

Mount Mercy Women in Social Sciences Program

Mount Mercy Academy's Women in Social Sciences Program has completed its first full year giving the students the opportunity to interact with three strong female role models.

Katie Burd, the Buffalo area representative of Women Elect, a non-partisan group dedicated to increasing the number of women running for office in Erie County, spoke to the students about her organization and its goals. Burd is an elected member of the Kenmore Village Board. Both women addressed the students on Oct. 16.

The second speaker was Angela Marinucci, who ran for Erie County Clerk in 2018 with the support of Women Elect. She spoke about what it is like to run for office and how her Catholic faith has been a part of her decision.

The goal of the visit was to educate the students about the number of women involved in politics and why it is important to

increase the number of women in leadership positions. The speakers also informed the students about the challenges and triumphs of running for office.

"I found it interesting to learn how long the process of deciding to run and then acting on that decision actually takes," junior Olivia Larson said. "It was also enlightening to learn how important the support of the family is when campaigning."

Special Agent Desiree Smith, a recruiter for the FBI Baltimore Division spoke to the students on Oct. 26, about careers within the FBI as well as the opportunities for internships with the FBI. She gave the students important practical advice that they can use to pursue a career in the FBI.

"Agent Smith was very interesting and very passionate about her career," junior Xoie Ferrentino said. "She made it clear that there are many different college majors and paths to take for




COURTESY OF MOUNT MERCY ACADEMY

Mount Mercy students meet with Special Agent Desiree Smith, a recruiter for the FBI Baltimore Division.

a possible career with the FBI and that there are many different fields within the agency."

Additional experiences and opportunities are planned throughout the year.



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