In love and music

From South Korea to New York to Paris, Kim’s music has taken her around the globe to land at Villa Maria.

Hannah Rosenberger
Editor-in-Chief

Music Director Ms. Leah Kim has grown personally, spiritually, and musically throughout her life. Kim was born in Busan, South Korea and actually started her pre-kindergarten education in a primary drawing school, as her parents did not want her to pursue music. However, she discovered her true passion while she was there.

“Apparently I got kicked out of art school a couple of times because I wouldn’t stop singing,” Kim said. “So even from when I was a baby, the music was always a part of me.”

Although Kim would not begin playing herself for a few more years, Kim’s mother was a pianist and orchestra enthusiast, so she was exposed to music from a young age.

“I saw this one violinist, Kyung Wha Chung,” she said. “As soon as I saw her [play], I was mesmerized by her, and I said ‘I want to do that.’”

A true Villa lifer

Sister Kathleen Dunn shares her insight into Villa Maria’s rich history through her long legacy as both an alumna and faculty member.

Anna Heppelmann ‘21, Carina Rose ‘21, Madeline Ladd ‘21
Assistant Editors

Dunn has been a part of the Villa community ever since her high school years when she rode the 69th street bus every day to school.

Dunn came to Villa from St. Louis, a small Catholic school just outside of Philadelphia in the suburbs of Yeardon. In eighth grade, her fellow female classmates applied for scholarships to Merion Mercy, Notre Dame, and Villa Maria, and the boys applied to St. Joseph’s Prep.

“I won a scholarship here, and my mother and father really had great admission for the sisters, and they thought it was a good idea that I come here, so I did,” Dunn said.

During her time as a student, the campus was home to both the lower and high schools. It was also a boarding school for grade school students, who were able to stay in dorms in the convent, until it made the shift to just a day school in 1972.

CONTINUED ON PG. 7

The Villa Voice wins third place in Yale journalism competition

Members of The Villa Voice recount a rewarding experience at the Yale Journalism Symposium.

Cecilia Oberkircher ‘20
Reporters

Eight members of The Villa Voice staff attended the second annual Yale Daily News Journalism Symposium and returned with a third-place award in the best print newspaper competition. Thirteen high schools participated in the contest and the symposium that ran during the weekend of February 21.

The Empowering Women Fund, generously supported by the Hagney family, financed the trip to the symposium hosted by the Yale Daily News.

The symposium included presentations from several renowned journalists who offered insights about their careers.

“My favorite speaker was either Adriane Quinlan, the show and supervising writer for VICELand Tonight, or Yuliya Pardina-Kottas who is the graphics and multimedia editor for the New York Times,” The Villa Voice Editor-in-Chief Hannah Rosenberger ‘20 stated. “Both of them brought a fresh perspective that I hadn’t considered before.”

Another speaker was Bob Woodward, one of the journalists who broke the Watergate Scandal.

“My biggest take away from listening to him was to put in the time when developing an article;” The Villa Voice Editor-in-Chief Adriana Orvieto ‘20 remarked. “He would reach out to everyone involved in the story, be dedicated, develop relationships, and show people that he respects what they have to say.”

In addition to the speakers, the symposium included break-out discussions, led by staff members of the Yale Daily News, that proved to be enriching for student participants.

“I really enjoyed meeting and interacting with other high school students who are also interested in journalism during the seminars,” Rosenberger stated. “I found the seminar about journalism ethics particularly interesting because we discussed the importance of finding a balance between turning articles in by a deadline and also taking the time to make sure that they are fact-checked and accurate.”

Yale Daily News Editor-in-Chief Sammy Westfall, along with the rest of the YDN staff, spent a lot of time and effort planning both aspects of the symposium with the goal of sharing a love of journalism with high school students.

“The symposium is such a fun way for the YDN newsroom to share what we’ve learned as reporters over our years at this college paper while also meeting a lot of really cool and inspiring young high school journalists,” she said. “I spent a couple of months reaching out to speakers who I thought would show diverse facets of the industry and creating syllabi for seminars that would encourage deep discussion about journalism and ethical, business, and editorial questions that may arise.”

English teacher and The Villa Voice copy advisor Mrs. Jessica Mullen shared her rewarding experience at the symposium, especially her admiration of the Yale Daily News building and The Villa Voice journalists.

CONTINUED ON PG. 10
No: Save yourself the stress

Maestra about clubs and teams and community groups are thrown at us or our parents from the time we’re old enough to understand them. Get involved, just do it; you’re supposed to come to this club meeting, participate in the community! Especially once we hit high school, this mindset of taking advantage of all the extracurriculars available is drilled into our brains as the best way to build our resumes and eventually enhance our college applications.

But is it even worth all the time and the stress? Consider these scenarios:

It’s 2:54 p.m., and the bell is about to ring. It’s been a long day, and you’re just about ready to bolt out the door to your car or bus when you remember that you have a club meeting at 3 p.m. You’re exhausted and have so much homework to do. You really don’t want to go to that meeting, but you have to, even though you only joined to have something extra to put on your resume.

It’s May 25, and you’re flipping through the yearbook to find yourself in all of the activity photos. You’re cringing at the ghastly photo that they’re in. It’s the fall of your senior year, and you’re trying to fill out your college applications, but you realize that you don’t care about half of the clubs represented on your activities list—and the some universities don’t even care.

We are surrounded by a culture, born in our school and in the American educational climate of today, that encourages us to be active in the community. While this is a lovely idea, it often leads to the impossible expectation that we join everything. Unfortunately for us students, if that’s the mindset of your top school, you would count all of those hours of stress, panic, and exhaustion as hours regressed.

Every activity that you involve yourself in takes up time. Time you could be spending with your friends and family. Time you could be developing relationships outside of school. Time you could be working to earn some spending money to have fun on the weekends. You should be enjoying life as a teenager, not hurried down in your bedroom finishing your reading because you were too busy during the week with meetings and practice. Chances are you know, maybe you’d actually be able to get eight hours of sleep for once.

You’ll be stretched too thin to give much to anyone, including yourself.

Stressing over something that’s supposed to be a fun pastime defeats the entire purpose of an extracurricular activity.

If college applications and resumes are your only concern, here’s a wake-up call. Not only can most people see right through those no-commitment, no-passion activities as fillers on your application, but some colleges, especially large state schools, don’t even care. If you attend in states across the country (not all, of course, but many) don’t bother reading your activities list — or don’t ask for it at all. They want, hard numerical data. Again, unfortunately for us students, if that’s the mindset of your top school, you would count all of those hours of stress, panic, and exhaustion as hours regressed.

Every activity that you involve yourself in takes up time. Time you could be spending with your friends and family. Time you could be developing relationships outside of school. Time you could be working to earn some spending money to have fun on the weekends. You should be enjoying life as a teenager, not hurried down in your bedroom finishing your reading because you were too busy during the week with meetings and practice. Chances are you know, maybe you’d actually be able to get eight hours of sleep for once.

Chances are you know, maybe you’d actually be able to get eight hours of sleep for once.

Choosing to do what you love is worth your time; that’s almost impossible to dispute. But overloading yourself in this culture of involvement means that you won’t truly be involved at all because you’ll be stretched too thin to give much to anyone, including yourself. And regarding all of those “filler activities,” the ones where you think it will look good written down on some piece of paper: if you don’t care about the Farming Club or the Environmental Conservation Club and the National Honor Society and the Honor Society and the National Honor Society and the Blue Ribbon Club and the Student Council and so many other things then you’re not making the time to really do it. You’re not making the time to really do it.

You should be stretched too thin to give much to anyone, including yourself.

Yes: Take some time to invest

Staying extra hours before or after school while also devoting time on the weekends to extracurricular activities can leave students with a lot on their plates. When it seems like the work keeps piling on and on and there’s no escape from the countless tests and projects, one more outside obligation can have you questioning: Is what I’m doing even worth it?

The typical tale told to high school students is that colleges love to see extracurriculars, and that is true to an extent. From a college admissions standpoint. extracurriculars are what helps a student stand out from the crowd. Any person can have the grades and the statistics, but what drives a student or makes them passionate is what helps them to make a lasting impression in the world of college admissions.

Over the years, colleges have learned more toward a holistic approach, meaning that they consider the whole applicant when making a decision, not just specifically GPA, test scores, or other empirical data. Seeing a student who is noticeably invested in their activities helps colleges to get a glimpse of how the student would fit in the school community and shows the effort and work ethic that student could bring to the table.

Congratulations, you got an “A.” A college admissions counselor reading your application may think, “but how will that set you up for your future and contribute to my school?” Seeing a student who has a strong re- sume of extracurriculars that they are involved in and engages the admissions counselor and leaves them wanting to read more.

So you may be saying to yourself, “But I have no time or energy to get involved. I can barely even make it through my day of school.” The harsh truth is that basically everyone feels this way. Sorry, yes, I do get it, but I guarantee the person sitting next to you feels this way too. Once you get to be an adult and are cut into the real world, people are not going to care if you feel “too busy.” So take initiative, get involved, and learn to embrace the busyness of life now.

If college is taken completely out of the equation, extracurriculars have just as much value to students. Maybe you vol- unteer at an organization close to your heart. Maybe you take on a leadership position in a club that relates to a topic you love. Maybe you are just becoming a member in an activity because you are interested in learning more. Your involvement leaves more of an impact than you may realize. Your volunteerism helps save many people time and works toward the greater good. Your participation in a club or organization on campus helps to enhance the school community.

Also important to note is that extracurriculars can teach important life skills and lessons that may not be learned inside the classroom. Simply sitting in the same hard-bolt- tommed chair for eight hours a day will not pre- pare someone fully for the outside world. It is what you are truly interested in that will leave the longest lasting impact on you. You may discover an interest that you would have never realized if it weren’t for your involvement in an outside activity. Years down the road, when you are employed in your profession, you may be thanking yourself for that extracurricular.

Now, I am certainly not saying to some- how sign up for every extracurricular imag- indable, because that is counter- productive. You shouldn’t go down the list of clubs and be- ginninging you feel like you cause you feel like you’d be “checking the boxes” on your college resume.

All I am saying is don’t be afraid to try something new. If you like it, stick with it. In every extracurricular that you do, show that you care and that it is something that drives your passion. And remember, don’t say you’re too busy to be involved, you and I both know you’re using that as a crutch for something. Next time, when an opportunity arises, take it.

Whether you are a freshman at the begin- ning of your high school career, the sopho- more who feels like there is no end in sight, or the senior who has had the “Oh, wow col- lege is actually coming soon” moment, you still have time to get involved. Seniors, though you have submitted your applications already, it still isn’t too late for you to either. Remember that extracurriculars should not just be another- espace to fill out on the resume; rather, they should be opportunities that help you to dis- cover your passions and interests.

Winter sports fails

Ever go skiing? Or snowboarding? So did these seven people, and it didn’t end up too well...

I went on the ski trip freshman year. I tried to get me to go down the blue slope when I was only at the skill level of the bunny hill. I found it to be too steep for the hill and decided I couldn’t do it, so I tried to take my board off so I could walk up the hill and go on an easier slope. I took the board off and it slid down the hill, hitting my friend, who had the “Oh, wow col- lege is actually coming soon” moment. He got hit, and I had to walk up the hill and go down an easier slope.

Freshman year, I went on a ski trip with the school. Being the bold person that I am, I convinced my friend, who is a snow boarder, to go down the blue diamond slope. We both went down, sat down, and began to take her board off. However, gravity won and her board took off down the hill without her. Listening to my instructions, I flew down the mountain without her. Unfortunately, I did not see the moguls coming. I hit a bump and went flying. My ski came off and her board was never to be found again.

When I went [sic] skiing once, I didn’t know how to move sideways or turn around, so I almost got flattened by a hockey player, but he just picked me up and moved me.

When I was 10, I was skiing in Idaho and ran into a group of teenage boys trying to make a picture. I tried the rest of the way down the mountain out of embarrassment and pain since a couple fell on top of me.

When I went [sic] skating once, I didn’t know how to move sideways or turn round, so I almost got flattened by a hockey player, but he just picked me up and moved me. I thought, ‘This is how I die,’ because I could not move out of the way and he was barreling towards me at a fast speed.

When I went on the ski trip freshman year, my friends tried to get me to go down the blue level slope when I was clearly at only the skill level of the bunny hill. I found it too steep for the hill and decided I couldn’t do it, so I tried to take my board off so I could walk up the hill and go on an easier slope. I took the board off and it slid down the hill, hitting my friend, who had the “Oh, wow college is actually coming soon” moment. He got hit, and I had to walk up the hill and face plant. I ended up kicking my way down the hill on my behind.

10/11/2019
The inside scoop regarding the essentials of surviving the dreadful (but exciting) college process.

Rayne Bunado ‘20

College admissions have evolved to become more selective due to a drastic increase in application pools and an expansion to the holistic review process. The college process is a monumental stage of life for high school students across the nation. It’s the first of many adult-like experiences most students undergo in their lifetimes. As complex as it is, it’s important to understand the basics of this long process, as well as its evolution throughout generations.

College counselors Ms. Kristin Cortese and Mrs. Karyn Youkavitch are experts regarding the fundamentals of the college process. Both hard-working and insightful women shared their in-depth knowledge, as well as personal insight, to help students get a grasp of what the college process looks like.

It seems that the extent of selectivity in college admissions has evolved. There are many factors that contribute to this, but the main component according to Cortese and Youkavitch, is the drastic increase in applicants.

Cortese stated, "The number of applications has increased, which means that more students are applying. Certain schools that may have an impression of as far as percentage of being admitted has increased in competition for the generation today.

In addition to an overall increase in applicants, Youkavitch cited the popularity of specialty colleges in recent years. Youkavitch said, "Schools such as Villa nova and Clemson most definitely have become more select due to their success in athletics, thus resulting in a huge jump of applications. The sports aspect is a huge draw."

Cortese and Youkavitch also provided personal insight regarding the importance of test scores. A common ground Cortese and Youkavitch agreed on is that for some schools test scores may provide an objective baseline to predict success of students. However, both agree that scores are not fully defined an applicant.

Cortese explained, "Colleges are finding more creative ways to review students holistically. Test scores are one of the few objective pieces that can be used in that review. Some institutions may play a key role in the likelihood of acceptance as well." Youkavitch said, "College admissions also look at a well-rounded class on top of well-rounded student. A well-balanced class results in different qualities all around."" Despite all this information provided, college decisions can be unpredictable and disappointing to students. That is the difficulty in selecting which applicants to take.

"Rejections do not define who you are as a student or who you will become. You are more than what you do or how old you are. The biggest takeaway for me was to acknowledge that everyone is struggling in some way. Even if they don’t show it, even if it looks to me like they have the perfect life, they might have another world of struggles going on behind the surface."

You can learn more about Madison Holleran’s story in the book “What Made Maddy Run” by Kate Fagan.

Book review: ‘What Made Maddy Run’

National best-selling novel unpacks the struggles and death of an All-American student athlete.

Anna Nunag ‘20

Rayne Fagan’s novel “What Made Maddy Run” tells the story of college athlete Madison Holleran, who ran cross country and track and field for the University of Pennsylvania while struggling with anxiety and depression during her first semester of college. As Northern Highlands High School, in New Jersey, Madison Holleran had all the characteristics of a regular teenager, except for the fact that she excelled in everything she did. She was the legal soccer on her soccer team, state champion in the 800m in track, and a straight-A student. In addition to her lengthy resume, Maddy enjoyed going to parties on the weekends and was always happy and smiling.

Through high school, her primary interest was to attend an Ivy League school was always a dream of Holleran’s. During her junior year in 2011, Holleran verbally committed to Lehigh University to play soccer, the sport that had been her first love.

Plans changed when Holleran started to improve in running. In 2012, the University of Pennsylvania coach offered her a spot to run both cross country and track and field. Holleran accepted it, choosing prestige over passion. When Holleran arrived at Penn in the fall, she was nothing short of thrilled. On Instagram, she frequently posted her pictures of herself with a big smile, either at college parties or flexing her Penn uniform after a race.

Despite how Maddy portrayed herself to be the athlete she could not be further from the truth. In her first semester, Holleran struggled with the constant routine of a grueling morning track workout, dragging herself to class exhausted, then lifting again with the team in the evening. In high school, she was able to manage everything on her plate so well. But college was a whole new animal for Maddy, and it came at the price of her mental health. On January 17, 2014, the 19 year old was overcome by her struggles and committed suicide.

Student athlete Alivia Orvieto ’20 read Fagan’s book and found it to be very enlightening. She said, “As a teenager and a future collegiate athlete, I found the book very eye-opening. It talked about Maddy’s struggles and how she formulated a picture-perfect life despite the fact that her world was crumbling.”

Orvieto recommends this book for people of all ages. “I think there are a lot of messages in this book that need to be known, regardless of what you do or how old you are. The biggest takeaway for me was to acknowledge that everyone is struggling in some way. Even if they don’t show it, even if it looks to me like they have the perfect life, they might have another world of struggles going on behind the surface.”

You can learn more about Madison Holleran’s story in the book “What Made Maddy Run” by Kate Fagan.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The unsigned editorial is to represent the student voice of The Villa Voice. It is an opinion piece written by an appointed student or students.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions from any students in the Villa Maria community are encouraged. Submissions must include name and email verification, and anonymous submissions will not be accepted. Not all submissions are published.

JOINING OUR STAFF

Students are welcome to join the staff as contributors throughout the school year. Members are required meetings as directed by the editors. Please contact a staff member for more information.

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Ms. Debra Polace
Sister Regina Ryan, IHM
Ms. Brittany Thompson

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Coronavirus pandemic shocks school and community

On March 23, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf announced that schools will remain closed for two more weeks due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Villa Maria Academy’s new project date for reopening is April 14, and administrators will continue this discussion this week.

President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency on this same date, March 13, in a further effort to help control the virus. Villa Maria Academy Principal St. Regina Ryan, IHM announced at the conclusion of the school day on March 12 that students would not be returning to campus until after spring break, which was projected to be March 30. During this time, all after school activities, including sports practices, have been canceled or postponed, as well as all other planned events during the months of March and April.

The administration had a meeting via Zoom to discuss students’ return to campus, determining that it was unlikely that students would be back in classrooms on March 30.

“The final goal is always the safety and health of the Villa community,” Ryan stated in an email on March 11.

Wolfe then made his announcement on March 23 extending school closings at least to April 6, which prompted a notification from Villa Maria that it would now plan to reopen on April 10 following Easter weekend.

During this time, all after school activities, including sports practices, have been canceled or postponed, as well as all other planned events for the months of March and April.

The PIAA declared on March 12 that state tournaments for basketball and swimming, which VMAC athletics had qualified for, would be postponed for two weeks, extending that for two more weeks on March 23 after Governor Wolfe’s announcement. The Fine Arts Festival, the Honor Society Induction, the production of Chicago, and the service trip to Tohatchi, New Mexico have all been postponed, and the administration is working on rescheduling.

Prom is tentatively scheduled for a good note 26, and the senior New York trip for June 3.

“Dealing with all of the unknowns and a world that no one has ever seen is the most difficult [part],” Ryan stated. “because you want to make the right call and then create the least disruptive solution, but with limited information that is always challenging.” Ryan stated of the challenges of decision-making during such a situation.

“I think this situation is very unfortunate and unpredictable,” Director of Student Activities Ms. Madeline Harkins stated. “I think everyone from school administrators to local officials to the president are doing the best they can in a very new and uncharted realm.”

Students expressed similar concerns in a The Villa Voice survey sent on March 19, citing issues ranging from widespread panic to a lack of vaccine to the ease of spread.

“I never would have thought that something like this would happen where a disease basically causes the world to shut down,” Jada Twayne ’23 stated. “It’s crazy how much of an impact COVID-19 has had on people, schools, companies, and businesses everywhere.”

Many students expressed anger and frustration over the impact that COVID-19 is having on their lives, especially for athletes, who face the prospect or the reality of canceled sports seasons and ever wondering that they have been working toward all year.

“If not able to play, frequent practices have really annoyed me. I miss my team and the opportunity to showcase what we can do.” Jacky Carden ’20 stated. “I didn’t realize how much it was such a big part of my life until it was taken away. Our season just started and now we don’t know if we will be able to finish.”

The pandemic and its consequences present a particular challenge for the class of 2020 because of all that they had been looking forward to in the last few months of school.

“Frankly, I don’t think I’ve ever been more upset about anything. These next two months were supposed to be the best of our lives so far, and now everything we’ve been looking forward to for twelve years is uncertain. It’s hard, really hard, and scary.” Corinne Stroup ’20 stated.

According to a The Villa Voice survey sent out this week, however, 91.1% of students understand and agree with the precautions in place to prevent the spread of the virus.

“We’ll never know if the steps we took were too far, but we would for sure know if they were too little,” Giuliana Romeo ’20 stated. “Social distancing and self-quarantine are our best options for flattening the curve. The spread of the virus can’t be stopped, but it can be slowed.”

The administration is keeping the health and safety of all members of the Villa Maria community in mind but is planning to ensure that this school year still ends on a good note.

“Parents and students, especially seniors, should know that we are doing everything in our power to make this year as normal as possible,” Ryan stated. “because you want to make the right call and then create the least disruptive solution, but with limited information that is always challenging.”

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Art department creates art for a cause

Art teachers Mrs. Kathleen Brown, Mrs. Sarah Bacastow, and Mrs. Diane Mallon, along with a team of art students, raised awareness and money through an art show held on February 27 for the nonprofit organization Project Home.

Alexis Allen ’23, Mary Cate Doughty ’23
Reporters
This year, the art department has brought attention to important causes such as Project Home, during the annual charity show, and the Australian wildfires through the creation of themed projects.

“What happens is we make art for a cause. We use our time and talents to share with others to raise money for important places, and every year we have a different theme, we have a different chosen charity.” Brown said.

The beneficiary of this year’s Charity Art Show was Project Home, a Philadelphia-based non-profit organization that helps people experiencing homelessness by providing them with permanent housing, education, job training, and much more. The organization visited our school during Emmas and made a deep impression on the students and faculty.

The students at Villa created their artwork based on a theme, which changes every year. This year, the question Brown asked her students was “What is a home to you?”

“It is a building; is it family; is it your pet; is it your sister; is your bff; is it a structure; is it a place? What is home to you?” Brown explained.

The charity art show here at Villa have been very successful in the past, raising money for chosen charities and scholarships while at the same time displaying the talents of the many gifted art students.

“Art is effective in raising awareness because you get to see everyone’s creativity. Not one piece is the same and I think that’s what makes it really interesting. There is one theme and you have two hundred different interpretations of what home is, and every year we see that,” Brown said.

The students painted everything from their homes to their pets, to the city of Philadelphia – even places like the beach.

“We see that throughout all of our projects, the variety, the creativity, the innovation. It is nice to watch because you have a general theme but not everyone’s working on the same type of thing.” Brown said.

Cathlyn Files ’23 created one of the pieces displayed. She painted a beautiful sunset from a spot where she went many times as a child that felt like home to her.

“I went to this camp for six years, and this is a picture that I took and it reminds me of home and the memories that happened there,” Files said.

Outside of the charity show, Brown also encouraged her classes to create pieces of art to be displayed in a restaurant in Conshohocken to raise money for the devastating Australian wildfires.

“The theme of that was called “Looking away won’t make it go away.” Brown said.

The entire art department, as well as the art and photography clubs, has gotten involved in these initiatives to raise money for important causes with a variety of different mediums.

People are working in all different kinds of media: paint, acrylic, water color, marker, pencil, colored pencil, large, small.” Brown said.

The charity art show was held on February 27 in the Marian Center lobby, with artwork on sale for $40 and all proceeds benefited Project Home. Thank you to everyone who made a donation and came to support!

It’s A Meme-otional culture

Proof that a picture can say a thousand words.

Hannah Stehura ’20
Reporter
How can an innocent picture or meaningless video become the end of a punchline? The answer lies in meme culture.

How can you judge a person’s humor? Through jokes; Through TV shows; Through TikTok! Well, for some, it may be the kind of memes that the person sends you. Memes have become an entire culture in our society, giving every person a way to express the way they are feeling in a funny and relatable way. However, what is so widely observed is how some memes are actually hitting heavier topics, as today’s society uses memes as a way to cope with issues like anxiety and depression in a more lighthearted way.

Now, as always, my ideas are pretty far-fetched in nature. The idea that a meme has much deeper meaning may be entirely ludicrous, but it’s not so hard to believe once you think about it. For instance, the biggest (and probably most amusing, in my opinion) category of memes are the ones that look into social issues. These memes often aren’t just a funny joke but a way to normalize how people are feeling in a way that doesn’t require a therapist.

Given that the idea I just gave was very heavy and probably sparked some kind of disagreement, I want to address another category of memes that are near and dear to my heart: childhood and television show related memes. Memes, for some odd reason, unlock the memories of the good old days that were blocked out of my brain by useless information like Geometry proofs (sorry, math teachers, but that’s 100% subjective).

At the end of the day, there’s nothing better than a good meme, and that’s something I honestly can’t deny. Recently, I have become partial to any memes about The Bachelor because this past season was, in my opinion, a complete joke, and the memes at least made Monday nights more bearable.

VMA goes green

Student council launches a recycling campaign to make Villa more eco-friendly.

Devyn Stek ’23, Jada Traynor ’23
Reporters, Contributor
Recent calls for greater sustainability have sparked a wave of change in the priorities of the younger generations. Student council President Magnolia Powers ’20 is one of the leaders of this campaign in the Villa community.

Powers stated, “In the past years, student council has raised money for organizations surrounding a number of different topics. However, we thought that with the current climate issues, we could try to make a difference and start right here on our campus.”

Although simple efforts such as buying a reusable water bottle may seem to be of little importance, each of our individual actions has an impact on the state of our Earth.

“We want students to understand that they can make a difference and this difference starts at Villa,” Powers stated.

Student council plans to make Villa more environmentally friendly by raising money to install more LED lights, water bottle refill stations, and recycling bins across campus. Additionally, they hope to promote an acknowledgment of the problems that are beginning to infiltrate our world.

“Climate change is a very prevalent and frightening issue, especially when we turn on the news and see fires and floods,” Powers stated.

The ultimate goal of this campaign is to guide Villa students, individually and as a community, in their efforts to support the fight to save our planet.

“I think the refillable water bottles is a huge thing to limit our plastic use. It is something very easy,” Powers stated.

“Another thing is to pick up trash around campus and everywhere. It is the right thing to do and not only makes our campus look nicer but is good for the animals who live there.”

Student council hopes to emphasise the point that being stewards of creation means doing everything we can to protect the environment. They want to let students know that it is important to take advantage of the opportunities we have to make a difference.

Powers stated, “In religion class, we talk about making the world a better place and taking care of God’s creation. It is important to practice what we preach.”
5ALPHA: “Do it better”

Carina Chieffalo ‘21 shares her experience starting a brand new athletic clothing company, 5ALPHA.

Maddy George ‘21, Casey Lange ‘21
Contributors

Owner of Just Compliments, a skilled lacework and basketball player, junior vice president, and one of the student leaders of the Student Business Club, Chieffalo is an active participant in the community.

Outside of school, Chieffalo owns and operates her own clothing brand called 5ALPHA, a combination of athletic wear and basketball clothes, a brand she started in the spring semester of her junior year. “I chose the name 5ALPHA because five is my favorite number and ALPHA means the top, the greatest,” Chieffalo said. “Everyone wants to be the best, few will make it.”

To top it all off, ALPHA is also an acronym. The “A” stands for ambition, the “L” stands for leadership, the “F” stands for perseverance, the “H” for hard work, and the “A” for action.

“Stems from always reaching for more or striving to achieve a goal that you have never possibly imagined,” Chieffalo said. “We pride ourselves on our persistence and hustle.”

Right now, the company is only selling T-shirts, but Chieffalo has big plans for the future. “I plan on expanding the company to more than just shirts, but to sleeveless shirts, long sleeve shirts, hoodies, joggers, shorts, and even accessories,” she said.

Another goal Chieffalo is focusing on is the growth of 5ALPHA. In the future, she strives to expand the company past just Malvern and Trooper. She wants customers all over the area to enjoy all of what 5ALPHA can provide.

Starting your own company from scratch takes a lot of ambition, time, and hard work, but Chieffalo had a lot of inspiration when creating 5ALPHA that made starting the difficult process a lot easier.

“I am sick of wearing the same old athletic brands all the time,” Chieffalo said. “I think customers will value the small business aspect of my company over my competitors.”

Chieffalo makes sure to get schoolwork out of the way first, completing most of her homework on the night she receives it. This allows most of her free time to be spent focusing on 5ALPHA and seeing how she can possibly improve the business.

Chieffalo is looking for anyone who could be interested in being an ambassador for 5ALPHA. Some of the roles available in 5ALPHA’s team include marketing advisors, public relations directors, graphic designers, models, photographers, and more.

If you are interested in any of these roles, you can contact Chieffalo at carinach@gmail.com. Her latest project is establishing a website, which she hopes will expand the business. The website 5alphapparel.com will be up shortly with a catalog and more information about 5ALPHA products.

Chieffalo has also set up an Instagram for her clothing company. Make sure to follow the account at @5alphaclothingco and support her future endeavors with her company.

Any qualms with schomoh?
Students give their thoughts on the student council’s new schamily concept.

Brianna McDonald ‘23, Emma Herrick ‘23
Contributors

The student council introduced schamies, a new idea to replace the traditional big and little sister, for freshmen to feel more comfortable, but if your goal is to make a friend, it’s important to look for someone who could possibly imagine you.

“Stems from always reaching for more or striving to achieve a goal that you never possibly imagined.”

“It was kind of abrupt because we didn’t even know big and little sisters weren’t happening this year; they just kind of stopped doing it,” Fedirocz said.

Fedorczok that in previous years, big and little sisters had included everyone, as opposed to schamies that only included student council members. Once she found out what schamies really were, however, she liked the idea but thought the concept could be tweaked some more.

“I feel that it would definitely be cute if I had little siblings,” Fedirocz said. “I do like the idea of [schomies] because the freshman would feel more comfortable, but if your goal is to make a better connection with a freshman or a junior or senior, you’re going to do that better by having a one-on-one relationship.”

Overall, students believed schamies are a good idea, but they may need some modifications so that everyone is included and can enjoy it. It seems the student council already has plans to make next year’s round of schamies more inclusive and interactive.

Which IHM Sister are you?
Take our quiz to find out!

Patti Raffovich ‘21, Jackie Carden ‘21
Contributors

1. How would you describe yourself in one word?
   a. Observant
   b. Caring
   c. Energetic
   d. Blessed
e. Grateful
   f. Passionate

2. If you could travel to any place in the world, where would you go?
   a. South America
   b. West Ireland
   c. Ireland
d. The Holy Land
   e. Israel and Palestine
   f. Disney World

3. What is your favorite ice cream flavor?
   a. Chocolate
   b. Mint Chocolate Chip
   c. Chocolate Marshmallow
d. Raspberry Truffle
   e. Cherry Vanilla
   f. Bambi

4. What is your favorite thing to do on the weekends?
   a. Relax, the beauty of having free time is to enjoy it
   b. Paint by number
c. Musical Activities
   d. Reading, listening to music, spending time with friends
d. Spending time with family and friends
   e. Catching up on work

5. Which Disney character holds a special place in your heart?
   a. Cinderella
   b. Mickey Mouse
   c. Mickey and Minnie Mouse, the dynamic duo
d. None
   e. Bambi
   f. Goofy

6. What is your biggest pet peeve?
   a. People talk excessively and do not listen to others
   b. When people do not listen
c. When people tell things where they don’t belong
d. When people are late
e. Waiting in lines
   f. Spending time with family and friends

To find out your results, turn to page 9.
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VILLA LIFE

Dunn, CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

"I think when I was here there were two free graders, so they were all in one room with small beds," recalled Dunn. "I think there were five or six [boarding students] in each of the grades.

"They would have one hand in the pocket and the other hand on the paper on the desk," Dunn said. "Every day, students would come into the classroom with sheets of paper in the pocket."

"There were goofy and hilarious," Stroup said. "It was such a lighthearted show and it was a fun project for all concerned."
Next, we made our way over to AP Biology. There was a mass exodus of students and we were quickly surrounded by the crowd of females. Luckily, we made it to the classroom in one piece. There was a quiz for that class, which we all took. Tom and Ryan, both not having taken a biology class at Malvern, definitely were surprised when they were able to score an astonishing 14/14. Nate, however, who had just taken AP Bio last year, was able to squeeze out a solid 14/14.

Nate and Ryan then tried their way to AP Computer Science Principles, where we were greeted by Mr. Magnus, a seasoned student among students (for good reason). He insisted that instead of doing the coursework, we spend time playing Minecraft, which, as you could imagine, we were psyched about.

We spent the period sitting on our computers, playing one of the best games created, and paying no attention to our immediate surroundings until we heard someone else exclaiming how it actually helped attract her driver’s license in a Starbucks trash can. Unrelated, but a great idea, you can work it on your resume. We all seemed normal and dandy until the last day and what we really did was build on these, so, unfortunately, the ID could not be recovered.

Meanwhile, Tom ventured to Honors Apologetics, where he was able to have some enlightening conversations and was even given an opportunity to participate in a debate about the existence of a higher power. After, we were provided with several sandwiches and Jef’s lunch, which, of course, seemed so normal and ordinary until the last moment, when we actually sold out Villa’s lunchroom girls. Seriously. It was insane. We all got a pretty similar lunch, a ham and cheese sandwich and a “famous” Villa cookie. We’d pick Mr. Gray lunches over Villa’s ham and cheese any day, but it was honestly a nice break from the norm.

After we ate, our hosts gave us a little tour of their “classroom lounges.” We didn’t even know student lounges were a real thing. Our hosts explained that the idea was just a myth or something they see in movies, but no. Villa actually pulled it off and provided students with a complete room full of couches, a microwave, coffee makers, a TV, and even a Wii! We don’t understand why Malvern doesn’t invest in a senior lounge. Here’s a crazy thought: Maybe if we try, we can get a lounge for the last 30-something days of school.

As we left the lounge, Nate wiped up his tears from thinking of what could’ve been, and we headed to our last class of the day, Honors Drama with Mrs. Sandberg. And by, yes, Nate excited about that. That may seem sarcastic, but trust us, it isn’t. Nate was a drama queen. A drama was scheduled when he learned that drama class was about reading plays, not acting them out. Instead, in her class, we watched a documentary to get a better idea on the play, “The Tempest.”

Once the fourth block bell rang, we then walked back to the cafeteria, said our goodbyes, and headed back to the best place on Earth, Malvern Preparatory School, for our after school activities.

**A Day in the life of a Friar**

After, we met up again at lunch, which proved to be a great idea for everyone since it is the best thing since sliced bread but especially important if you visit Villa.

6. Compose prepared with a large appetizer (and snacks):
We only had one chance to eat. That’s right! One! We were starving. Most students seemed to bring snacks, though, and were allowed to eat in class or even leave class during a break to buy something from the vending machines.

7. Wear a sweatshirt so you can fit in:
Most girls had any type of Villa sweatshirt on which was usually uniform regulations, we discovered. That must be exterminating during their voyages between buildings.

8. Possess some strong willpower so as not to get disturbed by the rolly chairs in most classrooms:
This was a difficult one. MP Chais have nothing on the contraption we saw in the Villa classrooms. They all rolled and some even had cup holders, innovative, man, innovative.
Which IHM Sister are you? (from p. 6)

Mostly A’s: Sister Marie Claire

If you are like Sister Marie Claire, then you must enjoy every second of life! You are extremely observant and appreciate the beauty of nature, always taking time to stop and smell the roses. You are constantly thinking of others and what you can do to help ensure their happiness.

Sister Marie Claire graduated from West Catholic High School, and in her teaching career, has taught both music and English. Sister feels very blessed to have music as an important part in her life but also the opportunity to share it with Villa students. She believes music is a good way for self-reflection and meditation, and it also can provide one with a good temperamental. General Singing is the highlight of her month; Sister loves to teach and sing the liturgy music to all of the Villa girls, so next time make sure to sing loudly for Sister Marie Claire.

Mostly B’s: Sister Anne Marie

Both you and Sister Anne Marie have the ability to sense when others need a helping hand. You and your compassionate soul are constantly caring for others, and you have an excellent sense of humor.

Sister Anne Marie graduated from West Catholic High School. Ever since she was a young girl, Sister knew she was called to be a nun. Sister Anne Marie used to teach at Archbishop Carroll High School before coming to Villa Maria. Sister Anne Marie has left a lasting legacy on Villa by creating the annual giving campaign, encouraging members of the Villa community to donate money for the school. This year is Sister Anne Marie’s thirty-eighth year at Villa, and her love for Villa students and their accomplishments continues to grow.

Mostly C’s: Sister Dolores

If you are like Sister Dolores, then you must have a God-given gift! Whether it be artistically, musically, athletically, or academically, you use your talent to inspire and impact the lives of others. It brings you joy to guide and encourage others to work hard toward and accomplish their goals.

Sister Dolores began playing the piano in second grade and instantly knew that this would become her lifelong passion. She graduated from West Catholic High School, where she was involved in many different activities, including participation in school musicals and marching band. She began her career in education teaching sixth, seventh, and eighth grade music, and later taught high school math. Currently, Sister Dolores teaches music lessons here at Villa Maria.

Mostly D’s: Sister Barbara

Both you and Sister Barbara appreciate every aspect of life, always counting your blessings. You do not take things for granted, and you try your best to live your life to its fullest potential. You spend practically every moment of free time by surrounding yourself with family and friends.

Sister Barbara graduated from Archbishop Perdengast High School and attended college at Villanova University. Sister Barbara has taught a range of different courses throughout her life and is currently teaching English and Theology at Villa. Prior to teaching this elective at Villa, she was the Director of Spirituality for the IHM nuns, a job that gave her the experience and qualifications to teach the Christian Spirituality senior theology course at Villa.

Mostly E’s: Sister Mary

If you’re like Sister Mary, then you are aware of all the blessings in your life, and you certainly do not take any of them for granted. You are a people person and love to surround yourself with the people that you love most in your life. You appreciate all aspects of life and are always willing to lend a helping hand and serve the members of your community.

Sister Mary graduated from Little Flower High School, where she played the clarinet in both the school band and the orchestra. Sister has taught a wide variety of subjects over the course of her career as an educator, such as Theology, Spanish, ESL, Music, and business-related subjects. She spent the majority of her career teaching in Peru and Chile, in Villa Maria Lima, Peru and in Villa Maria Santiago, Chile, as well as at several more local high schools. If you have any questions about Spanish, you can always turn to discussing them with a true Spanish expert, Sister Mary.

Mostly F’s: Sister Regina

Both you and Sister Regina are extremely passionate about all aspects of your life! You have the tendency to center yourself around things that you love and have an interest in. You are a traveler at heart; even if you haven’t been all across the globe, you still appreciate and are fascinated by other lands and cultures.

Sister Regina graduated from Archbishop Perdengast High School. She taught Theology and French at Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, an all-girls school in Miami, Florida, for twenty years before teaching elsewhere around the country, and eventually becoming a professor in the Education Department of Immaculata University, and, of course, the principal here at Villa Maria. Sister Regina loves traveling the world and has pursued this passion for travel—chaperoning the Europe Trip that Villa offers.
Maddie Medve ’18 learns life lessons through ROTC

Through Reserve Officers’ Training Corps programs at Widener University, alumna Maddie Medve has learned valuable lessons about herself and her future career in the US military.

Raquel Lacusky ’20 Editor-in-Chief

Through her time spent as a ROTC student, Medve has acquired skills that will stick with her for the rest of her life. After matriculating in the fall of 2018, Medve did not have to join Widener University’s ROTC program, but jumped right into all of the benefits that the program offered. “I got involved within the first two weeks of class my freshman year,” Medve stated. Medve’s passion and excitement for the program did not stop there. As she continued her ROTC involvement, she began gaining experience through particular classes focusing on necessary information for a military career.

“As an ROTC cadet, I take a military science class every semester and attend ILEs at West Chester University to learn more hands-on skills,” Medve stated. “While taking the time to understand the workings of the U.S. military, Medve has also experienced some personal benefits; she has gained life skills and learned valuable lessons about herself. ‘It has taught me discipline, time management and how to work for what I want. I have been able to see that I can do so much more than I thought,’ Medve stated. Through ROTC, not only has Medve formulated a career path and developed new skills, she has also made valuable friendships that have truly impacted her college experience.

“My favorite part has been meeting some of my closest, most reliable friends,” Medve stated. Ultimately, Medve’s experience with the ROTC program at Widener have led her to a revelation that can be applied to any aspect of life. ‘My biggest takeaway from ROTC is that as long as you are willing to work hard, anything is possible,’ she stated.
Mental toughness: creating a culture
Students learn mental toughness skills through weekly workshops

Ella Nugent ’23, Alivia Orvieto ’20
Contributor, Editor-in-Chief

It all began when School Counselor Sa-ly Jeffries met Galvin and her business partner Theresa Giunta two years ago. Jeffries, who is a certified NCAA Sports Psychologist, was mentoring Molly Dunfee ‘18 at the time in her Capstone project and had come across Galvin when searching for potential interview contacts for Dunfee.

“I talked to [Galvin and Giunta] about my vision, and then they put together a proposal,” Jeffries said. “We took that to Ms. Taylor, who took it to Sister Regina, and she approved the proposal, and now here we are.”

In explaining her vision, Jeffries said, “I would like to have open seminars where any-body that wanted to could come because you can apply these principles to pretty much any-thing. This way, it wouldn’t be just money spent on athletes; it would be anybody who was aspiring to become more.”

According to Jeffries, bringing the topic of mental health to Villa Maria is something unique, and she hopes it will open up the con-versation to encourage a culture of mentally strong and confident young women in school.

“This is something that our school has that nobody else has,” she said. “Until you cre-ate a culture, it’s just a conversation.”

This culture that Jeffries is striving for emphasizes the need to practice mental skills as often as physical skills.

“In volleyball, the serve is all about the toss. We might toss that ball, I don’t know, 500 times a week,” she said. “When do we do that for mentality? Never. So we think that if we’re well practiced [physically] that that will carry us. And that will, but only so far.”

According to Jeffries, bring aware in the game bring ones’ performance to the next level. “Once you have reached excellence, if you are not there mentally, you will not hit peak per-formance,” she said.

After accepting Jeffries’ proposal, the school started hosting the workshops during the advisory period so it would be equally ac-cessible for all students. They are organized to have a variety of workshops as visualization, self-talk, confidence, leadership, energy and emotional management, resilience, and motivation.

“Experts tell us that mentally prepared athletes perform better,” Jeffries said. “I want to create a culture where athletes channel their pitfalls into motivation.”

“I think that’s something that everyone needs, not just in sports but in school,” she said. “If you’re nervous for a test or about some homework assignment that you did, everyone needs that boost of confidence to get through it, no matter what it is.”

Along these lines, Athletic Director Steph-ane Taylor encourages all students to attend the workshops, not just those involved in athletics. They are there to help students not only with their sport’s performance but with their personal and professional lives too.

“It was very important that when we of-fered this that it would really be open to every-body because it’s not making about you better, like getting more championships. That’s not the goal of this program; the goal is to help students to know themselves better,” she said. “We’re not doing this so that [students] can all get a scholarship to college; sports are important be-cause it prepares you to do life better.”

Taylor wishes she had these resources when she was a student athlete because all of these skills are still useful to her in her life now.

“Learning about it in the last 15 years, I use it all of the time. Easy and simple, it is a resource that Emily teaches that I have learned from other-people without a doubt,” she said.

Taylor’s hope is that Villa will be a whole new look at this and think, “We were really on top of this. Villa Maria was really a leader in this field for high school students.”

Jeffries is a firm believer in continuous growth through one’s failures. She wants to create a culture where athletes channel their pitfalls into motivation.

“The feedback you’re getting should be fuel, not a reason to not get out of bed tomor-row,” she said.

What is VSCO?
VSCO, an editing and social media platform, has become a creative space for pho-tographers and high school students alike.

Julie Satterthwaite ’20, Catherine Brown ’20
Assistant Editor, Reporter

VSCO has rolled out the standard “like” and “comment” ways of measuring engagement on social media posts for “favoriting” and “republishing.”

Favoriting a VSCO is the equivalent of liking on Instagram, and republishing is similar to retweeting on Twitter. Favorites are only seen by the user that posted the VSCO, and republishers appear in your feed alongside original images. Since the beginning, VSCO has refrained from allowing users to measure their favorites or republishes on a post.

Because of VSCO’s focus on high quality and creativity, users can post what they want without fear of engage-ment.

Alison Re-dick ’19, an avid VSCO user and VSCOIX (a paid subscription giving you more filters and effects) owner, appreciates this relaxed environment. She said, “VSCO is more of a social media platform for women who can actually express their creativity through not having to worry about how many likes you get on a post.”

VSCO is set up as a portfolio, with pictures posted together in a curated set as opposed to the box format on Instagram. However, the layout is not the only difference between VSCO and Instagram. VSCO offers more filters and editing tools to its users, and it can be used solely as an editing app.

Redick feels as though the community on Instagram is harsher than the community on VSCO. “I feel like VSCO is a judgment free zone. It’s the opposite of Insta-gram,” she said. “I like that, on VSCO, I don’t worry about exactly what I look like or if it’s a perfect picture, like on Instagram where I know that everyone I know is going to see it.”

This view of the VSCO community makes it a more open and inclusive environment, but users should remember that it is still a social media platform that can be seen by anyone, including colleges and potential em-ployers. Although this carfree attitude can prompt people to post and republish without a second thought, still remember cautionness about what you post, especially because VSCO allows non-VSOCIO users to view a profile.

On VSCO, you can let your social media guard down a little bit: post cre-ative pictures, your art, selfies, and anything in be-tween. But do remember that your social media footprint is out there, so think twice before republishing something you wouldn’t necessarily want your mom to see.

VSCO is a judg-ment free zone. It’s the opposite of Instagram.

VILLA LIFE • March 2020

The Villa Voice

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VSCO is a judgment free zone. It’s the opposite of Instagram.
Amelia Erb '22

These students practice and compete just like any other athletes, but the sports they play are very unique. Take Raquel Lacusky '20, for example, who has participated in curling since sophomore year.

“A lot of people think I’m kidding, and I’m like, ‘Seriously, I can,’” said Lacusky, who curls with the Philadelphia Curling Club. Many people think of curling as a slightly confusing sport they see during the Winter Olympics, as did Lacusky before she began.

“I [thought] that’s really funny, I kind of want to try that. It was kind of a joke,” Lacusky said, but once she joined a curling club, she discovered there was much more to it. Thinking about when she started out, Lacusky realized, “This is actually one, really hard, and two, really fun!”

Lacusky is not the only student whose extracurriculars may surprise you. Many high school students enjoy swimming, diving, or biking, but sophomore Christina Traficanti competes in Triathlons, which is a form of race that includes all three.

“It’s swimming first, then biking, then running, and then in between each sport there is a transition where you get all of your stuff together and you go to the next sport,” Traficanti said. Traficanti has been doing Triathlons competitively for three years, but she has experienced in the individual sports preceding this.

“I did track in middle school, then cross country in middle school, and I was a swimmer. I have been a swimmer since I was six or seven, so that’s what kind of got me into it,” Traficanti said.

In addition to being on a Triathlon team, Traficanti continues to take part in the individual activities in order to train. “I’m on a swim team to train for all of the races, and then I do a couple of meets also,” Traficanti said. “I’m also on the high school team, and then I still do cross country for high school.”

Although skilled at all three activities, she definitely has a favorite. “I like the bike part the best,” said Traficanti. “My least favorite is actually the swim even though I’ve been swimming since I was younger. Once I started biking and running I was like, ‘Oh, actually I like this better than swimming!’”

Traficanti has a strong background in swimming, running, and biking to help her compete in triathlons, and participating in this intense combination of common athletic activities gives her an edge over opponents that may only participate in one.

Many students participate in sports and activities that are widely considered conventional and unusual, in addition to the wide range of sports common within the Villa community. Lacusky and Traficanti are not the only ones; many students participate in interesting extracurriculars unknowingly to their teachers and classmates.

Winter Sports seasons recapped

When joining a winter sport, one gains not just a team but a family.

Annie Shaw ’22, Allie Scaggs ’22, Ella Curran ’22

This season, winter athletes dominated the pool, court, and track.

Swimming and diving completed the regular season undefeated and won the District 1 A title for the eighth year in a row. Ten swimmers and divers were set to participate in the State Championships before its postponement.

Basketball worked their way to win the District 1 A Title with a record of 15-7, advancing to the PIAA State Quarterfinal before the games were postponed. Track achieved six school records in the 400 dash, 300m, 600m, long jump, weight throw, and pole vault, finishing their season with the Meet of Champions at Lebanon University.

The swim team worked extremely hard every morning with practice starting at 6:50 a.m. in order to keep up their high standards.

Swimmer Caroline Wellington ’20 stated, “It’s the closest team experience I’ve had in my four years at Villa. This team dynamic has made me more excited for meets and swim even faster!”

The team starts the season with an opening dinner where the team mascot, a rubber duck, is given to one lucky person to keep for the season. Although they consider the duck a good luck charm, it was their hard work and determination that guaranteed success.

The basketball team’s continuous effort throughout each game carried them to districts. Each player was incredibly supportive of each other not only on the court, but also in the classroom.

Forward Paige Lauer ’20 said, “Our team has a great atmosphere where we can have fun, but still push each other to be the best on and off the court.” The team dynamic was exceptionally positive this season, which was the key to maintaining a winning mentality.

Dance team expands horizons

Tiffany Perpiglia ’21 shares her experience of participating in dance classes and being captain of the dance team.

Anna Heppelmann ’21, Quincy Hatcher ’21, Katie Steinetz ’21

Perpiglia first started dancing at her cousin’s dance studio as a toddler. She has been dancing for thirteen years now.

“Last year was when they first started the Villa [dance team]. Mrs. Jeffries came to me and asked if I wanted to do it. We had an audition in the summer, and a lot of people came out to it and when we had some cuts,” she said.

Perpiglia has her dance class every A-day for an hour and a half and enjoys performing jazz and lyrical styles.

Regarding the dance team, Perpiglia said, “We all work really hard and work really well together. My favorite part is the bond that we all have because it’s freshmans, sophomores, and juniors, so we’ve all gotten really close.”

Perpiglia is a dance team captain and has so numerous responsibilities in that position.

“I’ll run warm-ups, get us all stretched and ready, and then before a performance I’ll make a checklist of what costumes, shoes, [and] makeup [to bring],” Perpiglia said. “If Ms. Urbanski needs me to do anything, I’ll do it for her.”

The dancers have attended masterclasses, which are classes taught by experts in a particular style of dance, that have helped prepare them for several performances coming up. Most recently, they performed at the Interact Festival at Episcopal with other schools including Notre Dame and Episcopal.

“Other teachers from other teams [gave us] feedback on what we can improve on and what they really liked about it,” Perpiglia said.

For this past winter concert, Perpiglia and Ella Morgan ’22 choreographed a Christmas hip-hop dance.

She said, “It was my first time choreographing a dance where someone actually sees it, so I like performing better. I like the feeling of being on stage and being able to put on a show and entertain people.”

The team is working to expand their repertoire of choreography to include new styles and music.