

As the needle approached her veins, she felt her fore arm start to go numb. The pain increased, and her eyes squeezed shut as she said, "Oh my gosh this hurts." Junior Mary Kurosky, accompanied by her mom, got her first tattoo when she was 15 with her older sisters.

"One day I was just like, 'Mom I want a tattoo,' and she told me to think about what I wanted, so I chose a sister tattoo," Kurosky said.

Kurosky asked her older sisters, Maggie and Madeline, if they wanted to get a tattoo as well. They agreed and helped Kurosky design the tattoo.

"We were looking at other stuff and trying to find out what we had in common," Kurosky said. "We found out that we didn't really have anything in common, so we went with numbers. Maggie got a Roman numeral I because she was the first born. Madeline got a II and I got a III because I was born third."

Although tattoos violate dress code at school, Kurosky, along with seniors Cameron Hooten, Juan Rodriguez and Soledad Sanchez covered their ink by wearing long sleeves, jackets or watches. Despite being hidden, the majority of the tattoos still served as constant reminders about the loved ones who made an impact on them.

"I can see everyday a recognition of my family that has passed away by just looking in the mirror," Hooten said. "My great aunt was a big role model in my life. She supported me for a good three years in Oklahoma when I moved up there. The quote is what they said at my great aunt's funeral and the 8 and 4 was the date when my great grandma died. It's a special

number in the family. Every time we use it, it brings us good luck. My tattoos represent my support of my family and how they will never be forgotten."

Even though Rodriguez has multiple tattoos, each was a personal and memorable experience.

"My tattoos explain who I am because of the time, effort and pain that was put into them," Rodriguez said. "Of all of mine, I'm more fond of my "Death Before Dishonor" tattoo. I love this tattoo because of its meaning behind it. I'd rather pay the ultimate price than to dishonor the country or myself."

Despite the pain, money and commitment to permanent ink, Hooten, Rodriguez, Sanchez and Kurosky plan to get more.

"I have an infinity currently on my wrist that says, 'I love you Ma,' but I want to get something on my back that represents my younger brother or something that might represent my dad," Sanchez said. "The tattoo that I want for my brother, because he passed away, is not necessarily wings but something that represents him even though he didn't live very long. I want something that could show what he and I could have been. And for my dad, because he lives very far from me, I want a tattoo to show he's still with me."

For Rodriguez, getting permanent ink is a sensory experience.

"The pre-game jitters when you arrive at a tattoo parlor, the excitement discussing the design with the artist, the sorrow that comes from spending the money, the slow motion walk to the chair, then the nerves shaking when the gun starts and the absolute pain when the needle drags through the skin- overall, it's a sensation unlike anything else," Rodriguez said.

Story by Lacey Powers

How do you feel about tattoos? *Out of 100 votes*



# PERMANENT

*Stories on the skin*

Cameron Hooten, 12

Juan Rodriguez, 12

Soledad Sanchez, 12

Mary Kurosky, 11

64  
6/16/14  
3/16/14  
"They're not a bad thing, it's something to represent you. Everyone in my family has a tattoo to represent somebody else in my family."  
Hayla Baughman, 9

STUDENT LIFE  
IN INK  
65  
8/29/13