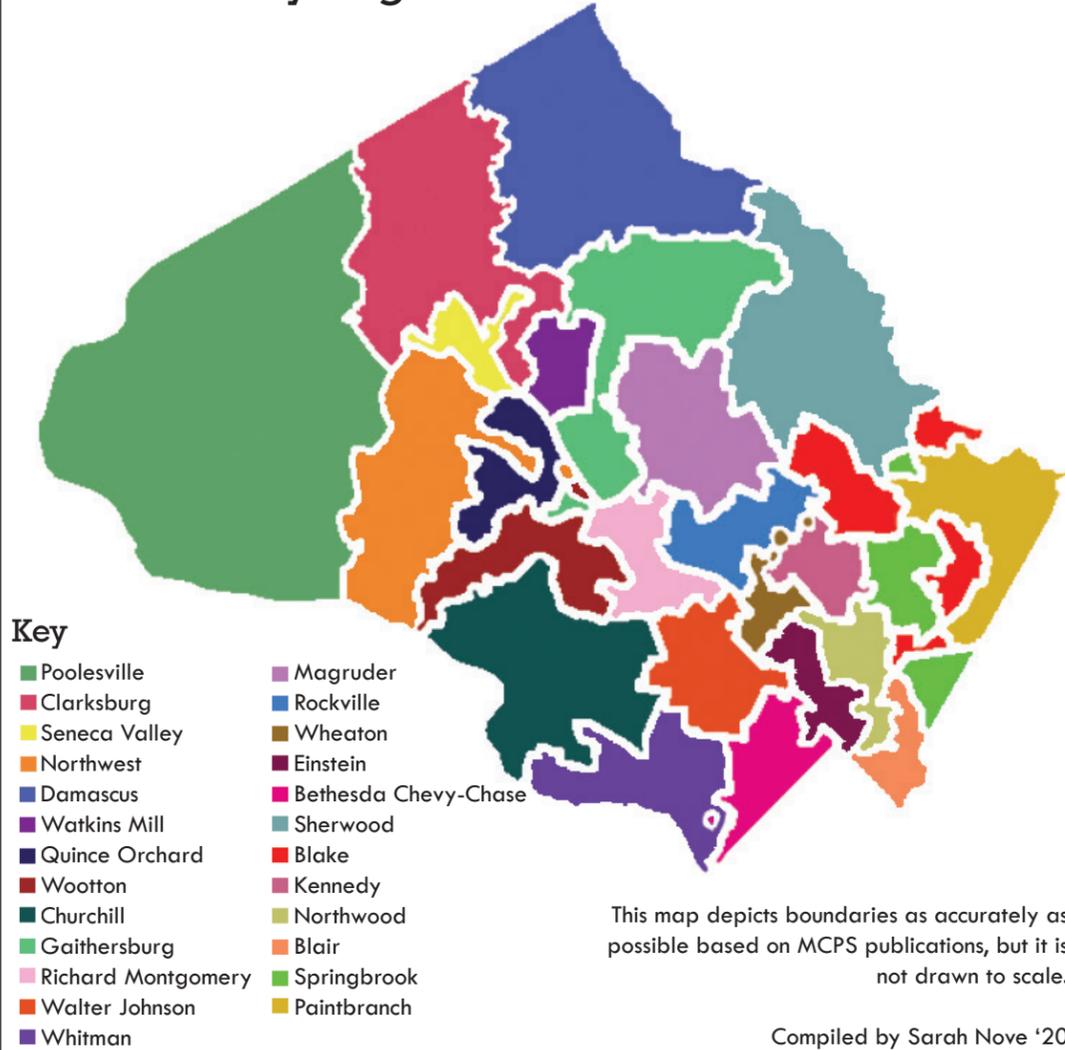


County High School Service Areas



MCPS Conducts Systemwide School Boundary Analysis

by Sarah Nove '20

Last January, the Board of Education adopted a resolution introduced by former Student Member of the Board (SMOB) Ananya Tadikonda, which called for a re-evaluation of school boundaries across the county. According to MCPS's website, the Board is using external consultants to "conduct an in-depth review and analysis of how existing school and cluster boundaries support or impede the effective use of school facilities."

The consultants will begin the boundary analysis this winter and plan to present their report to the Board around spring 2020. The study itself will not alter boundaries, but the findings could influence or prompt future changes. Proponents of the boundary study hope it will highlight necessary changes to school attendance zones and motivate MCPS to address the lack of funding, space, diversity, and resources that impact many schools.

"Examining the possibility of altering the boundaries for [MCPS] schools can present opportunities for progress toward ensuring that all students are able to reap the significant benefits of attending school with a diverse student body, and having class sizes that allow time and space for enhanced educational experiences," stated Tadikonda in her resolution.

See INEQUALITY, pg. 4

Students and Teachers Frustrated with New AP Registration Deadline

by Shirley Zheng '21

Sherwood students were unable to start paying for their AP exams until Wednesday, October 23. Due to this delay, the originally announced November 1 deadline was pushed back to November 15, giving students a total of three weeks to register for their exams. However, Sherwood requires students to sign up by November 8 to allow extra time for the school to make sure registration numbers are accurate. The move of the registration period for AP exams from February to November has angered students and teachers.

"I don't like it because I think it makes students make a commitment to taking the test that later might not turn out to be a good choice for them," said AP Modern World History teacher Michelle Games.

"If it was in February, I would have a lot more data. I could tell the kids that come and ask me 'you absolutely should [take the exam] or maybe you shouldn't.

But this year I only have one test guide that I can use as my data point, so it's much more for students to decide with their parents if they want to take [the exam] or not," said AP Government teacher Scott Allen.

The College Board argues that the new deadline is supposed to encourage AP students to stay more committed to their classes and exams; however, many students feel differently.

"It's too early. There's too much pressure on AP students to 'take the exam and do well.' With the early deadline, I can't determine if I'm going to do well. There's a possibility that I'll fail the exam and lose \$100 because I was pushed into taking the exam," said junior Jahnavi Kirkire.

In fact, a survey by The Warrior found that no students are in favor of the early deadline. Along with the new deadline, College Board also created a new payment requirement where AP students have to pay a deposit of \$40 by November 15 if they choose to take the exam. If they changed

their mind about taking the exam after that deadline, they will have wasted that \$40.

For those students that do not want to take the exam, the opt-out process is just as complicated. They would have to notify their AP teachers for them to email the AP coordinator, Andrew Dodge, who is the only one that is allowed to change the default setting on AP classroom.

Many students and teachers feel that this new policy is unfair and it is just another way for the College Board to get more money, but not benefiting the students in any way. Adding further confusion is MCPS's brand new payment system. In past years, MCPS has used the Total Registration website to complete payments for AP exams. Now, MCPS is going to have students pay through Portal or by turning in a check to the business offices at schools. Due to these complications, a huge responsibility is now put upon AP teachers to efficiently prepare students for the new deadline.

"Teachers need to make sure

The College Board has moved the AP registration deadline to November, unlike previous years where students had until February.

Are you in favor of this new deadline?

Yes: 0% **No: 93%** **Not Sure: 7%**

*Survey of 135 juniors and seniors.
For more survey results, see the Pulse on page 16.*

they are communicating this with the kids in every way possible because we used to have months to tell them about [the deadline]; now we have days," said Allen.

Based on the number of registered exams so far, Sherwood is scrambling before the deadline to get the number of registered exams to get anywhere similar to previous years. Last May, Sherwood students took a total of 1,425 exams. Due to the new default setting this year, Sherwood

students have ordered a total of 1,550 exams so far. However, that number is expected to go down as the final deadline gets closer. As of November 4, students have paid the deposit for fewer than 500 tests, leaving more than 1,000 tests with unpaid deposits. According to co-AP coordinator Kelly Singleton, Sherwood's expectations for AP registration numbers are that they will be similar to previous years despite the new deadline.

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The Age of Teen Activism
The Warrior writers explore what the impact teenagers are having on global issues.
pages 12-13

Sherwood Sports, Now & Then
The Warrior covers current school sports and looks back on Sherwood's top athletes since 2000.
pages 22-24



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news brief

current events

College Board to Implement Landscape Program

by Sydney Henry '20

College board will soon be implementing a new resource called Landscape to provide consistent data and information to help colleges understand an applicant's accomplishments in the context of the opportunities available to them. This program comes in as a replacement for the prior proposed "Adversity Score."

The adversity score was designed on a scale of one to 100, connected to a student's SAT results, made up of two factors: the student's school environment and their neighborhood environment. The score would have been used to indicate obstacles a student might have overcome, such as high crime rates or poverty. The score was highly criticized when it was announced last spring, with many critics saying that a single score could not capture a student's entire story, and that it seemed as though College Board was trying to "rate" adversity.

In hopes of providing important supplemental information for reading applications, the College Board withdrew the Adversity Score and replaced it with Landscape. Although it eliminated the single hardship score, Landscape still reports socio-economic information to admissions officers. In the announcement about this new resource, College Board states that "Landscape [makes] it easier to incorporate contextual information about students and [provide] a more comprehensive view of the applicant." The College Board has also reduced the number of factors that are considered as part of the school or neighborhood score, and will list the remaining factors on the reports. Parents and students will be given access to these along with college admissions officers.

Students Express Disapproval About School Bathrooms

by Elizabeth Casey '21

There is a clear consensus that students prefer to avoid Sherwood bathrooms, according to a survey of 78 students conducted by the Warrior.

Student behavior is a large contributor to the conditions of the restrooms. For example, soap dispensers are often empty or damaged. "Students could be more cautious when handling the soap dispensers and sinks, as to not damage or compromise them," wrote sophomore Steven Amato on the survey.

More than half of the students surveyed believe bathroom conditions have not changed since last year, and are not adequate for public restrooms. The average score on the survey for bathroom cleanliness was a 4 out of 10.

"When going into a Sherwood bathroom you can be sure to find food, soap, towels splattered over the wall and floor, students vaping and JUUL pods scattered around, and a lack of soap or working hand dryers. This is how disease spreads. This is not safe," wrote junior Rohan Mittu on his survey.

Students recognize the efforts of Building Services to clean up students' messes. The complaints focus more on the lack of supplies; sinks that do not work; and the hand dryers that are not effective. A student who withheld their name on the survey commented that the school should "give [the students] better quality materials; it is not the custodians' fault."

MCPS Issues Online Tools Consent Form to Students

by Graham Skinker '21

In a Sherwood Homeroom period in mid-October, students received an online digital tools form to get signed by a parent and returned to the school. The form is similar to the YouTube access form that was sent home to students last year in that it essentially states that if students do not get it signed by a parent and turned back in by November 1, they will not be able to access sites like Kahoot, Vocabro and Quizlet while at school.

This could be a potential problem for teachers as it remains to be seen how the school system will enforce the policy if students do not get their forms signed. MCPS has not yet provided any direction to teachers on what they are supposed to do if they have students that did not complete the form.

"If a student brought one of those forms to me right now, I would have no idea what to do with it," said Spanish teacher Tanya Aguilar, who uses a few of the instructional sites listed on the consent form. Teachers may have to alter their lesson plans or find alternate sites for students who do not turn in a signed consent form. "If MCPS follows through with this it could severely restrict students' ability to learn," said Aguilar.

Minus Continues Progress in Second Year

by Anna Squiers '20

In only his second year at Sherwood, Principal Eric Minus already can point to evidence that the environment has improved at the school. The MCPS Climate Survey shows that Sherwood staff morale has improved 33.2 percentage points, from 22.2 percent of staff in 2018 to 55.4 percent in 2019.

"We spent a lot of time last year talking about the culture and climate that we wanted to have here at Sherwood as it related to our students and our staff," Minus said. "Bringing in the Pillars of Excellence is a great way to ground not just the students in what we believe in terms of our philosophy, but we also as staff recognize the importance of using those pillars as we interact with each other, with students, and with parents."

The perception of a unified work environment has increased among Sherwood staff members. According to the climate survey, the staff who believe that Sherwood recognizes staff for their quality work has doubled from 38.6 percent to 78.6. More staff members agree that the school fosters a collaborative environment and promotes a culture of respect, which the increase ranging from 25 to 30 percentage points to.

One way Minus helped create a unified culture is through a centralized common language. Phrases such as "One Sherwood," "Sherwood Strong," and "Excellence is the only option" are heard



Christianna Tran '20

Principal Eric Minus converses with Assistant Principal Kathlyn Carroll.

daily. These phrases help members of the school to focus on what brings them together rather than what divides them. Because of this, he focused mainly on the Unity Pillar in his first year as principal, introducing Unity Week as a hopefully long-standing Sherwood tradition.

For the 2019-2020 school year, Minus hopes to maintain the attitude of excellence among the Sherwood family. "My goals for this year are to continue the great work that we have started as a school and a community, focusing on our Pillars of Excellence, and continuing to use those pillars as ways of advancing our

school," said Minus.

He also wishes to continue building relationships with students and see everybody in the school do well. At the grade-level town hall meeting at the beginning of the school year, Minus introduced the idea of making Sherwood "premiere." Minus' new ideology builds off of excellence in stacking up against other schools in terms of achievement, eligibility, athletics, and how the school gives back to the community. This year he hopes to encourage students to strive towards being premiere in as many aspects as possible, therefore making Sherwood premiere itself.

MCPS Plans To Expand Curriculum To Address LGBTQ and Disability Rights

by Vendela Krenkel '20

Maryland school officials are considering adding the fight for civil rights of LGBTQ and disabled people to the curriculum, and not just in social studies. First reported in *The Washington Post*, officials plan to focus on the histories of both of these groups, including events such as the 1969 Stonewall riots, the landmark 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, and Obergefell v. Hodges, the Supreme Court case in 2015 that legalized same-sex marriage.

Following the 50th anniversary of Stonewall, 48 Maryland legislators signed a letter that recognizes that the histories of civil rights for LGBTQ and disabled communities "are important stories for our teachers to tell, not only for those students who [currently lack representation], but so all of our students have a basic understanding of the challenges faced by significant segments of American society." Officials hope to provide a greater sense of belonging among students in these demographics, as well as foster an environment of acceptance in Maryland schools.

MCPS has taken a progressive approach and plans to go further with inclusion, promoting

Anti-Semitism to be Included in New Curriculum

Shortly before the one-year anniversary of a mass shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue, Maryland school officials announced their plan to enhance the study of the Holocaust and the roots of anti-Semitism. These would be emphasized in the social studies curriculum within middle and high schools. The move comes at a time when Maryland is seeing

a rise in hate crimes, according to the FBI Hate Crime Statistics report.

Howard Libit, the executive director of the Baltimore Jewish Council, said, "[To know that] our state's education leaders made such a strong statement to require more intensive education about the Holocaust will be very meaningful."

implementation of diverse student experiences in all subjects and combating the tendency of history curricula to leave out the stories of certain groups.

"The idea of civil rights should extend far beyond what is currently taught in schools," said social studies teacher Christine McKeldin. "Each group deserves to have their stories heard and every student should be able to see themselves in [the] curriculum."

According to *The Washington Post*, the supervisor of MCPS communications, Gboyinde Onijala, said that in the near future, there may also be greater representation in texts read in English classes as well. English teacher Christopher Goodrich has taught his sophomore students "The Laramie Project," a play that fol-

lows the true story of the murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student in the 90s. As the possibilities for more stories that will provide a wider spectrum of experiences expand, Goodrich hopes to stir "productive inquiry and debate, and allow [students] to empathize with others [who have different experiences]."

However, controversy has arisen over this topic. Some conservative parents argue that each parent should have the ability to teach their children about sexuality and gender at home, and that it is not the responsibility of the school to instruct students on these subjects. These parents worry that, were the school to teach these topics, the education system would not be able to remain fair and impartial.

College Board Modifies Curriculum and Essay Rubrics for Numerous AP Courses

by Adam Levine '20

The College Board has issued curriculum modifications to several AP courses for this school year. Some of the biggest changes involve courses offered at Sherwood including World History, English Language, and English Literature.

One of the largest changes was to the curriculum of AP World History, now AP World History: Modern. This “modern” comes from a new starting date to the courses timeline: 1200 CE. The College Board ultimately decided to remove content from 10,000 BCE to 1200 CE, believing inclusion of this timeline put strain on teachers and hurt students’ scores on the exam.

AP World History teacher Michelle Games, who has been teaching the course for 17 years, disagreed with the College Board, explaining that the information cut out still remains relevant and will benefit students on the exam.

“I decided to take an approach of not making a drastic change, so I still taught [an abbreviated version] of the pre-1200 information,” Games said. “The reason for that was because the students still had to know a lot

of that information, and it just seemed to me it was better to teach it in sequence than trying to jump back and forth.”

She also emphasized that she wants students to have an understanding of world history in a broader sense, despite the College Board’s concerns with students scores. “I don’t think the only purpose of my class is the exam. I want them to have some understanding of world history,” said Games. “You don’t choose what to teach based on how kids score on a test. You choose what to teach based on what’s historically important.”

In the future, the College Board plans to administer an “AP World History: Ancient” course to cover the content from 10,000 BCE to 1200 CE, but it says it first needs “to confirm the support of colleges and the interest of high schools.”

The other large change is for AP English Language and Composition and AP English Literature and Composition. Both courses’ free response sections consist of three essays, which used to all be graded on a 9-point scale. This school year, the College Board rolled out a new 6-point rubric for these essays to

be graded on.

The new rubric is split into three categories, thesis, evidence, and sophistication, which according to AP English Language and Composition teacher Alexandra Green, lends itself to be more prescriptive as it checks for certain elements that should be present, while the old 9-point rubric was more holistic to the writing and exam as a whole.

English Language and Composition received changes to the exam as well, most notably to the multiple choice section. In addition to fewer questions, going from 52-55 to just 45, the College Board is introducing a new type of question: the composition question. About 20-22 questions on the exam will take the form of a composition question, asking students to “‘read like a writer’ and consider revision to stimulus texts.”

“The questions are more related to how the sentences are structured within a paragraph or within an essay,” Green said. “There are sentence-level questions, paragraph-level questions, and syntactical questions that really speak more to the composing side of the course, which is not what we had before.”

The following courses were rearranged into different units and their AP tests changed:

Biology:

60 MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS INSTEAD OF 69

- Grid-in responses have been removed

6 FREE RESPONSE QUESTIONS INSTEAD OF 8

- Two short answer questions have been removed

Environmental Science:

NOW ORGANIZED INTO NINE UNITS

- 80 multiple choice questions instead of 100
- 4 answer options instead of 5
- 3 free-response questions instead of 4
- Students may use a graphing calculator

European History:

NOW ORGANIZED INTO NINE UNITS

- Technological and Scientific Innovation is now a seventh “theme”

Human Geography:

NOW ORGANIZED INTO SEVEN UNITS

- 60 multiple-choice questions instead of 75
- Emphasis on analyzing sources
- Each free response is worth 7 points instead of 5-8

Studio Art:

ALL CLASSES RECEIVED NEW NAMES:

- Studio Art: 2-D Design is now 2-D Art and Design
- Studio Art: 3-D Design is now 3-D Art and Design
- Studio Art: Drawing is now just Drawing

SUPPLEMENTARY PORTFOLIOS IS SPLIT INTO TWO SECTIONS:

- Sustained Investigation
- Selected Works

US History:

NOW ORGANIZED INTO NINE UNITS

- There are now eight “themes” instead of seven

CULTURE AND SOCIETY HAS BEEN SPLIT UP INTO:

- American and Regional Culture
- Social Structure

Go see the full list of changes at thewarrioronline.com

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contact Peter Huck at Peter_J_Huck@mcpsmd.org***



The reimagined layout shown above of the previous faculty lounge in D214 will soon be used for The Net.

Sherwood Creates Space for Mental Health

by Lauren Hill '22

The average 2019 high school student is faced with the pressures of school, sports, family and personal issues, and extracurriculars. These can have detrimental effects on students' emotional and mental health. Beginning this month, Sherwood will help students cope with stressors and address their concerns about mental, emotional and social health through a new program called The Net.

The hope for the program is to ensure students receive the support and information they need to maintain good mental health. In the past few years mental illness among teens has increased significantly. The American Psychological Association's Journal of Abnormal Psychology concluded

that 52-percent of adolescents have shown indicative signs of depression. The National Institute for Mental Health reported that more than six million teenagers suffer from anxiety.

The idea came about over the summer when senior Joel Freibaum worked with Principal Eric Minus. A room previously used as a faculty lounge in D214, near the media center, is undergoing final renovations to become the designated space for The Net.

The program will offer students the opportunity to hear from professionals from Medstar Montgomery General Hospital about relevant issues, such as eating disorders or addiction. It will be available for students to engage in activities related to social and emotional well being, like meditation and peer to peer

discussions. Overall, students can have a place to calm down and decompress when and if they need it. "I am especially excited for the days the room will have stress dogs," Freibaum said. The room will be available for use before school, during lunch and after school.

Science teacher Rebekah Harrison has aided in bringing The Net to fruition. Harrison has experience as a counselor, and she will supervise and support students who decide to use the room. She views The Net as a positive way for students to receive positive support. "I really hope to diminish the stigma associated with mental illness and mental health and create a space for students to come in and feel comfortable [in a space] where they can destress," said Harrison.

School Boundary Alterations Could Address Inequality in MCPS Schools

From ANALYSIS, pg. 1

MCPS has not conducted a boundary analysis on this scale in over 20 years, and many issues resulting from outdated boundaries have gone unaddressed.

MCPS held public meetings last April, in which they asked participants what they thought were the "greatest concerns among parents about the current attendance zones." Many participants, answering in groups, listed various concerns about inequality in MCPS.

Economic

The table on the right shows the high schools with the highest and lowest density of students receiving Free and Reduced Lunches (FARMs) in MCPS. With such a large economic gap between these extremes, some participants at the meetings worried that schools in wealthy areas may have more resources from donations and sponsorships than schools in low-income areas.

According to Jill Ortman-Fouse, former at-large member of the Board of Education, "MCPS has completely ignored any external resources or sources of funding because they don't want to acknowledge the dispari-

ty that exists, and they feel helpless to do anything about it."

Racial

Another concern raised at the meetings related to racial diversity in MCPS. According to niche.com, Montgomery County ranks twenty-fifth on a list of the most diverse counties in America. However, many schools in MCPS do not reflect this.

Among other factors, the upcoming study will consider diversity, which has previously been a contentious topic within MCPS. In 2018, former SMOB Matt Post ('18), proposed a change that would slightly increase the weight of diversity as a factor in educational facilities planning (see MCPS's FAA policy for more details). He suggested an addition of three words, "and in particular," to the policy, so it would read "options [for facilities planning] should especially, and in particular, strive to create a diverse student body." During discussion of the proposal, Ortman-Fouse interacted with parents who feared the change would lead to longer bus rides for MCPS students, or that changing boundaries to promote diversity would not actually resolve the issue at the schools themselves. In the

end, Post's proposal was denied.

Currently, it is unclear how much weight MCPS will put on diversity in any boundary changes that may result from the study.

Overcrowding

Many MCPS schools are overutilized. Others are way under capacity. Earlier this year, Caitlynn Peetz, a writer for Bethesda Beat, reported that "there are now 414 relocatable classrooms in use at county schools, for a cost of about \$20.5 million over five years, or \$5 million per year." Boundary changes may alleviate pressure from overcrowded schools, but, according to Ortman-Fouse, there has been pushback from some parents over what these changes may mean for students. These parents would rather "throw money out the window" by building new facilities and using portables than adjust boundaries, she said.

She explained that many parents in MCPS believe that "when you buy a house, you buy the school," so they are reluctant to accept alterations to the school assignment. "We're so scared [of change] that we're not willing to have very practical discussions about what our fear is costing us," said Ortman-Fouse.

Strict Policy on Ratings Poses Big Challenge for Film Class

by Andrew Waterfield '20

Literature as Film, taught by English teacher Christiane Lock, consists of watching films of ranging quality and genre and analyzing the technical aspects of each one in order to understand how movies are put together. At the end of the semester, students are able to make their own film using the various techniques that they have learned from the movies they have watched and analyzed. However, Lock is unable to show any R-rated movies, a rule that may be detrimental to the class.

"So many of the most influential and important films have R ratings, and the class is missing out on great discussions and learning opportunities by not watching them," said junior Jack Miller, who took Literature as Film last year.

MCPS policy dictates that a small number of pre-approved R-rated movies are available for classroom use, and teachers have the option to submit requests to the county in order to watch others. In theory, this system would prevent graphic content from being shown in classrooms, but the process for approving R-rated movies is "fairly long," according to Lock, and "the approval has to be per individual film."

Making matters more difficult, the policy does not differentiate movies on the basis of their content, only by their rating. Films are rated by the Motion

Picture Association of America (MPAA), and their rating process is not clearly defined and has changed over time (PG-13 was not a rating until 1984). Over time, the MPAA has gradually allowed more graphic material to appear in PG-13 and PG movies, a trend that Lock has also noticed. "Many PG-13 movies are explicit and seem similar to R rated movies from years ago," she said. This means that films released today with a PG-13 rating may be just as, if not more graphic, than some R-rated films from a few decades ago. Regardless, MCPS would permit the modern PG-13 movie based solely on its rating.

At the end of the first quarter, Literature as Film students have watched PG and PG-13 movies such as "Perks of Being a Wallflower" and "Insidious." The latter is a horror film and is a good example of a film--and a genre--that is difficult to rate according to age-appropriateness.

Obviously, teachers should not show overly explicit films to students, at least not without some sort of restrictions and limitations in place. However, a policy that does not allow a course such Literature as Film show any R-rated films seems overly restrictive and inflexible. Better options may include parent-permission slips in lieu of county request forms, watching edited versions of R-rated movies, or a clause in the policy that considers R-rated movies pre-1984 differently than those released after.

High school	Total Percent of FARMs Students in 2017-2018
Churchill	≤5.0
Whitman	≤5.0
Wootton	≤5.0
Wheaton	49.7
Watkins Mill	50.2
Northwood	52.5
Approximate average over MCPS High Schools	29.388

Students that receive FARMs, or Free and Reduced Lunches, must demonstrate financial need. The table above shows the three high schools with the lowest percentage of FARMs students in the county, the three high schools with the highest percentage, the approximate average over all MCPS high schools. All "≤5.0" schools were rounded up to 5.0 due to lack of exact data to calculate the average. To learn more, visit "Schools at a Glance," on MCPS's website. To see where FARMs students live in relation to boundaries, go to gis.mcpsmd.org/Viewer.html.

If you would like to weigh in on any potential changes, you can contact the Board of Education via email at boe@mcpsmd.org. Additionally, the Board will be hosting a public hearing Monday, November 18 at 6 p.m. at Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Dr. in Rockville. For more information and additional meeting dates, see the Districtwide Boundary Analysis Webpage on MCPS's website.

After Horrible Weekend in August, Maybe Things Will Be Different

by Apurva Mahajan '20

After the El Paso and Dayton shootings that happened back-to-back in early August, many Americans waited to see how the government would respond to the public's anger. The response from the White House and the Republican-controlled Senate has been disappointing to those who want to see changes to the nation's gun laws. However, public support for more gun control measures has grown after the continuation of mass shootings, and while Congress hasn't passed any laws, businesses and other groups have been attempting to create change in regards to gun control.

In El Paso, Texas, 22 people were killed and 24 were wounded on August 3 after an armed gunman opened fire in a Walmart with an assault rifle. The suspect told police that he was targeting Mexicans, saying he wanted to stop a "Hispanic invasion of Texas." Only a day later, 9 people



People paid their respects to victims of the Dayton shooting at a vigil.

were killed, and 27 others were injured, at a bar in Dayton, Ohio. It was revealed that the Dayton shooter had said misogynistic comments in the past, dehumanizing women.

While there has been a lack of action at the federal level, businesses have begun vocalizing their views about gun control. Some independent retailers have openly banned bringing guns into their stores, and some national retailers like Walmart have restrict-

ed the sale of certain types of ammunition. The leaders of many large-scale businesses in the United States have written a letter to the Senate, pushing for passage of red-flag laws and expanded federal background checks on gun sales. The leaders of 145 top companies such as Twitter, Uber, Gap, Airbnb, and many others have made this the most notable action taken by private corporations to influence gun violence and control, writing in the letter,

"Doing nothing about America's gun violence crisis is simply unacceptable and it is time to stand with the American public on gun safety. There are steps Congress can, and must, take to prevent and reduce gun violence."

Gun control is also a major topic in the upcoming 2020 election, especially among the Democratic candidates. All of the candidates support red-flag laws, more background checks, and the ban of assault weapons. Beto O'Rourke supercharged the call for action when he said at a televised debate, "Hell, yes, we're going to take your AR-15, your AK-47," unveiling a proposal for a national gun registry and a nationwide gun licensing system weeks later. Joe Biden would like to expand the use of technology which can make guns safer to use. Elizabeth Warren wants to raise the minimum age for the use of guns, report multiple gun purchases, and investigate the NRA. Bernie Sanders used to be supported by

the NRA, but has since moved to the more liberal side and supports banning assault weapons. Cory Booker favors closing gun sale loopholes, and supports handgun registration requiring a license, saying "If you need a license to drive a car, you should need a license to own a gun." Kamala Harris says she plans to give Congress 100 days to pass gun control laws, including the repeal of special legal protections for gun companies. She also wants to crack down on the gun industry to make it harder for someone that has a criminal record to purchase a gun.

Recent polling shows that 85 percent of Americans support red-flag laws and 66 percent want assault weapons to be banned. The question is whether elected politicians, particularly Republicans in Congress who represent conservative states or districts will actually create policies in response to the public outcry that will have an impact.

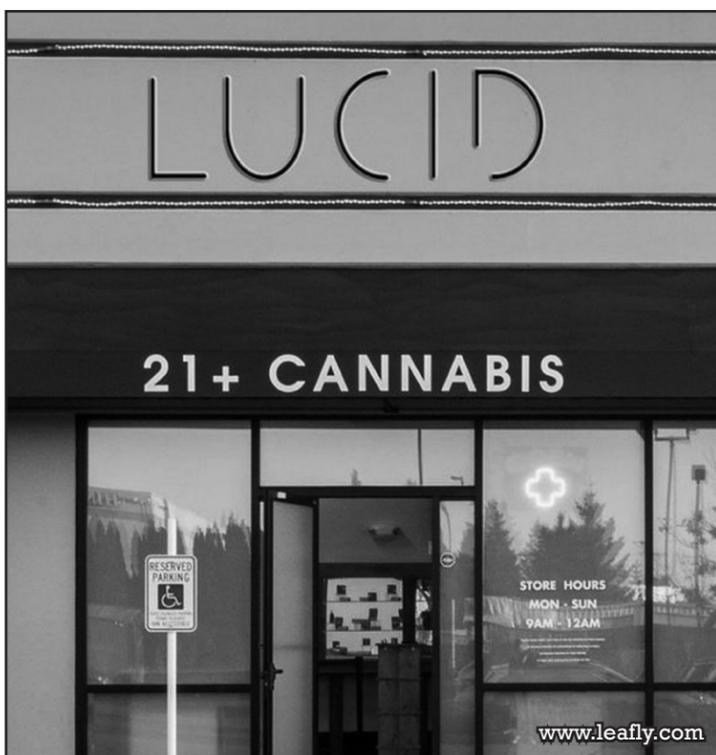
Teen Usage of Marijuana Lowers In States Where Smoking Is Legal

by Eve Schlegel '20

According to the 2018 Monitoring the Future survey, more than one in five high school seniors reported use of an illegal drug in the past month, with marijuana as the top choice. The same survey revealed that students increasingly believe marijuana is not as risky of a drug as other substances. This view varies greatly from ten years ago, when most high school seniors viewed using marijuana as a "great risk." One may expect the use of marijuana to grow dramatically as the view on risk factor decreases, especially in legalized states. This may not be the case.

A new study conducted by U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's annual national Youth Risk Behavior Surveys found that marijuana use among teens has dropped in states where recreational use of marijuana is legal. The data was taken from 27 states, including Washington D.C., where medical marijuana is legal. It also used statistics from seven states that legalized marijuana for recreational use.

"Recreational marijuana laws were associated with a [eight percent] decrease in the likelihood of teens trying marijuana," according to the national and state Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, conducted from 1993 to 2017, "as well as a [nine percent] reduction in the odds of frequent marijuana use." This decline may not be because of choice, but rather legalization has made it harder for teens to have access to marijuana. The authors of the Youth Risk Behaviors survey suggested this obstruction exists because "drug dealers are replaced by licensed dispensaries that require proof of age." If people of age can access marijuana legally, they would rather



Lucid, a dispensary in Washington state, only serves clients 21 or older.

obtain it without chance of criminal punishment. This causes the availability of drug dealers everywhere to decrease dramatically, leaving teens with fewer ways to purchase marijuana.

Some argue this drop is due to the fact that drug usage is not as exciting when it's legal. Evolutionary biologist Nathan Lents wrote in Psychology Today, "Most drug deterrence initiatives repeat the refrain that drugs are harmful and taboo. But this is precisely what makes them so attractive to teens, especially teenage boys. In their minds, it frames drug use as an opportunity to show off to others and advertise fitness. The greater the stigma against marijuana, the more valuable the costly signaling is for teenagers who dare to buck the taboo." The decreasing stigma around marijuana usage may be causing teens to use other illegal

substances, such as alcohol.

The new study also stated that "there [is] no evidence that the legalization of medical marijuana encourages marijuana use among youth." In today's political climate, this finding may be a game changer. If use of marijuana decreases among the youth in legalized states, it may change the mindset of the people who oppose legalization.

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey is the first of likely many more studies to come. As Canada approaches its tenth anniversary of legalizing marijuana nationwide, and New Zealand and Mexico push similar progressive views on marijuana, more studies will appear on how legalization affects youth. If this trend continues, the recreational use of marijuana may be legalized nationwide in the United States within the next few decades.



Funeral of Atatiana Jefferson, a victim of a police shooting in Fort Worth.

Study Finds Publicized Police Brutality Affects Mental Health

by Martholdy Pierre-Canel '21

A highly circulated video on social media shows an incident that occurred on August 27 in which an 11-year-old, black female student at Mesa View Middle School is pinned to the ground. Officer Zachary Christensen of the Farmington Police Department in New Mexico slams the student against a window, then onto the ground as the student screamed, "you're hurting me!" Officer Christensen repeatedly tells the student to "turn over!" and then "stop resisting!" According to reporting by a local television station, Christensen later said he tried to arrest her because the student "took more milk than she was supposed to," and threw some on the ground.

Reports of police shootings and other violent encounters have been a near constant in the media, including the case of Atatiana Jefferson, who was shot from her bedroom window by a Fort Worth police officer on October 12 as she played a video game with her 8-year-old nephew. There also was the case of Ryan Twyman who was unarmed but shot 34 times on June 19 in the south Los Angeles area neighborhood of Willowbrook. Research has found that such incidents are negatively impacting the mental

health of African Americans.

A 2018 study, published in The Lancet, led by a team of researchers from the public health schools of Harvard and Boston University linked data from the Mapping Police Violence database with data from the 2013-15 US Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), to identify when BRFSS survey participants reported suffering from poor mental health. In this study, it was shown "when police officers in the United States kill unarmed black people, it damages the mental health of black Americans living in those states. The mental health of white Americans was not similarly affected, the researchers found. Nor were negative health effects associated with police killings of unarmed white Americans or armed black Americans."

The study illustrates a difference among racial groups in their perception of the police. According to a 2018 poll by the Pew Research Center titled "Why Americans Don't Fully Trust Many Who Hold Positions of Power and Responsibility," 72 percent of white Americans say police officers treat racial and ethnic groups equally at least some of the time. By way of comparison, half of Hispanics and just 33 percent of black adults say the same.

November 7, 2019

English Teacher Meets Her Goal To Visits All 50 States

by Julia Robins '20

Many know English teacher Lori Leonard for her vibrant personality and kindness, but many don't know her love of traveling and how she has visited all 50 states.

Until Leonard was 16, she had only traveled to places within Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and DC. But upperclassman years in high school provided her the opportunity to visit Toronto, Canada, and Hawaii. Visiting Hawaii was the first time she witnessed a different culture (native Polynesian Hawaiian), which kickstarted her desire to travel and see the world. When Leonard was 28, she helped a friend move from California to Ohio, and it opened her eyes to how diverse and vast the country was. It's safe to say she caught the travel bug. By the time she was 30, she had driven to more than 30 states.

A few months after she got married, her husband was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, an autoimmune disease. But rather than sitting around and feeling sorry for themselves, they packed their bags and hit the road. Driv-

ing over the Rocky Mountains and seeing its vastness and beauty put their life into perspective.

"They were huge and the volcanic forces that pushed them upwards were extremely powerful. I remember reading a quote on that trip that said, 'A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence.' Nature is powerful and teaches a lot of lessons if people are open to learn them," said Leonard. "I truly now believe that if people are willing to keep going, if they don't give up, they will eventually be able to get through anything. When we got back from that trip, we knew our marriage was powerful enough to get through anything together."

In 2013 she filled out a map with all the states she's been to and was shocked to find that she only had 10 states left. She started thinking about what it would take to visit all 50. She decided that she would only count states where she had spent the night, eaten at least one meal, and visited a historically or culturally important site. She set a goal to visit all 50 states by the time she turned 50 and revisit some of her

favorites. She started traveling every school break and met her goal early last spring break.

Leonard has had amazing experiences. Last winter when she went to Alabama, she went to a small zoo with an enclosure of lemurs that climbed on her. This past summer she swam with sea turtles in Maui, Hawaii, and in the summer of 2014 in Alaska, Leonard got to feed puffins and one tufted puffin fit 29 fish in its mouth. But one experience that she will remember forever was seeing the Northern Lights. "We went out with a professional photographer to film the aurora for about four hours in -17° weather and watching the green and purplish lights dance across the sky was one of the most amazing experiences of my life," she recounted.

Her favorite states are ones with natural beauty, like Utah, Colorado, California, Hawaii, and Alaska. "I truly believe our national parks and national monuments are our nation's greatest treasures. My favorite views are cascading waterfalls, snow-covered mountains, and stunning red rocks. My favorite things to do



Courtesy of Lori Leonard

Leonard with a lemur in an enclosure at the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo.

are to hike through slot canyons and relax in natural hot springs or swim under waterfalls."

Leonard is happy to meet her goal, but still has plenty on her bucket list. She can't wait to see polar bears in the Arctic tundra, visit Australia to see a high

school friend, and see architecture in Rome. Her advice for those who wish to follow in her path? "Every day is an adventure, get a good pair of hiking boots, a decent camera, and a sturdy backpack, and get out there and explore our big beautiful world!"

Explore the Creative World of LARPing

by Adina Brenner '20

When one thinks of popular activities or hobbies of today, the first few things their mind may go to are probably sports, social media, or even video games. Although these may be some of the most common ways to keep busy in our 21st century society, they are certainly not the only pastimes. For many years, despite being pretty obscure and typically considered "nerdy," Live Action Role Playing, more commonly known as LARPing, has been more than just a simple hobby for people of all ages.

LARP is not known to have a single point or time of origin; however it became relatively popular in the early 1970s. Teenagers, rather than just playing Dungeons and Dragons in their friend's basement after school everyday, would go outside, usually to a park or backyard of some sort, to act the game out instead. The activity began to spread internationally in the 80s and all of a sudden kids, teenagers, and even adults all over the world were beginning to LARP.

What many people enjoy especially about LARPing is its uniqueness to any other hobby. There is a large variety of styles, so depending on one's interests, they may fall into a specific category or they may have a distinctive style unlike any other. There are three main types of LARPs: demonstrative, usually a small group of players who face some sort of challenge to overcome; salon, which focuses more on interactions between players without weapons; and live steel, a style that relies heavily on the com-



Adina Brenner '20

People of all ages LARPing at Lake Needwood this past September.

bat aspect. It is also common to see LARPs base their game on movies, TV shows, or other forms of pop culture. For example, a common style of LARP today is that of Medieval Times. Ever since "Game of Thrones," an epic fantasy drama, got its start on HBO in 2011, LARPs all over have both re-enacted and created scenes based on the series.

From extremely realistic props to exquisite custom-made costumes, many LARPs take their game very seriously. Every year, there are LARPing conventions across the country taking place in cities as large as Los Angeles or New York. LARPs come from all over to show off their various styles of role play as well as the hard work that goes into them. Tyler Bray, a 15-year-old from St. Petersburg, Florida, has been LARPing since the age of 11. Once a month, he goes out with a group of about five to eight

friends to a park in his neighborhood to LARP with a wizard-like style, inspired by his favorite fictional character, Harry Potter. The group wears handmade cloaks and holds replicas of wands used in Harry Potter films to create their own interpretations of the Wizarding World.

"At first, I was skeptical of it [LARPing], but after watching a group in a local park really embody each of their characters, I was mesmerized. I have participated in every single one since then. Often times, locals will walk by giving us dirty, confused stares, but I never let it get to me. LARPing may be odd to some, but to me it is awesome," said Bray.

So next time you are bored or simply looking for a fun activity to participate in, maybe you should consider LARPing. You may be pleasantly surprised by your experience.

Ally Walsh Gains Skills for Her Future in the Education Field

by Christianna Tran '20

Sherwood students are expected to come into the school and follow their schedules from 7:45 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. However, this is not the case for many seniors who decided at the end of their junior year to take advantage of one of the wide variety of internship opportunities the school offers. Those with an internship get an abbreviated schedule in which they take fewer classes than the standard seven, thus allowing them to leave school early and go to their workplace. One of the school's many opportunities for internships is offered to students who have completed the child development program at Sherwood taught by Beth Bonita.

Senior Ally Walsh made the decision that this year, she wanted to experience the many benefits that interning could bring her. After taking Child Development I and II her freshman and sophomore year, Walsh worked with Bonita and her counselor at the end of her junior year to set up an internship at Sherwood Elementary School. On the first day of this school year, Walsh along with other interns were prompted by Bonita on what to expect as an intern and they were each given a folder to bring to the teachers they would be working along with. She officially started her interning responsibilities at the elementary school on the second day of school.

Walsh currently has a four-period schedule and leaves everyday during the lunch period to intern from 12:00- 2:30 p.m. "I

help out with the four kindergarten classes and complete tasks any teacher needs me to do. I finish up the day by going to lunch and recess with the kids." She said. She also helps with tasks such as cutting, setting up the bulletin board, and creating worksheets.

Leaving Sherwood early to go help out at the elementary school is also a major benefit Walsh gets to enjoy from interning. "It makes my day go by much faster. I take four classes and then I am done for the day. I like that I ... do not have to stress about having classes in the afternoon"

Although the internship, like most, is unpaid, Walsh can receive SSL hours if she stays after 2:30 p.m. to help out the teachers and other members of the staff. In addition, Walsh also gets an unbeatable experience working with young students which is something she is interested in as a career.

"I enjoy spending time with the kids and listening to the stories they tell me. I have created bonds with almost every single child and I know that they look forward to seeing me everyday," Walsh said. "I already knew that I wanted to pursue a job in the educational field, but this experience so far has just made me want to become a teacher even more."

Walsh has thoroughly adored the education field experience her internship is giving her thus far and recommends it to any junior who is considering taking on an interning position for their senior year. "It's an experience that could never compare to anything else," she said.

Students Speak On Vaping Effects

by Vendela Krenkel '20
and Christianna Tran '20

This year, the use of vapes such as JUULs and e-cigarettes has skyrocketed among minors even more than in the past years. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2019 has seen a sharp rise in vaping rates among high schoolers; one in four seniors has used an e-cigarette in the past 30 days. This number has more than doubled compared to 2018.

This rise comes at a time when illnesses thought to be vaping-related have risen to over 1,600 cases nationwide. Many federal health officials believe that the public information campaigns with the job to curb teenage addiction are not being influential enough to these young users. They worry about the normalization of e-cigarette use among high school and college students. Recently there has been a variety of studies coming out about the negative short-term and long-term effects of vaping. For instance, within the last year vaping has been linked to various illnesses, seizures, and even death. In total, 34 people have died due to vaping related incidents.

However, some students who vape are not convinced that it is harmful. "I don't think casual users like me have any health issues," said one anonymous junior. "The only [consequences] I've seen have been due to vaping with marijuana. I don't think that flavored vapes that I [have used] cause [negative effects] unless used excessively."

Another senior said, "I know some people who would smoke two pods in a day and they just wouldn't care if they were putting themselves in danger. I do believe that the consequences of vaping are very real, but I don't think a lot of people are particularly educated about it enough to care."

Experts warn that the oil solvents combined with the nicotine or THC in vapes can be inhaled and cause breathing problems and lung inflammation which could result in death. In addition, many vaping ingredients are not listed on their labels. This is worrisome as these unknown solvents can be harmful, just as the contaminant vitamin E oil was to the New Yorkers who now have severe respiratory issues.

The most commonly used flavors are mint, fruity, and menthol, which appeal more to teens. In response to this, the Trump administration plans to ban most of these vape flavors to deter minor use. Some states such as Michigan have completely banned flavored vapes all together. The JUUL company reacted by vowing to suspend sales of many of its sweet flavored pods to avoid likely restrictions from the Federal Drug Administration (FDA).

Even with JUUL's action, there is a chance that teens will continue to use flavored juice. Other off-brand suppliers sell pods that can then be used in JUUL products. Therefore, until the FDA cuts back on these generic sellers as it had been doing with JUUL, it may have no effect on keeping minors from vaping.

There also is concern that young people may turn to cigarettes after their favorite pod flavor is no longer available.

Altria, a major tobacco production and marketing corporation, holds over a third of JUUL's stock. Altria manages well-known cigarette brands such as Marlboro and Virginia Slims, and, according to the *New York Times*, will benefit from JUUL's discontinuing of popular pod flavors, both by attracting new cigarette users and by gaining against its competition of e-cigs.

Vape Products Under Fire

Over the past few months, an alarming number of illnesses and even deaths have been linked to vaping. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Association (FDA) currently believe the cause to this illness is synthetic THC, but continue to investigate why people are getting sick. The U.S. Government has begun taking action by creating restrictions on vaping products in hopes to lower the number of people becoming ill.

March 13: FDA restricts the sale of flavored vapes.

August 7: FDA receives a total of 127 reports of seizures.

August 23: A resident of Illinois reported dead after vaping.

September 11: Trump Administration plans on banning all flavored vaping products to decrease the rising number of people being diagnosed with the unknown lung disease.

September 19: Federal officials announce that at least 530 people have become ill with an unknown lung ailment. Canada reports its first case of this disease.

September 25: The CEO of JUUL Labs, Inc., Kevin Burns, steps down from his position.

October 2: Michigan's ban on flavored vaping products officially begins. Currently Michigan, New York, Washington, and Rhode Island have imposed bans in response to the growing number of vaping-related illnesses. Over 1,000 people have been sickened by this illness.

October 15: Total number of deaths from vaping reaches 34. This ailment has spread through every state except Alaska, as well as the District of Columbia. The CDC zeroes in on the theory that synthetic THC is the main cause of the illnesses. The CDC states that 78 percent of the patients say that they used vaping products that contained THC, as well as almost one-third of the patients claiming that they only use THC-related products. The CDC warns that the only way to not become ill, while its cause is being determined, is to refrain from using all e-cigarette and vaping products.

April 3: FDA links reports of seizures to vaping.

August 17: FDA links the growing number of lung disease issues to vaping after receiving a total of 153 reported issues.

September 9: FDA sends a letter to JUUL Labs, Inc. addressing the company's illegal actions of misleading the public by making people believe that vapes are healthier than cigarettes. The FDA gives JUUL Labs, Inc. 15 days to write back on how they plan on correcting their wrongs.

September 15: JUUL Labs, Inc. spokesman Austin Finan agrees with New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, who has been pushing for a ban of flavored JUULs, that there is a need for "aggressive category-wide action."

September 24: Michigan bans the sale of all vaping products for four months to permit investigation of why people are getting sick.

September 26: The total death toll attributed to vaping rises up to at least 13 people in the U.S. These reports have been from Mississippi, Florida, Kansas, Missouri, Indiana, Minnesota, California, Illinois, Georgia, and Oregon, as well as 1 death in Britain.

October 14: Michigan officials report a death suspected of being linked with vaping. A federal judge in Michigan upholds Michigan's ban on flavored vaping products. Oregon imposes a restriction on flavored vaping products.

October 17: JUUL Labs, Inc. pauses its distribution of fruit and dessert flavored vape products.

by Joseph Oscilowski '22

November 7, 2019

Crucial Role Social Media Plays in Current Revival of Film Photography

by Hannah Lee '21

It is clear that all things hailed as “vintage” have made a significant comeback for teens today: mom jeans, scrunchies, vinyls; the list goes on. The resurgence of film photography is no exception. Apps like Huji, VHS Cam (which make pictures appear as if they were shot on VHS) and the use of disposable cameras have been noticeably prominent as an “aesthetic” on social media platforms. These apps and disposable cameras have brought much needed awareness back to traditionally processed film, benefiting the film photo industry.

For those who are unfamiliar with the different processes, digital cameras use a digital sensor to capture the image whereas film cameras use a light sensitive film (therefore you can't see the picture immediately after taking it). Film can be more tedious and difficult to handle since you must use up the whole roll before being able to develop the pictures and see how they came out. However, there's a certain timeless and romantic element to film which draws people to it. The quality of the image produced is more soft and higher resolution than most digital photos. Photographers also have to think more before shooting; the limited number of shots makes each picture count and hold more meaning.



Sherwood's darkroom where students print and develop their pictures.

“I like to shoot film because we're so inundated with technology in our everyday lives; everyone's taking pictures with their cell phones or digital cameras nowadays,” said Photography teacher Joanna Yoder. “One of the things I first fell in love with in photography was the process, and I think you lose some of that when you're just clicking a button. By shooting film you're actually more involved in the process and it opens your mind up to more creativity.”

Some may believe “film” editing apps result in people using a shortcut rather than actually picking up a film camera. Yoder doesn't think so. “They can work hand in hand,” she said. Yoder believes such apps can foster more creativity and come in useful when editing photos; she believes they do inspire teens to try their

hand at an actual film camera. Although the majority of teens are posting edited “film” pictures primarily to seem “cool” or “aesthetic,” it continues to raise awareness for the once dying art.

Specialty photography stores and darkrooms (where film photos are developed) have expanded, due to the increased number of youth taking up film. There continue to be places where film can be developed and sold. Cheap film cameras can be found on eBay, Amazon, and many other websites. Even some trendy stores like Urban Outfitters are beginning to sell them.

“I think it's important to remember where things started and to come back to it and to keep doing it to keep it alive. There's so much history behind it,” said senior Clara Wiersma, an avid film photographer.

Student Plans To Complete College before High School

by Sarah Nove '20

When senior Michael Zhao stops by Sherwood, his classmates often ask, “Do you still go here?” Despite the fact that he has not taken a class here in over a year, the answer is technically “yes.” In fact, Zhao will be graduating from Sherwood alongside his classmates this spring, a couple weeks after he receives his associate degree in science with a concentration in mathematics. Zhao participates in a dual enrollment program at Montgomery College (MC), called the Early College Program.

Zhao discovered the program at the end of his sophomore year through a letter from MC. When he read that the program provides 60 college credits and an associate degree, he felt like it was an obvious choice. By the time junior year rolled around, he was ready to make the leap.

Zhao did not leave Sherwood behind completely. Although he attends all of his classes at MC, he stays connected to Sherwood. He remains on the Sherwood's swim team and, of course, he still hangs out with his friends from Sherwood. Balancing a college-level workload and a “normal” high school life is difficult, but Zhao seems to take it in stride.

“I had two years [of the traditional high school experience], so I got that, but you give up a lot

of stuff,” said Zhao. In his case, a healthy sleep schedule was the first thing to go. “I didn't understand the term ‘all-nighter’ until I started the program. It's real college; it's a lot of work.”

Currently, Zhao is taking four courses at MC. Like most students, he goes to school five days a week, but his school days are much shorter than a full-day schedule at Sherwood. Students in the Early College Program are expected to study independently, outside of the classroom. “It's like taking all APs, but you only meet two or three times per week for each class,” said Zhao. He considers the college style of learning to be more challenging than what he experienced in his two years at Sherwood, but it is “rewarding in its own way.”

After Sherwood's graduation in the spring, Zhao has made plans to move on to a four-year college, like a lot of his Sherwood classmates. Some schools on his list of colleges do accept his MC credits, but, others do not. Regardless, Zhao still has absolutely no regrets about challenging himself to take the MC classes. Even though he has taken on an abnormal senior workload, he still finds time to balance his college classes with the typical life of a current high school student. “It's all about moving forward and not forgetting to have fun,” said Zhao.

Noah Kieserman Goes from the Ertzman to Broadway

by Carlee Malone '20

When he sang and danced on the Ertzman stage in Rock ‘N’ Roll, Noah Kieserman ('14) never imagined that just five years later, he'd be performing on a Broadway tour for thousands of people each night. Now starring as Connor Murphy in Broadway's six-time Tony award-winning musical, “Dear Evan Hansen,” Kieserman's theatre journey began with a one-of-a-kind childhood experience.

“My passion for theater was sparked while sleeping on prop tables back when my mom volunteered at MTC (Musical Theatre Center),” Kieserman said. “My first show was Fiddler On The Roof in third grade and I got to wear a fake beard, so there was no going back from there. I'd always hoped to be doing this professionally because it's a wonderful community of people, and stories have the power to change the world.”

A graduate from the University of Michigan's elite Musical Theatre Program, Kieserman was quick to jump onto new career opportunities, sending an initial “self-tape” audition to the producers of “Dear Evan Hansen” his junior year. After sending subsequent materials his senior year,

he was called to New York for an in-person audition for the entire production team.

“It was terrifying at first, but I prepped about eight hours a day for a week,” Kieserman recalled. “Upon stepping into the audition room, I felt so prepared that I was able to tell myself, ‘If you don't get this, that's not your opportunity because you are doing your absolute best.’” Just two days later, he learned that he was offered the opportunity to understudy on the show's national tour for three of the show's lead characters: Evan Hansen, Connor Murphy, and Jared Kleinman. The national tour spans 50 cities—an honor granted to the most in-demand Broadway shows. Previously showing at the Kennedy Center in DC from August 6 through November 8, the tour is currently in St. Louis, Missouri until November 3.

Now faced with the task of memorizing and perfecting three different roles with the “stipulation that [he'd] do it at a moment's notice,” Kieserman spent countless hours every day taking on this new challenge.

His hard work as an understudy paid off. Currently, Kieserman permanently plays the role of Connor Murphy: a struggling, misunderstood teenager whose suicide ends up pulling Evan



Courtesy of Michael Maddox

Noah Kieserman singing alongside his classmates at Sherwood's Rock ‘n’ Roll Revival 42 performance.

Hansen, Connor's anxiety-ridden classmate, into a maze of lies and self-discovery.

“It was a lot of digging into myself and being honest about moments in my life when I could relate with the characters' journeys,” Kieserman said. Beyond just the deep introspection required for the part, Kieserman acknowledges that his character is emotionally “unstable for the first 15 minutes of the play,” so he “always [has] to be mindful of

[his] own mental health as Noah.”

A show filled with a plethora of relatable characters and circumstances (facing anxiety, peer-pressure, stress to fit in, and growing distance from their parents), “Dear Evan Hansen” provides many lessons for its audiences, and especially for Kieserman, who has had the chance to learn and reflect.

“In high school, there's so much pressure to fit into a specific group or identity, to secure ap-

proval from your peers,” Kieserman said. “But this show is the journey of someone who goes to great lengths to do that, falls short, and must learn to love his true self. So, performing in this show is a reminder to stop judging myself.”

Now working on composing his “passion project,” a musical called SHEL about the life of world-renowned poet Shel Silverstein, it is clear that Kieserman's talents expand beyond the stage.

November 7, 2019



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A NOTE TO OUR READERS: It has come to our attention that some articles published in this section have caused confusion. We would like to point out that this is the Humor section, and contains “fake news” intended to evoke laughter. We apologize if our articles have offended or concerned you; our intent is to amuse, not confuse.

Trump Releases Plans To Nuke Storms Students Suffer through Pep Rallies as Our School Spirit Reaches a New Low

by Julia Robins '20

America's greatest president has done it again! Donald Trump has the head-spinning, jaw-dropping, brilliant idea of how to save our country from the wrath of natural disasters. How come nobody ever thought before to launch a nuclear bomb at hurricanes? Just imagine ... the people staring up at the sky in fear of their homes being destroyed, in fear of losing their lives ... and BOOM! Our Great Savior blows up the hurricane, saving countless lives.

But this daydream is smashed into pieces by Democrats, media bias, and lying NOAA officials who disregard the President even when he was RIGHT about Alabama and RIGHT about the conspiracy theory of global warming. Our poor president was so victimized by Axios and CNN's abuse he was forced to go back on his word through Twitter.

Trust Trump; it is a matter of national security. Nuking hurricanes would work. Haven't you seen Sharknado? Everybody knows life lessons are best learned from films! And what about landfills? Best way to get rid of trash—nuke it! Do not waste water putting out forest fires—nuke it! Iran not behaving in the Middle East? Nuke 'em!

According to the Congressional Budget Office, America will



Trump envisions mushroom clouds solving all of the country's problems.

spend \$494 billion on maintaining and building nuclear weapons in the next decade. What is the point if we do not plan on using our vast nuclear power to dominate the world? The Democrats are too afraid of “nuclear fallout” to even try. But Donald Trump will save us all from annihilation, starting with the most dangerous, uncontrolled risk of all: weather.

We need these powerful weapons to regain our place as the Strongest Nation on Planet

Earth. There is a difference between radicalism and progress. Do we avoid the sun because it can give us skin cancer? Do we avoid climbing mountains because there is a possibility of falling? Do we avoid dogs because they can bite? No. Donald Trump is willing to take risks and think outside the box to save our people from devastation and prove to the world that America is the true world power by literally blowing up any threat that comes our way.

by Drew Scott '20

As the school year marches into second quarter, an inevitable reality has settled on Sherwood. We still have to go to pep rallies. Now, I'm not saying that you CAN'T have school spirit or whatever. What I AM saying is that if you still have school spirit at this point, congratulations, because you are very much a dying breed. In this era of postmodernism and general existential dread, today's teen simply has no time to be concerned with pointless things like pep rallies.

Let's say that you're a student who has a job, needs to learn to drive, or is applying to college. Do you REALLY think that you have time to be excited? No, of course you don't! You're probably just going to be miserable until all of that stuff is sorted out, and then be miserable about something else. Or what about goth kids? Have you seen them? Those guys aren't gonna be happy unless pep rallies introduce human sacrifice, and I'm pretty sure that isn't gonna happen. Too much potential liability.

And we also can't forget about the whole futility of it all.

Like yeah, we get out of class, but what does this have to do with preparing us for the future? When we have jobs as adults, are we going to have to go into business meetings led by the apathetic teens who run the pep rallies? I sure hope not.

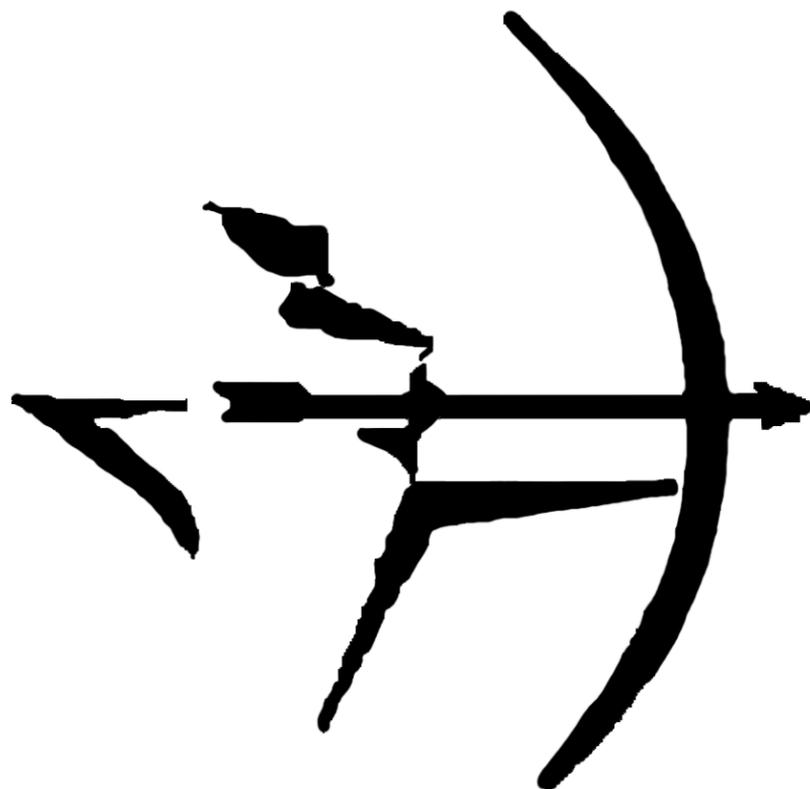
Also, what about activists? Anyone with a working brain knows how much time your average activist pours into things that actually make an impact on this godforsaken planet, and pep rallies take valuable protest time away from them. Student activists don't care that two kids can eat donuts off of a football field in record time; they care about the environment, the rights of oppressed minorities, Hong Kong, and gun control!

Basically what I'm trying to say is, maybe take some things into consideration when you see some kids looking morose on pep rally days. You don't know how miserable everyone is, because you're focused on how miserable you are! So take some time next pep rally to think about the suffering of your classmates, and compare it to yours. Maybe then you will understand why nobody wants to be there.

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Sherwood Students Carve Out a Safe Space in the Bathrooms

by Nick Stonesifer '20

Finding places in schools where you can feel safe can prove quite difficult. But if you're truly in need of a safe space, look no further than the Sherwood bathrooms. The sacred stomping grounds for those trying to escape class, the bathrooms have always provided somewhere safe to avoid the tyranny of schoolwork.

Bathrooms, while at first glance they may seem like an unorthodox place to feel safe, actually provide students with a place to hide from outside oppression that they face in school. Feeling down? Go to the bathroom. Feeling extra lazy today? Go to the bathroom. Being bullied? Go to the bathroom. Just hope your tormentors don't follow you in!

Sherwood bathrooms allow students to build their own communities away from the supervision of adults, where students are able to de-stress. Whether it is combat sports training on the soap dispensers, learning the ins and outs of plumbing, or frequent use of their inhalers in the bathroom stalls, absolutely everyone is welcome here!

Let's dissect these communities, and show how you can find comfort with any of these people.

First we have the dojo masters. These individuals find their tranquility in the destruction of soap. From what we know, these students seem to believe that soap is an oppressive agent that inhibits a feeling of safety. So they train. They destroy any and all

soap found in every bathroom, preventing its dirty influence on young teen minds.

Next we have the future plumbers. These students find their safety in learning a new trade with fellow students. They teach themselves how to turn off the water line when students already have soap in their hands, learn just the right amount of toilet paper that'll clog any toilet, and most importantly, learn that toilets are overrated and opt for other locations to do business.

Lastly, the asthmatics. These students suffer from serious respiratory conditions that require an inhaler. Since teachers frown upon inhaler use in class, these students are forced to use the bathroom instead. Often times, these inhalers have fun flavors that prompt students to share with one another and create a healthy community amongst each other. But these students seem to face the most scrutiny; they have to hide from those who are bigoted towards asthmatics. To avoid this oppression they lurk in the stalls and crowd the urinals to avoid detection by anti-inhaler teachers.

Joining one of these communities takes courage. You have to commit. Once you decide to join you will face constant ridicule from those who don't want you to feel safe. Adults who want nothing but to see you feel uncomfortable and cram you with useless knowledge will do everything in their power to bring you down. Don't let them! Find your own safe space today!

by Taylor Wallace '21

So, it's that time of year again. A time where cute love songs fill the air. A time where every other post on my Instagram feed is of someone and their significant other doing cute autumn things. If you didn't know by now, it's cuffing season. For those of you who don't know what cuffing season is, according to Urban Dictionary, it is a time when, "The cold weather and prolonged indoor activity causes singles to become lonely and desperate to be cuffed". Basically it is a time enjoyed by those in relationships and dreaded by those, like me, who are aggressively single, and unable to mingle.

I know I am young and I shouldn't spend my time worrying about relationships, but it would be nice to have someone to bake cookies and go to pumpkin patches with. It would be nice to have someone to stay in and watch a marathon of The Office with. But no. I will be doing all of these things alone this year because for some reason beyond my control, no one wants to love me. And the worst part is that I can't even ignore it. Love is everywhere and I can't escape it! One of my best friends recently got in a relationship and I am not going to lie, they are extremely cute together, but when I first got word of it, I hated it. Soon after, I found that said hatred was actually called "jealousy." Why does she get to have someone to love her and I don't? Like, I'm a good person. I give back to the community. I leave my change in



Recently cuffed Sherwood couples using PDA to assert their dominance.

the vending machine for the next lucky user. So like... where's my lover at?

This generation of teenagers already has a very interesting relationship with sadness. For some strange reason, us teenagers just love to be sad. I couldn't explain it to you truly, but what I'm getting at is that being a teenager and being single in this day and age is not a good mix. As I have already mentioned, being single sucks. There is no other way to put it and anyone who tries to say otherwise is lying to themselves. A proven fact, according to every teenager ever, is that when we are sad, we would rather listen to depressing music to make ourselves even more sad than listen to happy music. When I catch myself in my feelings late at night, I immediately drown myself in the beautiful voices of Daniel Caesar or Drake. Therefore, proving my point on why being single sucks so much nowadays because there are so many good, sad, emo songs that fill the void of not having

anyone to love.

We singles have two options during such a devastating time like cuffing season. We can either wallow in sadness and allow our loneliness to overtake us or we can embrace our singleness and focus on ourselves. I would love to tell you that option two is the one I've chosen, but that would be a lie. Don't get me wrong though, sometimes I do try and focus on myself and turn over a new leaf, but like a druggie on the streets of Hollywood, I always fall back into my bad habits.

In all honesty, I am getting better and trying to just let it happen. I don't remember who said it first but I read on a fortune cookie once that "Good things happen to those who wait". Well, I'm here and I'm waiting. I've been waiting for the past almost 17 years and I will continue to wait. So, Universe, I'm talking to you. Go ahead and do your thing. I promise to continue to be a good person; just please send someone to love me.

Cartoon Corner



by Samantha Pacheco '20

2KFORBES Forcing Students To Search for Social Media Clout

by Nick Stonesifer '20

This year's football season has been one for the ages. School spirit has been at an all-time high, and students from all grades have come together to ask one question: did 2KFORBES film it?

Sherwood football games have always been an event you want to clear your calendar for, a time when all of the students can go crazy and support their team. Students are decked out in school colors and choose to be at the whim of five or six guys who decide that it's not cool to stand in the bleachers. Football games are truly at a place where students can come together.

That was until this year. With the recent rise of sports edits, Sherwood sports have taken a nosedive into mania. Sports moguls like 2KFORBES and Collette Edits have taken control of the minds of Sherwood's fanbase, and football games have evolved into a means of clout acquisition.

Students have gone mad trying to chase the fame that comes with being in these videos. They have become feral, rushing to the games three hours early to make sure they will be caught on camera, deciding it's a smart idea to crowd surf on an incline, and let

off smoke bombs in the faces of other innocent clout-chasers. The bleachers have become a war zone with all of the students pitted against one another. But the real power struggle happens in the front of the bleachers.

Those who have become hooked on this chase for Instagram fame stand up front, and live in a vicious cycle of trying to one-up each other to earn a two second clip on an edit that will be forgotten in just under a week. But hey, Roll Wood!

To add insult to injury, this pursuit has shortened our attention spans. Students have stopped watching the games, and have turned to finding the guy who has the camera.

Eyes have become fixed on phones viewing the edits from last week, scouting out the perfect place to stand to be front and center in future edits.

So maybe it's time we looked introspectively at ourselves. Think about how we have changed our behavior at football games, about how we treat others around us. Since when did the Stormin' Warriors act like animals? It's high time that we return to the ways of old or maybe not... I heard 2KFORBES is coming to the game this Friday.

THE AGE OF TEEN ACTIVISM

Picture this: you wake up one morning and check Instagram. As you open up the app, you are flooded with hundreds of story posts from your peers. Your finger aches from tapping through all these pictures and videos.

What are these posts? They vary. Whether it's a speech from a politician about why we need gun control, or a video that was posted showing how little time we have before the Earth reaches the point of no return, there's one thing in common: we as teenagers utilize social media as our primary platform for activism and spreading awareness.

This raises the question: how effective is social media as a platform for political engagement and discussion? On one hand, it's an amazing form of spreading awareness. With the click of a button, we can share posts to hundreds of people. But, if all we do is spread awareness without contributing or making change — *what's the point?*

Post, Talk, Write: How We Can Save Ourselves from Disaster

by Sabina Jafri '20

Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas and Tropical Depression Imelda in Texas last month both caused devastation and death where they landed. They're sending a clear message that some governments across the world are failing to recognize: climate change is intensifying, and for our homes' sake, we need to do something about it.

According to the latest numbers, the death toll from Hurricane Dorian now stands at 56 people, with over one thousand still missing. Making landfall Sunday, September 1 at Elbow Cay on the Abaco Islands, the storm and resulting flooding damaged 90 percent of all homes and infrastructure on the island. That, and widespread power outages, closed all retail businesses on the island.

The unlivable conditions pushed most every resident to try to flee the island; hundreds crowd airport terminals and landing zones, praying to secure a seat on a private flight. The general sentiment is that homes have schools, supermarkets, banks, and running water. The island cannot be a home anymore.

Then, two years after Hurricane Harvey and a mere sixteen days after Hurricane Dorian, rains

from Tropical Depression Imelda formed in eastern Texas, which was immediately declared to be in a state of emergency. Dissipating four days later, on September 21, the storm left floodwaters as deep as five feet in some coastal towns, as reported by residents. Highways were shut down, and in the hard-hit Orange County, the following week was wrought with more than 400 high-water rescues. May of the residents here, too, could not access their homes.

Imelda coincided with a global climate strike that took place from September 20-27. Encompassing over 6,100 events held in 185 countries, the strike included 7.6 million people carrying signs, waving banners, giving speeches, and chanting to achieve a single goal: to phase-out fossil fuels and deforestation in favor of renewable energy. These protesters say that they are proving that a large enough human force exists to make this change. But does it?

In a world of 7.7 billion people, the 7.6 million demonstrators make up approximately 0.09 percent of the global population. Between 2007-2009, the global usage of coal, crude oil, and natural gas all decreased, but they've been rising ever since.

Such an abysmal level of support for the reduction of fossil fuels and conservation of energy moves society in a dangerous direction.

According to world-renowned sixteen-year-old Swedish climate activist, Greta Thunberg, "We are in the beginning of a mass extinction." In her address at the 2019 UN climate action summit in New York, she chastises world leaders for their lack of action, accusing them of coming "to young people for hope."

Although change should be more effectively promoted by politicians, Thunberg's statement still stands true: in these protests, and in aiding hurricane and fund relief through donated supplies, schools and students are frontrunners. It truly has become our duty to promote a healthier earth. Using the lessons learned in Texas and on the Abaco Islands, we must instill in our peers the urgency under which we must consider climate change and how we decay our planet.

It is up to us to have these discussions. Post about conservation and aid. Talk about it. Write about it. Although houses were irreversibly destroyed in disasters, the 7.6 million people spreading awareness might just embolden us to save our home.



The Persistent Fear of a Nearly Irreversible Crisis

by Zach Seymour '20

The three-year anniversary of the UN's Paris Agreement going into effect is approaching. This agreement was a resolution between signatories that an effort would be made to ramp up efforts to contain climate change and prevent irreversible damage. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has stated that the international community has to restrain global climate change to less than 1.5°C by the end of the century or the effects will be widespread and beyond the world's ability to contain. At this point in time, the world is on track to reach 3°C by 2100 unless drastic measures are taken by governments, businesses, and individuals around the world.

Young people have seen this crisis and found it their responsibility to speak up and save the future they will have to live in. According to a poll by the Washington Post and the Kaiser Family from September, almost one in four teens from ages 13-17 have taken some action pertaining to the climate change crisis; one in seven have participated in a school walkout. The Global Week For Future was a week of protests inspired by the 16-year-old Swedish climate activist, Greta Thunberg. Over the course of seven days, it is reported that almost six million people worldwide participated in strikes, the largest of which was the walkout on September 20.

The organization of this movement is a testament to the willingness of a generation to

stand up for what they find to be a crisis that they cannot ignore. Over 50 percent of teens surveyed in the Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation Poll reported being afraid and angry, less than a third said that they were optimistic about the outcome. There is hope to stay below the detrimental outcome of a 1.5°C increase, but only if the governments and other contributors who agreed to put forward plans to pull back on CO2 emissions step up to the task. Without drastic changes to policies and protocols in the public and private sectors, global climate change will be a crisis that will be left for the next generation to deal with, even if the ones leaving have already burned the bridge to the solution.

Greta Thunberg: Champion of the Climate Crisis

by Kara Thompson '20

Generation Z has been the generation of change. From the Parkland students who organized March for Our Lives to student protesters at the March for Science, young people around the globe have been actively involved in fighting for their rights. As of late, many have been fighting for their futures.

Greta Thunberg has become by far the most famous activist in the world regarding climate change. The 16-year-old from Sweden started protesting outside Swedish Parliament for stronger laws targeting global warming in August of 2018, and inspired many other students to do the same within their own communities. Thunberg quickly rose to fame, and was asked to address the UN Climate Change Counsel in 2018, in addition to starting the movement that led to climate strikes full of people from almost 150 countries on Friday, September 20.

Most recently, Thunberg's passionate and

emotional speech at the UN Climate Action Summit provided her with attention, and the platform she needs to make lasting change. She repeats the phrase "How dare you?!" constantly throughout her speech, ridiculing world leaders for having to be asked by children to save their future.

Thunberg also critiques how many leaders have said they understand the urgency of the climate crisis, but chooses to believe this isn't the case. "Because if you really understood the situation and still kept on failing to act, then you would be evil," she said bluntly in her speech addressing the UN.

Social media allowed her speech to be shared worldwide. Responses to her speech include Russian President Vladimir Putin condemning her, President Trump mocking her, and conservative Canadian Parliament member Maxime Bernier questioning her mental stability and reliability. Thunberg is on the autism scale, but she says her Asperger's is a superpower, not a disability,

and does not let insensitive comments slow her down.

There are also criticisms that Thunberg is too young to have any real knowledge about the world. Several people claim that she doesn't understand enough about how the world works to be making these types of claims. Some on the far right allege that she is being used as a propaganda tool.

Nevertheless, Thunberg took the negative backlash in stride and stuck by what she said. Many more people have shared their support for her via social media, such as Democratic candidate Kamala Harris, who tweeted part of Thunberg's speech and acknowledged that world leaders are not doing enough to combat climate change.

Thunberg is just the most recent example of young people standing up for their rights and their futures. If this trend continues, Generation Z will be full of people unafraid to stand up for what they believe in.

staff editorial

In Our Opinion...

College Applications Take a Toll on Seniors

Sometimes, desperate times call for desperate measures. The Warrior's "In Our Opinion" editorials have always taken on the standard-paragraph form that is characteristic of a typical article. However, the seniors on The Warrior staff have been so woefully stressed and panicked about applying to college that crafting the expected, traditional unsigned editorial was not within their mental grasp. The college application process, with a major deadline passing last Friday on November 1, leaves senior students battling a practically intolerable combination of stress, anxiety, confusion, and uncertainty. But, this process shouldn't be so mentally taxing. What needs to change? Well, we have some answers. The following are direct quotes from seniors on The Warrior staff about the confusing, the unreasonable, the anxiety-inducing, and the infuriating aspects of applying to colleges.

"It is ridiculous that we are obligated to transfer information between several different platforms (College Board, Naviance, Common App, Coalition, SRAR, etc.) when we are just copying the same thing. I think condensing the application process to only one website would save students from unnecessary stress."

"Even during my junior year, I was not told to take the first steps including standardized tests until the end of the year. Many students are the first ones in their family paving this path and without proper instruction and direction, students are bound to fall behind, become anxious and confused, and not fulfill their application's full potential."

"I do not know how I am supposed to shove my entire personality, motivations, background, and passions into 650 words and a few supplements. It always feels like a part of me is missing or lacking, and as I stress about how to fix this, I wonder why I

pressure myself so tremendously to appear--and be--perfect just so I can get an education."

"Being a senior, all anyone wants to talk about is college. While applying to college is a very important thing in my life right now, I have a life outside of my future university. Applying to college has already taken over my personal life, I do not want it to take over my social life too!"

"Although the counselors have a system in place for informing students and their families about the college application process, every friend that I asked for help when I was confused seemed just as lost as me. Most of what I needed to know to apply to colleges I found out by myself."

"My earliest application deadline was November 1 and spent my first two months at school focusing on getting my scores and grades sent in on time, as well as filling out the application. I really haven't spent time with friends or

had time to just breathe."

"It is stressful enough wondering if you will get in, how much money they will give you, what program of study you're choosing--the least colleges can do is make the application itself clear and easy to fill out."

"To me, it is completely ridiculous that we have to pay--usually around \$70--to apply to a school we may not even get into, never mind attend."

"There are fees for everything, and it's not just the application fee that's costly. You pay for transportation and lodging for visits to show your interest in the school. You pay to take the tests they require, and again when you want to send them."

"I wish counselors spent more time during our junior year preparing us for what lies ahead. It would lead to a smoother transition and give us more time to plan our future."

Published four times a year, The Warrior serves as Sherwood High School's premier news source. Over the years, it has received numerous state and national honors. With a staff of 50 students, The Warrior keeps the Sherwood community apprised of local and national events. All opinion articles represent the viewpoint of the writer. The unsigned staff editorial solely represent the opinions of the newspaper staff. These articles do not necessarily represent the views of Sherwood High School.

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by Samantha Pacheco '20

At Brandy, One Size Fits All . . . Except You

by Taylor Wallace '21

Image is one of the most concerning factors in a teenager's life. Will people like me? Will others accept me? What clothes will make me seem cool? These questions haunt the minds of many teenagers every day. In a society built on expectations and beauty standards, it is really easy for one to fall into the trap of critical self-judgment. Day after day, teens go out of their way in order to feel accepted. Body issues do not discriminate, making it possible for anyone to be overtaken by them. Every day, teens around the world are constantly shamed for being too big or too small to the point where it's nearly impossible for one to be confident in their own body.

Popular clothing brand Brandy Melville is known for its "one-size-fits-all" policy. If you go to select an item on its website, you will be offered very slim options when it comes to size. Most items are labeled with a "fits size x-small/small" or the occasional "fits size small/medium". Brandy Melville is one of the only mainstream brands that has this policy. A common justification is that they chose to adopt said policy in order to follow with the 'aesthetic' of the brand: the ideal skinny, typically white, long-haired girl. To those who do not match that description, the 'aesthetic' can seem like more of a form of discrimination than a sales strategy. It makes one wonder why a whole clothing line would exclude such a significant part of the population from being able to enjoy



Brandy Melville is notorious for catering to just one body type: skinny.

Brandy Melville products. On top of not having sizes available for those who do not wear a size two, their variance in model choice is very homogeneous in comparison to other brands similar to them. It is 2019 and the company has yet to stray from having a nearly all white and skinny model line, which is further proof of Brandy's toxic environment.

'One size fits all' policies are a huge contributor to body issues amongst teens. Imagine not being able to buy clothes from a store because you are not 120 pounds and a size two. There is no legitimate benefit to policies like these because all they do is discriminate and feed into societal beauty standards. Everyone is different and everyone wears clothes. Therefore, it would only

make sense for clothing brands to make their products accessible to all, no matter your body type. A brand like Brandy Melville suggests that if you are skinny, you are someone who is worthy of wearing clothes of their level. But if you are not, you have no choice but to shop somewhere else.

No person should have to sacrifice their love of clothes for a brand that has an outdated vision regarding beauty. Brandy Melville is a very successful clothing line and does have an excellent selection of vintage and modern clothes. In order to create a more inclusive and open brand, they should make products more accessible to a larger group of people so that everyone can exercise their right to wear clothes that make them feel beautiful.

Sign of the Times that School Should Once Again Offer American Sign Language

by Lucy Sokol '21

Sherwood should once again offer the American Sign Language (ASL) elective. ASL classes give students an insight into the deaf community and present more opportunities to communicate with the hearing-impaired.

The last time Sherwood had an ASL program was the 2017-2018 school year. John Falls, the resource teacher for the World Language department, said the enrollment for these classes were low with only 11-12 students, and classes at Sherwood typically require at least 18-20 students to carry. Due to the unusually low enrollment, students of various learning levels were placed in the same classroom. This created a challenge for the only ASL teacher Sherwood had at the time, Dreama-Dawn Cook.

Unfortunately, the course registration cards for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years excluded American Sign Language completely, indicating that Sherwood did not even give students the opportunity to sign up for an ASL elective. Although it is too late to do anything about this matter this school year, Sherwood should start taking steps to offer the class for next year. Signing develops awareness and sensitivity to cultural and linguistic diversity. The sooner we can bridge the gap between the hearing world and the deaf community, the bet-

ter. Studies show that sign language enhances students' creative thinking, provides them with better problem-solving and listening skills, as well as improves their academic achievement.

Several students here at Sherwood were devastated when they found out their American Sign Language elective did not come back in the 2018-2019 school year. In the years before, the only way Sherwood advertised its ASL elective was through the registration cards. As a way to inspire more students to try out a sign language class, the school needs to do much more to advertise the course to students. Without an ASL teacher currently in the building, others need to step up to promote the class. That could be the World Languages or Counseling departments.

The number of students enrolled in an elective should not determine whether or not students can join a class they might really enjoy or possibly want to pursue as a career. Sherwood is meant to be a diverse and welcoming environment, but throwing away a wonderful language like ASL does not fit these characteristics. Blake High School has a very successful ASL program with separate classes for multiple levels of ASL. If students at Blake enjoy this beneficial language so much, why does Sherwood believe their students would want it any less?



Are They Really Influencers?

by Hannah Lee '21

As our society evolves to rely more on technology, social media has in some ways become more of a business platform than a creative outlet. Instagram models, YouTubers, etc. can post one picture and get paid a significant amount of money. While I have no problems with people easily earning money, I do feel like it leads to people feeling like their regular work experiences are invalidated.

For instance, recently there has been controversy surrounding the YouTubers the ACE family, who posted a video of them working at a fast food place for a video and boasting about what a crazy and new experience it was working hourly shifts (which they had never done before). This caused an uproar throughout working class people who rely on working at fast food places as their main source of income. People were astounded at the disconnect from these social media "role models" to reality. Also, young kids see other influencers their age getting their own apartments, not going to school, and traveling to exotic destinations. However, kids need to understand that influencers' lives have to look perfect, but that's all they are: an illusion.

We Need To Stop the Hate Trend

by Jenna Bloom '21

Recently, there has been a stereotype circulating around the internet about VSCO girls. According to Dictionary.com, a VSCO girl is "a term, generally used as an insult, for a young, usually white woman who wears scrunchies and Birkenstock sandals, drinking out of Hydro Flask reusable water canisters, saying sksksk and I oop, and generally seeking attention online." The idea is that they are basic, eco-friendly, and care very strongly about their online presence. This past summer, the idea of a "VSCO girl" blew up on various social media sites, but most importantly, TikTok. It has come to a point where everyone knows, or has some idea what a "VSCO girl" is.

Society has enough problems already; it's time to stop making fun of people for what they like, and just let everyone live. Before this, there was a trend of hating on "basic white girls" who drank Starbucks and wore Uggs. It has come to the point where teenage girls can't do anything without being made fun of or considered basic. At the end of the day, it doesn't hurt anyone to wear a scrunchie or own a hydro flask, so it's time to stop making teenage girls feel guilty for liking what they like.

School Should Start Before Labor Day

by Reade Fenner '22

The MCPS Board of Education is currently drafting and discussing the 2020-2021 calendar, with the school start date being a prominent issue. An executive order passed by Gov. Larry Hogan stating that schools in Maryland must begin after Labor Day has now been annulled by new legislation. MCPS is considering returning to an earlier start date, such as September 1 or August 31. The other option is after Labor Day on September 8.

MCPS should hold the first day of school before Labor Day next school year. It's ridiculous to begin a school year a week into September because it puts the last day of school on June 24. The end date for MCPS doesn't change the dates of the AP exams, so about a month and a half of school will be left after most AP tests, leaving nothing for AP students to do. For elementary parents, the end of August is a time when their children become restless and bored. These parents, especially those who work, would prefer for their child to be back in school at the end of summer. Issues such as these will only worsen with a later school start and end date. A later school start date would negatively impact all MCPS students.

The Pulse

The College Board dominates the high school testing scene with their administration of SAT and AP testing. Recently, the College Board began implementing multiple new changes to their testing, including new AP curricula, AP registration date, and Landscape scores assigned to students based on students' background.

Before the school year started, did you know the College Board modified the curricula of numerous AP courses, including Chemistry, World History, and English?

Yes	19%
No	78%
Not sure	3%

Overall, how satisfied are you with the quality and relevance of the content and skills you learn in AP course?

5 (most satisfied)	8%
4	44%
3	42%
2	6%
1 (least satisfied)	0%

Do you think the new November registration deadline will encourage more students to sign up for exams?

Yes	17%
No	74%
Not sure	9%

In general, should the socioeconomic background of a student be a factor for college admission?

Yes	41%
No	40%
Not sure	19%

Survey of 135 Juniors and Seniors
Compiled by Sophia Wooden '20

News Bias in Front of Our Eyes

by Eve Schlegel '20

The top stories on news sources, such as CNN and Fox News, almost always appear to take a side in politics. Over the past month, CNN has harped over the Trump impeachment inquiry, revealing any little detail. On the other hand, Fox News chooses to almost never report on the inquiry. The two online sites also offer dueling headlines, such as CNN showcasing the breaking news title "Trump calls impeachment inquiry a 'lynching'" and Fox News countering the same day with "Flashback: Top Dems, including Nadler, called Clinton impeachment 'lynching.'" The obvious contrast between these news sources and their opposite political views leads to the question, what impact does this news bias have on Americans?

It is a part of human nature, even animal nature, to have a need for belonging. When people call themselves a Democrat or Republican, it gives a sense of comfort and power to be among a group that reflects similar views. Fox News and CNN have the ability to put out partisan news because the audience enjoys it. They have high viewerships because people like to hear "news" that reflect their own political views.

More worrisome individuals who rely on only one source for information and commentary may fully accept the political views preached, without considering contrasting opinions. Being informed on all sides of an issue is the best way to develop one's own opinion. Hearing a news event from only one perspective may not reveal all the details of a particular event.

As a conservative myself, I cannot say I am completely innocent in this circumstance. On my phone, I have many news apps including the Washington Post,



Sean Hannity (top) from FOX contrasts Don Lemon (bottom) from

Fox News, Reuters, and CNN. I try to be inclusive when following the news, but sometimes I find myself gravitating towards Fox News when I am on a time crunch. I will not lie, watching CNN typically angers me, but I am open-minded enough to realize Fox News is just as guilty. It is easy to point fingers at CNN, for example, and claim they only report on the negative stories of the Trump administration. The readers of these partisan sources, including me at times, fuel the fire by watching and reacting to the partiality.

In a recently released book "Hate Inc: Why Today's Media Makes Us Despise One Another," Matt Taibbi describes how people "need to start understanding the news not as 'the news,' but as just such an individualized consumer experience – anger just for you." He goes on to explain that bias "creates masses of media consumers who've been trained to see in only one direction, as

if they had been pulled through history on a railroad track, with heads fastened in blinders, looking only one way."

Taibbi describes it perfectly when he says "As it turns out, there is a utility in keeping us divided. As people, the more separate we are, the more politically impotent we become." The partisan news sources have power by keeping viewers in the dark. Hearing only one viewpoint can blind one's reasoning, and will push them to keep watching the source. If people become aware of the bias and actively attempt to detect it, maybe it will shape the way they view the news. While yes, having a controversial president does contribute to today's extreme political division, maybe the news has an even bigger role. If partisan news sources, like Fox News and CNN, made an effort to report news that did not take a side, Americans could begin to think for themselves instead of being told how to think.

Straight Pride Is a Straight Joke

by Ayana Antoine '20

Every June, members of the LGBT community across the world celebrate Pride Month, which commemorates their community's struggles throughout history and the strides they have made. Besides members of the LGBT community, the events during Pride Month include both people who have not come out yet and those who aren't in the community, but support LGBT efforts. The celebration grows more prominent every year, from large companies giving their support, to celebrities acknowledging and celebrating the efforts of the disenfranchised group.

Despite all the positivity this month is meant to represent, there was a push in Boston to have a "Straight Pride" as a way for heterosexual people to show their Pride in showing off their sexuality. The "Straight Pride" celebration supposedly is intended to show inclusivity and celebrate

the contributions that heterosexual people have made in this society. The Boston Parade took place August 31 and only had about 200 participants compared to the thousands of counter protesters.

The irony of this is Pride Month celebrating LGBT people isn't meant to solely represent the contributions LGBT people have made to society but is supposed to act as a way of acknowledging their contributions without ignoring the fact that their sexuality or gender identity may have caused additional obstacles in life. It may be hard to hear as a heterosexual or a cisgender person that people who do not identify with you feel persecuted by you. However, the fact of the matter is there is a societal norm to be straight, which LGBT people do not have the privilege of identifying with. This is why having their own Pride Month is so important.

Despite the unwarranted desire for the parade, the insistence for a "Straight Pride" comes as

no surprise. The concept of a privileged group not feeling comfortable with a disenfranchised group speaking their truth is not new. For several decades during awareness months such as Black history month, Latin American history month, and Asian Pacific Island history month, there has been an interest in having a "White History Month." But in the same way that white history is taught as a standard while black history is taught as an elective, "Straight Pride" has no real basis.

Straight people do not have to face coming out or their sexuality being deemed as a sin. According to a Harvard study, more than half of LGBT-identifying people have experienced some type of violence on the basis of their sexuality or gender identity. Even if individuals do not personally agree with the concept of Pride Month, that does not change the fact that straight people do not face a prejudice that they need to celebrate overcoming.

THE WARRIOR WONDERS...

If you were a famous YouTuber, what videos would you create?

"I would create health and fitness videos" - Hannah Lees '22

"I would create comedy videos with friends ... Maybe throw a bit of skits in there" - Chris Major '22

"Gaming videos and online reactions" - Joseph Showers '23

How much time do you spend on YouTube each week?

0-60 Minutes
20%

1-5 Hours
48%

5-10 Hours
22%

Over 10 Hours
10%

Do you think YouTube news sources are reliable?

Yes
4%

No
18%

To a certain extent
78%

What do you primarily watch YouTube for?



Beauty videos
11%



Gamer videos
15%



Music videos
7%



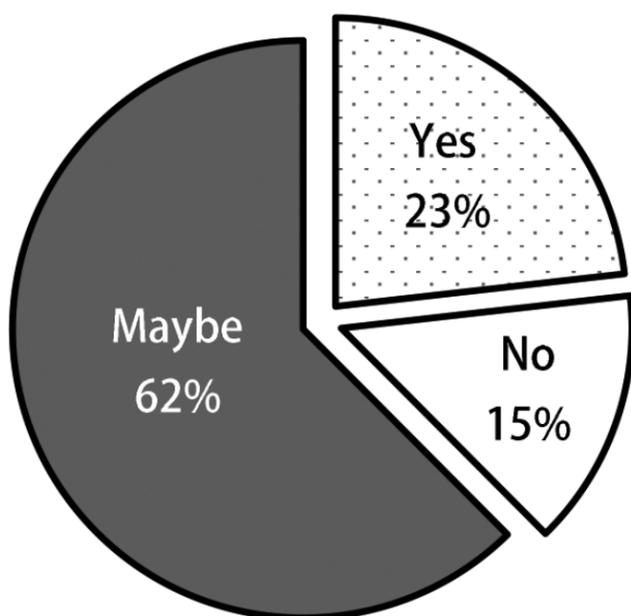
Sports videos
6%



Comedy videos
38%

Other
23%

Would you want to be famous?



What is the average age of the YouTubers you watch?

1-10 years
3%

11-20 years
21%

21-30 years
70%

Over 30 years
6%

Do you frequently watch YouTube for a specific creator?

Yes
65%

No
35%

Who is your favorite YouTuber?

"Jaiden Animations because I love her personality and she's a talented artist/ animator" - Lydia Sayers '21

"Angelo Nugget's vlogs because it reminds me of my middle school and early high school memories" - Hope Tippery '21

"Jenna Marbles because she makes unique videos and marches to the beat of her own drum" - Tyler Smith '20

The Brand New Pen-and-Paper Prequel to 'Cyberpunk 2077' Is Brutal and Beautiful

by Sarah Nove '20

In the late '80s, R. Talsorian Games released the first edition of "Cyberpunk," a tabletop role-playing game (TTRPG) which has since become a classic. More than three decades after its initial release, a video game spin-off, "Cyberpunk 2077," is set to come out this spring, featuring stars like Keanu Reeves and Samuel Barnett. In the meantime, R. Talsorian Games dropped the "Cyberpunk Red Jumpstart Kit," the "perfect introduction" of "Cyberpunk," according to the sales description. "Cyberpunk Red" takes place in the year 2040 and acts both as a sequel to prior editions and a prequel to the video game.

Before diving into this review, let's go over the basics of TTRPGs. TTRPGs are similar to role-playing video games, but without the computer. Instead, there is a game-master (GM) who organizes and presents the narrative that player characters (PCs) experience. Most TTRPGs rely on dice-rolling to determine the effectiveness of a character's action. For instance, in "Cyberpunk," players can roll a ten-sided die to make a "perception check." On a low roll, their character does not detect anything unusual or out of place; on a high roll, they might notice a hidden object or overhear important information. Also, many TTRPGs have specific rules for combat, and "Cyberpunk Red" is no exception. "Cyberpunk Red" runs on a combat system called Thursday Night Throwdown (TNT) which is an abridged version of previous editions' exceedingly-complex systems. TNT may be simpler than its predecessors, but it is still pretty tricky.

The "Jumpstart Kit" may be an "introduction," but it definitely is not just a beginners guide. With over 100 pages of content, it's quite a hefty read. The kit includes the Worldbook (which contains one full module and three adventure outlines), the Rulebook, six pregenerated character sheets, a few maps and standees, and two "EZ" reference sheets. Altogether, it is comprehensive and detailed guide, and, frankly, a bit excessive.

The world of "Cyberpunk Red" is beautifully crafted. Cyberpunk, the game's namesake, is a subgenre of science-fiction dominated by the relationship between humans and technology—think "Blade Runner" and "Ready Player One." "Cyberpunk Red" relies on an alternate history, which diverges from our reality in the 1980s, around the time of the game's initial creation. The timeline laid out in the Worldbook is a work of art. Nothing occurs in a vacuum, and players can trace each and every event back to a plausible cause and track its influence on the future. It is a complicated web of catastrophes that sets the stage for a "dark future," as it is referred to in the Worldbook.

The physical world of "Cyberpunk Red" is not quite as detailed, at least in the Jumpstart Kit, which focuses primarily on Night City. Off the coast of California, Night City is a haven for ne'er-do-wells, as it is about as far from the Capitol and federal influence as characters can get. It is the Wild West, where gangs rule the streets, and if you are not employed by a corporation, you are flat broke. The city is absolutely brutal, and the stakes are always high. Players, beware: don't get too attached to your characters.

If your GM is playing as the kit encourages, your PCs might not make it out alive. The Worldbook makes it clear from the very start: "Nobody ever leaves Night City. Except in a body bag."

Thankfully, the "Jumpstart Kit" makes it just as effortless to make a new character as it is to accidentally kill one. It contains pregenerated characters and a streamlined guide for character creation, called the Lifepath System, which ensures each PC is well-developed and unique. Stats, or the numeric scores that players add to dice rolls, are predetermined for ease of use. Only six of nine character classes, or types of characters, are available in the Jumpstart Kit, but that's more than enough to have a great time.

The only glaring problem with the "Jumpstart Kit" is the length and complexity of the Rulebook. Expecting players to read more than 15 pages of rules as an "introduction" to a game often is overwhelming as a new player. Additionally, the Rulebook does not provide clear and succinct descriptions of many important functions, so players may end up spending more time searching for rules than playing the game.

"Cyberpunk" is an examination of the domino effect; it is the culmination of what-ifs. Players are enveloped in a lawless world of cybernetics, advertising, poverty, and violence. At face value, the game's futuristic setting may seem distant from our reality, but, upon closer inspection, it seems more like a future we narrowly avoided.

Grade:

A-

'Joker' Is No Laughing Matter

by Conall Sahler '20

"Joker," Todd Phillips' 2019 alternative take on DC's most popular villain, is tracking a lot of reactions and opinions. The movie follows Arthur Fleck (Joaquin Phoenix), a mentally ill man who is neglected and beaten down by society until he feels there is no other choice but to turn to violence and murder. This premise has caused an uproar of controversy from many sides; the most prominent voices though, are claiming that the movie is dangerous in characterizing a mass murderer as the protagonist.

In 2012 during a showing of Christopher Nolan's "The Dark Knight Rises" in Aurora, Colorado, 25 year old James Holmes killed 12 people and injured 70 others. Families from this tragedy have recently spoken out about Phillips' new film. "I don't need to see a picture of [Holmes]; I just need to see a 'Joker' promo and I see a picture of the killer ... My worry is that one person who may be out there ... who is on the edge, who is wanting to be a mass shooter, may be encouraged by this movie. And that terrifies me," stated Sandy Phillips, the mother of a victim murdered in the tragedy, to the Hollywood Reporter.

In response to such criticism, director Phillips in an interview with the Associated Press stated, "It's a fictional character in a fictional world that's been around for 80 years. The one that bugs me more is ... when you go, 'Oh, I just saw John Wick'. He's a white male who kills 300 people and everybody's laughing and hooting and hollering. Why does this movie get held to different standards? It honestly doesn't make sense to me."

The studio that produced the film also issued an official statement, "Warner Bros. believes

that one of the functions of storytelling is to provoke difficult conversations around complex issues. Make no mistake: neither the fictional character Joker, nor the film, is an endorsement of real-world violence of any kind. It is not the intention of the film, the filmmakers or the studio to hold this character up as a hero."

Many film critics have used their platforms to speak out about the film and its depiction of violence and mental illness. One such critic, YouTuber Chris Stuckman, recently posted a review in which he stated: "In films past, as you know, whenever that character [The Joker] was involved in the movie Batman was also there so there is a sort of good and evil presence. Now we are just focused on this person and at first I was a little adverse to that ... You do feel sympathy for him because you understand how bad his life has been, and that could be dangerous. But Joaquin Phoenix [Arthur Fleck] and his performance tread that line very beautifully. Even when you feel bad for him you begin to see this brewing darkness behind his eyes and you no longer feel bad for him. It's a very realistic and probable portrayal about how somebody might become like the Joker."

Stuckman notes the dangers of portraying a villain as the main "protagonist" but admits that the film is very important in that it does not make Arthur Fleck a hero. "It makes the audience ask some difficult questions. What role do we play in creating the Joker? Are we a part of that system? Is there a way we have caused this without even pulling the trigger? The fact that a comic book film is asking harsh questions like this is really great. Most importantly it is starting a conversation."

Upcoming Movies and Performances

Movies

11/1	Terminator: Dark Fate PG-13	Director: Tim Miller Cast: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton, Mackenzie Davis	Action-Adventure
11/12	Lady and the Tramp PG	Director: Charlie Bean Cast: Ashley Jensen, Justin Theroux, Kiersey Clemons, Tessa Thompson	Family Comedy
11/15	Charlie's Angels PG-13	Director: Elizabeth Banks Cast: Sam Claflin, Kristen Stewart, Patrick Stewart, Naomi Scott	Action-Adventure
11/15	The Good Liar R	Director: Bill Condon Cast: Ian McKellen, Helen Mirren, Russell Tovey, Jim Carter	Thriller, Drama
11/15	Ford v Ferrari PG-13	Director: James Mangold Cast: Matt Damon, Christian Bale, Jon Bernthal, Caitriona Balfe	Action, Drama
11/22	Frozen 2 PG	Director: Jennifer Lee Cast: Kristin Bell, Idina Menzel, Josh Gad	Animated, Comed
11/27	Knives Out PG-13	Director: Rian Johnson Cast: Chris Evans, Katherine Langford, Ana de Armas	Mystery, Drama



Music

11/11	Taking Back Sunday	The Fillmore Silver Spring (Silver Spring)
11/15	Chris Young	Royal Farms Arena (Baltimore)
11/23	Beach Bunny	Songbyrd (DC)
11/25	Brockhampton	The Anthem (DC)
11/29	Deadmau5	The Anthem (DC) (18+)
11/30	Jonas Brothers	Royal Farms Arena (Baltimore)
12/19	Varsity	Songbyrd (DC)
12/27	GWAR	9:30 Club (DC)
1/19	Snoop Dogg	The Fillmore Silver Spring (Silver Spring)



What's Really the Best Veggie Burger on the Market?

Veggie Burgers. They've been the craze for the past few years now and have only gotten more popular. With the climate crisis intensifying, scientists are pointing out that reducing one's red meat intake can have a positive impact on our environment. In turn, this discovery has prompted more people to want to go greener or even become a vegetarian. But when it comes to being a vegetarian or reducing your meat intake, it is important that we find delicious contenders for some of our favorite foods, specifically America's favorite: the classic hamburger. Over the past few weeks, I have tasted and analyzed five different varieties of meatless burgers to find out which really deserves the honorable title of "Best Veggie Burger." by Adina Brenner '20

Features Taken Into Consideration: Each will be scored out of 10.

Taste: What was the flavor like? Enjoyable? Sickening?

Texture: What did the first bite feel like in your mouth? Mushy? Crunchy? Both?

Similarity to Meat (STM): How close does its taste, texture, and appearance come to that of a real hamburger?

Nutrition: How many calories does the patty contain? What's the fat content? How much sodium?

Price: Are you getting the best bang for your buck?

1. The Impossible Burger

240 cal, 14g fat

Cost (1 burger at Burger King): \$5.59

When they handed me my food at the drive-thru, I instantly knew this was going to be one of my top contenders. The smell and presentation alone were outstanding. The patty had grill lines! The taste proved to match the appearance with my first bite. Similar to the Beyond Meat, this burger had meat-like qualities and certainly surprised my taste buds. The burger proved to be nearly perfect ... except the price. One burger for almost \$6.00?! This aspect could use some improvement for sure. Is the price worth it, however? Yes!

Taste: 10 **Texture:** 9 **STM:** 8 **Nutrition:** 6 **Price:** 4

Overall Score: 37

2. Beyond Meat Burger

250 cal, 20g fat

Cost (pack of two): \$5.99

Beyond Meat = Beyond Delicious! My initial thought when taking a look at this burger was "Wait, this isn't meat?" Not only does it have a marbling that melts and tenderizes like real beef, but before I cooked it, the patties contained a red substance (beet juice) that was eerily similar to blood. With a rich and juicy texture, there were times during my consumption where I completely forgot this was meatless. Just keep in mind, this may not be the healthiest option due to its high fat content and amount of sodium.

Taste: 9 **Texture:** 8 **STM:** 9 **Nutrition:** 4 **Price:** 6

Overall Score: 36

4. Morningstar Grillers Original

130 cal, 5g fat

Cost (pack of 4): \$4.50

The Grillers Original veggie burger can be purchased in any local grocery store and is surprisingly not bad. Although the overall texture proved to be extremely dry and chewy, the flavors were appetizing. It may resemble meat on the outside; however, once you bite into it, you will quickly discover its flavors do not compare to the real thing. This burger may not be the best, but if you're looking for a healthier, smaller option with a great price point, this may be the burger for you.

Taste: 6 **Texture:** 4 **STM:** 4 **Nutrition:** 8 **Price:** 9

Overall Score: 31



Impossible is known to be the only vegetarian burger to actually resemble the real thing.

3. Amy's Black Bean Burger

130 cal, 4g fat

Cost (pack of 4): \$6.00

When it comes to black bean burgers, it can be hard to find one that is both tasty and has a texture that isn't just straight mush. Amy's Black Bean Burger has proven to fit both of these qualities. With its smoky flavor and a slight kick in each bite, this burger had a great flavor profile. Congratulations Amy! You nailed it.

Taste: 8 **Texture:** 6 **STM:** 3 **Nutrition:** 10 **Price:** 7.5

Overall Score: 34.5

5. Morningstar Veggie Lovers

160 cal, 9g fat

Cost (pack of 4): \$6.50

Although the Veggie Lovers burger failed to resemble or taste like the real thing, it still presented an appealing flavor full of various vegetables. With the first bite, your mouth will experience at least five to six diverse flavors, both soft and crunchy. Due to its ten-vegetable base, it is certainly a healthier option for those looking to watch their calorie intake. It also comes in a frozen package, so if you want a quick and easy meal, this burger may be the perfect option for you.

Taste: 6 **Texture:** 7 **STM:** 2 **Nutrition:** 7 **Price:** 7

Overall Score: 29

November 7, 2019

A Mesmerizing Plunge into Madness

by Jack Miller '21

Writer and director Robert Eggers follows up his stupendous debut feature film, "The VVitch," with the terrifically audacious "The Lighthouse," a stunning black-and-white psychodrama starring Willem Dafoe and Robert Pattinson as two lighthouse-keepers working on a deserted island post in 19th-century Maine. Dafoe gives a career-defining performance as Thomas Wake, the aging sea captain in charge of the lighthouse. He is every old mariner cliché rolled into one, spending a large portion of the runtime spouting incomprehensible sea-talk, guzzling booze, chewing pipes, and farting. Pattinson, in an equally brilliant performance, is Ephraim Winslow, a reserved lumberjack who has come to work under Wake to flee from his shady past. Clumped into close quarters with the overbearing old man, Winslow is quick to develop a disdain for Wake. Over the course of their scheduled month of labor, the two are sent on a downward spiral into delirium and savagery as they face the unbearable solitude of the island, as well as haunting hallucinations, a raging sea storm, and each other.

The first half-hour or so is spent luxuriating in the elaborate beauty of Eggers' meticulous craft. Each shot is utterly transfixing. The film's deliberate pacing allows the audience to sink into the overwhelming allure of each frame. The fierce monochrome imagery, along with Mark Korven's ominous score, conjures a wonderful mix of horror, awe, and excitement. The stark lighting, symmetrical shot composition, and minimal camera movement creates an eerie atmosphere while making for a breathtaking



Dafoe (left) and Pattinson (right) play two gruff lighthouse-keepers.

visual experience. As with "The VVitch," Jarin Blaschke's grainy 35mm cinematography acts as a window into a forgotten past. Eggers' decision to shoot in an almost square aspect ratio (1.19:1) lends the film a claustrophobic feeling that reflects the confines of the island and works in conjunction with the black-and-white color palette, Bergmanesque framing, and antique mise-en-scène to make the film appear as if it had been shot a century ago.

Though Eggers' direction is worthy of endless amounts of praise, there's a film underneath it that is just as exciting and impressive. "The Lighthouse" is bonkers. Though it starts out in a relatively simple manner, the film continues down a far more daring route that unfolds in the most satisfying and exciting way imaginable. There is a constant rise in tension and chaos as the two men hurdle towards insanity, leading to some of the most exhilarating and memorable scenes in recent memory. One of the most surprising aspects of the film is how fun-

ny it is. Eggers blends humor and horror seamlessly, with the comedy creating uneasiness and anxiety rather than detracting from the creepy atmosphere. Thus, "The Lighthouse" acts as the perfect stage for its stars to let loose their wildest abilities. Dafoe and Pattinson flawlessly convey an enormous range of emotions, doing so in a horrific, hilarious, and hypnotic fashion. The two men drink, dance, fight, cry, and vomit their way to the film's electrifying conclusion. The finale is a spellbinding explosion of surreal imagery, lovecraftian horror, and ambitious filmmaking that will surely be interpreted and discussed for years to come.

If "The VVitch" wasn't proof enough, "The Lighthouse" establishes Robert Eggers as a true auteur that is capable of revitalizing the horror genre. A film as visually arresting as this deserves to be seen on the big screen, so be sure to catch it in theaters while you still can.

Grade: A+



Episode allows the player to decide the outcome of the given scenario.

Students' One-Act Inspired by Interactive Storytelling App

by Kate Diuguid '22

Seniors Morgan Dunn and Ally Newby are writing a short play for this year's Winter-One Acts in January. Their one-act is based on the popular mobile app, Episode, an interactive story app that allows users to direct the story by choosing between different options to progress the storyline. The app has gained thousands of users recently with its advertisements frequently appearing in popular social media apps and games. Dunn and Newby's one-act will reflect the trending app with a series of decisions for the audience to make throughout the play.

The plot will follow Constance, "a sassy gal who always gets what and who she wants," said Dunn. "She's in a love triangle with her girlfriend, Poppy; the man she casually dates, Fox, and a rich man she wants to marry for his money; Jimothy."

The choices the audience make will decide small things

like where Constance goes on a date, or her reaction to a bad grade, but the options get more purposeful, eventually deciding who Constance ends up with.

The idea for the one-act, called "Gold Digger," came to Dunn and Newby when they started playing Episode during practices for Rock 'n Roll. Dunn stated the appeal stemmed from "being able to decide what the characters will do and not knowing what's going to happen next."

The story starts with Constance getting kicked out of college right before graduation. She then goes to New York City to find a rich husband instead of getting a job. "What happens in New York, the audience gets to decide," said Dunn. She hopes the audience will take away that stories are meant to be a fun way to get creative ideas out and aren't meant to be taken too seriously.

Sherwood's Winter One-Acts hits the Ertzman Theater this January 15 and 16 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.



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November 7, 2019

Taco Bar Is Not Just Your Typical Mexican Chain

by Reade Fenner '22

The Northeast corner of Olney-Sandy Spring Road and Georgia Avenue is the center of a bustling Olney intersection. Jerry's Subs and Pizza used to occupy this venue, but it closed in August of last year because it didn't get enough business. Taco Bar opened in the place of Jerry's on August 31 of this year. Taco Bar advertises itself as an authentic Mexican fast food restaurant with flavorful food. It is a small chain with only two other locations in Gaithersburg and Frederick. Taco Bar is also open for breakfast, at 6 a.m. during the week and 10 a.m. on the weekends.

But can Taco Bar distinguish itself from the four other Mexican restaurants in Olney?

To test how Taco Bar measured up, I decided to visit for breakfast and dinner.

First, I went to dinner at around 7 p.m. with my parents. Inside, the decor was modern and sleek, yet still family-friendly and fun, with cheerful, cultural photo-



A look at your typical sincronizada, a breakfast tortilla-based sandwich with chorizo (pictured on the right)

graphs and colorful papel picado banners, which are elaborate designs cut out of pieces of paper commonly hung in the streets of Mexico. This was an improvement from the dirty mirrors and weird lighting that Jerry's had offered. In contrast, the surfaces of Taco Bar appeared to be very clean for a fast food restaurant. Unfortunately, the restaurant was pretty empty, lowering the ener-

gy. However, Taco Bar made up for this by playing upbeat Spanish songs to liven it up.

Taco Bar's menu is relatively limited, but it does include several vegetarian options. My group ordered a chicken quesadilla, steak tacos, fish tacos, and pork and pineapple tacos.

After ordering at the counter, we sat down at a table. We waited for five minutes before our dish-

es arrived. They all smelled great and were piping hot. I tasted my chicken quesadilla, which had a great, strong flavor. The steak tacos were fantastic, with authentic corn tortillas that were thick and had lots of meat in each taco. They were wonderfully seasoned and tasted very fresh. My parents' tacos were both great as well. The food and experience were more authentic than other Mexican fast

food places in the area.

Next, I went to Taco Bar for breakfast with my parents and two brothers at around 9:30 on a Saturday morning. The service was great yet again, with the cashiers helping us to understand all that the menu offered. We ordered a breakfast burrito, a breakfast platter, two sincros, which are similar to quesadillas, and a ham and egg sandwich. The meals were all very delicious and fresh, consistent with our dinner experience.

Taco Bar does not disappoint. Its food tasted delicious and fresh, as if it came from a popular fast food truck in Mexico. The restaurant has a smaller menu, but that allows them to specialize on what they create. And, even though it is a fast food restaurant, it didn't taste like one. The prices were extremely reasonable as well, similar to other Mexican places, despite tasting much more genuine. Compared to other local Mexican restaurants, the service is good, with friendly employees and fantastic, enjoyable food.

Across

1. What you leave a waiter
4. Our country's uncle
7. Meters below sea level (abbr.)
11. Classic excuse for not having homework (abbr.)
12. Mark-down, if prices
13. One large wrestler (2 words)
15. Where, "I'm lovin' it"
17. Sandwich with ham and cheese; cigar
18. Also known as (abbr.)
19. What boss gives you after good work (2 words)
21. ___ is me
22. Solid-state drive (abbr.)
23. What an elementary schooler does in math
24. Nothing, to a Spaniard
27. College to a Brit
28. Diminishes or puts at rest
30. Breakfast pork delicacy for a vegetarian
33. ___! Crackle! Pop!
36. South American stuffed cornmeal pocket
38. International English Honor Society (abbr.)
39. Beer synonym
40. Indian bread
41. Waffle, shoestring, wedge,

43. 41st SMOB, now a Yale sophomore
45. Site to purchase hand-crafted products
46. Indian, Atlantic, Southern, Pacific, Arctic (plural)
48. Birth control method (abbr.)
50. Joint with a sturdy cap
51. What a warrior does with an arrow
53. Investigative government agency
56. Where the 41 across? (abbr.)
58. Restaurant with cheeky Tumblr
60. Ring of Honor (abbr.)
61. Pho & ___, ___ Marx
64. El restaurante near Sherwood
66. Glue to a Parisian
67. Chicken noodle, split pea, French onion
68. Where an Oklahoman goes to study picture-taking (abbr.)
69. New Mexican bar opened in Olney
70. Text you soon! (abbr.)
71. Best MoCo high school (abbr.)

Down

1. Thumb tools used to hang up papers
2. Dinner table joke you might hear from your father
3. Partner to 61 across
4. Caesar, Greek, house, garden
5. Bargain grocery store belonging to German man
6. State of many teens' rooms
7. Cheese accompaniment (abbr.)
8. Black Student Union (abbr.)
9. Sandwich restaurant & slogan

10. Response to a funny meme
11. Nickname of hornet-loving MoCo high school
12. Peruvian chicken joint
14. "___ Sherwood!"
16. 40 across, backwards
20. English as a New Language (abbr.)
25. American Library Association (abbr.)
26. "Well, I'll be ___!"
27. Invisible, unnoticed

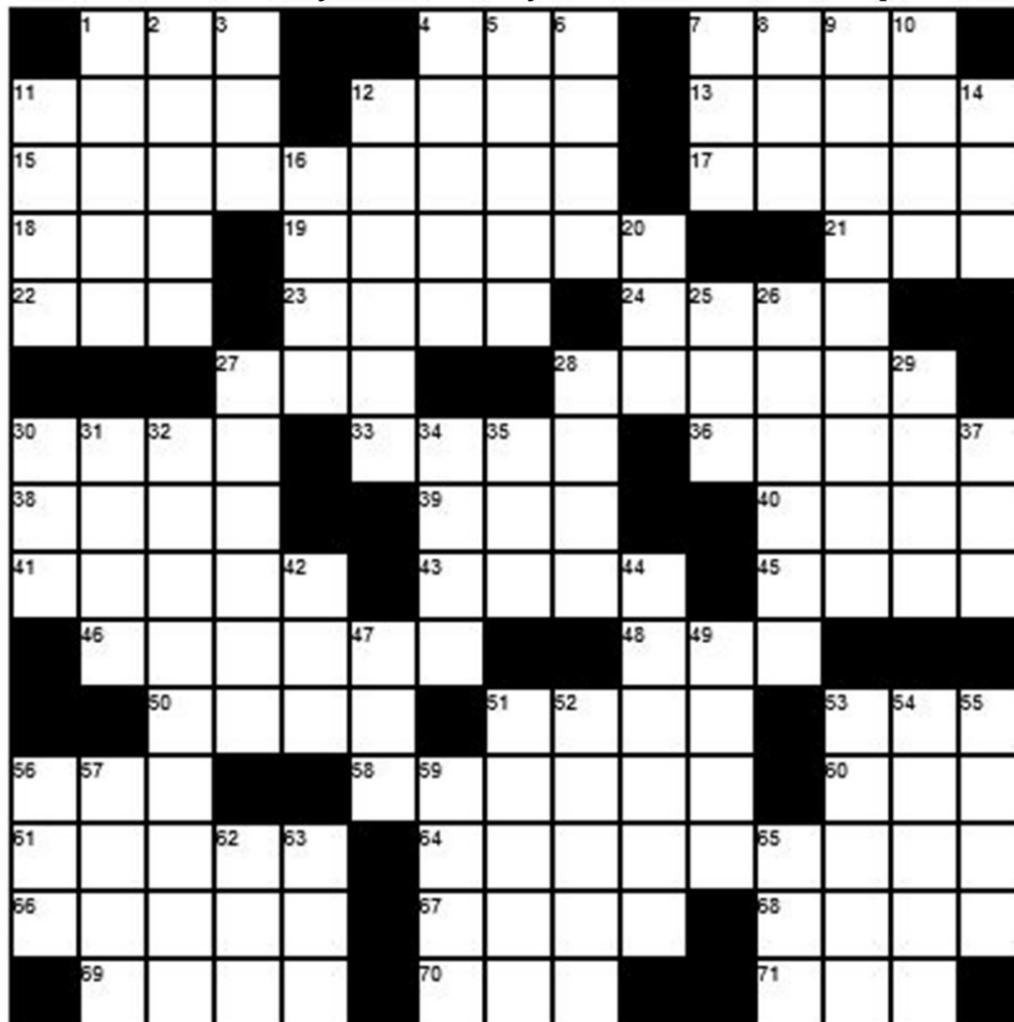
28. AP Environmental Science (abbr.)
29. Businesses of pampering
30. Bank Insurance Fund (abbr.)
31. Shortened name for juniors clothing store
32. Popeye's chicken sandwich competitor
34. What every high schooler longs for during the day
35. Popular yoga clothing brand
37. Whichever, when referring to a choice

42. Sigma Alpha Epsilon (abbr.)
44. Filipino radio show host
47. Nickelodeon TV show "___'s Declassified"
49. Large Communist country (in the 80s) (abbr.)
51. What siblings do to each other
52. ___ River valley civilization; located in modern day Pakistan
53. Continuation of 9 down

54. Common sales promotions
55. Restaurant chain known for breakfast
56. World Golf Championships (abbr.)
57. A horse's walk
59. Not west but...
62. Union of Concerned Scientists (abbr.)
63. July 23 - August 22 zodiac sign
65. iPhone operating system (abbr.)

"Order Up!"

by Adina Brenner '20, Vendela Krenkel '20, Adam Levine '20, Katherine Mahoney '20, Zach Seymour '20, Kara Thompson '20



November 7, 2019

A Look Back at the Top Ten Sherwood Athletes Since 2000

It is no secret that Sherwood has a rich athletic tradition, filled with numerous championships, records, and awards. Of course, in order for all this to happen, there is an even greater plethora of outstanding individual athletes. With this being the newspaper issue before the turn of the decade, The Warrior has compiled a list of the top Sherwood athletes since the year 2000, based off of criteria such as state titles, statistical achievements, awards, and post-high school achievements. The players are ordered by graduation year, not by rank.

Justin Maxwell (Baseball, Class of 2001)

- Played 7 seasons in MLB (Nationals, Astros, Giants, Royals)
- 2001 2nd Team All-Met
- Led UMD in batting avg (.317), runs (37), home runs (10), RBIs (43), and steals (11) in 2003
- 4th Round Draft pick in 2004

Mike Rollings (Soccer, Class of 2005)

- 51 career goals, 22 career assists; 22 goals senior year
- 2004 Soccer State Champion; 2003 Regional Finalist
- 2003, 2004 First Team All-Met; 2004 Washington Post Player of the Year; 2004 First Team All-State; 2003 Second Team All-State
- 2005 A-10 All-Rookie Selection (George Washington University)

Andy Lowy (Wrestling, Class of 2007)

- 2005, 2006, 2007 Wrestling State Champion
- 2nd most wins in Sherwood wrestling history (136); ended Career on 86-match win streak
- 2005, 2006, 2007 First Team All-Met; 2007 Washington Post Wrestler of the Year; High School All-American
- Wrestled at Princeton University from 2007-2011

Deontay Twyman (Football, Basketball, Class of 2007)

- Ranks first in Montgomery County History with 7,062 passing yards; most touchdown passes in MPSSAA history (80)
- Averaged 17 ppg, 8 apg, 6 rpg, and 3 spg his senior basketball season
- 2x Football state finalist (2005, 2006); 2007 Basketball state champion
- 2006 All-Met Quarterback; 2007 All-Met Guard
- Played basketball at Ball State University from 2007-2009 and Quinnipiac University from 2009-2011



Steven Gamble (Football, Wrestling, Class of 2009)

- 2009 Wrestling state champion; 2008 Football state champion
- 2008 All-Met Linebacker
- 2x football state finalist (2006, 2008); 4x wrestling state finalist (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009)
- 3rd most wins in Sherwood wrestling history (135);
- Leading tackler in Sherwood history (368 total tackles)

Solomon Haile (Cross Country, Track, Class of 2009)

- 2008 Footlocker Cross Country National Champion; 2008 Penn Relay Runner Up (3,000 meters); 2008 Nike Indoor and Outdoor National Champion; 2008 Cross Country State Champion (5,000 meters)
- 2008 Washington Post Runner of the Year; 2008 First Team All-Met
- Ran at the University of Arkansas



Michael Begley (Lacrosse, Class of 2011)

- 2011 High School All-American; 2011 Montgomery County Player of the Year; 2011 First-Team All-Met; 2009, 2010, 2011 All-County
- 53 goals in 2011; one of two Sherwood players to tally 50+ points and 100+ ground balls in a season
- Plays professional lacrosse for the New York Lizards

Anthony Papio (Baseball, Class of 2011)

- 2010 Baseball State Champion
- Most wins in UMD Baseball history (174); most games played in UMD history (230); 2nd in UMD career triples (9)
- 2x Big Ten All Academic Selection (2015, 2016)

Hope Gouterman (Soccer, Class of 2012)

- 16 goals and 32 assists senior year
- 2012 All-State Midfielder; 2012 First Team All-Met Midfielder
- 2012 Regional Champion; 2012 State Semi-Finalist
- Played at the University of Maryland from 2012-2016

Alex Holston (Volleyball, Class of 2013)

- 2x Maryland Gatorade State Player of the Year (2011, 2012); 3x All-Met Selection (2010, 2011, 2012); 2x Washington Post Player of the Year (2011, 2012)
- 2010, 2011, 2012 Volleyball State Champion
- Recorded 941 kills in 3 years
- Played at the University of Florida from 2013-2016; 4 time All-American (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016); ranks 5th in UF history in kills (1,506) and points (1,712)



Anna Kolonowski (Swimming, Class of 2013)

- Olympic Trials Qualifier
- 2012, 2013 200 Free State Champ; 2013 100 Free State Champ
- 2013 High School All-American; 2012, 2013 First Team All-Met
- Swam at the University of Georgia from 2013-2017

Meggie Dejter (Softball, Class of 2014)

- 3x Softball State Champion (2012, 2013, 2014)
- 2013 First Team All-Met
- Towson single season win record (24)
- 2018 First Team All-CAA



Emily Kenul (Lacrosse, Class of 2014)

- 2014 First Team All-Met; 2013 Second Team All-Met; 4x All-Gazette
- 2013 Lacrosse State Finalist; 2014 Lacrosse State Semi-Finalist
- 2017 All-Big Ten (Johns Hopkins); 2015 Inside Lacrosse All-Rookie Team
- 153 career points in 3+ seasons (suffered season-ending injury in 2018)

Nicole Stockinger (Softball, Class of 2015)

- 4x Softball state champion (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)
- 2015 Washington Post Player of the Year; 2015 Gatorade Maryland Player of the Year; 2x Gazette Player of the Year (2014, 2015)
- Most home runs in MPSSAA history (39)
- 2019 First Team All-CAA
- Tied Towson single season home run record twice (15)

Morgan Hill (Swimming, Class of 2016)

- 3x All-Met Selection (2014, 2015, 2016); High School All-American
- MPSSAA Record in 50 Free (23.10), 100 free (50.02)
- 2014, 2015, 2016 50 Free State Champion; 2013 100 Fly State Champion; 2014, 2015, 2016 100 Free State Champion
- 2019 NCAA Finalist (100 Free); All-American in 13 events to date; Holds UVA records in 100 Free (44.46) and 100 Fly (51.01)
- 2016, 2020 Olympic Trials Qualifier

Marcus Simms (Football, Class of 2016)

- 2015 First Team All-Met; 2014, 2015 First All-Moco
- Ranks near the top in Sherwood history with 74 catches, 1,700+ yards, and 24 touchdowns
- 2015 Football Regional Finalist
- Totaled 87 receptions, 1,457 yards, and 8 touchdowns at WVU; 2017 Second Team All-Big 12
- Signed with the Jacksonville Jaguars of the NFL in 2019

Warriors Begin Playoffs with Catonsville; Paint Branch Looms

by Aaron Jaffe '21

On November 1, Sherwood wrapped up their regular season against Springbrook, dominating once again, 42-0. The first playoff game for Sherwood football will be at home at 7p.m. on Friday, November 8, against Catonsville. The Comets, out of Baltimore County, went 5-4 on the season. After jumping out to 4-0 record, Catonsville dropped their final 3 games and 4 of their last 5. Catonsville eclipsed 30 points just

twice on the season and only reached double digits once during their 3-game losing streak.

The 7-2 Warriors are a better team both on offense and defense, but no game is going to be overlooked by Sherwood after the disappointing 22-21 overtime loss to Blake in their first home game of the season. Sherwood expects to roll Catonsville, but in the playoffs especially, they are going to have to play the game and execute on the field. "We need to have a lot more focus during

practice and need to use Catonsville as a statement game to get us going for Paint Branch," said junior quarterback Sean Yamada.

As easy as it is to say to deal with one game at a time, a rematch against 8-1 Paint Branch in the second round has to be looming in the players' minds. Before last week's 42-0 dismantling of Springbrook, Sherwood went on the road riding a five game-winning streak to face their toughest challenge of the season, Paint Branch. Defense was the sto-

ryline of the game, as both teams played a close, low-scoring game heading into the fourth quarter.

The Warriors were able to take a late 17-14 lead with about 6 minutes left. Paint Branch's offense came alive, driving down the field to take the lead. With the score 21-17 in the waning minutes, the Panthers came up clutch one more time on defense, intercepting Yamada and taking it to the house, sealing the win for Paint Branch, 28-17.

Senior captain and lineman

Michael Boyd knows the regular season loss isn't a full representation of what the Warriors can do. "We can definitely beat Paint Branch, and I think we know that if we play their best we will come out with the W," said Boyd. "I believe in our guys."

Sherwood has all the pieces they need to get past the second round. Sherwood needs to take care of business against Catonsville tomorrow to get their shot at revenge against Paint Branch and go on a deep playoff run.

New California Bill Is Going To Revolutionize College Sports

by Colin Horan '21

On September 30, California's Governor Gavin Newsom signed the Fair Pay to Play Act into state law. The law, which was introduced earlier in February, had been passed in an unanimous 73-0 vote in California's state legislature. When the bill goes into effect on January 1, 2023, it will allow for California college athletes to be paid for their Names, Images and Likenesses, or their "NIL Rights."

The bill also will permit players to carry out endorsement deals while in school. Schools won't be able to pay their athletes directly like an employee, but will allow for them to seek opportunities to get paid from outside sources. Players will now be able to appear for autograph signings, and beloved video game franchises such as NCAA Football and Basketball, would since EA sports, the developer of the game, can use real players in their game. EA has also stated they are interested in bringing back the game in the future. Schools would also be able to sell apparel and merchandise with player's names and photos.

Once the bill was announced, The NCAA quickly responded and told all California schools that once their athletes started to make money, they will ban their teams from all bowls and championships. Division I Teams such as USC, UCLA, and Stanford would be ineligible from competing for a title, but the threat did nothing to sway California's decision, and the bill was still passed. Because states with passed legislature will legally force universities to provide athletes the right to negotiate with their names and



UCLA football players will be able to earn money beginning in 2023.

likeness, some believe schools may leave their conferences, or even the NCAA, and create their own independent conferences if they cannot compete for a championship.

The main argument for the Fair Pay to Play Act is that universities and the NCAA generate billions of dollars off these players, and if they aren't getting a salary of some sort, they should at least have the right to use their own name or image. The athletes, the ones who are creating all of this money, are the only ones who aren't getting any of the cut. The NCAA and others that oppose the bill believe that the players are in school to learn, and that they are able to get a free education through their sports scholarships. There is also belief that universities will lose a portion of certain sales because they will now face increased competition over revenue from its players in things like apparel and merchandise. The cuts may be to the campus facilities itself, or other sports that don't bring in as much money. The NCAA has also stated that athletes receiving any form of competition blurs the lines between amateurism and professionalism.

Several other states have followed California's lead and put similar bills into the legislative

process. There is a total of 10 states with proposed laws similar to that of California's, including states such as Florida, New York and South Carolina. Various other states, including Maryland, have considered action but have nothing officially proposed yet.

Across the country there has been public support for the bill and others like it. A recent study by Seton Hall University showed that around 60 percent of Americans are in favor of college athletes being paid for their NIL rights, and a whopping 80 percent of adults under age 30 supported the bill. Numerous superstars such as LeBron James and Richard Sherman have publicly declared their support. Duke basketball head coach Mike Krzyzewski has also shown support for the bill.

On Tuesday, the NCAA's governing board unanimously voted to allow for athletes to use their NIL rights. There are no set rules in place yet but it is expected that guidelines will be put into place by April 2020. Despite this huge step for athletes across the country, many scepticists still think the NCAA will try to work any rules in their favor to keep more profits away from the players. After facing a mountain of opposition, the NCAA has finally begun to give in.

ON SPORTS

NCAA Players Going To Get Their Pay Very Soon

by Aaron Jaffe '21

For years the NCAA strictly instituted rules so no athlete could sign brand deals, make money off their own name, or receive any of the revenue made by colleges' athletic programs. For years it has been debated whether college student athletes should be allowed to earn money off their own name, considering the athletes essentially are the product that brings in the money.

On October 29, the NCAA officially gave the go-ahead to begin the process for collegiate athletes to cash in on their own name and likeness. Sounds like the NCAA finally caved, but its approval really is to further delay the inevitable. For now, the athletes can make money off their name as long as the NCAA deems the process by which the athlete earns money up to par with their view of the model for college athletes to receive benefits.

The NCAA needs to come to terms with what should be obvious: college athletes deserve to earn money for the draw they bring to their colleges. The rule of thumb in many professions says that if you bring in a certain amount of money you should get a share of it. College athletes dedicate themselves to commit to being a basketball or football player at a prestigious school program and on top of that, they have to succeed in their academics. Their schedule surely suggests that they should get some compensation.

The main reason that the NCAA stuck by its non-payment rules for so long is as simple as one word. Amateurism. Once college athletes start to gain money, they are going to realize that they want to begin to build their brand for the rest of their career.

Players will shift their focus off of their collegiate careers and try to maximize their own chances in the professional leagues, so in theory the 110-percent dedication that they once put forth towards winning turns into trying not to get hurt. This fear is a bit overstated and irrational. No player goes into a game thinking about their side job rather the importance of that win.

Athletes are expected to do everything they can for a college and are rewarded with what feels like a pat on the back with the work they give to their school. For the majority of college athletes, the time to make a profit is in college. Only the top tier really get a shot at the pros, and of those talented few and even smaller number sticks around long enough to get any fan to buy their jersey.

The rest of the athletes are left with their hands tied, unable to capitalize on peak popularity and most likely their biggest chance on earning money through sports. College sports isn't NBA or NFL. Losing a bit of amateurism won't devastate the game. Let the players maximize the prime of their careers and what they can bring in through their own brand.

School Athletic Director Jason Woodward Pushes for New Softball Field after Winning Multiple Recent State Titles

by Emily Siansky '22

After a state championship season in 2019, girls softball could argue that they deserve a facility worthy of the success of the program. Athletic Director Jason Woodward has been at the forefront of efforts to renovate the current field while also pushing to build a brand new softball facility.

The current varsity field is isolated behind the tennis courts, and it field also needs some maintenance to make it more enjoyable for players and fans.

The ultimate goal, however, is to build a brand new softball complex at the site of the current auxiliary field just outside the cafeteria. However, this "dream field" would not be ready for another two to three years, and will cost upwards of \$100,000.

County officials are saying no to Woodward's proposals and request for the field to be at the location of the auxiliary field.

"It's not our school or our principal, it's the county that is saying no to this," Woodward said. It is still unclear why the county is disproving the proposals, but Woodward is still pushing for it to happen.

For the upcoming seasons, smaller renovations are being made to improve the current field. New batting cages, bullpen areas, and dugouts will be added. Additions to the batting cages include netting and leveling off the gravel floor.

The old dugouts were dismantled on September 28. Parent volunteers brought in Bobcat S175s to tear them down. Construction of the dugouts has already started to make them wider and longer for better accommodations for the players.

The new and improved dugouts will also improve the aesthetics of the field, which was another concern. Even though the current players would never play on a new field, they get to experience something new in the way of dugouts. Little fixes like these will improve the players' experience on the current varsity field before the switch to an entirely new field.



Courtesy of Emily Siansky '22

Volunteers utilized a Bobcat to tear down the softball dugout for replacement to match other improvements.

ty of players and parents," Woodward said. "They wouldn't be as exposed to inclement weather like pop-up thunderstorms." Woodward also hoped that a closer field would yield to "more student and school involvement at games."

The construction of a new softball facility at the location of the auxiliary field would address some issues the current field has. "Being closer to the school would be better for the safety and securi-

ty of players and parents," Woodward said. "They wouldn't be as exposed to inclement weather like pop-up thunderstorms." Woodward also hoped that a closer field would yield to "more student and school involvement at games."

The current varsity field is not very accessible, but especially to those with disabilities and the elderly. There is no path to get from the school to the far corner.

Those who want to go to games have to walk through a practice field with other teams.

Coach Ashley Barber-Strunk agrees that renovations are necessary to the enjoyment and accessibility to the players, parents, and fans. "We deserve to have good facilities," Barber-Strunk said. "The hope is for teams down the line to continue updating the field and making it better."

Boys Soccer Takes Early Playoff Exit In Second Round Loss to Northwood

by Ryan Duvall '21

After a successful regular season where they were crowned division champions, the boys varsity soccer team was gifted with a first round bye in the 4A State Playoffs. The Warriors were set to face the winner of Northwood vs Springbrook, two teams that Sherwood had beaten during the regular season. Northwood then defeated Springbrook 1-0, setting the stage for Sherwood to avenge their 2018 season, where they fell to Northwood in the playoffs. Instead, the game was a repeat of last year's disappointment.

The Warriors were defeated 2-1 by the Gladiators in a very tight contest. The game started out

slow, with both teams scoreless at the half. Then, in the 55th minute, senior Jacob Kamara scored off a beautiful cross to put the Warriors up 1-0. Things were looking good for Sherwood, as they remained on top with the clock ticking. But with 12 seconds remaining, Northwood netted a goal off of a free kick, tying the game and sending it to overtime.

In overtime, Northwood pushed their emphasis towards defense, as they held many midfielders back in an attempt to stop the Warriors' offense. The Gladiators strategy worked, as the game remained 1-1 after two overtime periods. The teams went to a penalty shootout, where the team that made the most penalty kicks in

five attempts would win the game. Sherwood netted three out of their five penalties, while Northwood netted three of their first four, leading to an intense showdown between the final shooter for the Gladiators and starting goalkeeper Bronson Shepherd. Unfortunately, the Gladiators scored the penalty, knocking out Sherwood for the second straight year.

"I thought the overall season was really good. We had a great season and made some really good memories," said junior Derick Ventura. "It's a shame that it had to end so soon but we all played our hearts out and became brothers. There were some games we could have done better, but we learned from that and improved."

Girls Volleyball Aims for Long Playoff Run

by Adam Pfeiffer '20

After an early defeat to Wootton, the girls volleyball team reeled off seven straight dominant wins, improving their record to 8-1 heading into a huge matchup against Magruder on October 10. Unfortunately, the girls fell in 3 straight sets to the Colonels.

Heading into a big game against Northwest, the team was feeling good. Led by seniors Sydney Spillman and Hannah St. Laurent, the Warriors fought valiantly, but eventually fell in 3 sets to the Jaguars, before a key game in the regular season finale against Damascus. The girls dominated the Swarmin' Hornets, winning in straight sets, building confidence and momentum heading into the 4A playoffs.

"I expect the girls to show up to each of our playoff games ready to go all out. During the playoffs teams should be hitting their peak of the season, so I am hoping we will do just that," said Coach Sydney West.

On Monday, the girls played Kennedy at home in the regional semi-finals, winning 3-0, to advance to the regional final against Blair last night. However, the Blair game was played after this issue was sent to print, so *The Warrior* was unable to obtain the results.

Against Kennedy, Sherwood was able to flex their muscles, winning the first two sets with ease. "I felt like we had lots of energy which kept us going strong throughout the game," said St. Laurent.

In the third set, the margin was much closer initially, as Ken-



Senior Anna Roberts goes up for a spike in a game against Northwest.

nedy refused to give up, fighting to extend their season. In the end the Warriors overwhelmed the Cavaliers, as the team's passion truly shined.

It is tempting for a team to begin to look ahead at what could be coming in the next several weeks, with potential matchups against fellow Montgomery County foes Wootton, Northwest, and Walter Johnson. While it would be ideal to get revenge on the Jaguars or the Patriots, Sherwood is aware of how dangerous it is to look ahead, and are taking the playoffs

one game at a time.

"We want to focus on [the next game] and put all our work into that. We're trying not to get ahead of ourselves so we can perform our best for the upcoming game," said St. Laurent.

Playing volleyball for a program with tradition such as Sherwood comes with high expectations, and state final appearances. Ultimately that is the goal, but this group of seniors want their careers to end, win or lose, knowing they left everything they had on the court.



Courtesy of Jason Woodward

Freshman Bryan Kim won second in state championships at Maryland.

Golf Places in Fifth at State Championships

by Jackson Hongtong '21

The Sherwood golf team placed fifth as a team in the state championship, with a combined score of 619 from all four players for both days. Freshman Bryan Kim took home second place in the individual state championship, losing by only one stroke to Jack Griffin from Walter Johnson. The first day of states was a decent one for the Warriors, with Bryan Kim leading Sherwood with a score of 72 for 18 holes, followed by sophomore Scott Ervin who put up an opening round score of 76. Junior Joe Murray shot a score of 78, and junior Ronnie Kim with a first round score of 81. The combined score of 306 didn't put Sherwood on top of the leaderboard, but gave them a top-five place heading into day two. The team took a step back on day two of states, scoring a combined score of 313, eighteen strokes behind Churchill.

"We didn't do as well as we would've liked, but it was good to end the season making the cut [to qualify for both days of the state tournament]" said Bryan Kim.

Sherwood entered districts with an impressive match record of 14-3-1, giving them the second best record in the Yachmetz division behind Churchill, who eventually won the team state championship. To qualify for states, a team must take the top four scores from their team from the district tournament and add them up together. If the total score is less than 328, the team qualifies for states. Ronnie Kim, Bryan Kim, Murray, and Ervin were the top

scorers for Sherwood, who led them to qualify for states with a total team score of 306, the fourth-highest out of any other school in the county.

"This is one of the best teams I have had as a Coach. We have a solid core of juniors on the guys side that will be returning for next season," said coach Thomas Nakamura. "We also have some young talent on our practice squad, and I know that they have a bright future and will soon be contributing members to our starting lineup. This year, we also had five young ladies compete in the girls matches, and two of them even qualified for the state tournament. Our team has a very bright future for both boys and girls golf." Nakamura, a former collegiate golf player himself, just wrapped up only his second season of being head coach of Sherwood's team.

Although the Warriors did not win, this run at states was a step in the right direction. Having a young team performing as well as they did only makes the future more promising. The golf team comes into next season with even higher expectations than before. Another year with a similar core, bringing back all state championship competitors, is only poised to get better. Next year, the hopes of a state championship will become even more of a reality, attempting to avenge this year's fifth place finish.

"The team [next year] will definitely be stronger, so winning districts and states is very possible and something we will aim for" said Bryan Kim.

SHERWOOD FALL SPORTS RECAP

Boys Cross Country:

- Finished 4th of 10 teams at 4A North Meet, with 87 points
- Qualified for State Championship Meet on Nov. 9

Girls Cross Country:

- Finished 2nd of 10 teams at 4A North Meet, with 60 points
- Sophomore Katie Kaneko finished 1st
- Team qualified for State Championship on Nov. 9

Girls Field Hockey:

- 9-4 Regular Season Record
- Beat Wheaton 6-0 in first playoff game
- Beat Paint Branch 3-1 in Regional Championship
- Lost to Dulaney in 4A Quarter-finals

Girls Soccer:

- 6-6 Regular Season Record
- Beat Wheaton 4-0 in first playoff game
- Lost to Blair 5-0 in Regional Championship