



Kamala Harris Turns Around the 2024 Presidential Election Race

BY ELIZA DORTON, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Sunday, July 21st, President Joe Biden announced through a letter posted on social media that “it is in the best interest for [his] party and the country for [him] to stand down.” His decision to bow out of the general election followed nearly a month of backlash and pleas for him to withdraw from the race following his debate against former President Trump on June 27th. After Biden’s announcement, he endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee. Since the change in Democratic nominee, statistics show that the race has shifted to the favor of Harris, who has often been underestimated by her own party.

Before Biden dropped out, the election results appeared to be going in Trump’s favor. From the end of May until July, “The New York Times” had Biden trailing Trump in the National Polling Average by up to 3%. On August 26, the same poll had Harris at 49% and Trump at 46%.

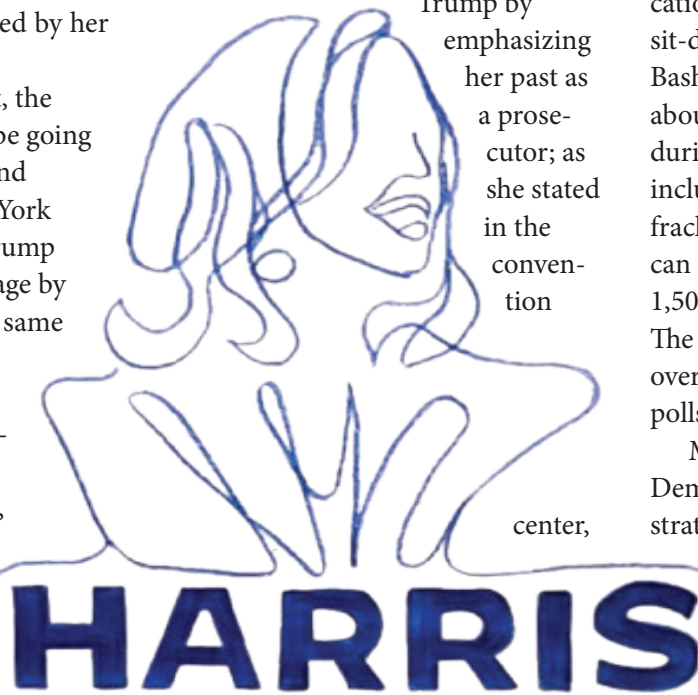
So, how did the Democratic Party, and,

more notably, Harris turn around the election in such a quick manner? There are many reasons for the newfound popularity. Young Democrats member Rachel Spencer ’25 stated, “I think Kamala Harris and Governor Tim Walz created a

new atmosphere that resonates with a lot of Americans. They represent a new era of hope and joy that focuses and encompasses the future of the U.S., especially politically. They are giving a voice and space for women in politics and a younger generation of leaders.”

In just over a month, Harris has led her campaign to raising a reported \$540 million while simultaneously re-energizing the Democratic Party from a difficult few months. The energy was evident during the week of the Democratic National Convention (DNC). On the final night of the DNC on August 22, Harris delivered a speech designed to resonate with the American people and take a hit at

Trump by emphasizing her past as a prosecutor; as she stated in the convention



“Kamala Harris, for the people.”

When asked about the success of the Harris campaign, Louisa Nill, upper school government teacher, stated that “It seems to me like

Americans who weren’t excited about the possibility of another Biden presidency (which was many, given that his approval rating at the time he exited office was in the 35% range) are thrilled to have a younger, more vibrant candidate in his stead. I imagine that this excitement might drive more Americans, who may have wound up voting for Biden but only because they were anti-Trump, to give what they are able to the Harris campaign.”

During her campaign, it’s clear that Harris has performed with joy, class and ease. She has done very well in front of voters at rallies in battleground states, but with a script at hand. She has had little communication with the press other than her sit-down interview with CNN’s Dana Bash. Harris answered questions about policy that she hadn’t yet faced during her campaign. Her answers included that she would not ban fracking, would appoint a Republican to the cabinet, and would assign 1,500 more agents to the border. The interview got mixed reviews but overall it made little difference in the polls.

Many voters, including a Democratic strategist used as a source to Politico, believe that it’s been extremely effective to confine Harris to “controlled environments,” but at some point, she will have to speak without a script, whether that’s a one-on-one televised conversation or the debate.

my mind.”

Sadie Schulman ’25 agreed and added, “I think graduation is really long and harder for grandparents to attend.”

However, other seniors were upset.

Speaking on behalf of the grade’s “GroupMe” chat, the Class of 2025 student council wrote a letter to the administration highlighting their classmates’ concerns.

The council wrote, “With the two-week timeline, many students fear their senior project options will be limited and will only allow for superficial connections to the topic of their choice.”

They continued, “the Baccalaureate Dinner and...commencement both happen when some universities have their final exams or their own graduation, limiting the possibility of older siblings or additional family members attending next year’s graduation ceremony.”

Some frustrations stemmed from the moving of the long-awaited Commencement paragraphs, which highlight the accomplishments of each individual senior.

Hannah Ordan ’25 said, “I know graduation is long, but I think it’s really special to hear everyone’s accomplishments, especially in front of all of our family and friends.”

Lynch assured seniors, however, that paragraphs will still be read at the Baccalaureate Dinner.

He said, “Commencement is about the class, and the Baccalaureate dinner will be about the individual.”

Above all, the council noted concern over the administration’s communication of the message solely to the parents.

Lynch admitted, “We acknowledge that we could have done a better job of communicating the news to the senior class.”

Kate Mitchell, assistant director of Upper School, agreed and said, “The culture at Holton is to include students in big decisions, or at least give [students] a heads up.”

The administration was responsive to the council’s letter and plans to work with the class throughout the year to ensure that the Baccalaureate Dinner, Commencement and other end-of-year events are memorable.

Lynch said, “We hope to hold to the traditions we’ve always held.”

Students React to End-of-Year Changes

BY MIRA WISSMAN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In late June, parents of the Class of 2025 received an email alerting them to changes to the 2024-2025 school year end-of-year calendar.

The email solicited mixed responses from students, alumni, and

parents.

These changes include moving Commencement earlier, reading paragraphs at an inaugural Baccalaureate Dinner as opposed to at Commencement and shortening senior projects from the previous four weeks to two weeks. The email explained that the changes “will allow [the] community more meaningful time with [the] seniors, streamline end-of-the-year events,” and “maintain... treasured school traditions.”

Additionally, Lynch said in a meet-

ing with the editors-in-chief Eliza Dorton and Mira Wissman, “We are trying to put the kids first. When you talk about mental health, there are kids who need to be done with school, and [the seniors] are going to feel that.”

Claire Doh ’25 particularly agreed with the decision to shorten graduation by removing paragraphs.

She stated, “I think short and sweet is better. Having gone to different graduation ceremonies, the ones that were shorter left a better memory in

Alums Kayla and Madison Corcoran Make History at the Olympics

BY TAYLOR GAINES, NEWS EDITOR

As the world turned its gaze to Paris for the 2024 Olympics, the Holton community focused its attention on alums Michaela Corcoran '20 and Madison Corcoran '20. They made history for being the first twin sisters to represent Ireland. The twins were selected to compete for the Irish canoeing team in different disciplines. Madison was a part of the K1 class and Michaela, who competed in the C1 class, found out she was going to Paris just weeks before the games.

From a young age, the Corcorans were passionate about kayaking. Their father Mike Corcoran was a two-time Olympian who represented Ireland in the Barcelona and Atlanta Olympic Games.

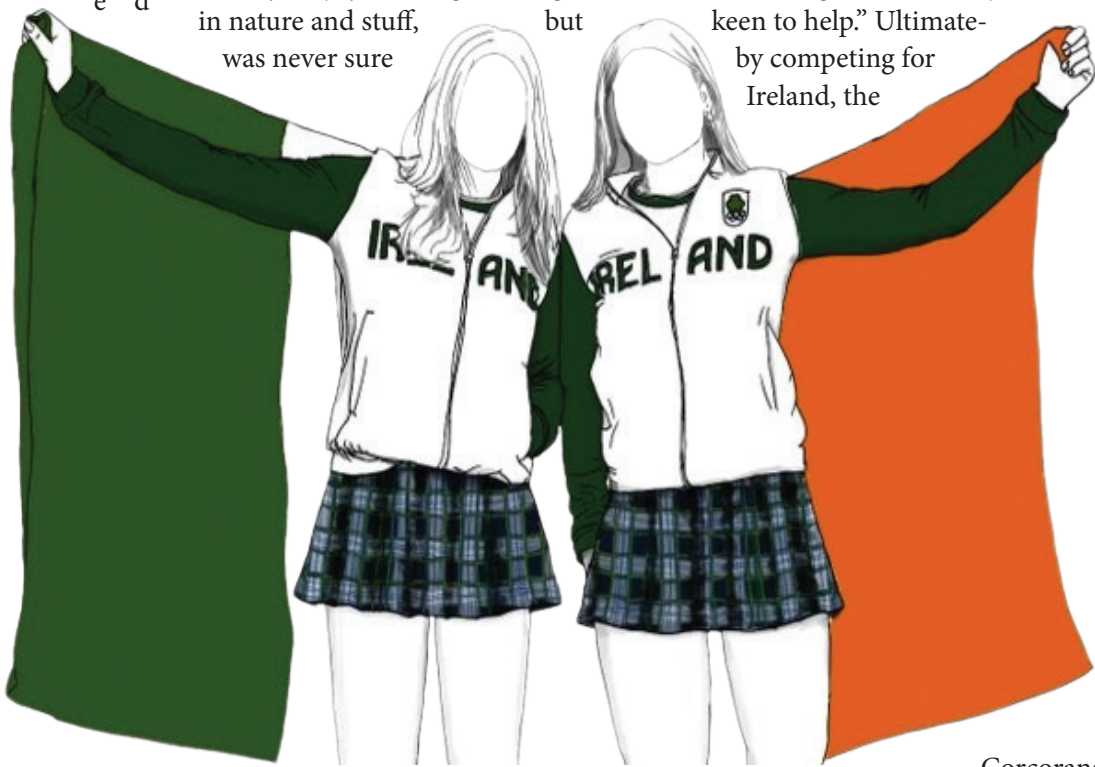
Recounting her childhood in an interview with "The Irish Examiner," Madison Corcoran stated, "It was at age five when the two of us were first in a kayak. We'd just go along on the back of Dad's boat and have some fun in the river. We weren't super orientated in sport back then,

but then we went to a summer camp when we were about 10 and started working with our first coach. It became an after-school sport at first but then through the years we got more and more into it."

Through their father's gentle nudge, the Corcoran sisters found success in canoeing throughout their adolescence. Reflecting on her canoeing experience to "The Examiner," Michaela stated, "During high school, I always enjoyed doing it, being out in nature and stuff, but I was never sure

regularly and I progressed faster and learned to love it. Loved the process, loved working towards something."

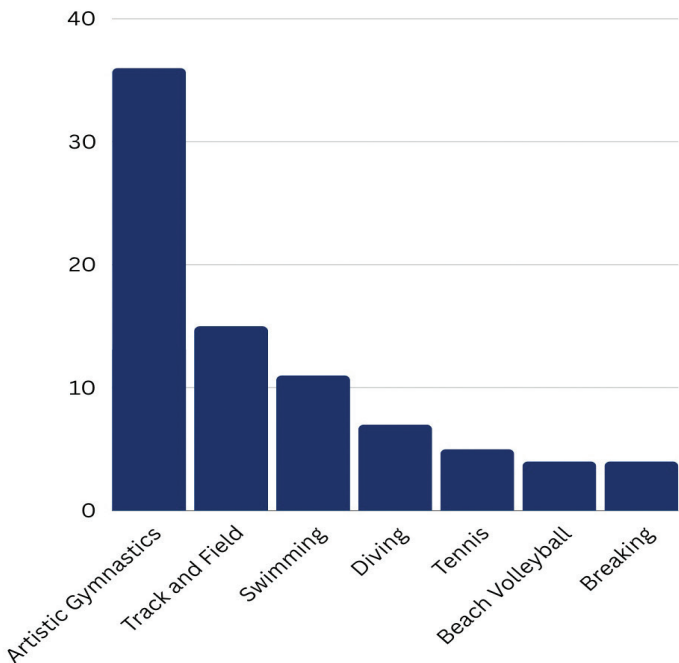
The Corcorans originally competed for American canoeing teams, but in 2020, they decided to explore their Irish connection. The twins were ecstatic and hopeful about this switch. Michaela stated, "The deciding factor for me was that all the guys were just really friendly, really lovely on the team and the people at Canoeing Ireland were just so keen to help." Ultimately, by competing for Ireland, the



Corcorans were able to perform on the world's largest athletic stage while inspiring the Holton community.

Polls Reveal That Students Avidly Watched the 2024 Olympics

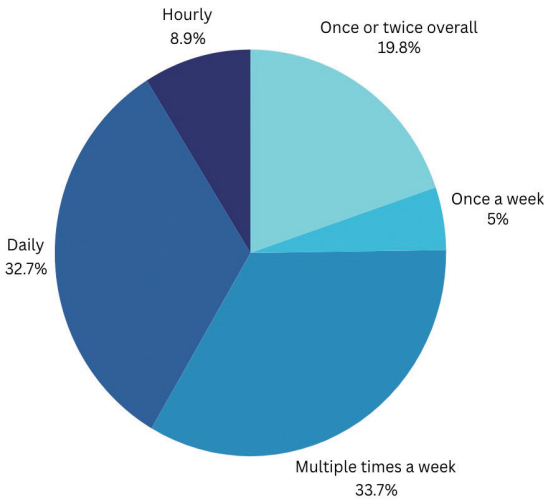
What was your favorite Olympic sport to watch this summer?



DATA COLLECTED BY LILY HIBEY, ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

How often did you watch the Olympics this summer?

A poll of 101 Upper School students revealed that the student body was a huge fan of the 2024 Paris Olympics.



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Students and Faculty Await the Arrival of the Susanna A. Jones Learning Commons

BY BLAIR GREENSPAN, FEATURES EDITOR

Last year, Holton-Arms began the renovation process for the new Alice S. Marriott Library and the Susanna A. Jones Learning Commons. The library will be a central part of Holton's campus as it will provide students with a collaborative, cohesive learning environment.

As the renovations approach completion, the community's curiosity about the project grows. Middle School Librarian and Library Department Chair Joy Colburn shared that "furniture will be more dynamic, so it can be moved to support different groups and functions. There will be a number of named spaces celebrating the donors who made the library and classroom renovations and Susanna A. Jones Learning Commons possible."

Grade 10 Dean and Upper School English teacher Martha Macon Smith looks forward to the new outdoor space. Smith shared, "The Learning Commons was designed to become the 'heart of school' where community members can gather, collaborate and learn."

Caitlin Federowicz '26 spent time studying in the library before construction began and expects to

use the new space often. While the library was under renovation last school year, Federowicz said that she used the temporarily provided "quiet spaces" more often and "found new places in the school to do work and hang out with friends." She is excited to use the new space for work and collaboration.

Ariyana Singla '26 also utilized the interim study spaces, along with empty classrooms, during renovation. Singla mentioned that she "loved being in the library before it was renovated." She found herself "really productive in the little cubicles." She most anticipates the new cafe and

expects to spend more time in the library once it is complete.

Colburn states that Holton hopes the library "will be available to show students by the end of Spirit Week and will have an official opening celebration soon after."



Upper School Welcomes New Faculty for the 2024-2025 School Year

BY SOPHIA KUTKO, FEATURES EDITOR

As the community begins a new school year, the Upper School welcomes new faculty in various departments.

Fresh faces on campus this year include new members of the History, Math, English and Student Support Departments.

The faculty also welcomes cross-divisional members, including a collaborative pianist and a teaching fellow.

Head of Upper School Chris Lynch said that Holton is "lucky to have several new teachers in Upper School whose diversity, skills, passions and expertise will make a positive impact."

While our faculty members already possess tremendous knowledge and experience, Lynch believed that

the addition of new members will "bring multiple teaching styles into our classes."

He expanded that new teachers will offer students a great deal of knowledge "outside the classroom."

With a mission statement that values unique viewpoints, Lynch shared that the addition of new perspectives will "add to our community and make it stronger."

New upper school math teacher Laura Toniolo chose to work for Holton because of the "people [she] met during [her] interviews," whom she described as "friendly, honest and supportive."

She looks forward to "working with [her] students" this upcoming year.

Hanna Hernandez, a new Graphic

Design teacher and communications associate, said she is "passionate about inspiring girls to explore graphic design." She hopes to help Holton students "develop their creativity."

She chose to work here because her "values and principles align with the school's mission."

Hernandez recently moved with her two dogs to the Washington D.C. area from Mexico.

The community looks forward to working alongside the new faculty.

Peyton Austin '25 said, "I'm really looking forward to learning about the new faculty, their past experiences and what they bring to the school. I know that Holton will be a very welcoming environment, and I can't wait to see the new faculty in the halls!"

Lindsey McKan Named 2024 Sweet Instructor in STEM

BY CHLOE SPIEGEL, ASSISTANT NEWS

Julie and Chad Sweet began the Sweet Instructorship in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program in 2022 to honor a Holton faculty member who teaches in the STEM field. The award was created with the goal of establishing more female role models and opportunities in the STEM field. The recipient holds the honor for three years and works alongside donors and the Advancement team.

The 2024 Sweet Instructorship in STEM honoree is Lindsey McKan '05, a Holton's Computer Science and Design Technology teacher. In 2017, after moving back to the DMV area, McKan joined the Holton Alumnae Board. She became a faculty member only shortly after the Covid-19 pandemic hit but had always envisioned being a teacher at Holton-Arms since she was a student.

When asked what brought her back, McKan stated, "I've always been driven towards service for the organizations that I love." As a student, she was involved in multiple STEM clubs throughout Middle and Upper School, worked behind the scenes at drama productions and took as many math and science classes as possible while choosing her courses.

McKan said that STEM is unique because "it affects everything we do, sometimes indirectly, and learning different STEM concepts helps students navigate their next steps."

Head of School Penny Evins said of McKan, "Her sense of humor, passion, embrace of each mind, soul and spirit and intentional mission delivery in simple hallway interactions and complex instructional design-build projects are highlights and beautiful examples of a teacher."

McKan puts students' engagement and enthusiasm at the forefront of her teaching. She empowers students through projects that promote important skills while accounting for what is best for their learning and minds. Her main goal as the 2024 Sweet Instructor in STEM is to help "students find joy" in female-underrepresented areas of academics such as engineering, computer science and

Summer 2024 Brings Young Female Singers to Fame

BY MIA ESTEVEZ BRETON, SPORTS EDITOR

Summer 2024 has given rise to a new wave of young female pop stars. Blending unapologetic personal style and digital savvy, artists such as Sabrina Carpenter, Chapell Roan, and Charli XCX have taken both social media and the charts by storm.

This summer encapsulated the rising importance of social media within the music industry. According to the Media Tech Institute, “with the dawn of the internet, music started getting uploaded and consumed in a more convenient, instant manner.”

TikTok connects snippets of artists’ catchy songs to users’ everyday life. These uploads help reach different audiences and catapult the song to the mainstream.

According to the Pew Research Center, teenage girls tend to use Tik-

Tok more than teenage boys. Young female singers model a new era of pop culture, where youth, engagement, empowerment and representation create the anthem of the new generation.

Successful artists must be able to cater to trends. For example, Charli XCX is an internet sensation whose newest album *Brat* has gone viral. Her album has inspired a new trend on TikTok known as “brat summer.” Songs like “Apple” and “360” have even appeared in presidential candidate Kamala Harris’s campaign materials. Talia Wissman ’27 likes Charli XCX “because her music is very fun, upbeat and different from a lot of what’s out there.”

Although social media portrays stardom as sudden and seemingly overnight, a lot of

the have tu- top ac- artists

ally been working through the industry for many years. For example, at the start of her career, Sabrina Carpenter starred in a collection of Disney shows, including “Girl Meets World” and “Sofia the First.” Additionally, Carpenter released five albums before earning the “pop-star title” with her latest album *Short n’ Sweet*.

Chappell Roan is another artist who rose to fame with her hit “Good Luck Babe.” However, Roan has been an underground artist since 2014, following the release of her first song “Die Young.”

Caroline Goldstein ’25 says, “I really like that these young female singers are representing women in a new and positive way.”

Social Media Boosts 2024 Presidential Election Campaigns

BY TALIA WISSMAN, ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

This election year, presidential candidates have started to use new

strategies to reach voters and spread their message: social media.



“Kamala IS brat,” popular singer Charli XCX tweeted on July 21st about Democratic nominee Kamala Harris.

Earning over 42,000 retweets, the use of the message shocked many, specifically Gen-Z voters.

The tweet reached the Kamala

Headquarters’ X (formerly Twitter) account, which is now bright green-themed with the words “kamala hq” in the same distinct style as Charli XCX’s new album “brat.”

The “brat” album continues to be a huge theme of the summer, essentially meaning having fun without worrying about others’ expectations.

Similarly, social media press regarding Republican nominee Donald Trump has picked up quickly as well.

Since the attempted assassination of Trump on July 13th, the notorious image of Trump with a bloody ear and pumping his fist has been seen by many on various social media platforms.

Eliza Dorton ’25 said, “I think that photo connected the former president to a lot of people who may be a-political. I heard a lot of people say, ‘regardless of your political opinion,

that photo was cool.’ I don’t necessarily think that should play a role in votes.”

The image has been used to represent patriotism and has typically been seen as a sign of support for the candidate.

It’s no question that the heavy use of social media in the election is meant to attract young voters.

So, how are Gen-Z citizens reacting to the new marketing strategies targeted at them? Mia Estevez-Breton ’27 said that she believes the candidates “are turning to social media platforms so that they can change their demographic and ensure they have the younger people’s vote.”

Peyton Austin ’25 agreed that social media is changing the election and said that it is due to the fact that “social media has become a pivotal part of our lives” in recent years.

She also thinks that she has paid more attention to this election because it will be the first time she “will be allowed to voice [her] opinions.”

Social media platforms have played a significant role in the 2024 presidential election campaign due to the marketing strategies of both Harris’ and Trump’s teams.

As the campaign continues, these respective platforms should grow and continue to reach new voters.

