

EDITORIAL  
POLICY

The Gleaner is a student newspaper published of Wahlert Catholic High School 2005 Kane Street, Dubuque, IA 52001

Its purpose is to inform, educate and entertain the student body; to provide an educational opportunity for those who produce it; and to provide an appropriate forum for student expression.

The Gleaner will not publish material deemed invasive, libelous, obscene, likely to cause material and substantial disruption of school or in violation of copyright laws. An article's accuracy is the responsibility of its author.

The Gleaner welcomes input in the form of letters to the editor. They must be signed and consist of no more than 200 words on a topic pertaining to the Wahlert community.

The editors reserve the right to remove prohibited content and to edit for clarity and length, not meaning.

Check out our social media accounts and podcast:

Twitter:  
@WCHS\_gleaner

Instagram:  
gleaner\_wchs

Podcast:  
WCHS: the Gleaner podcast

## STAFF

## Editors

Lilah Takes  
Izzy Ungs

## Associate Editors

Josh Chapman  
Michael Spahn  
Ana Rivera

## Second Year Staff

Logan Trifone  
Isabella Park  
Grace Stelpflug

## First Year Staff

Julia Vique Altes  
Emillia Borelli  
Mia Brooner  
Ash Carrick  
Annie Elbert  
Hannah Hartman  
Penny Kelly  
Claire King  
Erin King  
Alyssa Kirby  
Leah Park  
Camryn Theisen

## Adviser

Ms. Sandra Gaul

## Shining a spotlight on diversity

By Ana Rivera  
*Of the Gleaner*

For most students, the month of October is a time for ghosts and costumes, but, for others, it has a different significance. Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month. It is a time to celebrate the history and culture of those who come from Spanish-speaking countries. This includes many students and faculty.

While most Hispanic students don't do anything to celebrate, they still acknowledge its significance. "I don't really celebrate it [Hispanic Heritage Month]. I just live it," said Fernando Moran, '26.

Liliana Marrero-O'Hea, '23, has a similar view.

"I don't celebrate it, but I feel like it's a good time that's been set aside for those who have a different heritage," said Marrero-O'hea, '23. Marrero-O'Hea's father is originally from Puerto Rico.

Hispanic Heritage Month is also a time to



## La Catrina

Sofia Meza, '24, poses for her quinceañera photos.

recognize some struggles those who celebrate face. One is a lack of diversity at Wahlert. "There's very little diversity," said Moran.

Isabella Park, '25, agrees. "Over the years it's gotten easier, but I was the only non-white kid in my grade up till third grade, so it was hard to relate to people at school," said Park, whose mother is originally from Mexico.

Another student recalled when they were younger being highlighted in several Holy Family advertisements. They felt they were being used in an effort to reflect diversity.

Numerous countries fall under the name Hispanic, each having their own traditions and unique cultures. One thing that binds them all together is the universal language

they share, Spanish.

Sofia Meza, '24, whose family is originally from Guanajuato, Mexico, grew up speaking only Spanish in her household.

"I love the riches of my culture whether it's food, music, clothes, or the styles of cooking we pass along. Spanish is my first language, and I really cherish that by continuing to speak it in my everyday life," said Meza.

## No longer cooking something up

By Leah Park  
*Of the Gleaner*

It wouldn't be outrageous to assume many high schoolers lack cooking skills. In previous years, culinary arts was offered as a class here. Now that culinary arts is no longer offered, some students and teachers feel as if they are missing out on something special.

"It's frustrating to me that culinary arts is not a class because I think it's a good class to have. I think it's important because some students don't know how to cook and how to work their way around a kitchen. Culinary arts is a life skill that should be taught," said Hanna Huntington, '24.

Wahlert should not only train students for academic success in the future, but also in life. Leaving high school with the knowledge of being able to cook a meal is one of the first steps toward independence. If Wahlert is not offering to teach this



## The kitchen of desks

Wahlert's former culinary arts room has been replaced with Mr. Tim Ehrmann's new classroom.

first step out into the world, many students must either teach themselves, which is time-consuming in their busy teenage lives, or just go through high school never getting the hands-on experience they need.

Mrs. Becky Varley agrees. "There are a lot of key skills that you can get from Youtube, but I think would get better if it were actually in a class," said Varley. "Having somebody there to guide you... for

instance to tell you why this dish, this vegetable should be cooked like this, why this vegetable should be cooked like that. Not just throwing things in the pan or the microwave, and it comes out finished. There is some background to cooking in why things are done this way."

Even the students who have taken culinary arts think that it should be brought back. Cecilia Jones, '23, took Culinary Arts

and loved the experience. "I liked Culinary Arts a lot. It felt like a break between a lot of normal classes that you would have, but you still learn stuff," said Jones. "When I saw it wasn't a class, I was kind of disappointed."

With so many students disappointed in not being able to learn through the school, solutions to this problem must be offered by students. So far, solutions include finding a new Culinary Arts teacher, turning Culinary Arts into a home ec class, or creating a cooking club. However, the issue with creating a club is that students would have to take time out of school to come and learn because Eagle Time does not offer enough time.

All in all, students and teachers miss cooking and want to do something about it.

"I think they should bring culinary back and teach people how to cook. It's an important skill," said Colin Cronin, '23.