



# A Colorful Vocabulary

Cursing serves as an outlet for stress relief among high school students

Julia Halpin | Associate Editor

Junior Sara Honaker, has never said a swear word.

Though the hallways are always filled with profanities, according to Honaker, she has never felt it necessary to say a curse word. According to her, there are better words to use than the four letter curse words that most students have in their vocabulary.

"In the bible it talks about how everything is supposed to be uplifting and encouraging to others, so I don't think that cursing is encouraging to others at all," Honaker said. "There's better ways to say things than using curse words."

With cursing being so prominent in today's culture, Honaker said that saying swear words has become the "norm" of our society.

"Our culture is kind of more accepting of the curse words now, and so people just see it as a way to relieve stress and anger, and they might not even see anything wrong with it," Honaker said.

Not seeing the wrong in cursing, senior Melissa Iannuzzi said that using swear words shouldn't be seen as an ethical issue.

"It's always been hard for me to see why people make such a big deal about swearing, because at the end of the day, they're just words with seventeenth century origins that someone decided were 'bad,'" Iannuzzi said. "I don't get offended easily at all, but I'd be more offended by someone's actions than what words they choose."

Junior Patty Faas said while she admits to cursing, she does think it has become too commonly used in everyday language.

"I think the more that people [curse,] the more that it becomes part of their normal language," Faas said. "[They're] just words, so it doesn't really make a difference, but the words have power, they have an impact and they mean things; they have a greater meaning. I think we have too much [cursing]. ...It's because you're around it so much, it becomes your vocabulary. It's not like I want to go say all that and everything."

Because everyone isn't comfortable with curse words, Faas said she usually changes her vocabulary depending on the people she is surrounded by.

"[I swear] when I'm angry, but sometimes I do it to be funny," Faas said. "I wish I didn't, but I feel like because I'm around people that [swear] all the time, ...I just get their vocabulary and some of the funny things [and] just [the] normal vocabulary [they use], but I know my limits. I don't do it with my friends; I know my audience."

Admitting to swearing frequently, Iannuzzi said that for her, swearing helps to rid her of stressful feelings.

"Swearing kind of gets rid of stress for me when I'm really upset about something, but for the most part I barely realize it when I swear, which probably isn't good," Iannuzzi said.

According to Faas, she naturally swears more frequently when she is upset. She also said that saying multiple swear words when she is angry typically helps her express how she is feeling in the moment.

"If I say a bunch of [swear words], I feel like it helps me get out my feelings and everything, but if I just say one it doesn't do anything," Faas said. "Like, if I stub my toe and I say [a curse word] then it doesn't do

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