar will be putting on a show in the spring and since there are already many high school art-related events in the spring, the decision was made to temporarily move this year’s high school play to the fall instead of the spring, when it is traditionally performed.

However, because of the fall semester’s busy social calendar, the performance dates were pushed to just the end of September, which gave the actors only a month to prepare for opening night, requiring most actors to attend up to four rehearsals a week.

To cap these issues, due to the show being in the middle of the football season, roughly a third of the usual high school actors were unable to participate since they were committed to football.

Despite all these challenges, the show came together beautifully. Every actor worked hard to get their lines in and get the show ironed down before opening night. And it’s not just the actors—the crew, led by stage manager Steven Halbmaier ‘27, was hard at work setting lights, building the set, and organizing everything behind the scenes.

On top of that, Benny West ‘27 served as the sound designer for the show. Part of his job is writing music with Lainee Lam, (UA ‘28), who played the drums throughout the show.

The Outsiders featured multiple exciting fight scenes, heart-wrenching moments, a church fire, and ultimately demonstrated the ever-important message that people should never be judged just because they belong to another group.

Campus Gets the Wrong Kind of Attention

Irving PD pays a visit to the Upper Field.

By: Tomas Parra ‘30

On September 2nd at around 12:15 PM a black Chevrolet Cruze drove quickly onto the Cistercian campus with a police car following closely behind.

The police started following the driver when “there was a traffic violation at Rochelle and 114. The driver did not stop when the police turned the lights on,” said Officer Edwards, Campus Safety Officer.

The driver turned out to be a construction worker which explained why they went to the back gravel parking lot. “The driver refused to get out of the car when ordered, and she was removed by a backup officer and placed under arrest for traffic warrants,” said Officer Edwards.

Eventually, four police cars arrived on campus to aid in the detainment of the driver. As it turned out, she was a construction worker and was trying to return the car to a co-worker. For violating the traffic stop, she was arrested and the car was promptly towed.

Being at Cistercian, the event naturally spread through the halls quickly throughout the lunch period. “We were just eating lunch when we saw a car flying through the parking lot with a cop following close behind, so a lot of students ran after it,” said Nathanael Pingel ‘29.

“It was super hyped-up,” said David Sanford ‘29 after hearing the actual report of the chase.

“After I finished teaching first form, several children from my form came up to me with stories such as, ‘there was a drug bust on campus’ or ‘someone got hauled out to prison’,” said Fr. Anthony, fifth form Form-Master. “It’s a good example of how gossip and



rumor can run amok before the truth has a chance to come out,” said Fr. Anthony.

Feed the Fat

Your monthly review of our favorite establishments.

By: Samuel Aleman ‘29

I decided to take over Feed the Fat after Jules Tyler ‘26 graduated. As someone who has devoted his life to the science of gastronomy, I feel that I am more than qualified for the job.

I decided to kick things off with Chick-Fil-A. I ordered a Chick-Fil-A sandwich meal with a frosted lemonade. The way the flavors blend seamlessly together makes this the perfect order in my opinion. The juicy, salted chicken with the salty tang of the pickles creates an explosion of flavor in your mouth.

Then you have waffle cut potato fries salted to perfection. My one critique is that there is only a small window of time in which the fries are crispy. If you don’t eat them in that period, the fries become cold, miserable, and hardened and now your day is ruined.

Finally, there is the frosted lemonade. I don’t know how they do it. They made a drink perfectly sweet with a lemon flavor that cleanses the palate and prepares you for the next bite.

An additional perk is the relief from the Texas heat. With my food, I utilize Honey Mustard Sauce. This zesty and sweet sauce elevates any meal, especially in combination with the fries. The combination of all three food items creates an infallible trifecta that, after eaten once, lingers in your mind and doesn’t leave until you order it again.

To Cheat or Not to Cheat

From large scale cheating on tests, to small scale cheating using ChatGPT to do math homework, the issue of cheating remains one of the largest problems at Cistercian. To combat this cheating, the administration has kicked students out, penalized them, and formed an Academic Honesty Council. Yet, to this day, if you walk up to a Cistercian student and ask them what the punishment for cheating is they'll probably say something like "a zero maybe?" or "whatever the teacher chooses." If there is a defined punishment for cheating, no student knows it. And, because the punishment is unclear and sparsely enforced, students continue to cheat.

As Editor-in-Chief at *The Informer* have a proposal for addressing cheating at Cistercian by making the risk of cheating stronger than the reward. Of course it is important that the solution not be too extreme - students using ChatGPT on a math homework shouldn't be kicked out, nor too lax - students shouldn't receive a light slap on the wrist for cheating on a final.

Until 2019, Texas ran the "Driver Responsibility Program" based on a points system. Certain driving violations contributed "points" to your license. Once you accumulated enough points, you could receive a large fine, take compulsory defensive driving courses, or even have your license revoked. Cistercian should run a similar "points system" program for cheating.

Here's an example of how "points" would be added to your record for certain violations, and what punishments would result:

- Cheat on a homework: 1 point added; zero on the assignment and zero the following quiz
- Cheat on a quiz: 2 points added; zero on the quiz, and zeroes on the two following quizzes
- Cheat on a test: 4 points added; zero on the test; zero on the next test
- Cheat on a final: 8 points added; zero on final; half letter grade deduction on the semester grade

Each of the punishments referenced would already be enough to greatly reduce cheating. However, the points system could be the nail in the coffin.

Here's how the points system would work:

- 0-5 points incur no separate punishment other than the ones referenced above
- 6-9 points cause a full letter grade loss in all



Photo By: Fr. Anthony

Keeping Score on Cheating

Editorial By: Grant Birdsong '27

classes in which the student cheated

For example, if an all A student cheated on a french homework, a math quiz, and an english test, the student would receive a B in each of those classes at the end of the semester

10+ points

Student is suspended and loses a full letter grade in all of his classes. Administration may decide whether or not to fully expel the student

But don't worry about how cheating on a 3rd form english test may negatively affect you in high school. At the end of each year, a student's points would reset to zero. Each year would be a blank slate. What's more, a student can lose some points by completing what I call EPs - extreme penances. These EPs wouldn't be writing "I'm sorry" 100 times. It would, instead, help the cheating student grow spiritually.

Lose 1-3 points: write out an entire book of the Bible (chosen by the administration), and memorize/recite the Sermon on the Mount

Memorizing the Bible may be the Protestant in me talking, but I believe that giving students scripture to read, write, and memorize would help their own spiritual life, and may even help prevent them from cheating in the future.

The amount of points lost would depend on the length of the book written, and the quality of memorization/ recitation of the Sermon on the Mount.

Lose 1-3 points: community service chosen by the teacher in whose class the student cheated

The amount of points lost, hours of community service done, etc. would be determined by the teacher.

Admittedly, there must be other measures taken apart from this "points system:" for example giving homework that doesn't lend itself to ChatGPT usage. Now, if there's one thing Cistercian students are good at, it's finding loopholes. I've worked to minimize the amount of loopholes in this plan, but I have faith that students would still find them. That's why this is a recommendation: it can be adjusted, changed, and amended as needed. Because the goal of Cistercian is to form virtuous men, the school must help students overcome the habit of cheating by providing clear, consistent consequences.

Our Friends from Hungary

Every year, Cistercian and our "sister" school in Hungary exchange two students each from the senior class. This year, the Hungarians Domi and Boti visited Cistercian for 6 weeks. They participated in classes, rooted for the Hawks at football games, and were even inducted into the Black Hand. In our second every podcast episode, *The Informer* interviewed the Hungarians, talking about their time and experience in Texas. To find it, use the QR code on the right or search up "The Nest" on Spotify.

	5		1		
				6	5
	6		5	2	
5	3			1	
6		4	3	5	1
3	1		6	4	

3	5	1	6		
		2	5	3	1
1	4		3		6
		6		1	
				5	4
	2			6	3

Time for Chapel

The little-known history of Cistercian's most underrated room.

By: Markham Hay '29

When one sees the panes of a stained-glass window, one usually thinks of a European cathedral. Why, though, should one travel all the way to Europe when Cistercian has a "cathedral" of its own? Though the school chapel is much simpler than any cathedral, it is still just as incredible in its own right.

The chapel's design contains many ties to Cistercian. It was designed by Will Frank, brother of art teacher Ms. Frank. It was designed through the lens of the "Philippians Christ Hymn" which states that "at the name of Jesus every knee should bend," as is seen through the animals kneeling. Fr. Raphael also stated, " One of the workers had been a monk at our abbey for several years before discerning out, so he knew our Cistercian heritage."



Photo By: Josh Emerson '30

The chapel's window also contains many hidden details pertaining to the life of a Cistercian monk. The simple depiction of the crucifixion reflects the desire to imitate Christ by picking up one's cross through a life of simplicity. The color scheme of the window is an imitation of the Cistercian habit with the dark blues in the center and light greys on the edges imitating the white and black garb.

In conclusion, the school chapel is not unlike a European cathedral in history or art, and most importantly, it is similar as a place of prayer and sacrament. Let us, Cistercian students, take advantage of our own mini cathedral because someday we may have to go to Europe for it.

Check it out!

A look at Middle School's favorite activity.

By: William Knipp '30

If you walk into the library during lunch, a study hall, or even a 10-minute break, you will almost certainly find a group huddled around the library's primary source of entertainment- the chess board.

Now why did this come to be? Why do the first-formers rush to play a game that is over 1000 years old? Well, according to Ms. McGinnis, chess has been a part of the Cistercian experience for as long as she's been here.

I interviewed middle schoolers to find out about this phenomenon. Being middle schoolers, some gave the generic answer of "it is the only fun thing on campus," but others noted the many rivalries, even one between Peter Latikos '32 and James Valdivia '30. A simple chess match can unite a form in support for their classmate.

Another agreement that was frequently heard was the agreement that real life chess is much better than chess.com. While chess.com does offer a built-in timer which reduces the chances of matches being ended as a result of a lack of time, it lacks the social element that playing in-person across from your opponent offers. Ultimately, this makes the in-person experience much more appealing.

With all of that said, why don't stop by the library during your next break to play the age-old game that has even captured the attention of gen-alpha doom-scrollers.



Photo By: Fr. Anthony

Building A New Era

The facts about Cistercian's ongoing projects.

By: Caedmon Hendricks '28

As school gets back into gear, the construction on campus continues, but much progress has been made since students were last on campus in May.

The new arts building is undergoing rapid development, with the walls already raised and the roof expected to be in place by the end of next month. The abbey is nearing the end of its renovations, with Fr. Christopher touring the new bedrooms this past week.

The kitchen at the monastery should be completed by the end of October.

Fr. Philip described the lack of a culinary space as giving him "sadness and hunger," but he also said that "losing 12 pounds" has been an unexpected result of the ordeal.

Fr. Christopher noted that it has been a season of "learning through obstacles," and that keeping the monks, especially the young, hungry novices "happy and fed" has been one of the principal challenges of the construction process.

For the students, delays and frustration continue over the lack of parking spaces, with little sign of relief in the near future.

Parking for football games has also been chaotic, as high attendance combined with low parking availability has led to some students and families returning to campus having to park across the highway at Holy Trinity Seminary.



Photo by: John Phillips

Despite these setbacks, monks and students alike have adapted well to these somewhat adverse conditions, with the knowledge that the end result will be well worth the struggle.



Louis' Lists

Everyone's favorite article returns

By: Louis Marchand '28

Even the brightest minds this world has ever seen encounter their own share of questions. Descartes asked how we know what we know, Einstein pondered beams of light, and we all contemplate how many periods are left in the day. Even Cistercian's greatest faculty members have their own queries. Here's what I think a few of our greatest faculty members mull over.

1. Coach Barrett / "Is Santa Claus real?" - Despite the sheer amount of complexity that Coach Barrett holds, I believe he makes the decision to ponder the simpler questions of the universe as opposed to those of increased sophistication. Is he capable of doing so? Of course. But to be a true man is to have your priorities straight, and by asking this simple question, Coach Barrett is really attacking the bigger issues in the universe. Well done, Coach.

2. Fr. Philip / "Monk or music, or both?" - If you've spent even ten minutes around Father within the last year and a half, you would surely know about his rapidly growing SoundCloud music career. Despite dealing with a number of issues, not the least of which includes grading sophomore physics tests, he continues to churn out a new track at least twice a month. Due to his success, it's easy to imagine a bright future for Father in the industry, one that may even draw parallels to Padre Guilherme. I have no doubt, though, that Father's monastic vows and his devotion to the greatest class in the history of this school outweigh his enjoyment of producing electronic music. Nonetheless, the skillset for a full-time career is certainly there.

3. Any teacher / "How weird can I make my grading scale?" - Any diligent Cistercian student has gone through the Sisyphean task of calculating a grade in a certain class via finding the specific grading method in that specific class, which involves noting all kinds of different things. Are points cumulative or are they separated into categories? Does a vocab quiz go into the quiz category or does it get its own special category? Why am I doing this again? In any case, the task can on occasion become extremely mind-numbing, and only rarely ends with a number for which you are excited.

Save the Date! - Cistercian's upcoming events you can't miss!

10/9 - End of Quarter, Varsity FB @ TMI Episcopal
10/10 - Hoco Workday
10/12 - Fall Break
10/16 - Varsity FB @ TVS
10/17 - Hoco Workday
10/23- Varsity FB vs St. Andy's
10/24 Hoco Dance
10/26 - No Classes

Comic By: Arthur Kane '30

