

Getting Ready

Back-to-School Orientation days

What challenges are you most excited about this year?

"I am excited but nervous for my first overnight field trip. I think it will be very fun!"
-Nandini Cheruku (4)



"I'm excited to go to college, except applications make it hard to stay focused on the end goal sometimes. Deadlines can be hard to meet, but shout out to Mrs. Snead and the college counseling office for always helping us out. Thanks you guys!!!"
-Anne Pentland (12)

Orientation Across the Baron Nation

Decorating our lockers, memorizing our class schedules and meeting new friends are typical parts of orientation. The first day is on the horizon and jitters are everywhere until the first day comes around. Some students will be stepping up to large leadership positions, such as the senior class. Others will be new fish in a big pond, like the freshmen entering the uncharted waters of Upper School. Some students may have never experienced the amazing environment of SMH and are curious as to how they will step up to the new challenges thrown at them. Parents of Montessori students anticipate their first days of school ever! All students come to these orientation programs before school starts and plan their year to come.

Top: Axel Morgan (2); Bottom: Claire Ramos (9) and Mr. Pyrc



Abi Sorensen (2), Anna Szalai (2)



Baron Power

The memories made on the sidelines

Freshmen Force//

This was Bella Wulfe's (9) and Claire Ramos' (9) first year on the cheer team. "It was a great experience learning the cheers and routines from the older girls. I definitely made a lot of friendships that I wouldn't have developed if I had not done cheerleading. Even though Claire and I were freshmen, the upper classmen were so supportive and were really nice. If I hadn't participated in Fall Cheer, I wouldn't be the person I am today." -Bella Wulfe (9)



"The cheerleaders were fun to be with and they knew how to do the dances well. My favorite part was doing the dance. I wasn't scared because I did ballet and I've danced in front of a lot of people before." -Myrka Alvarez (K)



This was Coach Wendy Zacarias', former Spurs Silver Dancer, first year as a cheer coach. Coach Zacarias brought a new style of dance and a new sense of school spirit to the team.

What was your favorite memory from this year?



Genesis Buckhalter-Horne (11) // "My favorite memory was our four hour practice during fall break. We got a lot done but at the same time we still had tons of fun. It didn't even feel like four hours!"

Claire Cochran (12) // "I enjoyed preseason lunches with the team. It was a good form of bonding."



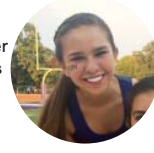
Hannah Cochran (12) // "My favorite memory from this season was Senior Night because it showed how far we had come and how well we had all bonded."

Sonceray Hewett (10) // "My favorite cheer memory was our first home game. It was so great getting to perform in front of my friends and family."



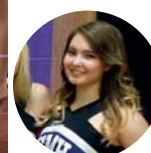
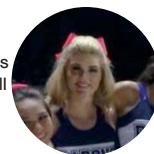
Andi Pape (11) // "My favorite memory was going over dances and cheers with teammates at cheer camp, even into early hours of the morning!"

Claire Ramos// "The best memory I have from cheer was when I hit my extension for the first time. I was not worried about falling because I knew that even if I fell, the team would catch me no matter what."



Ale Serna // "My favorite memory was when we had a huge jam session when a football game was delayed! It gave us something to do while bringing us closer."

Rose Wallace // "My favorite memory from cheer is when I showed up to practice with chili cheese all over my shirt and everyone thought I threw up on myself."



Kensi Williams // "My favorite memory was the last practice when we were telling our most embarrassing moments and everyone was dying of laughter."

Bella Wulfe // "My favorite memory from this season when we had to cheer in the rain on Senior Night and Rose wore rain boots."



What will you miss most about cheerleading?

"I will miss getting ready with the team. Getting ready in the locker room together is such a great bonding experience and so much fun. There's always a lot of laughter and usually some chaos, but seeing everyone come together like that is so amazing." - Claire Cochran (12)

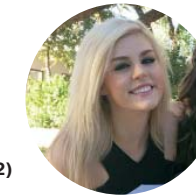


"I'm going to miss the bonds that we have because we're a really close team and we all had a lot of fun even though we were working really hard. It was a positive thing to look forward to each day. I had fun watching my sister lead the team and I think she did a really good job." - Hannah Cochran (12)



"I'm going to miss being with some of my best friends every day after school. Bonding this year with all the girls was so much fun, and I hate for it to end." - Alejandra Serna (12)

- Alejandra Serna (12)



"The thing I'll miss most about cheer is all my teammates. All my friends from cheer really helped me get through this year and all of the struggles of being a senior. I'm also really going to miss all the silly moments." - Rose Wallace (12)

- Rose Wallace (12)



Purple Pride // The cheerleaders had the chance to teach lower school girls a cheer and a dance routine. The girls were then invited to come and perform at halftime at a football game. The cheer clinic had around fifteen girls registered and thirteen girls came out to perform with varsity! The dance went well and all of the varsity cheerleaders were proud of the lower school girls and the effort they put into the dance.



Cheer Up // Left: Rose Wallace (12) holds out her pom poms as she cheers for the football team in the rain. Even though it rained through her Senior Night game, Rose kept a positive attitude and a whole lot of "Go Barons" spirit!

Right: Ale Serna (12), Kensi Williams (10), Genesis Buckhalter-Horne (11), and Sonceray Hewett (10) throw up a lib during practice. This was Sonceray and Kensi's first year cheering, but did really well- especially in stunts! "Stunting was one of my favorite parts of cheer. I had a lot of fun trying new stunts every Thursday with Longhorn Cheer and the best tumbling coach, Doug!" -Kensi Williams (10)



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Hitting All the Notes

Sing along with us for the form 3 and 4 musical!



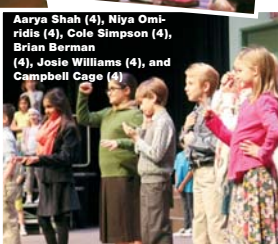
Sophia Holder (4), Nick Sanders (4), Nandini Cheruku (4), Maroobh McCrary (4)



Foster Hixon (4), Owen Ursone (4), and Ines Wallisch (4)



Natalia Chapa (3)



Aarys Shah (4), Niya Omiridis (4), Cole Simpson (4), Brian Berman (4), Josie Williams (4), and Campbell Coge (4)



Lily Kelly (3), Hudson Moore (3), and Audrey Davis (3)

Harmony High

This year's form 3 and 4 musical celebrates a high school full of song and dance, where every subject is learned with a song. Students deal with the stress of getting to class on time by singing "Gotta Get to Class", and dread detention while singing the "In-School Detention Blues." Everyone at the school sings, including the cooks, who show off their singing skills in "Cooks of the Cafeteria." Everyday at Harmony High, students learn that "Life is a Beautiful Song." Through song and dance, Harmony High teaches students that everyone is capable of getting along. Who wouldn't love a school like that?!



Detention // Form 3 students cross their arms and think about the horrors of detention while singing "The In-School Detention Blues."



Star Scientists // Benjamin Harley (4) shows off his dance moves during The Lab Rat Rock.



Exciting Experiment // Assistants Alena Montez (4), Abigail Lee (4), Jason Jones (4) Jackson Schuleman (4), and Emilia Kniestedt (4) celebrate science.



First Day Nerves // Form 3 and 4 Harmony High students line up for their big show and their first day at Harmony High.

Songs of Harmony High



Stuck in Detention Food Fight Work Out Don't be Late

Harmony High students Arick Baldwin (4), Divya Vasan (4), Mary Katherine Lutz (4), and Cade Barry (4) face the punishments.

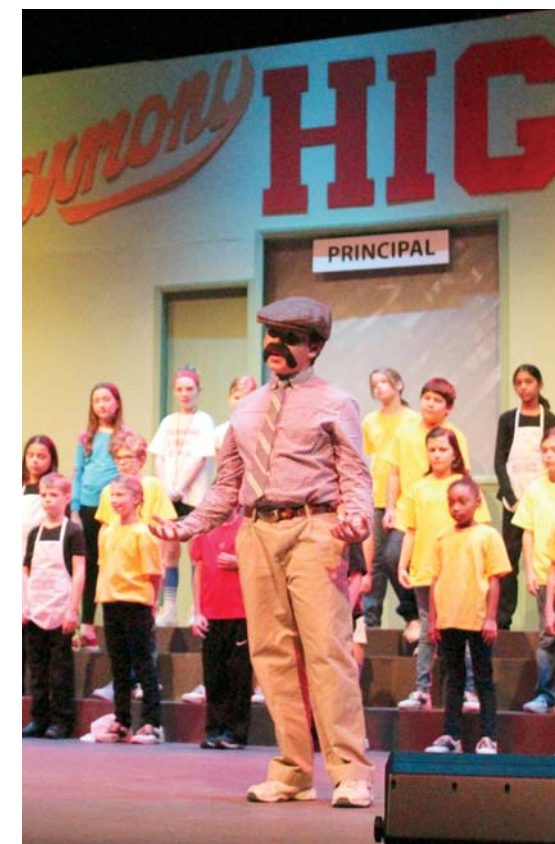
Form 4 Harmony High students take part in their first food fight of the year. The cooks are not pleased.

Form 3 Harmony High students want you to know: gym class is fun for anyone, whether you're a star athlete or a beginner.

Set your watches! Form 4 Harmony High students don't want to be late to class on the first day at a new school.



Round of Applause // Madison Winston (3) hands flowers to Mrs. Underwood and Mrs. Troutwine to thank them for directing the amazing performance.



Class in Session // Geography teacher Oliver Eades (4) explains to his new students that everything will be learned with a song.

Kaleidoscope

Hip-Hop, Pas de Deux and Modern... O My!

Keeping the rhythm & making memories

The annual Kaleidoscope dance show allows Upper and Middle School dance students a chance to show off their skills in self-choreographed dances and fun numbers with close friends.

The curtains open on the first performance, the Senior Piece, and the crowd goes wild. Thanks to Senior Piece choreographer, Tino Valles, the performance never fails to surprise the audience due to his addition of lifts, complex choreography and themes. This year's senior piece was themed around the works of Madonna. With over twelve Madonna songs in the piece, each senior had a solo to a song that fit their personality. "I was really happy that my Madonna song assignment for my solo was my mom's favorite Madonna song 'Lucky Star.' I can't wait for her to see my solo!" said Maggi McClanahan (12).

Another especially emotional piece was this year's *Jenny's Piece*, a dance dedicated to a beloved dance student named Jenny Baylan who tragically died too soon. Each year a guest artist helps choreograph a piece that is unique and challenging and this year, the task was completed by guest artist Gustavo Zajac. The dance was not only fun to watch, but a fun opportunity for the students to learn to work with a chair in a dance.

Kaleidoscope completely embraced its theme this year of *Forward*. By looking forward, students learn to set goals for themselves and strive to be successful in their futures.

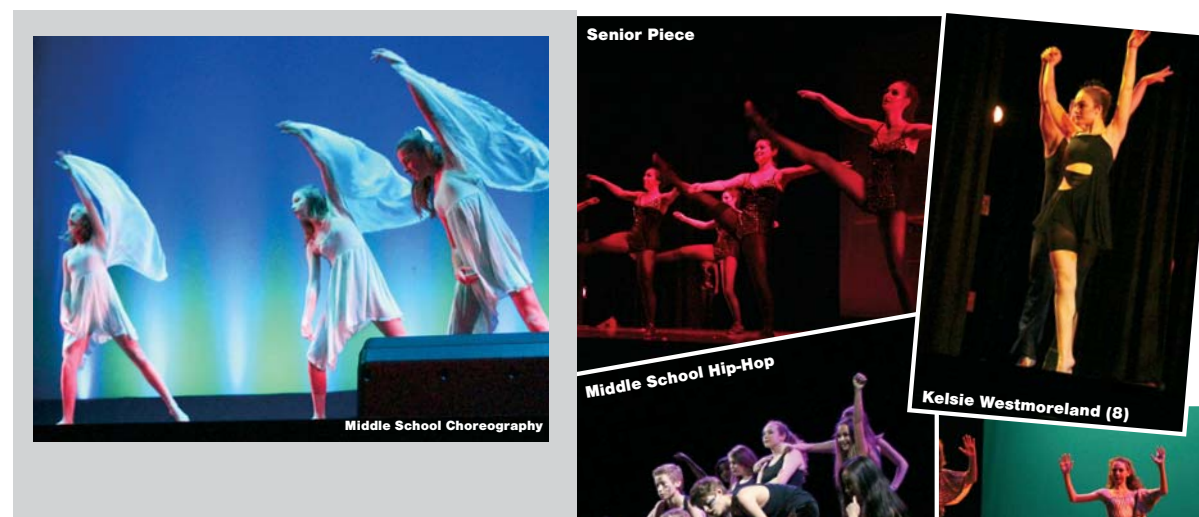


Senior Appreciation

Ellie Eddy (12) prepares backstage for her Irish dance routine.



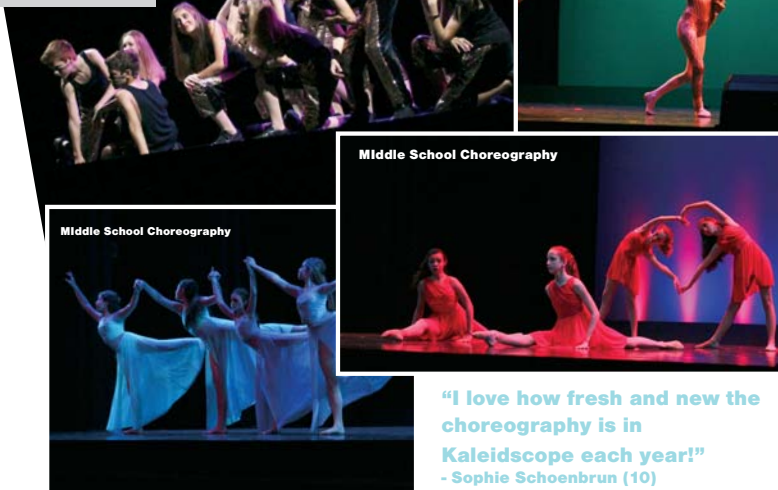
Classy and Sassy // Jenny's Piece is a tribute to late student Jenny Baylan. She was an amazing dancer in the department and it is an honor to celebrate her through dance each year. This year's Jenny's Piece was a female empowerment piece by a guest choreographer.



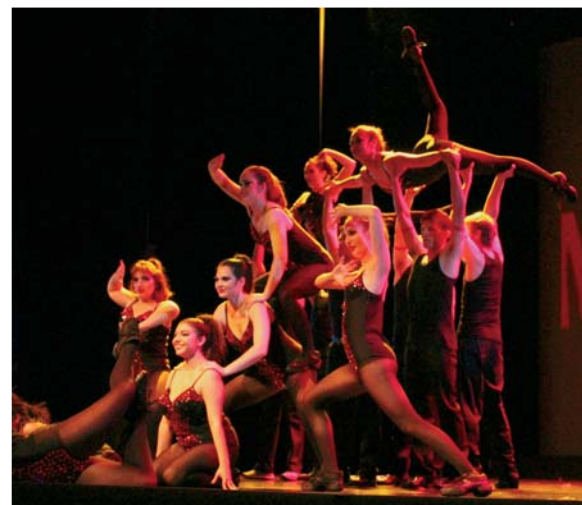
The many colors of

Kaleidoscope

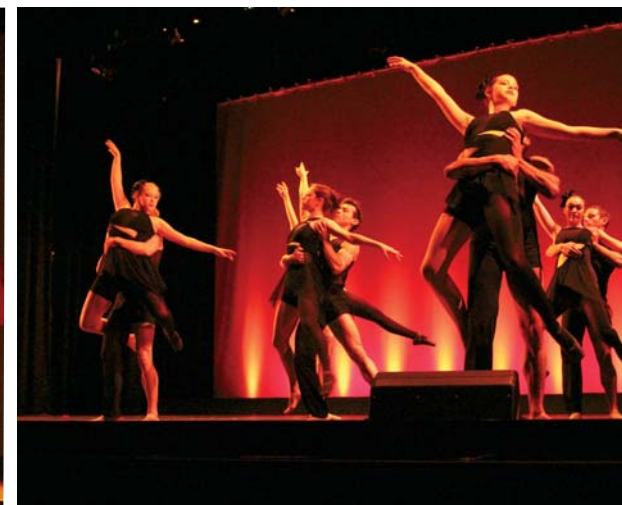
One of the best parts of Kaleidoscope is that it demonstrates the spectrum of different forms of dance. The show consists of modern, pas de deux, hip-hop, student choreography, Irish, and folklorico. The variety of the show is what makes the performance one of Saint Mary's Hall's most popular shows!



"I love how fresh and new the choreography is in Kaleidoscope each year!"
- Sophie Schoenbrun (10)



Senior's Final Bow // Seniors strike their final pose in Senior Piece, the first dance in the show.



Reach for the Sky // The Pas de Deux piece demonstrated great technical skill and several lifts.



170

171

Seniors

2016

We have been waiting for years and now it is our time to shine. Senior year is marked with the best moments of our high school career, such as Blue Tie and Graduation. Alexis Castro says, "Blue Tie was awesome! I loved the parade and being on a float with my friends."

On Blue Tie Day, we wake up at the crack of dawn to prepare our float. From fire truck hoses, to parents dressed up in gorilla suits, this parade can get pretty crazy and fun. Each float lines up to go around the upper school circle and every senior is shaking with anticipation. We have been waiting for this moment for years, some of us our whole lives. Blue Tie. It's finally here. As soon as the parade starts, seniors begin to break out in water balloon wars with underclassmen, tossing out candy and throwing confetti. After the parade, everyone is soaked from the water balloons and ready to rush to the bathroom to clean up and receive their blue ties.

Once on stage, everyone looks pristine. We have made it. We have our blue ties. It is our time to rule the school. No day is happier for a senior. We are ready. We are present. We are the Class of 2016.

However, although we are rejoicing, it is also a stressful time with college applications, AP classes and the weight of stepping into the challenge of college. This is a year we as a class will all learn who we truly are. Catherine Staskawicz says, "Senior year is fun but it is very stressful as well, with college on the horizon. I am hoping this year will be a positive memory in my life."

After we graduate we will all go to college and discover a new version of ourselves. After we graduate college, life starts to become real with jobs, relationships, taxes and even someday our own kids who will one day be seniors, too. Life is crazy. Senior year is crazy. All that we can do is just buckle up for the ride.



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