



Crusaders Today

Year 1, Issue 2

Tuesday, September 12

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STS Students moving on up

Change is always a major part in our lives, and school is no exception. Every year, students wonder how their new teachers and classes will be, anticipating the whole year with giddy excitement. The most special changes students go through are the transitions in their academic lifetime, from pre-k and kindergarten to elementary school, elementary to middle school, and from middle to high school.

To begin, Dylan Stewart is a Pre-K 3 student, and after being a bit nervous opening up, he finally revealed that the change from being at home and going to school is quite cool. Dylan's favorite part about Pre-K is listening although he does admit he misses his baby brother back at home.

First grade is also a big milestone for students because to many, this is the official start of elementary school. By now, students have learned to read and are beginning to do work that challenges them. Gavin Peters was chosen to represent his class, and states that the biggest difference between kindergarten and first grade is that fact that his class is able to go to a different part outside of the school to enjoy recess. He likes this better than the "kindergarten outside" because he and his friends like to pretend the jungle gym is a castle. Gavin's favorite part about first grade is the reading groups, because he loves to read.

After years of diligence and new challenges, students finally hit the middle school milestone. The sixth grade was interviewed as a group, and the girls agreed that elementary school was most definitely easier than the classes they are

taking now. One of the girls, Carter Mallow, personally described her sixth grade year so far. She states that now, "the days go by real fast... [and] you have to move around a lot," concluding that the biggest difference in middle school is changing classes. Carter also went into detail when asked about new freedoms she received in middle school, describing the way the buddy system worked in elementary school, and how teachers would monitor their students during trips outside the classroom. She enjoys the fact that now, "You have more freedom where you can just go by yourself and do stuff by yourself." Abby Hatcher was also interviewed and mentioned that her favorite part about middle school is switching classes, while Carter gushed about getting to dissect different specimens. Both girls believed that the workload and level of difficulty is not that different from their elementary school years. In the end, all of the girls in the sixth grade admitted that what they missed the most from last year was being on top of the rest.

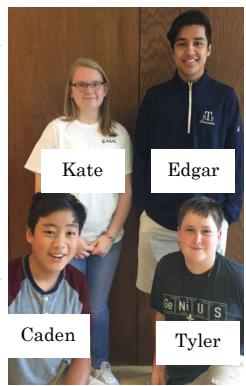
In three years, these girls will finally reach the epitome of school, and one of the most important milestones not only in their education, but their lives as well. High school is a time made for finding yourself, and finally getting focused on the track to college. This is the first year St. Teresa's is offering high school education, and so far it has turned out to be a success. Four freshman students who were enrolled in the school last year volunteered to join the interview. Edgar Rangel, Kate Basko, Tyler Hatcher, and Caden Woodcock took turns in describing what their perspec-

tive was over the new changes they have encountered.

The students all started by sharing what they believed the biggest differences were. All of them agreed that the difficulty of the classes and the new amount of freedoms they had were the main differences. Kate specified that the mature manner the students are treated in is also a change from last year. Though Edgar and Kate did not really miss anything from last year, Caden and Tyler did mention that the things they missed were recess and an earlier lunch time. In the end, the four students are hopeful to see what high school brings to them in the following years, especially new sports opportunities, new friends, college planning, and of course, graduation.

As time progresses, the most beautiful thing to see is when a student blooms in his or her education, and begins to develop more understanding of the world around them.

Teachers and parents alike agree that the benefit from their child's education is priceless, for it propels them forward to whatever career they choose to follow. With the blessing of God, all of the teachers are positive that when students graduate from Saint Teresa's School, they will have learned and have gained all the tools necessary to lead a successful life in Christ's footsteps.



Article
by Emily
Meneses



ASU vs. Darton

Now that Saint Teresa's has a high school, students are already looking ahead toward the next step in their educational journey: college. One of the hot topics in Albany in terms of higher education is the recent merger between Albany State University and Darton College. The journalism class had the opportunity to interview two students and one professor to ascertain their reactions to the merger and its results, both positive and negative.

The first student interviewed chose to remain anonymous, and will be referred to (for the purposes of this article) as Emily. The interview started off by asking her what her reaction was when ASU wanted to merge with Darton to become the ASU West Campus. She replied saying, "Confused. I wasn't particularly positive or negative. It was just surprise." The next question that was asked was what was the best thing since the merger. Emily didn't have much to say

about that, but she did mention that security has improved. Next up, Emily talked about how students had difficulties getting textbooks, logging on online classes, and getting their programs to work. The last thing Emily said was she enjoyed both schools.

Another student also spoke about the merging of the two colleges. Abi Rangel, a second year dual-enrollment student, tells about the way the change has not only affected her, but her peers as well. At first, Rangel took a rather nonchalant stance towards the merger, noting that "at first, it didn't matter," but after a while, she began to worry about not obtaining enough credits. She also admitted her fears about not passing her classes, even if she had worked diligently all semester.

From her viewpoint, Rangel determined her classmates were drowning in fears similar to hers, as well as another thing: financial aid. Many students from Albany State "were used to problems with financial aid," but after the merger, the prob-

lems stretched to former Darton students too. Rangel believes that is a downside, but it is not all that bad. She explained that a couple of benefits included the facts that "both schools have added career options, and have expanded some of the degrees."

She also mentions the fact that many of her professors have left because "they didn't have enough students to teach," which is further explained by a former Darton professor, currently teaching for ASU.

A professor, preferring to remain anonymous, has been educating students for almost two decades and had much to say about the change that was brought upon not only him, but his colleagues and students as well. "Can it be an expression? Because it would be: *gasps*" He continued to describe his initial reaction, implying the fact that he nor his colleagues were ready for the announcement, though the idea has been tossed around for years. This time around though, not much protesting surfaced, he suggests.

Our Phenomenal Principal

Our brilliant principal who makes all the wonderful things happen at the school is Mrs. Susie Hatcher. She was born in Ohio on October 20th. As a child, Mrs. Hatcher moved to Kentucky. She went to high school and started college in Kentucky, married and finished her degree at Georgia Southwestern. Mrs. Hatcher came to St. Teresa's in 2001, and she taught for many years. Over three summers while she was teaching, Mrs. Hatcher got her Master's Degree at the University of Notre Dame. Finally, she became the principal here at St. Teresa's, and the rest is history.

She has been a principal at St. Teresa's for three years. Before that, Mrs. Hatcher taught middle school at St. Teresa's for 13 years. She taught math and science. St.

Teresa's is the only school Mrs. Hatcher has taught at. She has been Catholic her whole life and attended a Catholic school herself from 1st to 12th grade.

Mrs. Hatcher loved teaching science and math for middle school. The experience of teaching middle school allowed her to better understand children and be a better principal. Mrs. Hatcher, along with Father Ray, our wonderful pastor, was one of the driving forces to get the high school up and running. She spent countless hours at the school over the summer preparing for the students to come at the end of the summer. She is very happy to be the principal of such a wonderful school and all the amazing students who come every day and work their hardest.

Mrs. Hatcher also loves

doing things outside of school. She loves watching sports, especially Notre Dame football. Mrs. Hatcher also loves to shop. Finally, she loves sweets, and she likes to eat at El Vaquero.

The entire student body and school staff wish her good luck in all her endeavors this school year.

Article by Tyler Hatcher



Teacher Feature! New Kindergarten teacher after 35 years!

St. Teresa's School is going to have a fresh new start by having its first Kindergarten Teacher after 35 years! The interview with Mrs. Maas started by asking her what made her want to teach early childhood. Mrs. Maas said, "I enjoy little people, and their eagerness to learn." The interview continued by asking Mrs. Maas if she was excited for this year and what she was most excited to do with the children. Mrs. Maas hopes to get the children past the year. She also hopes to get the children to not struggle with reading and to understand the concept of reading. Mrs. Maas has had a few experiences teaching before, and she is very excited to teach at STS.

Mrs. Maas was asked if she was nervous about anything, and she said how she was nervous

about the kids not being able to read and understand it. Mrs. Maas hopes they take it as a fun learning experience and not dread reading. Mrs. Maas was asked if she was nervous about being the first Kindergarten Teacher after 35 years. Mrs. Maas said, "Yes!" She hopes she can be an awesome new teacher, and hopes to start a fresh start for the Kindergarten program.

Another question was asked about if she enjoys being the assistant or lead teacher. Mrs. Maas went on saying she likes taking the role of lead teacher. The aspect Mrs. Maas does not enjoy the most is the responsibility. "Mrs. Andrews (the previous kindergarten teacher) was so very good to make sure everything was ready to roll." Mrs. Maas was asked what she likes the most about teaching at STS, Mrs. Maas

replied, "It was so special that I shape their academics but I was also teaching them about Jesus." We all hope Mrs. Maas has an awesome year and a great experience being the lead Kindergarten Teacher.

Article by Kate Basko



New Lunch Ladies are Ready to Cook!

This year, we have two new ladies running the school kitchen. The first lady is Ms. Shenita Parks. She has spent over thirty years in the kitchen, offering her food expertise at places such as Subway, Burger King, and Dunkin Donuts. The other lady is Ms. Krystopher Scott-Tucker. She admits that she has not has much experience with cooking/serving, but she loves serving food to children. They both said that their favorite meal to cook is spaghetti.

Ms. Shenita Parks is very happy to be at STS. She states that she chose to cook at St. Teresa's because of the great Christian environment. Ms. Parks also mentioned that she loves the children, and that her favorite

part of cooking at St. Teresa's is learning what food the children like and making it for them. Ms. Parks states that the thing that first got her into cooking was just loving to cook. She says that at restaurants she has worked before, the thing that annoyed her the most was when people would order food a certain way, but then would turn around and say they did not order it that way.

Ms. Krystopher Scott-Tucker is loving serving the children lunch at St. Teresa's so far. Before coming to STS, she worked at Dunkin Donuts. She said the thing that people did that annoyed her the most was come in with a bad attitude. "How could you be in a bad mood? You are getting donuts!" she said. She also said

she wanted to come because of the Christian environment. She says her favorite part is serving the little children, and she likes to cook because food makes people happy, and that is what she likes to do.

We are thankful that they came to St. Teresa's, and we wish them luck in all of their cooking this school year.



Ms. Krys

Ms. Shenita

ASU vs. Darton (Continued from page 2)

"This idea had been fought against by all interested parties so vehemently that I really didn't think it was going to happen," and now, what all thought was impossible suddenly became a reality. At first, the reason the merger happened smoothly and quickly was the fact "[Albany State and Darton] may have known about it for a long time, but they kind of tossed it onto the schools and city."

In the professor's opinion, this was a bombshell that soon morphed into a nightmare for some of his co-workers. A concept known as rightsizing was put to the test. Enrollment rates began to drop, and classes began to shrink. Teachers began to have only three students in their class, or none at all. Entire programs were eliminated from the college's list of offered careers. All of these events led to the laying-off of several professors from both schools. Many others also joined the exodus

before their own fate matched to that of their colleagues.

The professor we interviewed did relent to the fact that the merger did have an upside. "It got a lot of people talking who were not talking previously," Hinting at the way Darton and ASU were seen as "fierce competitors" and kept their educational secrets closely guarded from each other. Since the merger, professors have been teaming together in order to develop new and more efficient ways to educate their students.

In his honesty, the professor gave a piece of advice to those who reign above his power: "Learn to look at the big picture." The schools have been viewing this detail by detail, fixing the smaller issues before realizing that will lead to an even bigger issue. By addressing the obstacles as they come, they had no time to stop and think how this will benefit in the long run. Instead, they

chose what would benefit them at the moment. Both Abi and Emily implied that this was the major issue with the merger. If it would have been planned out more thoughtfully, the aftermath would not have been as bad.

In the end, both schools do provide a great opportunity for quality post-secondary education, especially for students willing to stay in their hometown and non-traditional students. Now, ASU must continue in its new educational and economical endeavor and heed to the suggestions from their professors and students, hopefully leading the school to success.



Crusaders' Concerns

How should I tell a boy that I like him? ~ Crushing Crusader

Do you have a special thank you, or a shout-out? Be sure to write it down, and drop it in the Happy Place Box in the front office!

Do you have a question about life, or do you need advice about something that is bothering you? Put your question in the Crusaders' Concerns box in the front office, and then look for an answer in our next issue!

Dear Crushing,

There was a lot of debate around the journalism table about the best way to answer your question. The boys argued that it's not a girl's job to ask the boy out; that responsibility should be the

boy's.

That prompted a debate about feminism, and how much progress we've made in our society in terms of women's rights, but that doesn't do much to answer your question.

The main suggestion that everyone agreed on was: be upfront, open, and honest. This works best if you are friends first, and it goes without saying that you need permission from your parents before you even think about starting to date!

One recommendation was to say "I've been thinking about you for a while, and I really like you. I don't know if you feel the same way, but I wanted to let you know." However, that takes an awful lot of bravery!

Another recommendation was to text someone because that way, if he says no, you're not embarrassed in person. A downside

to that is that texting doesn't do a good job of showing your emotion. No matter how many emojis you use, it's really impossible to figure out the tone of voice and body language.

One thing everyone agrees on is that you should not, under any circumstances, send a friend over to talk to your crush for you. While that might work in elementary school, by the time you're old enough to date, you're too old for that strategy. If you don't like the boy enough to talk to him directly, you shouldn't be dating him.

I hope this helps, and we wish you the best of luck!

Sincerely,

~ Your Journalism Team



Video Game Review—Kingdom Hearts Union Crossed (mobile game)

Kingdom Hearts Union Crossed (formerly *Kingdom Hearts*) is the heartless scourge. These planets each represent a famous Disney property: Deep Jungle represents *Tarzan*, that acts as the next installment of Halloween Town represents the long running *Kingdom Hearts* Franchise. Originally released for PlayStation 2 in 2002, *Kingdom Hearts* was the brainchild of Disney and gaming giant Square Enix. What resulted was a franchise with new releases almost yearly- and a gaming app that has well over a million users and is updated bi-monthly.

The game's plot revolves around the main character, Sora, who is a unique character created solely for *Kingdom Hearts*. Sora is tasked with going from planet to planet and ridding worlds of a darkness known as the Heartless. Sora is able to perform these tasks thanks to the magic of the Keyblade- a weapon of light created to counteract

the heartless scourge. These planets each represent a famous Disney property: Deep Jungle represents *Tarzan*, that acts as the next installment of Halloween Town represents the long running *Kingdom Hearts* Franchise. Originally released for PlayStation 2 in 2002, *Kingdom Hearts* was the brainchild of Disney and gaming giant Square Enix. What resulted was a franchise with new releases almost yearly- and a gaming app that has well over a million users and is updated bi-monthly.

With the success of the first game, the adventures of Sora, Donald, and Goofy were allowed to continue through an ever-expanding series of games. *Kingdom Hearts Union Crossed* is an online multiplayer cell phone rpg that acts as a prequel to the *Kingdom Hearts* franchise. In a

world before Sora, many young and eager people find themselves able to use the Keyblade as a tool for fighting the (currently) minor threat of the Heartless. With a basic but clever character creation system, you are able to create your own Keyblade wielder with your own unique style and fight in a group of up to 30 people from all over the world to earn light for your team and explore the worlds of Disney as presented through the ever expanding environment created by *Kingdom Hearts*.

Guest Contributor Katie Bernhardt



Book Review—Hunter

Mercedes Lackey's *Apex* was released on September 5th of this year, the third installment in her *Hunter* trilogy. Published by Disney Hyperion, this is prolific Lackey's first foray into young adult dystopian fiction, a genre that has received incredible interest since the success of Suzanne Collins's *Hunger Games* trilogy released in 2008-2010.

In this particular series, main character Joyeaux Charmand leaves her mountain home to become a Hunter, one of those gifted with the magic to call forth the Hounds

from the Otherside. Hounds look different for each Hunter, but all of them share a common goal: help defend the human settlement against the enemy Othersiders, magical creatures from myths and stories whose goal is to attack and kill as many humans as possible.

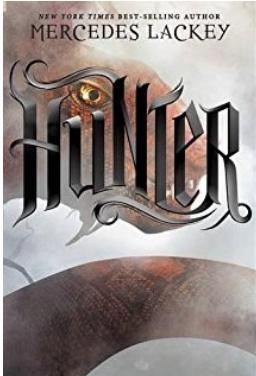
No one is quite sure what caused the Diseray, but now the citizens of the city of Apex depend on their team of Hunters to defend against vampires, goblins, naga, gremlins, and more horrific creatures from mythologies across the world. Hunters are treated like rock stars, with every hunt video recorded and sent out to fans throughout the Apex territories. They work with the army, as well as the Psimons (mind-readers) to keep citizens safe from the Othersiders in this almost superhero-esque story.

Note: Some characters speak about (and to) Christians

with scorn and disdain, but one of the main characters is a Christian and is characterized well.

Mercedes Lackey is generally famous for her fantasy, including her two different fairy tale series: *500 Kingdoms* (a series of mixed up fairy tales with Fairy Godmothers watching over everyone) and *Elemental Masters* (retold fairy tales set in a magical parallel to the WWI time period). She has also written more than thirty books in the *Valdemar* series, which are famous for their extensive fantasy world-building. While her *Hunter* trilogy is recommended for middle school and above, her fantasy series are meant for high school and above. Of course, precocious middle schoolers might enjoy her first Valdemar trilogy, *The Queen's Own*, which has been one of my personal favorites for years!

Review by Miss Bernhardt



Hurricane Harvey Dress Down Day

The STS journalism class begins each day by discussing the latest news (before setting to work on the newspaper you see before you). Of course, the big topic in the news recently has been the hurricanes devastating the area.

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, the journalism class brainstormed an idea in order to provide help to those affected in the Houston/Galveston area. Ideas were tossed and turned: a bake sale, a car wash, and finally - a dress down day! At a cost of \$5, students and teachers could participate in this fundraiser to help those currently in dire need. The plan was to get as many students as possible interested in the first free-

dress day of the year, as well as inform parents about this fundraiser.

Of course, the STS dress code was to be followed. According to the handbook, students are expected to dress neatly and in good taste.

The proceeds of this fundraiser are going to Catholic Charities, as well as the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Together as a school, we can help Houston by donating money to others in need. In fact, we raised over \$650!

Now, following the devastation Hurricane Irma left behind, we are planning to talk another fundraiser soon. The most affected are essentially our neighbors, and we should not be afraid to extend our

hand to help those who are nearest to us. Together we can make a difference if we put all our hands together and work as a team we can make the world a better place for everyone.

By Caden Woodcock



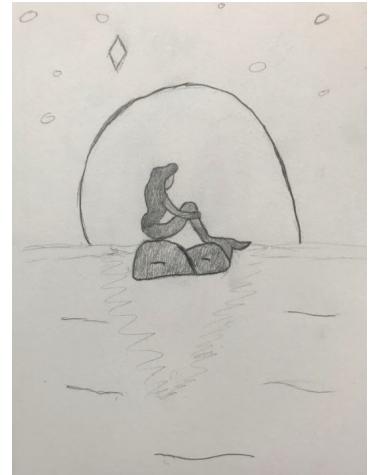
Mrs. Demott's 2nd Grade Class

Featured Artwork—Elementary and Middle



Pre-K Collaborative Fingerpainting

Have an idea for a comic strip? Come see Ms. Bernhardt, or email it to CrusadersToday@gmail.com



Valeria B., Grade 7

What's your favorite cafeteria lunch?

Poll by Khaaliq Bradshaw

Pizza	22	French Fries	4	Corn Dog (1) Hotdog (1)	2
Chicken Nuggets	18	Spaghetti (2) Pasta (2)	4	Fish	1
Macaroni	11	Fruit	3	Mashed Potatoes	1
Cherry Blossom Chicken	5	Nachos	3	Sandwich	1
Hamburger	5	Baked Chicken	2	Other	1
Tater Tots	5	Dumplings	2	Total Student Responses	90



El Vaquero is a Mexican restaurant located in northwest Albany, at 2700 Dawson Rd. The restaurant has loads of appetizing food and offers a variety of drinks. The bright decoration, filled with native artifacts, allows for the customers to fully embrace the Mexican culture.



The Saint Teresa's High School journalism class took a moment to dine there and reviewed on how the food appealed to them and how their experience was. The occasion was successful, and the students enjoyed it with an abundance of food and great memories.

When I first walked in, what struck me the most was the decorations and the great smelling food. Something that surprised me was the quietness of the place. It was not a complete silence, but a bubble of pleasant conversations. Entering further, the helpful manner of the hostess was excellent, and the waitress was extremely welcoming and showed a lot of hospitality.

I sat with the rest of the Journalism staff, for Miss Bernhardt already reserved the table, though she and her mother, Mrs. Bernhardt, sat at an adjacent table. An appetizer of chips and salsa were waiting for me. In all honesty, the chips seemed stale,

and most of our tablemates agreed that they lacked taste.

Afterwards, the waitress tended to me, asking to choose my drink. Moments later, everyone had received their drinks, and she proceeded to take the team's orders.

My take on the steak burrito was that it was really good and cheesy, and the rice definitely complemented the burrito though it was a bit sticky. Overall, it was okay, but it could have been better because the steak was a little overcooked, giving it a real, beef jerky-like feel.

Even though Khaaliq ordered something completely different from me, he did agree that the pieces of steak from his fajitas were chewy and tough, saying that he was not a fan of the dish. If he had to choose one thing he enjoyed from this experience was the chips.

Emily and JeanCarlo disagreed with Khaaliq because they thought the chips were not the highlight of their order. JeanCarlo said that the chips were a bit bland, and his sister agreed, though she said that the warmth from them being baked was a good touch.

Kate decided that her soft taco was pretty good, and believed that the cheese sauce had a satisfying creamy flavor that she definitely enjoyed with not only her chips, but her taco as well.

Miss Bernhardt did not have her burrito or enchilada with cheese (she cannot have

cheese with meat), and the first thing she deduced was the fact her dish needed cheese. She believed that the burrito was the best, and enjoyed the sauce. Moving on to the enchilada, she simply said that she was not a fan of the corn tortilla, compared to the tortilla to her soft taco, which to her was very fresh.

Her mother, Mrs. Bernhardt, joined her daughter with the positive commentary, concluding that her entree was very delicious. She loved the fact her chimichanga was deep fried, allowing for a crunch that was excellently complimented by the creamy cheese dip spread on top. She was also satisfied with the prompt and accurate service.

Overall, the Saint Teresa's High School Journalism class really enjoyed their time together at the restaurant. We would definitely go here again because it was loads of fun and we enjoyed the food, decorations, and the friendship. We also would also like to tell Ms. Bernhardt thank you for allowing us to have such a enjoyable time with our journalism class.

By Caden Woodcock



Upcoming Events

Monday, 9/11–Friday, 9/15—
Book Fair

Friday, September 15—
Grandparent's Day

Sunday, September 24—
International Food Festival



What's for lunch?

Lunch information is
subject to change!

Wed. 9/13	Thur. 9/14	Fri. 9/15	Mon. 9/18	Tue. 9/19
Baked Potato with Cheese, Green Beans, Applesauce, Hush Puppies	Red Beans & Sausage, Peaches, Rice, Dessert	Pancakes, Tater Tots, Veggie Fries, Pineapples	Stuffed Cabbage Roll, Breadstick, Black-eyed Peas, Tropical Fruit	Chicken Bacon Ranch Pizza, Broccoli and Carrots, Breadsticks, Oranges
Wed. 9/20	Thur. 9/21	Fri. 9/22	Mon. 9/25	Tue. 9/26
Breakfast Burrito, Cheese Grits, Veggie Fries,	Pork Eggroll, Rice, Broccoli,	Alfredo Noodles, Broccoli, Yeast Roll,	Turkey Breast, Sweet Potato Casserole, Cornbread Dressing,	French Toast Sticks, Sweet Potato Tots, Cheese Grits,

Check out our next issue of Crusaders Today (to be released on 9/26) for more information!



Emily's Editorial—Modern Music Influences Young Minds

Music. Every culture in the world finds a way to allow music to influence their lives. Different nationalities, ethnicities, and religions, all have embraced the power of music to provide a unique identity. When we hear the term modern music, what exactly do we think about? Do we think about the beats, and the way the music flows from the speakers to our souls, or do we think about the lyrics, and how they create a tremor in our minds?

I believe music is the fuel for one's soul, and without it, we are not truly living. Sometimes though, music is created for evil purposes that try to clamor to society and bring fellow members down. I think this type of music defeats the purpose of being an influential, as well as joyous part of society. This is especially true for minors, for they are the ones taking the most of the influence from the music they listen to. The reason I say this is because I have experienced it personally, from those close to me.

Back in the 20th century, music was relatively simple, for artists relied on the instrumental part of their songs (and of course, that music was live) and sang about love, happiness, growing up, etc.

Now, stars sing about topics far

beyond appropriate for minors. Artists like Lil Uzi Vert and XXXtentacion have recently made their debuts on the rap/hip hop scene, but how exactly did they reach their fame?

Uzi and Tentacion rap about drug abuse (overdose even), violence, and also objectify women in their songs. Their audience? Mostly teenagers and people in their early twenties.

This is what our society lacks today: moderation. Most parents are not even aware their children listen to music full of all types of profanity, imagery full of inappropriate acts, the boasting of wealth and riches, and the advertising of liquor and drugs.

Music with explicit content was intended for older audiences, yet minors still invest their time (and some even money) in this music. How so? The influence comes from older siblings, friends, or even parents.

Parents, need to know what is suitable for their children's ears, and what is not. It is always at their discretion on how they want their child to view the world. Some may want to give their kids a reality check, right now, today. Others want to wait, for they think either child is too pure for some of the evils of the world.

Either way, parents need to see how old their child is, and give them material that is made for their age. Many kids today tend to get carried away by the spoils of life, and are easily influenced by their friends to jump in the bandwagon. Teaching a child to follow their own beliefs and morals will certainly help them in the future as they become adults.

Even after all has been said, music, of all types, is a part of our culture. As Americans, we should be open to embrace the culture of others, for our country is full of diversity. Our cultures do not blend or bleed into each other, but rather they complement each other, much like a tossed salad. Without one of the ingredients, the salad would not complete, yet if we keep adding ingredients, we would make the salad even better.

That is what we need as a society, unity. We must open our hearts and minds to our brothers and sisters, for God is not only our Father, but theirs as well. As my mother has always told me, singing to the joy of the Lord counts as twice your prayer. We, being God's children, should sound music in his name, and sound it in such a manner that we can be united as one people.