

CHAMPIONING MERCY VALUES

JUNE 2024
EDITION
VOL. III



Compelled
By Mercy



Inspired
By Faith



A Voice
For
Dignity
and
Respect



Educational
Courage



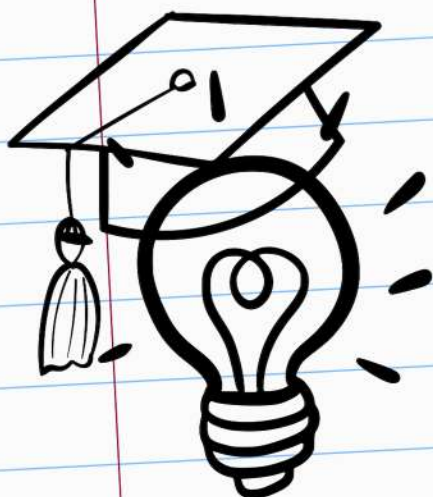
Principled
Leadership



SCA Newsletter
A Mercy Center of
Excellence & Innovation

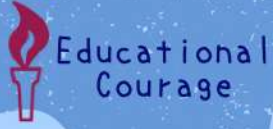


Sharing all
our GREAT NEWS
in June 2024



Class of 2024 Parent's Night

By: Zazil Marin



Parent's Night Speaker

Parent's Night was a huge success, and one notable aspect was the speech delivered by Sophia Anne Abou-Nehra, a science major from the class of 4Sc&C, who placed third in her graduating class with an overall average of 97.0925%.

Sophia was extensively involved in extracurricular activities and demonstrated her leadership qualities by serving as a search leader and Shadow Council social media manager. She also contributed to her community by being a peer helper, actively participating in the Interact Club, and engaging in passion projects.

As the Parent's Night speaker, Sophia delivered a heartfelt speech, using her love for dance as a metaphor to reflect on her high school journey and look forward to the future. As Sophia continues her education at SJCJC, we send our warmest wishes to this aspiring optometrist and exemplary woman in STEM.

All the best, Sophia, and congratulations!



"This is not the end of our dance, but it is merely a transition to the next stage. Just as a dancer's steps carry them off the stage, our Mercy education has gracefully prepared us to move into the next act of our lives."

- Sophia Abou-Nehra, 2024



Parent's Night

Ring Ceremony 2024



Don't overlook the class rings! Graduates wear them to commemorate their high school graduation and reminisce about their valuable education and cherished memories made at SCA. Our 2024 rings were blessed by Father Tony Vega and help graduates carry the spirit of mercy with confidence wherever they go.

#MercyGirlsRock!

GRADUATION 2024



Written by
Zalia Flowers



The Class of 2024's graduation was held on June 1, 2024. On this day, the SCA family said goodbye to the seniors. We congratulate all the seniors, including our leaders: Student Council 2023-2024, former prefects and peer helpers, and all others who made a difference in the SCA community.

These girls are an inspiration to all. Each of them worked hard for their diploma, but a few stood out. SCA's Valedictorian 2024- Aspen Peralta, Salutatorian- Sapphire Jenkins, 3rd Place (Parent's Night Speaker)- Sophia Abou-Nehra and The prestigious Catherine McAuley Mercy Student Award to Sapphire Jenkins. These inspiring young ladies not only focused on their academics but also their extracurricular activities.

All graduates earned many awards. Aspen, with 23 awards, Sapphire with 19, and Sophia with 16!

To all SCA's 2024 Graduates, we congratulate them and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.





WRITTEN BY: BRINYCE
RICHARDSON

CLASS OF 2024



CAPPING OFF THE YEAR

BY PRINCIPAL DR. SALOME TERRY TILLET

As we conclude this remarkable journey, Principal Dr. Salome Terry Tillett honored our outstanding young ladies for their exceptional performance, hard work, and dedication. Their memorable moments of facing challenges, experiencing excitement, and embracing new experiences have paved the way for their future milestones.

This achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering support and encouragement from their guiding stars, their parents, and our dedicated teachers. Their excellence reflects the countless lessons and inspirations that have driven them to strive for growth and success.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 as they turn their tassels, marking the end of one chapter and the start of a new beginning. May the Lord continue to bless and guide them on their new journey in life.



Educational Courage

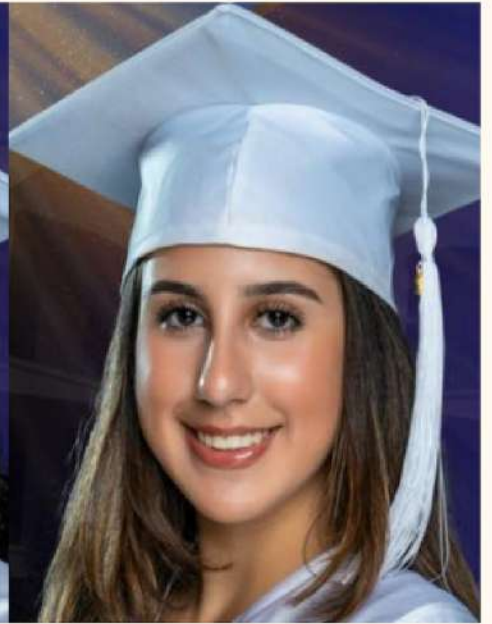


Educational
Courage



ASPEN | SAPPHIRE | SOPHIA

Written by Brinyce Richardson



"Our lives are simply a great collection of our choices resulting from our consequence."

"While our choices may lead us to great places the unexpected occur to point us to our purpose. Search for the lesson planted among the chaos."

"This is not the end of our dance, but it is merely a transition to the next stage. Just as a dancer's steps carry them off the stage, our Mercy education has prepared us to gracefully move into the next act of our lives."

Congratulations

MRS. LISA CHANG

"IT IS IN GIVING THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE, BUT IT IS IN RECEIVING THAT YOU SHOULD GIVE BACK. INVEST IN YOUR ALMA MATER."

"LIVE. LAUGH. LOVE"

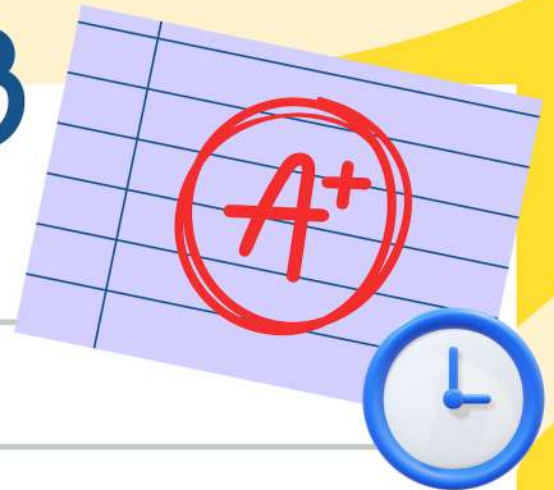
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LAST TEACHING DAYS

ALL ABOUT THE LAST TEACHING DAY AT SCA



WHAT HAPPENED?

ON THE LAST TEACHING DAY, SOME STUDENTS DESCRIBED THE EXPERIENCE AS HECTIC, JUGGLING ASSIGNMENTS AND FINAL ASSESSMENTS. MEANWHILE, OTHERS FOUND IT CALM, HAVING COMPLETED ALL THEIR ASSIGNMENTS AND BEING ALLOWED TO REVIEW FOR UPCOMING EXAMS. FOR MANY, THE MINIMAL TASKS PROVIDED A SMOOTH TRANSITION INTO REVIEW WEEK. THIS MARKED THE END OF REGULAR CLASSES AND THE BEGINNING OF FOCUSED EXAM PREPARATION.



BY: MARCELLA VIDAL

Educational
Courage



Undergrads



REVIEW



DETERMINATION & HARDWORK

Our fellow peers meticulously prepared to strive for academic excellence and took it upon themselves to utilize their resources to nurture their journey. Their preparations entailed numerous study guides, practice worksheets, quizzes, flashcards, jeopardies, and study groups, which collectively aided a successful review week.



RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION

We also acknowledge the diligent commitment that our teachers provided during review week to ensure full preparedness. Our noble educators devoted a handful of their efforts towards the success of our students during this week as they revised all their past content and distributed various study materials for students to utilize. Once again, our teachers have proven to be a pillar of support and guidance for our students.



Educational Courage

UNDERGRAD EXAMS



By Kalaya Molina

★ Students worked hard and focused during exam week, which was characterized by extensive study sessions and increased stress. It was common to feel overburdened when the demand to perform well increased. Exam week, however, was not a stressful time for our students, who used appropriate techniques when studying for exams.

★ **Websites that can help to improve studying for future exams:**



★ Tips and Tricks for Future Exams

- Don't procrastinate! Use your time wisely. Start studying well before exam week and avoid last-minute cramming.
- Instead of memorizing, try to internalize and make connections.
- Take breaks! Taking break prevent burnouts and improves concentration.

★ **Exam week was challenging, but many students successfully navigated it with proper planning, effective study techniques, and self-care.**



Educational
Courage

A WEESOME PARENT ALERT!



PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

MS. MARTHA MONTERO

Why should you get involved?



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Ms. Montero served the school year 2023-2024 as the SCA Parent Support Group (PSG) president.

- "A standout moment for me was participating and assisting as president of SCA's PSG. It allowed me to overcome challenges and obstacles and gain valuable insight and values that I can carry with me and instill in my family. It has helped me reflect on my dedication, growth, and support as the year went by and allowed me to reinforce the importance of encouragement and guidance for my success and the success of my daughter, her friends, and the entire school community."
- "I've learned to incorporate the values and teachings of mercy taught to our SCA girls by incorporating compassion and understanding towards my children's struggles and challenges. I have learned to approach situations with a compassionate mindset, seeking to understand their perspective before reacting. In addition, I have also learnt to incorporate gratitude by regularly expressing appreciation for the blessings and opportunities we are given. It has encouraged me and my family to reflect on the positive aspects of our lives and the contributions of others."
- "My greatest advice would be to manage your time wisely. High school can be demanding with academics, extracurricular activities, and personal life, but you can power through by learning to prioritize and allocate time effectively."
- "Having been an active member as president of SCA's PSG and having planned and executed many social events for our parents and students, it would be gratifying to see the parents show up and participate more in the annual father-daughter event, marathon leading up to Sports Day, Christmas Show and the monthly Mass."
- "My greatest advice to the parents is to stay actively involved in your daughter's education and extracurricular activities. Attend school events with them, parents-daughter functions, and support their interest inside and outside academics. Be there to support the challenges and triumphs of their high school journey as you nurture their growth into responsible, confident, and compassionate mercy."





FATHER-DAUGHTER DINNER/DANCE

Our first father-daughter event hosted by the Parent's Support Group was a success! The evening was filled with fun activities for both dads and daughters, exciting prizes, and a unique opportunity to learn to waltz together. The dance floor was alive with laughter and joy as fathers and daughters shared special moments, creating memories that will last a lifetime.



FATHER-DAUGHTER DINNER/DANCE

By: Zazil Marin



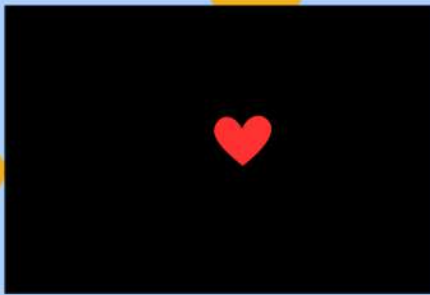
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The event featured a variety of engaging competitions, some of which included:

- Best father-daughter dance pair: Mr. Jose Marin and Joedi Marin
- Winner of musical chairs: dads division: Mr. Manuel Castillo
- Winner of musical chairs: daughter's division: Zazil Marin
- Crossword winners: Thaedora Holder and Mr. Richard Holder

The lively night, with delicious food and warm hospitality, was a true delight for everyone. A special thank you to PSG for making this beautiful event possible. SCA looks forward to welcoming even more father-daughter teams at the 2025 event.





love
you,
DAD



*"Behind Every Great Daughter
is a Truly Amazing Dad"*



A Voice For Dignity
and Respect



End of Year Mass

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By Kalaya Molina and
Aarushi Harjani

JUNE 20, 2024



Inspired by Faith

Celebrant

As the academic year draws to a close, the anticipation for Saint Catherine Academy's end-of-year Mass grows among us students and staff. We look forward to the chance to reflect on our journey, both the highs and the lows, and to end the year positively.

We were privileged to have **Father Jeremy**, a figure we all SCA girls deeply respect and admire, lead the Mass. His presence and guidance made the event memorable, beautiful, and succinct.

30th Anniversary

The class of **1994** commemorated their 30th anniversary at Saint Catherine Academy in conjunction with the year-end mass. They arrived wearing their anniversary T-shirts and assisted with portions of the mass. They also imparted some wise words to us mercy girls, words we will carry with us wherever we go. Following the mass, they were given a tour of the school by our own Student Council; the alumni gladly pointed out the things that had changed and remained the same. When the 1994 class saw their names on the wall of fame, they were overcome with gratitude. Let's say that they continued to celebrate after the celebration ended! Happy 30th anniversary to the beautiful class of 1994.





CONFERENCE OF MERCY STUDENT LEADERS

Contributor Mrs. Tara Castillo

June 16-19, 2024 | University of Detroit Mercy | Detroit, Michigan



We are thrilled to share the incredible experience our junior students had at the recent Mercy Education Conference of Student Leaders. From June 16–19, Amara Castillo, Hiam Safa, Kimaya Charley, Emma Solano, Brielle Parham, and Sabrina Landaverde, along with Mrs. Tara Castillo, represented our school at the University of Detroit Mercy.

During the four-day conference, our Mercy Girls had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Mercy and Catherine McAuley's mission. They explored the core values that guide our school community through engaging workshops and discussions.

One of the conference's highlights was planning advocacy projects for our school community. Our students worked collaboratively to identify areas where they could make a difference, such as promoting mental health awareness and sustainability, and develop initiatives to address those critical concerns. We are excited to see these projects' positive impact on our school and beyond.





Principled Leadership



In addition to advocacy work, our students also participated in service learning at a local Detroit organization sorting clothes, reading for kids, and organizing resources for their annual summer camp. This hands-on experience allowed them to apply their knowledge and skills to make a meaningful difference in the community.

Moreover, the conference allowed our students to gain unique insights and strategies, enhancing their individual leadership skills and setting personal growth goals. They learned to become effective leaders through various exercises and activities, marking a significant step in their development.

We are incredibly proud of Amera Castillo, Hiam Safa, Kimaya Charley, Emma Solano, Brielle Parham, and Sabrina Landaverde for their active participation and dedication during the Mercy Education Conference of Student Leaders. They represented our school with enthusiasm and exemplified the values we strive to instill in our Mercy girls.



SCA Summer Enrichment Program



Get ready for an action-packed summer at our summer program! Join us for a summer of fun, learning, and growth. Don't miss out on this opportunity to make new friends, learn valuable skills, and create unforgettable memories.

Our Program:

- **Mentorship and Guidance**
- Explore **Practical life skills**,
- Show off your football skills at our **Football camp**,
- Unleash your creativity with **Arts and crafts**
- Immerse yourself in **Conversational Spanish** and
- Build confidence with our **Public Speaking for Teens** course.



Apply now: \$50

223-4908



SCA website





Report CARDS



Date

We're pleased to announce that report cards for this academic year were issued on June 24, 2024, from 9:00am - 11:00am and available in the office up until 4:30pm.



Report cards provide valuable information about your academic progress and achievement in each subject area. It is an opportunity to find your strengths and areas for growth.

Receiving report cards can cause mixed emotions, so always remember to approach it positively:

- Celebrate your successes
- Review areas needing work
- Set goals for the next academic year



The National Honor Society (NHS) membership is a prestigious recognition designed to encourage students to achieve and maintain consistent academic excellence, demonstrate leadership qualities, model exemplary behavior, and serve the wider community.

NHS Membership Criteria:

- Academic Excellence
- Exemplary Behavior
- Community Service Hours

CATHERINE MCAULEY

FOUNDER OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY



"NO WORK OF CHARITY CAN BE MORE PRODUCTIVE OF GOOD TO SOCIETY THAN THE CAREFUL INSTRUCTION OF WOMEN."

CHAMPIONING MERCY VALUES!

We take a moment to appreciate and thank our teachers for their dedication to providing quality education despite the challenges. As Catherine Mcauley said, "No work of charity can be more productive of good to society than the careful instruction of women." This is especially relevant in recognizing the pivotal role of our educators in shaping society.

Saint Catherine Academy is committed to supporting the development and growth of Belize. Through targeted initiatives, SCA aims to enhance educational opportunities, promote gender equality in society, and empower the next generation of leaders, contributing to a more prosperous and inclusive Belize.

Let's honor our teachers and renew our commitment to supporting the noble cause of education.

We ask God for continued guidance and inspiration for educators everywhere, and may they always be appreciated and supported.





FEAST OF THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST



June 7, 2024

If we genuinely want to love God, we must be passionate about humanity and every human being, especially those who experience pain, abandonment, and rejection. The Sacred Heart of Jesus is made manifest in these conditions. **POPE FRANCIS**

Jesus Friday Contributed by Mrs. M. Magana

Jesus Friday, a new tradition at SCA, is a day of praise and worship. Students and teachers are encouraged to wear clothing depicting a spiritual message or quote and participate in adoration, devotion, and fellowship with Jesus.

SCA celebrated Jesus Friday for the first time since COVID-19 this year. Mr. Timmy Perez and Pastor Andre Bradley led the activities.

The students enjoyed singing, praising God, and listening to Pastor Andre Bradley and his wife's powerful testimony.



Inspired by Faith



Inspired
By Faith

SISTERS OF MERCY



Sister Mercy Cervantes

Written by Zazil Marin

Sister Mercy Cervantes knew from a very young age what her calling in life was. While attending a Catholic primary school, she already felt a strong connection with the Lord. During a Good Friday adoration at Saint Catherine Academy, while praying at the altar, she realized she was meant to become a nun.

After graduating, she decided to go to Rhode Island to study so she could enter the convent. She was scheduled to enter the convent on September 8, but due to falling ill, she had to delay her entry until September 24 (Mercy Day), after she had recovered.

Sister Mercy pursued her education and obtained her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Salve Regina in Rhode Island. She was then sent to La Ceiba, Honduras, to educate young children. There, she taught Math, Religion, and English and was also in charge of the school band. She taught in Honduras for eight years before returning to the USA to study for her Master's Degree in business education.

After studying for a year, she returned to Belize and taught for two years before receiving the principal title in 1975. She held this title for seven years before going to work at SJCJC.

Despite her challenges, Sister Mercy's story is one of perseverance and unwavering hope as she pursued her vocation.





SR. MERCY 101

Living life to the fullest- No Regrets

Many teenagers stray away from the things they're designed to achieve. Here are some tips from Sister Mercy Cervantes on living your life to the fullest while staying on the right track.



Inspired
By Faith

#1. STAY EDUCATED!



Put your Education FIRST

According to Sr. Mercy, education is the most important thing in your life. With education, you pave your career. Of course, as young people, there will still be room for responsible fun, but it is crucial to put your academic studies first.

Live your life WITHOUT Regrets

Sister Mercy states that in all her life, she has never regretted anything she's done. During our youth, we are born to have fun and take risks. It's okay to be around and make many friends, especially as girls; we tend to settle down a little too early. Do not settle just yet; they might not be "the one" for you. In life we should take everything with a grain of salt, in 10 years none of your petty arguments will matter. Forgiveness is essential to achieve the best version of yourself: a you without regrets.



#2. NO REGRETS!





PASSION PROJECT

BY: AKASHA MOLINA



SAINT CATHERINE ACADEMY

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Passion Project

EXPLORE
LEARN



SERVE
LIVE

Leave a Legacy!

What is Passion Project?

Passion Project helps students to explore their interests. At SCA, it is an activity held every summer for us to experience different things. Mrs. Castillo is the head moderator for this activity. Having a passion is important because it can lead you on the right path to finding your future career. This activity is a ten-day process. For ten days, you are to do your passion for at least an hour and film it. At the end of those ten days, you will have a 5-minute video summarizing what you did, with pictures, videos, and other graphics to make your video unique.

Rewards

Some things you can do for your passion include helping others, learning an instrument, learning a language, baking, crocheting, knitting, exercising, and much more. If you do a Passion Project for one year, you are rewarded with a pin, and after three years, you are rewarded with a red cord at graduation.



 *Championing Mercy Values*



"A good beginning is of great
IMPORTANCE."



INCOMING PARENTS' ORIENTATION AND DIAGNOSTIC TESTS



Voice For Dignity and Respect

What new Mercy Parents want to hear about SCA starting their daughter's four-year journey.



On the morning of June 22, our new Mercy parents were the special guests. They were invited to listen to our school community, ask questions, familiarize themselves with our Mission and Vision, and buy SCA merchandise for their daughters. More importantly, they were there to commit and pledge to play an essential role in this journey. This event was a resounding success, with almost 100% parental attendance. What an exciting way to start this fantastic journey with our parents at the forefront!

While parents listened attentively, our new Mercy girls actively participated by completing Math and English Diagnostic Tests. These tests will assist our administration and faculty in evaluating their foundations from their respective primary schools.

This day would not have been possible without the Blessings of Our Heavenly Father, the administration, Staff and Faculty, students and Parent Support Group members (PSG).

DAY'S SPOTLIGHT

"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."

Jane D. Hull

MERCY CHARISM

STUDENTS' OPPORTUNITIES

STUDENT AND PARENTS' EXPECTATIONS

PARENT-CHILD COLLABORATIONS

ACADEMICS

INVITATION TO PSG





We are thankful and grateful for a successful year 2023-2024 and looking forward for the new academic school year 2024-2025.

WHAT'S NEXT?



*The Family
that prays together,
Stays
Together.*

An illustration of two hands clasped in prayer, rendered in a realistic, slightly textured style.

Reminders:

- Pray
- Use social media responsibly
- Take care of the earth
- Be kind and of service to others
- Be respectful
- Exercise and eat healthy

Upcoming Dates

- July 1-19- Summer school
- July- Registration
- July 1- Bookstore (First Form)
- July 2- Bookstore (Second Form)
- July 3- Bookstore (Third Form)
- July 4- Bookstore (Fourth Form)
- July 5, 8-11 - All Forms
- August 23- Freshmen Orientation
- August 26- Classes Resume





Newsletter Team

April, May, June

2024

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Zazil Marin

Zalia Flowers



CONTRIBUTING JOURNALISTS

Aarushi Harjani

Akasha Molina

Brinyce Richardson

Kalaya Molina



Kyeldani Pott

Marcella Vidal

Rihanna Tucker

Zalia Flowers

Zazil Marin

EDITORS

Zazil Marin

Zalia Flowers



#mercygirlsrock

THE NEWSLETTER TEAM
THANKS YOU FOR THE
OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE YOUR
OUTSTANDING WORK WITH
OUR SCA COMMUNITY!

