

# TATTOOS

## Positive Inking

God, grant me the serenity  
 To accept the things I cannot change,  
 Courage to change the things I can,  
 and wisdom to know the difference.



### Liz Prosser

She looks down at her hands, reading the various reminders she'd scrawled there earlier that day. "Texas homework." "Buy Usher tickets." "Change oil." Across her wrist her friend had drawn a flower. As the week progresses, these reminders and drawings being to fade, and wash off completely. But, what if she couldn't get rid of these marks?

Sometimes considered a symbol of teenage rebellion, tattoos can carry a negative connotation. However, a portion of Marian students have opted to get "inked" for many different reasons.

Junior Annie Loveless is one of these students, leaving a permanent mark on herself this past winter.

As Loveless lay on the cushioned table awaiting the inevitable pain that would come from one tiny needle, her anticipation spiked. She didn't know what to expect; all she knew was that it would hurt. The artist started up his machine, and the buzzing needle rang in Loveless's ears, mimicking the sound of a hundred bees swarming in unison. Her nerves started to kick in. She took one last deep breath and braced herself for the pain.

Loveless recently went under the needle to commemorate the death of her father. Although she would legally have to wait until she turned 18, Loveless got permission from her mom to get it earlier. On Dec. 28, Loveless walked into Authentic Ink with her mom and a close friend to get tattooed in remembrance of her father.

"It was a Christmas present from my mom," Loveless said. "I thought it would show how much I love him. He meant and still means so much to me, and it is in respect towards him."

Loveless is very pleased with the way her tattoo turned out and thinks she will most likely get more in the future, despite the pain. Her father's memory is now forever a part of her right hip in the form of a pink heart with "Dad" written in calligraphy above it.

Although getting tattoos in remembrance of a loved one seems to be a very popular decision, some decide to get tattooed because they want to mark themselves with a memory of something meaningful.

Junior Abby Diaz has a tattoo of a smiling sun on her right shoulder blade. "I got it because I love the sun and summer time, and it makes me happy when I'm sad. It was a birthday present from my mom," Diaz said. She got her tattoo on Dec. 15 when she turned 17. Accompanied by her mom and sister, Abby walked in to Dr. Jack's tattoo parlor.

Aside from the happiness that is associated with Abby's and many other's tattoos, one downside of the process is the pain. "It did hurt when I got [the tattoo] mostly because it has color, and color hurts worse. The pain was really annoying.

Imagine someone drawing on you with a pen in the same spot over and over again for about 45 minutes," Diaz explained.

Despite the pain, she does not regret it at all. "Personally, I think it was definitely worth it. It actually hurt a lot less than I anticipated. When [the tattoo artist] was done, he told me to look at it, and I passed out."

Not only are teens getting tattoos, but older generations also embrace the trend as well. Girls may not know it, but a few faculty members sport

tattoos of their own. Social studies teacher Mrs. Kim Remmick has opted to permanently mark herself. Remmick received her first tattoo when she was 30 years old. The zodiac signs of Aries, Taurus, Gemini and Leo sit on her ankle representing each member of her family: her daughter, son and husband. She decided to get the tattoo right after her daughter was born.

Remmick also has a ladybug on her shoulder to represent good luck. "I do plan on getting more, one for my mom and one for my dad who passed away. But, I will wait a little longer since my mom is still sensitive to the topic."

She said she has absolutely no regrets about deciding to get a tattoo, and it has never been a problem with her career. "I was 30 when I decided to get a tattoo; so, my career was pretty secure by that point," Remmick said.

Marian's official policy on body art is that the piece cannot be visible. However, if it is, students are asked to cover it up. Dean of Discipline, Ms. Ronda Motykowski, explained that it has never been a large issue when girls come to school with tattoos or piercings. "As long as it doesn't deter from the learning environment, students are simply asked to take them out or cover them up," Motykowski said. "If they choose to ignore this precaution, one point will be issued each time it is seen. We understand that many girls choose to get tattoos in remembrance of loved ones, and we don't want to take away from the meaning of that."

Dean of Students at Creighton Prep, Mr. Joe Ryberg, explained that Prep has a similar policy regarding tattoos, piercings and types of jewelry or accessories connected to illegal, inappropriate or unconventional behavior.

Duchesne's policy coincides with both Marian and Prep's policies. The tattoo cannot be visible during the school day or during any extra curricular activities, according to Dean of Students, Ms. Martha Heck.

When other Catholic high school students were asked about their schools' policies, some were not sure what their policies were. As of now, Skutt has no written policy in their handbook but may be implementing one in the coming school year due to the increasing need for one.

Like Skutt, Westside's representative explained that there is no policy at all for the Westside staff or students, "Several teachers have visible tattoos, as do students," journalism teacher, Rod Howe said.

But, there are some public schools with certain tattoo restrictions. Millard North has a rule that there can be no gang-related tattoos.

With Westside taking to the more accepting approach and Marian opting to keep a more conservative hold on the issue, it is becoming apparent that in the last few years tattoos have slowly become the norm for mainstream society. It's no longer shocking to see someone walking down the street with not only one but two whole sleeves of tattoos. It is to be expected that trends in society will seep into the schools. Tattoos may often be construed as a sign of rebellion, but Marian girls are taking a positive spin on the issue and are attaching more meaning to the term "getting inked."

Graphic by Allison Dethlefs

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