

SMOB Proposes that Athletes Should Be Exempted from One Gym Credit

by Tori Newby '22

In accordance with Maryland state law, all high school students must complete 0.5 credits of P.E. before graduation. However, MCPS policy requires students to graduate with one full credit, requiring students to take an additional semester of P.E.

The MCPS Student Member of The Board (SMOB), Nate Tinbite, has recently proposed a policy in which student-athletes will receive one P.E. credit for participation in school-sponsored athletics.

On September 26, the SMOB tweeted, "My resolution is simple - student athletes should be able to earn a P.E. credit for their hard work during the season. That's it. That's the tweet." Tinbite considers the hours of work students spend practicing their sport enough of a physical education; thus, a daily P.E. class is redundant.

Superintendent Jack Smith has the exclusive ability to revise high school graduation requirements. In February, Tinbite's proposal will be reviewed by the superintendent, who will make recommendations to the MCPS Board of Education on whether or not to revise the requirements.

Tinbite did not respond to request from The Warrior for additional information, so it is unclear whether this credit exemption applies to JV and varsity athletes, or just varsity, and if several seasons playing a sport fulfills both semesters of a student's P.E. requirement.

With this resolution, athletes would have an open space in their schedule to

take classes that interest them, or to take health and P.E. in the same year. Health, a single semester class, can be difficult to fit into schedules, leading some students to pay \$300 to take the class over the summer because of the lack of space in their schedules during the school year.

However, the fundamentals of physical education acquired in a class, such as motor learning skills and biomechanics, can be quite different from the sport-specific skills an athlete picks up at their practices. Aside from physical activity, high school P.E. classes teach collaboration and problem solving skills that many school sports do not.

"In our P.E. classes we do multiple things, we teach different concepts, and we teach life skills. Whether it's weight training or yoga or net sports, you're learning different skills and doing different activities than you would in a single sport," said P.E. resource teacher Marc Thomas.

If athletes are exempted from a semester of P.E., it is probable that class sizes will decrease, and therefore P.E. teaching positions would potentially be in jeopardy. Because many high school P.E. teachers are also coaches, losing a P.E. teacher could also mean the loss of a coach.

If the proposal is enacted, questions may be raised about students participating in other school-sponsored activities. For example, students rehearsing for the school musical or playing in the pep band may deserve an arts credit, identical to how athletes would receive a P.E. credit.



Julia Robins '20

Participants listened as a student described her experience with intolerance at Sherwood.

JSU Convenes Meeting on Hate Speech

by Julia Robins '20

In October, a student in the Jewish Student Union (JSU) received an anti-Semitic note. After discussion in their club meeting, it soon became apparent that hate speech, including racism and homophobia, is an issue at Sherwood. This prompted special education teacher Jill Galt, JSU's sponsor, to hold a multi-club discussion on Thursday, January 9, on the topic of hurtful and offensive language.

More than 50 students from JSU, Amnesty International, Best Buddies, Black Student Union, Stand Proud, Minority Scholars, Rising Stars, and Latin Dance Club attended this seminar. One goal of the meeting was to encourage students to stand up in response to offensive remarks.

Students at the meeting spoke of incidents when teachers and administration did not effectively address instances of intolerance. Beyond simply the issue of those who choose to hurt others, many students feel that administration and security can improve upon giving out consistent consequences for these attacks.

"It was heartbreaking to hear so many stories from students who experienced forms of hate speech from fellow students or implicit bias from staff," said science teacher Mary Baker, who is the sponsor of Stand Proud. "Many students said they get told, 'that's just a joke' when they point something out as hurtful or bigoted. This should not be tolerated or passed off as

See DISCONTENT, Pg. 4

Instagram Adds New Feature that Hides Number of Likes

by Eve Schlegel '20

Over the past couple months, Instagram has been trialling tests to hide the number of likes posts receive. The likes are hidden from followers, so only the individual who made the post can see the number of likes. It does not affect every Instagram user because the company wants to observe reactions before it makes any permanent changes. The company did not reveal what percentage of users are affected by the change.

Instagram has not completely stripped the ability to see the amount of likes. If someone is determined enough, they can sit and count out each like. The platform just no longer showcases the totaled like count as if it is the center of the post. The company wants to change the focus of posts from the popularity of a post to the actual content of the photo or video.

"We don't want Instagram to be such a

competition," said Adam Mosseri, CEO of Instagram. "We want it to be a place where people spend more of their energy connecting with the people they love and the things that they care about."

"On its face it seems like a really good idea, but [teens] will find another form of social currency to rank order themselves and their value as compared to others," said Dr. Sameer Hinduja, co-director of the Cyberbullying Research Center and Professor of Criminology at Florida Atlantic University, who has been a speaker at MCPS schools. "Unfortunately, now it is probably going to be the number of followers you have that serves as the key indicator and differentiator as to who is the most popular, or desirable, or worthy of one's time and attention."

This shift in Instagram's priorities is due to an attempt to improve the mental health of the social media's users. Many users on Instagram, especially teens, asso-

ciate the number of likes on a post to their popularity as a person. To them, likes represent something larger than just a number, but rather tangible evidence of their social worth. With anxiety and depression rates at skyrocketing heights among teens today, this may be a factor of that discomfort.

"I like the idea behind it, but likes on Instagram are kind of expected and getting rid of it now seems a bit of a late attempt to address the issues they want. I think there are other ways to help with mental health but getting rid of likes is too far of a change," said senior Lois Shin.

"[Teens] are always distracting themselves - for example, by scrolling through Instagram and being inundated with everyone's best pics and videos and stories and perfectly curated and filtered lives," said Hinduja. "Constant comparison and self-evaluation then takes place, and very few can measure up - which leads to self-condemnation that reinforces a nega-

tive perception about themselves (magnifying their own flaws, insecurities, doubts, and struggles)."

If the change by Instagram does not receive backlash from its users, it may expand to other platforms as well in an attempt to improve mental health on the Internet. Some could argue a desire for acceptance on social media does not just affect teens, but users of other ages as well. For example, Facebook is made up of mostly older audiences which may face similar problems.

It may be a shock at first, but deep down people might begin to appreciate the new feature. It may be comforting to have a positive culture on Instagram without the looming desire for acceptance through likes. Or, maybe the desire for likes will shift to a desire for more followers. Either way, one's longing for acceptance will always be present, no matter what changes social media makes.

What's Inside: News: 1-4, National News: 5, Features: 6-9, Humor: 10-11, Spotlight: 12-13, Opinions: 14-17, Wondering Warrior: 18, Entertainment: 19-21, Sports: 22-24

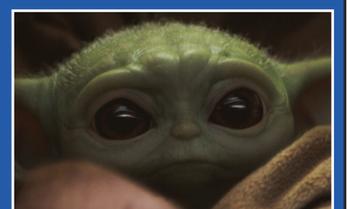


Sherwood on TikTok

Read exclusive interviews with some of Sherwood's TikTok stars page 7

Hot Takes on Hollywood

Get the scoop on the latest movies, including the new Star Wars pages 19-21



news brief

current events

Fire Tears through Historic Olney Ale House

by Anna Squiers '20

The historic Olney Ale House caught fire the evening of December 3. The fire started in the kitchen and quickly spread to the second floor through the duct work, and the restaurant was evacuated. There were about 70 firefighters on the scene working to quell the flames, and one firefighter was treated and released after being overheated and dehydrated.

The fire did not affect the historic dining and bar area, but there is significant damage to the kitchen and water in the basement. The fire is reported to have started accidentally because combustibles were left too close to the stove. Damages to the nearly 100-year-old restaurant are estimated to be about \$250,000, and the owners have already begun repairs.

The Olney Ale House released a statement on its website addressing the fire and thanking Montgomery County Fire and Rescue. While the restaurant is temporarily closed due to the incident, the owners have announced that they have begun to work on the repairs and are aiming to reopen in early 2020. Thankfully, the fire did not cause enough damage to keep the historic Olney Ale House out of commission for long.

MCPS Student Hacks Naviance Program

by Sudha Sudhaker '21

A data breach in Montgomery County Public Schools affected nearly 6,000 accounts from six schools. The breach occurred in early October when an MCPS student hacked into the college and career readiness program, Naviance. The student wrote a program that attempted various combinations of usernames and passwords to gain access. Personal information such as SAT scores, GPAs, student's IDs, phone numbers, and email addresses were downloaded by the student.

Naviance notified one of the schools affected, Wheaton High School, which prompted MCPS to begin an investigation. Other schools affected by the breach include Montgomery Blair High School, Julius West Middle School, Argyle Middle School, Parkland Middle School, and Loiederman Middle School. MCPS responded to the data breach by directing all Naviance users to reset their passwords. Information accessed in the breach did not include social security numbers, banking information, or credit card information, and MCPS police believed that the student hacker did not share any of the accessed information with others.

The drama surrounding the data breaches reflects that cybersecurity of students' personal and academic information has become a serious problem. Many school districts' cybersecurity has proven to be too weak for the technology savvy students. School districts have considered implementing more security scans and stronger security systems in order to create a safer cyberspace for students' information. Many breaches result from vulnerabilities in the cyber system that have not been detected, so MCPS intends on improving its cybersecurity to prevent any future hacks in the system.

2020-2021 School Year Will Start before Labor Day

by Reade Fenner '22

In early autumn when the MCPS Board of Education was determining the calendar for the 2020-2021 school year, a major issue discussed was if the first day of school would be held before or after Labor Day. On December 3, MCPS finalized the calendar.

The 2020-2021 school year will begin before Labor Day on Monday, August 31, 2020. This means that the last day of school will be scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, 2021. The calendar includes a 10-day spring break and a professional day at the end of each quarter. Two additional professional days will take place second semester, one in February and one in May. Thanksgiving break will still be four and a half days, but winter break will be slightly shorter at 11 days. In total, there will be 182 instructional days included in the calendar.

Starting the school year before Labor Day has become common throughout Maryland public school systems. This is because Governor Larry Hogan's executive order requiring that schools begin before Labor Day has been overridden by a new state law. The state senate enacted the law earlier this year to give local counties more control over their calendars. Other counties in Maryland, such as Frederick County, are planning to take advantage of this by beginning their school calendar in late August.



Hannah Lee '21

Computer Science teacher Swikrit Manandhar directs The Net's session on calming meditation techniques.

The Net Adds Programs To Aid Mental Health

by Elizabeth Casey '21

Just a couple months ago, the mental health project The Net was launched at Sherwood. The Net is a space in the school for stressed students to come in, decompress, and learn about mental health. Every Tuesday and Thursday students enter the The Net in the morning, at lunch, and after school to deal with daily stressors. The staff and students recognized that, especially with today's current social climate, pressure and stress takes a large toll on teenagers, and they needed additional help. A combination of Principal Eric Minus' hopes for a socially and emotionally healthy student population and a similarly aligned student suggestion sparked the creation of the new de-stressing area.

"This was not built to be a hangout for kids. This was really formed to meet some needs for our population of students who may be dealing with areas of anxiety and stress and other social/emotional challenges that may need a place to help them decompress and deal with some of those challenges," explained Principal Eric Minus.

Along with therapeutic activities and educational sessions, there is also "open space time" where students can relax in a comfortable environment and learn about the stressors they are dealing with. In order for students to increase their academic performance, it is crucial that they are mentally and emotionally stable.

"[Academic achievement and mental health] go hand in hand; you can't be a great academic student if you are not balanced socially and emotionally," said Minus.

So far, there have been several events at The Net, including the introduction of therapy dogs (which prompted a huge turnout), meditation/breathing sessions, guest speakers, and education sessions both from Sherwood

staff and Medstar Montgomery. Additionally, with the imminent stress that appears around exam season, there is talk about increasing the opportunities for the The Net to be open as the AP exams approach.

Ideally, The Net will grow to be a collaborative organization with input from both the student body and the administration. Over the next semester, The Net is expected to grow with the expansion of wellness activities for staff and the with the incorporation of a student committee. This addition would help direct the type of help the students need and the topics they need and/or want help with.

"[The staff] really [wants to] work on community and supporting each other. I think that is a big takeaway too: we want students to support each other, we want to have a positive environment," commented science teacher Rebekah Harrison, who is the sponsor of The Net.

ACT Begins To Offer Section Retakes

by Jenna Timmons '21

In the past few years, the SAT has surpassed the ACTs as the most commonly taken test, with 2 million students taking the SAT and 1.9 million students taking the ACT in 2018. Also, many colleges are beginning to not require standardized testing to be considered for admission. These factors together pushed for the ACT to make some changes to its exam.

Starting in September 2020, the ACT will offer section retakes. Students still need to take the full exam at least once, but then retakes on a specific section become available. For example, if a student does poorly on the English section during the full ACT exam, then they can take just that section instead of the entire test during the next testing period.

"Section retests are identical in the content covered, timing, and the number of questions for

each ACT section test," according to ACT.org, "Section retesting will be offered seven times a year, on the same dates as the national ACT test. Students may take up to three section retests on any one test date, though there are no limits on the number of times a student may take a retest."

Some students feel that these retakes will be beneficial, and ACT research shows that the individual section tests are consistent with the scores earned on the entire tests. The section retakes are intended as a convenient and helpful new way for students to focus on a single subject area.

Some students feel that the retake option will further polarize and even inflate ACT scores. "It could possibly be good, but you would have to do better because colleges know you can retake it," said junior Sonyah Ngwafang.

With these section scores, most colleges will take the high-

SAT to ACT Conversion:

1600 - 36	1150 - 23
1550 - 34	1100 - 22
1500 - 33	1050 - 20
1450 - 32	1000 - 19
1400 - 30	950 - 18
1350 - 29	900 - 17
1300 - 27	850 - 15
1250 - 26	800 - 14
1200 - 25	750 - 13

source: The Princeton Review

est one from each section and "superscore" them to obtain the highest possible test scores.

"The ability to customize test results in this way could make test prep even more important than it is now, disadvantaging those who cannot afford it or are not advised to seek it out," said Sally Rubenstone, senior contributor at College Confidential, an online admissions forum.

MCPS Enforces New Policies To Fight Substitute Shortage

by Zach Seymour '20

In Montgomery County the shortage of substitute teachers is obvious throughout schools. Last year on average 120 requests for substitutes were left unfilled each school day. This left schools scrambling for other educators in the building to cover classes, ripping them away from their work. This practice also can leave teachers not versed in the subject to cover a class that they cannot teach. This level of unreliability in their pool of subs pushed Montgomery County Public Schools to change their requirements for prospective substitutes over the past summer.

In hopes of finding a larger number of substitutes, MCPS has lowered the entrance requirements to become a substitute teacher in public schools. For many years MCPS held a higher standard for qualifications for substitutes than eight other school systems around them, which resulted in a smaller pool of applicants for the job. The requirements for an MCPS substitute will now only be an associate's degree or 60 college credits.

With these new changes to the qualifications needed for the position, MCPS should have had an uptick in the number of substitutes and a decrease in the spots being unfilled. However, it is yet to be seen if these changes will be successful. Extensive red tape may be contributing to the continuation of the shortage. Since the

changes were approved by MCPS in July, many who are in the new wider pool of applicants may not have been able to be certified in time to fill positions. The process of becoming certified as a substitute teacher can consist of the applicant waiting for months while absences go unfilled.

Though a countywide issue, some schools such as Sherwood seem to be faring better with the shortage, according to Carolyn Holonich, School Administrative Secretary at Sherwood. This is because of the practice of where teachers find their own substitutes rather than relying on the MCPS system. This gives teachers a sense of security of who is overseeing their class and allows them to pick someone who they trust can take care of their lesson plans for the class. Many Sherwood teachers have formed connections with substitutes which they use and will have a way to contact them directly instead of going through the MCPS system. The Social Studies department has a list of well known subs which explains the familiarity that the Sherwood students have with many "regulars" known around the school.

It is yet to be seen if lessening these requirements on the prospective teachers will fix the problem facing MCPS. The true effectiveness of these changes will be tested later in the year when more candidates will have had the opportunity to get through the certification process.

Sherwood Rated Four Stars in MSDE's 2018-2019 Public School Report Card

By Joseph Oscilowski '22

Each year, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) produces "report cards" for public schools in Maryland, which are used to reflect each school's success in a variety of categories. Each high school's grade is dependent on the school's overall academic achievement, graduation rate, progress in achieving English language proficiency, readiness for post-graduation, and overall school quality and student success.

"The major takeaway for students and parents is that the Maryland Report Card process is just one of many data points that stakeholders should use when discussing the quality of a school," explained Principal Eric Minus. "The Report Card should be used to inform schools on areas of strength and opportunities to upgrade the school program as it relates to the various areas of measurement."

MSDE provides each public high school in Maryland with a star rating out of five. In order to receive five stars, schools must earn a score of at least 75 percent of the total possible points. Sherwood received a 4 star rating, earning 67 percent of 100 (see in the graphic above).

MSDE reported that Sherwood had high graduation rates (earning 13.7 points of 15 points), that students had a high readiness for post-graduation (earning 7.6 out of 10 points), and that stu-

MCPS High School Rankings

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

#1 Walt Whitman: 82 percent	#2 Wootton: 80 percent
#3 Poolesville: 79 percent	#4 Walter Johnson: 76 percent

★ ★ ★ ★

#5 Churchill: 73 percent	#6 BCC: 70 percent
#7 Northwest: 69 percent	#8 RM: 68 percent
#9 Damascus: 68 percent	#10 Sherwood: 67 percent
#11 Paint Branch: 66 percent	#12 QO: 64 percent
#13 Clarksburg: 64 percent	#14 Rockville: 64 percent.
#15 Blake: 62 percent	#16 Blair: 61 percent
#17 Wheaton: 60 percent	

★ ★ ★

#18 Magruder: 58 percent	#19 Einstein: 57 percent
#20 Springbrook: 57 percent	#21 Seneca Valley: 55 percent.
#22 Gaithersburg: 52 percent	#23 Northwood: 49 percent
#24 Kennedy: 49 percent	#25 Watkins Mill: 47 percent

Data used from the MSDE Report Card website. To earn five stars, schools need a score of at least 75 percent. To earn 4 stars, schools need a score of 60-74 percent. To earn 3 stars, schools needed a score of between 45-59 percent.

dents performed fairly well on state tests (earning 20.5 out of 30 points).

However, Sherwood was still rated lower in progress towards English language proficiency (earning 5.3 out of 10 points) and school quality, as well as student success (earning a 20.5 out of 35 points).

"The score demonstrates Sherwood's progress to becoming a premier school and so I

am pleased. It also recognizes the work that is still necessary to ensure that our school is a great place for all students to receive an outstanding education, and so I am not satisfied," said Minus.

Compared to the Report Card that MSDE made for the average of all public high schools in Maryland, as well as that for high schools in Montgomery County, Sherwood beat the average in all categories.

The Warrior thanks its many wonderful patrons:

Lizzie, Natasha, & Allen Abel, The Amuso Family, The Antoine Family, Marlene and Bob Ashendorf, Cathy Baker, The Berger Family, The Blachere Family, The Bookhultz Family, Brian and Audra Bray, The Brenner Family, The Callas Family, The Candia Family, The Carlson Family, The Casaus Family, The Casey Family, The Chanto Family, Larry and Amy Cohen, The Deppe Family, The Dorsam Family, The Duvall Family, The Engelhardt Family, Linda Evans, The Fahmy Family, The Fenner Family, John Falls, The Fox Family, The Frank Family, The Frechette Family, Janet Frensilli, Ann Gallahan, The Gormley Family, David and Tara Goldstein, The Griffin Family, The Hammond Family, Suzanne Harrell, The Henderson Family, The Hendery Family, The Henry Family, Parker and Young Hill, The Holda Family, The Jaffe Family, The Jason Family, The Joseph Family, The Kahan Family, The Mize Kanstoroom Family, The Kauffman Family, The Klinger Family, The Krebs Family, Kenneth and Paula Krenkel, The Kruse Family, The Kuchinski-Wolanski Family, The Kuhlalmn Family, The Landreth Family, The Lee Family, The Levine Family, The Long Family, The Mahajan Family, The Mahoney Family, Sherri and Mike Malone, The Martinez Family, The McLean Family, The Miller Family, The Mobley Family, The Neukam Family, The Newby Family, Carol and Sarah Nove, Ronnie and Mark Peterson, The Pfeiffer Family, The Raghavan Family, The Rakov Family, The Rosenberg Family, The Rosenthal Family, The Sahler Family, Grace Scarano, Ph.D, The Schlegel Family, Cheryl Scorpio, The Sefcik Family, The Siansky Family, Sieger-Yicillouros, Raj Singh, The Skinker Family, The Sokol Family, The Sorkin Family, Sparty Nazzaro, The Squiers Family, Jane Straub, The Sudhaker Family, The Tegeler Family, The Timmons Family, The Thompson Family, The Uruburo Family, The Verma Family, The Wallace Family, Ted Walkins and Teresa Rubio, The Weinbergs, Alice and Jeff Welch, Dr. Deborah Weltz and Dr. David Long, The Wilkins Family, Lois Wolf, Phyllis and Roberto Wolff, The Wolf Family, The Wooden Family, The Yates Family, The Yuengling Family, and The Zelada Family

***If you are interested in becoming a patron,
contact Peter Huck at Peter_J_Huck@mcpsmd.org***

MCPS Students Worry about the Effects of Socioeconomic Status on Education

In our last issue, the Warrior covered the systemwide boundary study currently taking place in MCPS. Since then, the Board of Education held a public hearing and MCPS has hosted multiple public meetings on the topic. The county is divided on whether boundary changes should be considered and for what purpose. Many proponents of the analysis suggest that socioeconomic disparity across the county has created inequality in the quality of education between schools. The Warrior collected the following data to test this claim, so we leave it up to you—based on the numbers below, do you think there is a correlation between one's socioeconomic status and the quality of education they receive?

High school ¹	Total % of FARMS ² in 2017-2018	SAT total average 2017-2018	Graduation rate 2016-2017
Northwood	52.5	1014	79.4
Watkins Mill	50.2	1119	84.5
Wheaton	49.7	1002	77.4
Kennedy	46.9	961	81.2
Springbrook	45.6	1043	87.8
Gaithersburg	40.1	1043	77.4
Einstein	39.7	1039	81.9
Seneca Valley	37	1048	86.2
Blair ³	36.3	1142	86.2
Paint Branch	34.9	1064	90.6
Blake	34.5	1036	90.2
Magruder	33.4	1093	89.6
Rockville	31.4	1107	86
Clarksburg	26.8	1089	91.5
Northwest	22.5	1145	≥95.0
Quince Orchard	21.3	1134	≥95.0
Richard Montgomery ³	19.5	1201	92.2
Sherwood	15.2	1150	93.9
Damascus	14.6	1138	94
BCC	11.1	1249	94.4
Walter Johnson	7.5	1213	≥95.0
Poolesville ³	6.2	1296	≥95.0
Wootton	≤5	1230	≥95.0
Winston Churchill	≤5	1252	≥95.0
Whitman	≤5	1289	≥95.0

Many of the students who testified at the boundary analysis hearing on November 18 cited academic differences between schools in the Downcounty Consortium, which includes Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, Northwood, and Wheaton, and the so-called “W” schools: Walter Johnson, Whitman, Wootton, and Winston Churchill. These students argue that schools in wealthier areas have more resources than schools in low-income areas, which helps their students achieve more academic success. In her testimony at the Board of Education hearing, Adriana Quinonez Solano, a senior at Kennedy and legislative affairs deputy for Montgomery County Regional Student Government Association (MCR), explained that the Downcounty Consortium consists mostly of minority students, many from immigrant families, meaning that schools there have “the burden of having to address bigger obstacles without adequate resources.”

¹ The schools are organized by percentage of FARMS students. Schools with the largest amount of students receiving FARMS are listed at the top, and the rest of the list goes in descending order. Edison is not included due to lack of available data.

² FARMS stands for Free and Reduced Lunches. Students that receive the federal program must demonstrate financial need.

³ These three schools have significant magnet programs that may affect statistics.

compiled by Sarah Nove '20

Club Plans More Meetings To Eliminate Hateful Speech Questions Persist If Honor Societies Deserve Their Prestigious Reputation

From HATE SPEECH, Cover

‘they don’t really mean it.’ Students said they were afraid to call out staff for ignoring slurs,” she added.

Created in 2002, JSU has aimed to create a community within the Jewish population at Sherwood, but the club is eager to welcome anyone to conquer concerns regarding inclusivity. “People make offensive Jewish jokes and think it is okay because the person they’re talking to doesn’t happen to be Jewish,” said junior Megan Lang, president of JSU. “People tell Jews that ‘they have a big nose’ or ‘they have a Jew nose.’ People see coins on the ground and ask a Jew ‘Why don’t you pick it up because Jews always want money?’ There are even people who draw Swastikas on desks and make Holocaust jokes.”

Anti-LGBTQ expressions are also hurtful and often integrated into everyday conversation, like the phrase “that’s so gay.” Senior Samantha Pacheco of Stand Proud shared a story of the time when “a person in my class was calling something gay ... so I turned around and said to them ‘hi, you called for a homosexual.’ And the look on their face was priceless. Little acts like that can mean a lot to people who are still

closeted,” she commented.

The end result from the January 9 meeting was the consensus and agreement that there needs to be an updated policy and specific training for all teachers on the topic of hate speech, as well as specific punishments. According to Joshua Ginsburg, co-president of JSU, “People say anti-Semitic and racial comments daily and face no consequences. We’re not asking for expulsion, but for the people saying these statements to face some repercussions,” he explained. “Words are hurtful and can stick with people forever. That’s what I think the main goal of what the discussion was. We’re trying to relate to each other to help us all work as one unit to end these acts of hate speech.”

JSU plans to have at least two more meetings. Galt stated that in the next meeting they “will continue the discussion regarding hate speech incidents within the school. We will also start a discussion about communication with administration and security about established protocol regarding bullying and hate speech along with how victims are informed about the ongoing investigations regarding these incidences. An educator’s ultimate goal should be to create a safe and positive learning environment for all students,” she said.

by Colin Horan '21,
Lexi Kimmel '21

The National Honor Society (NHS) was founded almost 100 years ago with the intention of honoring and encouraging academically outstanding high school students. Every year, hundreds of Sherwood students apply to various honor societies with hopes of acceptance into what are promoted as very prestigious clubs. Getting into an honor society requires submitting an application that demonstrates the applicants’ various levels of achievement, whether it be accolades, participation in service projects, or having certain grades—such as the 3.7 unweighted or 4.0 weighted GPA needed for the National Honor Society. The common belief about honor societies is that they represent the pinnacle of academic excellence and integrity, but upon a closer look, that may not be the case.

Hundreds of students are accepted into honor societies at Sherwood each year, but the chances of not being accepted are quite low, with most honor societies having above a 90-percent acceptance rate, according to their sponsors. Almost all honor societies have a very simple application process, with the majority

of societies needing applicants to only meet the GPA requirement. This raises the issue that honor societies leave out the character aspect of acceptance. With little consideration of character, acceptance into an honor society relies almost entirely on numbers and letters instead how well-rounded the students applying are.

Some individuals join honor societies to participate in activities such as lunch parties and other in-school events like the Math Olympiad, while others join to explore further into a subject. But their ability to do so could be hindered by students who join simply for elevated scholastic status. “Getting cords is a part of recognition for many societies and a large factor why students may join,” said Science Honor Society sponsor Cathy Cross.

Once a student is in the honor society, the expectations of an inducted member are often low, and regardless of how easy the requirements are, many students still do not meet them. According to the sponsors of various honor societies, five to ten percent of members get kicked out each quarter for not meeting each honor society’s requirements. Additionally, members who remain a part of honor societies do not always truthfully fulfill their

requirements, or put in the effort that would be expected of someone in an honor society.

“I go to the honor society meetings, and do absolutely nothing. I just sit there and I’m on my phone the whole time,” said an anonymous junior. According to multiple sources from the Math, English, Science, and Social Studies Honor Societies, they often forge their hours and another anonymous senior claimed that the “whole thing is bulls***.” According to several students at Sherwood, they are able to maintain eligibility in honor societies by only doing a fraction of required tasks, if at all.

Another problem is the differing requirements for honor societies across schools. According to a former National Honor Society sponsor at Paint Branch, students need to do a service project and 20 hours of community service. These requirements are heavily monitored with no exceptions.

According to the NHS website, the average chapter contributes 1,000 hours of school/community service, \$26,000 in charitable donations, 1,000 pounds of food to local, state, and national causes 100 pints of blood. Sherwood only meets requirements for hours of school service.

January 16, 2020

Hoaxes on TikTok Target Teens Easy Ways To Be More Eco-Friendly

by Reade Fenner '22

Recently, many misleading “facts” have been circulating on TikTok. In July, teenage user Makaila, @ohokaygirl, posted a TikTok spouting fake warnings about human trafficking. She claimed that traffickers were attaching zip ties to car door handles or rearview mirrors in order to distract young women. Many users, however, aware that these claims were inaccurate, made fun of her in the comments of her video, discussing fake warnings about human trafficking.

Warnings about zip ties on cars first emerged in October 2018 with images spread by a woman in San Angelo, Texas to warn other people about human trafficking. Eventually, the San Angelo Police Department debunked the claim and stated that they had not gotten any reports of trafficking using zip ties.

Another falsehood that has been spread recently on TikTok relates to a fake election victory map of Donald Trump’s from 2016 that he posted on Twitter in early October. The map was of the United States and was mostly red, in favor of Trump’s election, with the words “try to impeach this” overtop. This was debunked by fact checkers, such the Washington Post. The map was not final and many counties that appeared red ended up turning blue in favor of Hillary Clinton later.

The reports of this map being inaccurate didn’t quite reach some on TikTok. Teen Lydia Grace, @lydsglw5, posted a video on TikTok of this map on

October 25. Unaware that this map had been proven fake, she danced in front of it, displaying her Trump 2020 t-shirt, while a voice chanted “I’m going to vote Trump 2020” in the background. Although she received many comments supporting the video, most questioned the validity of this map. Many users even went so far as to make TikToks poking fun at her false map, using other random maps, such as one depicting the best fast food chains in each state, and slapping the words “try to impeach this” on them.

A hoax has also been spread recently is that the notion that people can find money in hotel Bibles. For instance, user Kierstyn Cleaves, @kierstynnnnn, posted a video in June that showed her finding \$40 in a bible in her hotel room. Most users doubted Kierstyn’s discovery, with many claiming she paused the video and put the money in herself.

This urban legend originated in the 1950s, when some believed that Christians would place \$100 bills in Gideon Bibles in hotel rooms. Rumor has it the money was placed either to reward people for reading it or as a charitable gift for the underprivileged. However, this is a hoax, as Gideons leave Bibles, not cash, when they visit hotel rooms.

Misleading myths such as these that emerge on TikTok raise a number of questions about how young users receive and process information. Will users be able to discern hoaxes from the truth? Will this affect users who develop their opinions regarding current events from TikToks they see?

by Lucy Sokol '21

Recently people find themselves on Twitter and Instagram strolling through endless reposts of pictures or videos that show the effects on climate change or some form of environmental destruction. Instead of staring at these pictures and forgetting them an hour later, we need to acknowledge the fact that we can do something about it. As more and more teenagers vocally advocate for improving the condition of the environment, many are not concretely doing their part. Here are some easy eco-friendly tips and methods that every teenager can do.

One way to make a difference daily is by taking shorter showers. Although all teens love a good long shower, limiting your shower time to 5 minutes can help the environment as well as save money. The average American uses 140-170 gallons of water per day. According to Think H2O, a water conservation resource, “The average 5-minute shower takes 15-25 gallons of water—around 40 gallons are used in 10 minutes.” Since Earth consists of less than 2 percent of freshwater, we must conserve it for every human as well as every animal that needs it. By using less water, we do not need to treat and pump so much water. Less energy means less carbon emissions into the air.

Another major factor of environmental destruction is plastic use. Although pop culture has criticized VSCO girls and their hope to save the turtles by using metal straws, that is a baby



Teens working hard to become more eco-friendly by planting flowers.

step closer to a cleaner planet. Instead of throwing out plastic item after plastic item, use reusable products such as tumblers, metal straws, and bamboo products that lower your plastic use as well as your carbon-footprint. UNEnvironment.org states, “Researchers estimate that more than 8.3 billion ton of plastic has been produced since the early 1950s. About 60 percent of that plastic has ended up in either a landfill or the natural environment.” Reusable products like any bamboo product are biodegradable; therefore, they will not hinder the natural environment and these percentages will decrease.

To lower your carbon-footprint, when you are not using your devices, unplug them from the outlet as a way to save electricity. According to EPA, “The average American over the age of 2, spends more than 34 hours a week watching television. There are 164 hours in a week, which means the average American’s

TV is turned off, but still plugged in for 130 hours.” Unplugging devices saves money as well as lower your carbon-footprint.

Little things can make a difference. People could stop chewing gum completely. Gum is made up of polymers which are synthetic plastics that do not biodegrade. According to GetGreen Now, “80-90 percent of chewing gum is not disposed of properly and it’s the second most common form of litter after cigarette butts.” Need a product that gives you fresh smelling breath? Substitute gum for mints like Altoids.

As teens become more aware of the dangers that come from the methods and products they use on a daily basis, they can substitute these wasteful elements for eco-friendly tips and influence their actions onto the younger and older generations. Although you might think your participation would not change anything, if we work together we can make this planet beautiful again.

Twitter Prohibits Political Ads Prior to the 2020 Election

by Eve Schlegel '20

Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey recently announced that Twitter will ban all political advertisements on its platform. In a Twitter post on his own page, he said he believed that the reach of political messages “should be earned, not bought.” Dorsey believes the spreading of misinformation makes putting out political ads impossible to regulate, and worries that it has “significant ramifications that today’s democratic infrastructure may not be prepared to handle.”

Republicans have attacked Dorsey for this decision, claiming that it is an attempt to censor conservatives. With President Trump’s most famous source of communication being Twitter, and a history of accusations against Twitter for their treatment of conservatives, this reaction is expected.

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez backed Twitter’s decision, saying in a tweet that “if a company cannot or does not wish to run basic fact-checking on paid political advertising, then they should not run paid political ads at all.”

Some political groups and super political action committees have complained that Twitter’s new rule has disrupted election



Twitter no longer shows political advertisements as a result of controversies and criticisms in recent years.

strategies and budgets for the upcoming 2020 elections. This drastic change makes it difficult for campaigns to adjust, especially after being halfway through the campaign cycle.

Twitter ads have made up a very small percentage of political advertisements that campaigns put towards social media, with most money going towards Facebook and Google ads. The discussion of online political ads be-

came more prominent than ever after the 2016 election. When Russians used U.S. social media to infiltrate public opinion, it created debates that still occur today on what a social media company’s role should be in regulating political advertisements. The challenge in limiting political ads is defining what exactly constitutes “political.”

Twitter described political ads as advertisements that “ad-

vocate for or against legislative issues of national importance.” The company said it counts any ads that references “a candidate, political party, elected or appointed government official, election, referendum, ballot measure, legislation, regulation, directive or judicial outcome.”

These restrictions not only impact Twitter users, but advertisers as well. Removing political advertisements prevents “micro

targeting,” a common tactic used by advertisers to target specific audiences.

“We very much believe that cause-based advertising has value, and can help drive public conversation around important topics,” said Del Harvey, the vice president of trust and safety at Twitter. “But we still don’t think it should be used with the sort of primary goal of driving political or judicial or legislative or regulatory outcomes.”

Banning political advertisements on Twitter will set a precedent for how other social media regulate the topic on a global scale. For example, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has decided to allow all advertisements to run, including false ones. He defends this decision by arguing that the platform supports free expression and gives people a voice. Democrats have attacked Facebook’s approach to this situation. Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts claimed Zuckerberg is operating a “disinformation-for-profit machine.”

Each election, the topic of political advertisements on platforms like Twitter becomes more prevalent. Twitter’s decision to strip all political advertisements showcases its significant action to ending the spread of misinformation in the political arena.

January 16, 2020



Scholarships and Awards

The Support Education Foundation is proud to provide scholarships to students who strive to further their education and professional development awards to educators who have made a difference by positively impacting student success.

High school seniors

- \$3,000 Dorothy Marvil Scholarship
- \$3,000 Rosemary Brinkley Business and Finance Scholarship

Community college students

- \$3,000 Community College Scholarship

Public school and community college educators

- \$1,000 Maurice Erly Professional Development Award

Learn more

Visit SupportEducation.org for more information and complete eligibility requirements. Applications are due by April 1, 2020.

Student Gains Massive Following on TikTok

by Malec Fahmy '20

TikTok, as many Sherwood students know, is one of the most popular social media platforms around today. The app is a video-sharing network that allows its users to create short videos (15 to 60 seconds) that can include dancing, lip syncing, and comedic acts. It just so happens that junior Katie Feeney is one of TikTok's most followed users, currently holding over 1.8 million followers and still growing.

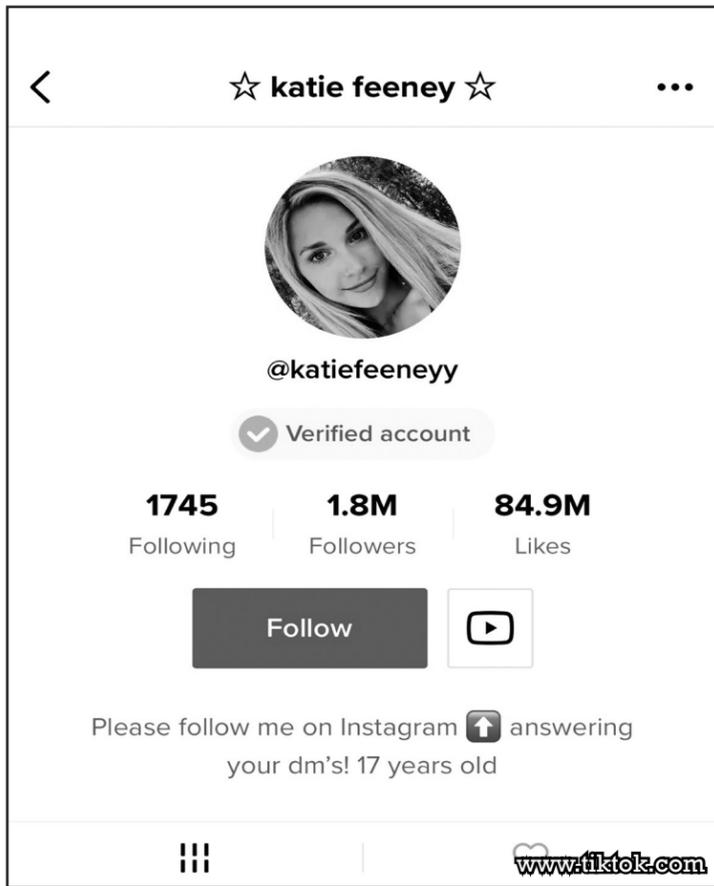
Sherwood's most well-known TikTok star began to make videos years ago when the app was originally called Musical.ly. Although she gained a lot of followers during her stint with Musical.ly, Feeney practically stopped altogether. Then, when Musical.ly rebranded as TikTok in December of 2018, Feeney decided that she would give it another try.

Feeney believes that having a strong background in dancing has been very beneficial to her growth, "My first viral videos were all dance-related," said Feeney. Those viral videos, as Feeney noted, have led her to where she is today.

As she has continued to build her success on those videos and dance background, Feeney began to receive inquiries about different brand deals. When she restarted with TikTok, Feeney sought out such opportunities.

"I have been lucky to work with companies like Pizza Hut, Ivory Ella, Becca Cosmetics, Daily Harvest, and more," said Feeney. "I have received lots of cool opportunities, but probably the best thing is designing my own hoodie for Ivory Ella."

Along with her stardom on



Feeney's verified TikTok account reaches almost two million followers.

TikTok comes her popularity at school. She is well-known for being a part of the pom team, track team, and Rock 'n' Roll, as well as for her TikToks. It is not just students that know her too, as teachers often times know about her popularity. Although students typically do not treat her any differently due to her success, Feeney does sometimes find it embarrassing when teachers know about it as well.

While being well known from the app has had many upsides, it has also come with a lot of responsibility. Feeney must juggle her school work, maintain her grades, be fully involved in her athletics, as well as keep up with her TikTok, which consumes about an

hour of her day on average. As her following has continued to grow, Feeney has begun to realize that TikTok is something that could be more than just an entertaining hobby, but something that could help her a lot in the future.

"I started realizing that TikTok could help pay for college around June when I attended VidCon in California," Feeney said. Starting in Southern California in 2010, VidCon is a multi-genre online video tech conference for social media influencers. As she continues on her upwards trend among TikTok, Feeney has no aspirations in stopping, planning to continue making videos so long as TikTok is still around.

Students Rise to Fame Through Video-Sharing

by Adam Levine '20

TikTok's algorithm, which comes to fruition with the "For You" page, makes it easy for aspiring TikTok-ers to find quick fame, as more likes, shares, and views sends out the TikTok to lots of users. Sherwood has a number of these famous TikTok users, those who gained fame through comedy and dancing videos alike.

Among these popular TikTok users include numerous Sherwood students, including junior Katie Feeney (1.8 million followers), seniors Brady and Brandon Holda (186.1 thousand followers), junior Jasmine Groom (100.8 thousand followers), and many others. While some of these Warriors have found fame in dance, like Feeney and Groom, others find their niche on the app in comedy, like freshman Damon Greenan and junior Maryam Higazi.

Because of the For You page's consideration of location, Sherwood students often see their peers in their feed, like senior Lauren Loebach.

"I usually see Katie Feeney or one of her friends," Loebach said. "They're almost always dance accounts, but I once saw a really funny one. I think her name was Maryam Higazi. She deserves more followers."

Although some may not consider TikTok popularity true fame, in a high school recognition is bound to happen. Groom explained how "people have come up to me saying 'Is this you that did this video?' or even a simple 'Hi Jazzi!'" Higazi, who gained popularity for her jokes, she said, about wearing a

hijab and being of Middle eastern origin, agreed, also explaining that there are a lot of famous TikTok users at Sherwood.

"Someone's even commented on one of my videos asking 'Why is everyone at Sherwood TikTok famous?'" Higazi said. "I still think now it's becoming pretty normal. I've seen people make TikToks about all the famous people in their schools, and there seems to be a lot of them everywhere."

Sherwood students are spreading influence into the TikTok community as Groom and her friends create new dance trends, hoping people will duet or create their own.

"I am most known for ... doing dances with Katie Feeney and Ashley Landreth. We started many dance trends on all our accounts that many creators wanted to try. When Katie, Ashley, and I promoted Ivory Ella, we started the 'Soulja Boy' dance trend, and [we made] a dance to a song called 'Ride It' ... during track season," Groom said. "Since I am a dancer, it is easy for me to come up with cool dances that everyone can try. Not to mention there are many trends that I can add my own little twist to ... and make it more original!"

For those who wish to find similar fame as some of their peers on TikTok, Groom offers some advice.

"TikTok isn't about making fun of anyone or trying to bring anyone down. It's an app where anyone can express or promote their own selves. Be yourself," Groom said. "The people judging you are just jealous of how confident and amazing you are. Post every day and be original!"

Math Teacher Byerly Relished Experience Teaching in China

by Julia Robins '20

Rebekah Byerly has settled into her second year at Sherwood, teaching Calculus with Applications, as well as ESOL Algebra. She is also the Head Indoor Track Coach. Before landing at Sherwood, Byerly taught English to young children in China during the 2017-2018 school year.

She moved a lot when she was young and was raised to always push herself in new ways and take risks, like her father did when he worked at a clinic in Honduras for two years.

Ever since second grade, Byerly knew that she wanted to become a teacher. While she became passionate about teaching math, Byerly was eager to try teaching abroad since she missed the opportunity to study abroad. In the summer of 2017 she completed her TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certification after graduating college with a mathematics degree.

Her first year at university she studied Mandarin as her minor, as she has always been fascinated by languages. Byerly lived in a Cantonese-speaking part of China, which has nine different tones rather than the four of Mandarin. According to Byerly, most everyone summarizes Cantonese as chicken scratch, which led to an occasional language barrier.

"The kindergarteners (preschool age for us) were adorable. One of my favorite warm-up activities for the kids was the gummy bear song," Byerly recalled. "We used to sing and dance to it at least twice a week ... I still message my former co-workers to check in on certain kids."

Her favorite part of being in Guangzhou, China was making a new friend, May. She "was my saving grace. She helped me make China home. My biggest thing when moving to a new country is get to know the locals, they make all the difference. I wouldn't have loved



Byerly and one of her four year old students, Melody, share a high-five as she prepares to return home.

China or Guangzhou as much if I hadn't met May." She also just recently gave birth, and Byerly can't wait to go back and

While she is not passionate about teaching English, it was a fun, eye-opening experience that made her "a more well-rounded person," and it helped her "to be more aware of differences and the benefits and challenges that come along with

[life in another country]. It also helped me realize how blessed we truly are to be in this country and [it] gave me a better appreciation for the freedoms and liberties our blue passport gives us."

She had a difficult transition coming home because she was not ready to leave. "I miss the lifestyle of being able to walk everywhere. I miss

not being able to understand everything and the challenges that come with it. I miss the food and the people. I miss my church families back in Guangzhou and the friends I made from all around the world because of it. I miss the adventure that you go on by being someplace new. If someone were to offer me a ticket back, I would go in a heartbeat," said Byerly.

January 16, 2020



Kate's 5 Favorites: Things To Do When Feeling Depressed

by Kate Diuguid '22

Not every teen who goes through depressive spells has depression. You may be surprised to know that you don't have to have clinical depression to feel depressed every now and then. Feeling despondent can easily be mistaken as casual sadness, but this feeling is actually a chemical imbalance in your brain. Symptoms of feeling depressed go far beyond ordinary sadness. Along with a general sense of melancholy, you may experience a significant decrease or increase in appetite, a loss of interest in your normal activities, unconscious isolation from your friends and family, and a feeling of a weight pulling you down. Depressive spells can come when you least expect them, but here are five tips to deal with the big-time blues.

1. Visit The Net.

I'm sure you have heard of Dr. Minus' new mental health space from the morning announcements, social media, or the overall buzz among students about dogs in school and free hot chocolate. D214 has been transformed into a space to wind down from the stress of school. Sometimes, the symptoms of depression hit mid-school day, and now there is a perfect spot to combat this feeling.

2. Download a mood journal.

Mood journal apps such as My Life My Voice can really come in handy with features like Life Tips and live chats with professional help. The app is simple but effective; you choose a mood that you're experiencing from an index of emojis, and you write a journal entry about what's going on. It can be very helpful to track times when you feel depressed to see if there is a common occurrence sparking your episodes.

3. Relax with a close confidant or furry friend.

Cuddling with a pet stimulates the brain's production of oxytocin, also known as the "love hormone" in both of you and scientifically makes you happier. Similarly, chatting with a close friend or family member can have the same effects, altering your brain's chemistry and reinstalling a feeling of contentment that combats the feeling of depression.

4. Get up and go!

Physical activity helps to stimulate the brain and releases endorphins, or "feel-good" chemicals, in your brain. Plus, finishing those push-ups will make you feel accomplished and healthy! Tell yourself you're going to do 50 crunches before you go to bed and then follow through.

5. Set goals.

Motivation is one of the hardest issues to deal with when you feel depressed, but setting goals can help with action. Your first goal is getting out of bed. Good job! Alright, now you just have to get dressed. Look at you go! Breaking steps down and focusing on one small goal at a time is a super-effective way to get yourself going.

Sherwood Students Are Interested in Medicine Attend Open-Heart Surgery

by Hena Hussain '20

Watching open-heart surgery is not something that an average person gets to experience throughout their lifetime. However, for Sherwood students in the Academy of Health Professions (AoHP), getting to attend such an educational event is simply a rite of passage.

The AoHP program at Sherwood allows students interested in medicine to take three years of classes that teach topics such as anatomy, disease processes, and even clinical skills. During the third year of the program, students participate in clinical rotations at the Friend's House nursing home in Sandy Spring. After completion of this training, students obtain their Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) licenses, which allows them to get jobs as healthcare profes-

sionals after they graduate high school, giving those seeking careers in medicine major advantage in such a competitive career field.

Also throughout the third year of the program, students are given the opportunity to attend a heart surgery as part of the cardiovascular unit. The surgery is performed at Inova Fairfax Hospital, which offers opportunities to observe surgical procedures in an effort to educate the public about heart health and how to reduce the risk of disease. This is also meant to educate students about careers in the medical field, which includes doctors, nurses, technicians, and therapists.

Once students arrived at the hospital, they were given a history of the patient and a description of the surgery being done that day to gain a deeper

understanding of the cardiovascular system they were about to witness. Then, they were able to observe the entire procedure, and speak and ask the surgeon questions after it was over.

"It was cool to see it in person," said senior Sonia Nganga. "You could actually see the heart beating in real life."

First-hand experience is an extremely valuable asset to have when pursuing a career in healthcare. By watching a real surgery the students not only see first-hand how it is truly done, but they also get early involvement that may help them in their future career. By participating in the AoHP program offered at Sherwood and taking advantage of opportunities like this field trip, students are able to get a head start in establishing themselves and their passion as a future medical professional.

Montenegrin Student Discovers Sherwood Through FLEX Program

by Anjali Verma '20

Originally from Bar, Montenegro, junior Amir Cuturic, a highly involved student with a huge appetite for learning, is a new exchange student here at Sherwood. Staying for the full school year, he is a part of the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program, as was last year exchange student, Armen Mkrtumyan. Cuturic also happens to be staying with the same family as Mkrtumyan.

The FLEX program is funded by the U.S. Department of State, which supports students from Europe and Eurasia with merit-based scholarships as they spend one academic year immersed in the United States experience. Students across 21 countries come to America to gain leadership skills and learn about American culture while also forming new relationships with citizens of the U.S. and other countries.

Cuturic first learned about FLEX in his first year of high school from a peer in his town who had also been a part of the program. Cuturic decided to apply, making him one of 30,000 applicants being considered for an 800-slot program.

Cuturic has taken advantage of the athletics program here at Sherwood and uses it as an outlet for him to meet new people. This fall, he participated in cross country, finding the meets the best and most interesting part. He noticed that sports are taken way more seriously in the United States. Now, in the winter season, he is a part of the swim and dive team and in the spring, hopes to continue participating in Sher-



FLEX has a community of current travelers and alumni from all over the world.

wood sports.

While he is here, Cuturic is tasked with three projects. The first is to discuss leadership with a leader in the community. Cuturic chose his cross country coach, Dan Reeks. "His guidance and sense of direction are my example of a successful leader," said Cuturic. The second project involves discussing cultural differences and first impressions with another person who is not from the United States. The third project requires students to participate in a community-service effort. In addition to these, FLEX students take many excursions together throughout the year.

Cuturic pointed out that the main differences between Montenegrin and American culture are communication and emphasis on athletics. "Back home, small talk is not so common," said Cuturic, "and our school system isn't focused on sports almost at all. Playing a sport

for school is quite [uncommon] and not given as much attention as it is in the U.S." Despite the differences, Cuturic is excited to learn more and gain new perspectives during his year here.

Just like any other Sherwood student, Cuturic faces the struggles that come along with AP classes and the pressure to stay above water in the competitiveness of American culture. However, his eagerness to learn has made his experiences extremely enjoyable. Cuturic looks forward to pursuing a STEM pathway in college, which he hopes to experience in Europe.

"I would recommend this experience to everyone who has the chance to do so," said Cuturic. "Not only did it provide me with a first-hand insight in a totally different culture, but it has enabled me to observe my culture from the outside and understand it even better."

January 16, 2020

Join Newspaper

Benefits of Newspaper Include:

- Development of versatile writing skills. Whether it's writing editorials, reviews, sports stories, or investigative features, students will have the chance to show off their writing abilities on assignments other than the academic essays that they write in other classes.
- More informed understanding of current events.
- Increased people skills, with the opportunity to interact with peers on The Warrior Staff. Many members of The Warrior staff have taken newspaper for multiple years and consider it their defining high school activity.
- Familiarity with photography, print layout, and web design software.
- An edge over other college applicants. The Newspaper elective looks very impressive on students' applications to selective colleges and universities. The Warrior staff traditionally consists of students who are among the highest achieving at Sherwood.
- Experience in a career field.
- Valuable leadership skills.

Course code for Newspaper A ("Techs Adv Journl" under English)

115200

Course code for Newspaper B ("Pubs Edit Biz" under English)

115300

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to see Mr. Huck in room C266 or C268 (Newspaper Office) or email Peter_J_Huck@mcpsmd.org

... and check out The Warrior Online!

thewarrioronline.com

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.

Looking on the Bright Side of Climate Change

by Carlee Malone '20

It's everywhere in the news: “Confronting New Climate Realities” and “Climate Emergency: A Humanitarian Call to Action.” Climate change is a pressing issue, with voices on many sides arguing about its validity and relevance. However, the science is undeniable. It is happening.

In fact, some climate deniers are coming around—but not how you'd expect. Many are embracing rising temperatures with enthusiasm about what a carbon-filled future will bring.

“At first, when I heard all those random people talking about Earth changing or whatever, I was confused because sometimes I can't go outside without wearing a jacket,” said previous climate denier and local Iggy Azalea superfan Barb Smeelie. “Plus, it snowed last winter. It didn't make sense that so-called ‘scientists’ were saying that it was warm everywhere.”

But, upon seeing a comment by “puppylovr69” on a forum about feathered hair extensions that read “climate change sux:/,” she had a moment of epiphany.

“Puppylovr brought me to reality. It's happening. But, why is everyone so stressed about supposed ‘pressing concerns’

brought up by environmentalists? Who cares about ‘devastating flooding and heatwaves’ or ‘ecosystem collapse?’ I love warm weather! We'll be better off now that our climate is finally getting warmer.”

Smeelie isn't alone in thinking this way. Many are beginning to not think of climate change as a threat to humanity, but rather a valuable commodity that will ultimately improve society.

In response to the growing popularity, self-proclaimed science expert Mickey Jenkins quit his job as a freelance DJ and part-time Waffle House employee to found an organization spearheading the new pro-climate change movement: Civilians Rooting for Increased Need for Greenhouse Emissions (CRINGE). A conversation with Jenkins, the CRINGE founder and president, elucidates the logic behind these self-proclaimed “pro-warmers.”

“Anyone who has stepped outside for 0.02 seconds recently understands how unbearable it is to be outside in the cold. In this great country, we shouldn't have to suffer ‘coldness,’” Jenkins said. “Winter is the middle child of seasons. It ruins Christmas. But, if we keep using those greenhouse gases, we're sure to have a cold-free winter. Plus, ev-

eryone always talks about how plants need carbon dioxide and that more plants are better. So, really, all this carbon dioxide must help the planet.”

The movement isn't one-sided, but rather appears to be a multi-faceted campaign that brings to attention many pressing issues that a changing climate would resolve.

“Florida, which we all know is a glorified dump for unwanted elderly folks and invasive reptiles, is obviously problematic. Imagine a country without Florida. That's the type of country we'd have after rising sea levels swallow that state whole,” Jenkins said. “We want to say goodbye to headlines like ‘Florida Man Bites Off Neighbor's Ear Because He Wouldn't Give Him a Cigarette’ and ‘Florida Man Surprised to Learn Mannequin is Actually Dead Body.’”

Even recognized celebrities are joining the movement. Critically-acclaimed entrepreneur and television personality Paris Hilton is very openly a pro-warmer, with her official position on climate change publicized as “that's pretty hot.”

Yeah, Paris, it is hot. A hot, trending perspective that is beginning to give some people unconventional hope about the future.

Bad Boys Are Bad for You

by Martholdy Pierre-Canel '21

Now I get it, you read a couple of Wattpad stories in middle school, such as “After” when an innocent girl makes the bad boy “soft,” and you saw that as a vision for your own future. Don't be ashamed, I did too. It was cute and edgy in middle school but why are we still, as high schoolers, living in this fantasy?

As a teenager, the urge to rebel and have fun whenever possible is inevitable. We want to live out our teenage years by rebelling against our parent's rules so that when we are older we are able to say that we did the crazy stunts that we did. Why not add a bad boy to that list? Having crazy adventures are so much easier with a guy that is already experienced with doing “close” to illegal things. We want to live our dream of rebelling against the norm and making memories.

In “After,” a wattpad story turned into a movie, the character Hardin Scott is an emotionless, snotty, rude player who didn't believe in love. Does his character sound like a disgusting human being? Yes! Did we still go crazy because he was hot? Yes! Hardin meets Tessa and because he is the stuck-up player that he is, he assumes Tessa would prac-

tically throw herself at him. But no, Tessa was different. Different than EVERYONE Hardin had met simply because she is not obsessed with him at first sight. By the end of the movie, Hardin falls in love with Tessa and becomes the opposite of what he was when the audience first met him.

Are you serious? Do we as (somewhat) mature high schoolers see this as something that could happen in real life?

I interviewed a junior girl, who requested to remain anonymous, about why bad boys are so attractive to her. “Simply it's their energy,” said the girl. “Who wouldn't want someone that would have a hard shell and a soft inside?” We seem to be so devoted in seeing what we could do to change some guy but in reality, isn't it us trying to see what that guy could do to change us?

Teens today are so insecure that all we think we need is validation which is why we chase after the guys that are “mean to other girls but sweet to me.” Is this solely to feel special, to feel different, to feel fixed?

We cannot base our self esteem on one person's opinion! Especially not a guy who is focused on only the present and not the future and who also thinks that having three outfits is a personality trait.



www.businessinsider.com

Online critics compared the car to a poorly rendered video game vehicle.

Is the Cybertruck Even Cool?

by Matt Rosenthal '22

Sophomore Alex Johnson wants his first car to be a truck. However, Johnson's family is an environmentally friendly family. They use solar panels, collect rainwater, compost trash, and only drive electric vehicles. A big gas-guzzling truck will never fly in a family that thinks globally and acts locally. With the recent release of the Tesla Cybertruck, Johnson's wish to get a truck may come true.

Johnson recently turned 16 and would like to get a car of his own. While he will not receive the truck for two years due to Tesla's decision to delay the release of the Cybertruck, Johnson still can have the vehicle by the time he graduates. “The truck is cool,” said Johnson, sounding as if he is still trying to convince himself. “It's an electric truck that has indestructible body panels and windows. It doesn't get any cooler than that.”

His friends disagree. “To put

it nicely, the Cybertruck looks like the secret love child of a Delorean and a Pontiac Aztek that was kept hidden in a closet for the first five years of its life,” explained sophomore Michael Goldberg, who added he does not intend to ride in Johnson's Cybertruck.

Already, Johnson is questioning his decision. He has always dreamed of cruising into the Sherwood parking lot in a big truck, but he increasingly ponders how other students will view the Cybertruck. “It's a cardboard box spray painted silver that got its wish to be a truck,” admitted Johnson. “It won't have windows that won't have any of the cool things it debuted with. Why? I just want a Model 3 now.”

And just like that, from wanting the ugliest car since the Pontiac Aztek, to not wanting it all. Johnson has officially lost all faith in the truck less aerodynamic than a cow and wants a Model 3 instead, which when he turns 18, can have two weeks after ordering it.

Ranking Sherwood's Water Fountains

by Jenna Bloom '21

H₂O. Agua. Dihydrogen Monoxide (shout out to Honors Chemistry for that one). Water. We need it to survive, we need water. Luckily, our heart and home of Sherwood has just the solution to our need for this liquid: water fountains.

Now, the water fountain debate is a hot topic for the students of Sherwood. What's the best one? How do we even decide the best one? Smoothest water? Temperature? Does it have one of those cool filler upper things?

I am here to resolve all further debates, and if you keep reading I will crown the best water fountain that Sherwood has to offer. That's right. One lucky water fountain will win the title of Superior Water Fountain. This is a big deal, and I can't award a big title like this all by myself, so I conducted a survey of some Sherwood students to find out their opinions as well.

First we'll begin with some students who dismiss the idea of water fountains all together. For example, junior Tiani Thorne doesn't drink from water fountains because “germs [insert sick emoji].” Senior Lauren Loebach commented, “I don't use water fountains because I'm scared.” Finally, junior Kate Nazarro felt extremely passionate on the issue. She said, “All water fountains are disgusting and should never be

used unless there's an emergency ... all of them are gross.” Way to express yourself, Kate!

Now we'll be getting down to the real nitty gritty, the reason we're all here today. What is the best water fountain at Sherwood?

The most controversial water fountain in the school is the one in the upstairs G-hall, right next to Señora Bloom's classroom (hi mom!). Although it has a water bottle filler and is conveniently placed in a crowded hallway, it is always warm and sometimes broken. Senior Anna Squiers said its water was “smooth,” while junior Zoe Rubin said it “tastes like soil.” In my opinion, that water fountain is simply unreliable and not trustworthy enough to be crowned the winner. Plus, junior Amanda Lo said that the water fountain bleached her desk once! This could be a warning to be careful of the G-hall water fountain; you never know what surprises it's holding.

The lower F-hall was the most popular answer for best water fountain. It's always cold (because of something photography-related), and lowkey enough so it isn't overused. Some students say it “slaps,” while others say it “tastes like grass.” Personally, I have never had a problem with that water fountain. It feels like I'm drinking from a straight mountain stream. So refreshing.

I didn't see anything too special from the water fountain by

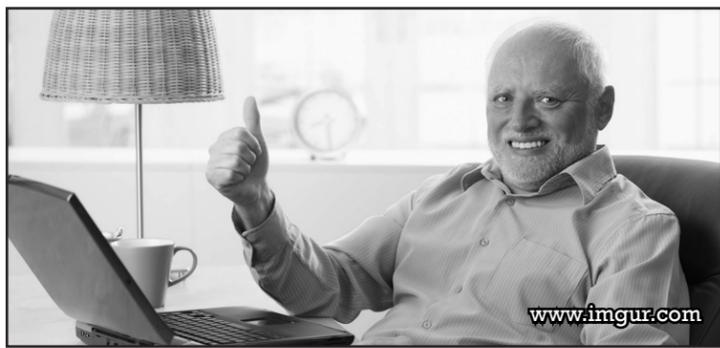
the main office, but it does have a water bottle filler. I rank this one at a 6.78/10. It's reliable, but not outstanding.

While we're on the topic, students seem to place a large importance on the convenience of their water fountains. When asked about her opinion on water fountains that didn't have a fill sensor, senior Marne Malone said, “What is this, the 1800s?!?”

Some water fountains aren't popular enough for a whole review, but I'll be going over some honorable mentions. “The upper H-hall water fountain tastes like a nickel,” said junior Irma Juarez. Senior Jamie Connors said that the water that came out of the water fountain by the cafeteria was white, which is definitely a red (or white?) flag. Senior Annabelle Kahn was very passionate on the water fountains in the K-hall, saying they are “SO COLD AND ICY FRESH AND CLOSE TO THE GYM.”

Clearly, our student body is divided with many opinions from many different people. I see and respect their views, but I also understand that there has to be a winner. After extensive research, and countless interviews and conversations, I have decided that the downstairs F-hall water fountain is the best one at Sherwood. It's not that difficult to tilt a water bottle to fill it up, and cold refreshing water will always reign superior than any other factor.

January 16, 2020



Pictured above is a local Boomer's first time using a non-dial up laptop.

School Year Drags Itself from Purgatory

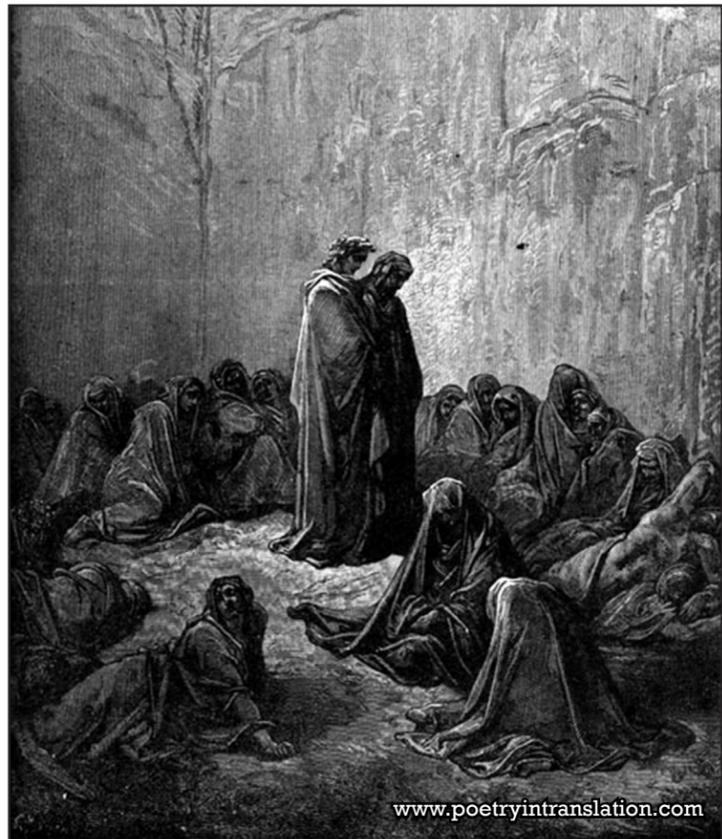
by Nick Stonesifer '20

January 2, the Judgment Day. Students all over the county have fallen victim on this terrible day. Break is over and we're all back... yay! Time to sit in class and look back on the wonderful times we had over our holidays, when we're free to wake up at a reasonable hour if we so choose, spending time with the ones we love, and most of all, having six more hours in our days, to do something actually productive.

The reality is we're stuck here at school. Like a dream, rudely awakened by an alarm, "there is no greater sorrow than to recall our times of joy in wretchedness," said Dante Alighieri, who famously recounted his tour of Hell in the *Inferno* and then had to journey through Purgatory.

The Warrior got in touch with Dante to get his insights on Purgatory, and how it compares to the months of January through April during the school year. "How hard it is to tell what it was like, this wood of wilderness, savage and stubborn (the thought of it brings back all my old fears)," said Dante. Even to the normal person, these months for students can feel like eternity as we wait for the sweet release of break. Yeah, break. Climbing from the depths of the *Inferno* as we make our ascent to our personal Heaven away from school.

As we climb to the summit we are faced with relentless obstacles that seek to dishearten us. Our teachers pile on hours of work for students who care to do



What it looks like when it has been Monday for the past three months.

the work, but at this point is anybody even thinking about doing it? The only thing that keeps us going is pining for snow days. It is only when our snow days that we return to pushing our stone up the mountain in futility.

The days drone on as the hope we share is dragged through the mud. Slowly we pull ourselves up every morning to the school that drains the life from us. The weeks slog on as we swim through the thick paste of time, stuck in a twilight state where nothing feels real anymore.

January, February, March, April. Dante offered to give more insight about these awful months, and all of the suffering they bring us. "My son, here may indeed be torment, but not death," he reminds us. There is wisdom in what he said. We as a student body have to be more optimistic in these dark days, and have only each other to keep safe. Push through these brutal days, only making that break all the better once we are set free from this place. Only 81 days to the mountaintop.

Enjoy the New Way To Rebel

by Drew Scott '20

If you're not living under a rock in this modern age, you've likely heard the phrase, "Ok Boomer." This one line causes the ire of adults everywhere who get it thrown at them in response to them saying something that is really dumb and outdated.

"Ok Boomer" has done wonders for counterculture and teenage rebellion. Gone are the days where you and your parents would get into angst-fueled screaming matches about politics or how you're on your computer too much.

Now all you have to do is say, "Ok Boomer" and it ends right there, with no further arguing needed. Honestly, when you break out the phrase they act like you desecrated their mom's grave or something!

However, I must also address the "plight" of the older generation who feels affected by this hip and happening new way to insult them. Yes, there are obviously a bunch of dumb entitled kids out there making us look like a bunch of brats. They can do all that

without even batting an eye, but the second one of us teens cracks a joke at old people's expense, they get all mad about it. Yeah, our generation's gone soft.

Despite the fact that we teens are probably right in general, we're also wrong about at least one thing. The people we often label as, "Boomers" are in fact the generation directly after the Baby Boom, so we missed the train on that one. But, that really isn't the point, but it sure is neat to know that! The point being that our parents keep making the same mistakes as their parents did, but still say, "this time for sure, just ignore all the other times we messed up!"

And I can say with absolute confidence that absolutely all of our parent's generation are totally like this, and there's no possible way anyone our age could ever want regressive and discriminatory policies like them. Right...?

Despite the controversy around this new phrase, I'd say that it's pretty ok. Counterculture has always existed after all, and "Ok Boomer" is the new way to say, "stick it to the man!"

Taking an Inside Look into the Most Awkward Time of Our Lives

by Taylor Wallace '21

Middle school: the literal most awkward years of a person's life. You feel old, but in reality, you're still a child. You're finally experiencing moderately 'real-world' experiences. You're going through awkward changes with yourself and your friends. Life is weird. I personally have completely erased grades six through eight from my memory, considering they consisted of some of the lowest points of my life.

One of the most horrid aspects of my middle school life was how I dressed. I feel like we can all relate to that one. Who let us? Who told us we looked cute following all of the cringey trends? It truly baffles me to think about the people we used to be in middle school. The most scarring aspect was the wardrobe. Let me begin with the Lulu Lemon headbands. I would be lying if I said that I didn't own at least 6 of them. I had to have every color of those overpriced pieces of fabric. And you best bet we all felt wealthy walking around wearing the literal cheapest item that Lulu sells. Oh, and the Nike Elites. The socks of all socks. Frankly, if you didn't own Elites you were a loser, I hate to say it. They were treated like holy grail in middle school. Boys would walk around with neon elites pulled up to their



I can't help but cringe at my old wardrobe, filled with the uniform of the basic middle school girl (shown above).

knees and their matching shorts hanging low, meeting the top of the sock. To top it all off, they'd have on one of those basic Vineyard Vines shirts; the Gucci of middle school. Oh how I begged my mom to buy me one of those long sleeve Vineyard Vines shirts.

The worst part about how we dressed in middle school was the

fact that everyone wore the exact same thing. There was zero originality, and that's indisputable. Girls, you can't tell me that at least three times a week you wore black leggings, your UGGs with the bows on the back, and a quarter-zip from PINK. Boys, you can't tell me that you didn't wear a different color Under Armour

neon matching shirt and shorts everyday to school. Let's just admit it; we did not know how to dress. But we've grown and we can now put those disgraceful times behind us.

And who remembers those weird trends that we were so obsessed with? Fidget spinners, a student's best friend and a

teacher's worst enemy. I feel the teachers pain though because kids would be spinning that little guy nonstop; on their nose, on their pencil, on other people's noses. I remember in eighth grade I found one in my desk in Spanish class and took it with me. I used it for a solid two periods before passing it off to another fidget spinner deprived kid. Also, remember when people would do TBH/Rates on their Instagram and you would anxiously wait to see what number out of 10 your crush rated you? There were also those 'ship' accounts and you once again would be praying anxiously to get paired with your crush.

Also, why did we act like school was so hard? I'd stay up until 10pm one night doing homework and then post a picture of all my work on Snapchat with the caption, 'Always on the grind'. I'd act as if I'd just finished finding the derivative of a cubic function when in reality all I did was fill out a graphic organizer for my history project.

Basically, what I'm saying is that middle school was an extremely awkward time in our lives; a time that I personally blocked out. I have to hand it to middle school though. I can honestly say that I didn't treasure how easy things were back then. But that time is over and now were in high school; where it only gets harder.

GENERATIONAL DIVIDE



A Generation of Open Dialogue

by Zach Seymour '20,
Kara Thompson '20

By most older generations' standards, Millennials and Gen Z have a tendency to overshare. Typically, something considered private or personal to a Boomer or even Gen X-ers is something any teen would talk to their friends or even strangers about unprompted. Growing up in the age of social media most likely has allowed for this surge of openness to occur.

Social media is one of the outlets most used by these younger generations to talk about these issues that were once taboo. Those who have experience with something can help those who are beginning to struggle, and social media makes it easy to reach out for help whenever needed.

Instagram, for example, has taken an initiative of awareness by creating the campaign #HereForYou. A

minute-long video comes up in users' feeds that follow the stories of three separate people suffering from various mental health issues, before providing information for anyone viewing to seek the help they or people they know might need. Instagram hopes this campaign will raise awareness about mental health, as well as increase the number of people who seek some sort of treatment.

Celebrities have also lately begun to use their status and platform in order to help their fans cope with any issues they may face. Public figures opening up encourages those who look up to them to do so as well. Lady Gaga, who has spoken about her struggle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, has not only set an example for those of this generation but has put in place a program, "Born this Way." The program has been placed in many schools to encourage

younger generations to be vocal with their personal struggles so as to find support in a common community.

Both of these factors have created an environment of sharing, where people aren't afraid to speak up about their experiences. These younger generations are taking this message to heart, and even if they aren't necessarily posting about anything they may be struggling with on social media, more and more are talking to their friends and family about things that used to be kept quiet. Older generations may view this "inappropriate" or "TMI" because they grew up in a culture where mental health struggles were not viewed as acceptable if they strayed from the "norm," thus perpetuating the cycle of silence. This cycle has been broken by the younger generations, due to the avenues now open for them to find an open ear to listen.

Millennials Less Religious than Older Generations

by Vendela Krenkel '20

Younger generations are becoming less religiously affiliated, identifying as either atheist, agnostic, or "none" (identifying as having no religion). Following the rise of the Internet and secularism, atheism is the fastest growing belief system in the U.S., with its numbers more than tripling since the '70s.

According to a 2014 Religious Landscape study from Pew Research, 88 percent of the baby boomer generation identifies with a religion, with Christianity making up 84 percent of that majority. In contrast, only 63 percent of millennials are religious.

Although older generations are also becoming less religious, the youth are most likely to avoid identifying as a religion.

While some millennials are continuing to not follow a religion like they were raised, the bulk of those that label themselves as "nones" were raised with religion holding great value in the household. In fact, two thirds of younger generations that were reared unaffiliated have remained unaffiliated, which is a greater retention rate than most religions.

While it is a possibility that the youth that identify as non-religious currently could adopt religion as they grow older, Pew Research suggests that this is unlikely, as generations tend to become less religious as they age.

This shift away from religion is the result of critical social milestones such as the association of Christianity with the Republican party, loss of faith in the Catholic Church, and the creation of the

Internet. The vast majority of atheists lean left, with about 70 percent affiliating with the Democratic party. And because youth tend to have more liberal ideologies, the ideas of atheism appeal more to the less religious left. As scandals involving the Catholic Church have come to light, many families have become distrustful as its moral value has deteriorated in the eyes of the public. In a fast-paced world, individuals have less time to attend religious services and observe holidays. With the Internet, it is easier than ever to communicate with others who think similarly, and to find new belief systems. The rise of social media has also made it more socially acceptable to talk openly about spiritual doubts.

Today's teens WILL join...

by Sophia Wooden '20

Facebook might not seem necessary to teenagers, but as they grow older, they are bound to download the application. Facebook has so many different features that facilitates greater connection between people near and far. I admit, when I was younger, I thought that Facebook was weird and outdated, too. But now, approaching legal adulthood, I find myself and my peers checking the social media site every day.

During many students' senior years, after they are accepted into a university, they commonly decide to join the college's Facebook group to introduce themselves and talk to other potential students. This is also the main way students decide who they want to choose as their roommates. Also, months before the senior prom, the majority of attendees form a Facebook group so that they can share their dresses. The purpose of this is to prevent any matching incidents the day of. After creating accounts for these purposes, most seniors choose to keep the application and occasionally update it for family members and friends on it as well. Now on Facebook you can even watch TV shows through Facebook Watch. A popular Facebook Watch TV show is "Red Table Talk" with Jada Pinkett Smith, her daughter Willow Smith, and her mother Adrienne Banfield-Norris, where they hash out serious issues with celebrities. Whether it is used for forming connections to other people/groups or used for entertainment, Facebook inevitably will be something that most of today's teens will join in adulthood.

facebook?

Today's teens WILL NOT join...

by Jimmy Yates '21

My parents, my distant relatives, and even my grandparents use Facebook. However, my siblings and I do not use Facebook. Out of all my friends, the few who use Facebook only use it for academic purposes such as communicating with colleges. Even my family only uses it to communicate with each other because they are spread out across the country.

Teens have enough social media as it is with Snapchat, Instagram, VSCO, and TikTok. Facebook is essentially the same as these by acting as a platform to share photos with captions and message with others. Facebook has nothing that excites teens or has instant massive success like TikTok did after teens got their hands on it. Facebook's future is not secure because the majority of people that use it are above 30 and the younger generations, including ours, use other social media apps instead. As the older generations pass, Facebook will no longer be able to compete with the rising social media apps that are popular among our generation and those to follow.

'Ok Boomer' Intensifies Generational Tensions

by Colin Horan '21

"Boomer" is the n-word of ageism," tweeted Rochester radio host Bob Lonsberry. "Being hip and flip does not make bigotry ok, nor is a derisive epithet acceptable because it is new." As you could imagine, this tweet did not go over well and received heavy criticism from young people before finally being deleted. As offensive as the tweet was, it illustrated how many of the "Boomers" in question have wildly misinterpreted the meaning of the joke. Through the phrase, "Ok Boomer" has turned into the prime example of increasing disputes between younger and older generations.

The phrase's earliest origins were in 2015 on sites like Reddit and 4Chan. The phrase didn't really take off until late 2018, when a video on the social media platform TikTok showed an older man talking about how the younger generations have "Peter Pan Syndrome" and never want to grow up. "Ok Boomer" spread throughout social media over the course of about a year or so, and recently took off due

to older people beginning to hear the joke and complaining about it. A "Boomer" technically refers to someone born between 1946 and 1964, a period after the end of World War II when the American birth rate skyrocketed, while the phrase "Ok Boomer" refers to someone with outdated, condescending, or narrow-minded ideals, especially those commonly associated with baby boomers such as an exaggerated disdain for new technology and medicine. The phrase can be applied to those with an unreasonable resistance to change in any facet. The joke can be directed towards anyone, regardless of their age. "Ok Boomer" can be said to someone that is a 70-year-old man, or a 17-year-old teen.

For years, older and younger generations have always had disputes over their views. More recently, it has been about topics like global climate change or gun control. The difference with "Ok Boomer" is that now older generations have taken the simple retort as an insult, and some have gone as far as to call it an

"ageist slur." Though the term was originally intended as an online joke, it has spread to the real world, with some serious consequences.

In the United States, using the phrase in the workplace can get you fired. Anyone over 40 is covered by the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, which prohibits workplace harassment and discrimination on the basis of age. In a case-by-case basis, calling an older coworker a "Boomer" repeatedly can be considered hate speech, and lead to one's firing. New Zealand legislator Chlöe Swarbrick made headlines recently when she replied "Ok Boomer" to a fellow legislator that was heckling her during her speech about the effects of climate change on younger generations. The video blew up with younger people on her side, and many older people becoming upset about it. The younger generations, with something as simple as a meme (regardless of whether or not it was actually intended to be an insult), have only furthered growing tensions between generations.

Voting for Someone Four Times Your Age?

by Jimmy Yates '21

I disagree with my parents on some political issues due to our 25-year age difference. Now imagine trying to find someone 50-60 years older than you to make the most important decisions for the nation for the next four years. Discovering what to believe and why is hard enough. First time voters also must match their values with some presidential candidates older than their grandparents. This is the dilemma that young voters such as myself go through when preparing to vote for the next president.

The Republican nominee, President Donald Trump (age 73) and Democratic candidates Elizabeth Warren (age 70), Bernie Sanders (age 78), and Joe Biden (age 77) are among the frontrun-

ners for the Presidential Election of 2020.

The concern is that these older candidates have trouble keeping up with the times. Take Biden, for example. One of his main criticisms is that he is disconnected from voters and living in the past, displaying an "affectionate" behavior towards others as well as a "clumsy grasp of gender and race," as CNN worded it. Biden, Warren, and Sanders were teenagers in the 1960s, when basic civil rights dominated politics. Today, gun violence, LGBT rights, and climate change define politics and candidates older than our grandparents are leading the Democrats into the presidential election. While they have more experience than younger candidates, if the aforementioned

candidates grew up during crisis significantly different from today, can they relate to what young voters care about? If these 70-year-olds will be around for only a few more decades, do they truly value the future of the planet?

The difference in values between the old frontrunning candidates and the voters is at an all-time high as young people across their country have voiced their concerns because there is more pressure for young people to register to vote and participate in the democracy. If older candidates such as Biden and Warren do not find better ways to connect with younger voters, they risk handing the 2020 presidential election over to the Republicans, whose base is significantly older compared to the Democrats.

Silent Generation:
1928-1945

Baby Boomers:
1946-1964

Gen X:
1965-1980

Millennials:
1981-1996

Gen Z:
1996-2015

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.

STAFF

Managing Editor	Adam Levine '20
Director of Print Layout Design	Sarah Nove '20
Director of Online Media	Kara Thompson '20
Director of Content and Copy	Vendela Krenkel '20
News Editor	Julia Robins '20
National News Editor	Devon Goldstein '21
Features Editor	Kat Mahoney '20
Humor Editor	Drew Scott '20
Spotlight Editor	Jenna Bloom '21
Opinions Editor	Sophia Wooden '20
Wondering Warrior Editor	Brenna Henderson '21
Entertainment Editor	Adina Brenner '20
Sports Editor	Malec Fahmy '20
Online Page and Content Editors	Ayana Antoine '20 Christianna Tran '20 Jimmy Yates '21
Copy and Content Editors	Kate Diuguid '22 Reade Fenner '22 Carlee Malone '20 Tori Newby '22 Adam Pfeiffer '20 Anna Squiers '20
Director of Photography	Hannah Lee '21
Photographer	Sydney Henry '20
Director of Advertising and Business	Anjali Verma '20
Directors of Social Media and Publicity	Sydney Henry '20 Jackson Hongtong '21
Staff Writers	Selene Ashewood '22 Elizabeth Casey '21 Alex Cohen '20 Ryan Duvall '21 Savannah Greaney '21 Lauren Hill '22 Colin Horan '21 Hena Hussain '20 Aaron Jaffe '21 Sabina Jafri '20 Evan Joseph '23 Lexi Kimmel '21 Apurva Mahajan '22 Jack Miller '21 Joseph Oscilowski '22 John Pagnussati '21 Martholdy Pierre-Canel '21 Matt Rosenthal '22 Jonah Sachs '20 Conall Sahler '20 Eve Schlegel '20 Emily Siansky '22 Zach Seymour '20 Graham Skinker '21 Lucy Sokol '21 Nick Stonesifer '20 Sudha Sudhaker '21 Jenna Timmons '21 Taylor Wallace '21 Andrew Waterfield '20 George Yiallourous '20 Shirley Zheng '21
Advisor	Peter Huck

staff editorial

In Our Opinion...

Social Media: Pandora's Box of the Digital Age

Social media is an intractable part of adolescents' lives. For many adults, this is a cause for concern and disapproval. However, these sites are ingrained in the day-to-day of today's youth, acting as platforms for not just photos, but for seemingly everything: activism, humor, growing businesses, news. But perhaps teens shouldn't be so dismissive about the pervasiveness of social media in their lives and actively think about its positives and negatives. These past few weeks, activity over many social media platforms has demonstrated both this difficult-to-define dynamic of good and bad contributions to society, as well as the need to take a step back and examine its faults.

It's no secret that growing up in the digital age is an incredible gift for those who yearn to be politically active, but who lack the means to learn about or participate in their country's politics. This type of political outreach by and for young people has propelled youth involvement in the issues that directly affect them, and even more critically, those that don't. But, it's important to recognize that political activism doesn't start and stop at liking a politically charged post, or simply sharing a shocking news article with followers. While awareness about global issues is important, the illusion of activism stops many from making a real difference. Amongst the chaos of the Australian wildfires, there are countless posts being circulated about the horrors, but it is rare to see users taking concrete action. These wildfires are devastating. So, people should be proactive however they can in an attempt to limit the effects of climate change, a force that undeniably exacerbated the damage and scope of the fire.

Beyond the tendency to promote pseudo-activism, social media manages to, through comic relief, considerably diminish the severity and imminence of many glaring issues around the world. Though for some, it might simply act as a way to alleviate the stress of such world problems, many of the memes and funny videos seem to oversimplify and make

trivial certain issues that are terrifyingly critical. On nearly every social media platform right now, users are creating memes about the possibilities of World War III: a response to the growing hostility between the U.S. and Iran. Most notably, many reference the prospect of an upcoming draft with several posts about how users will attempt to dress as a woman or fake a handicap to avoid it, failing to recognize that the U.S. abolished the military draft in 1973. Even more of an issue is the blatant ignorance exhibited by these posts of the horrors that people in the Middle East would endure if a war were to occur.

Even further, the dangers of misplaced humor seem to permeate our everyday lives. Many posts deliver a message that seems to normalize, and even glorify, bad habits, poor work ethic, and overall negative attitudes. Whether it be an Instagram post that reads "me walking into school on 37 seconds of sleep and a cereal bar" followed by an image of a very exhausted SpongeBob, or a tweet that says "when you care enough about your grades to cry at night but not enough to do anything to change them," the latest "trends" seem to revolve around laziness, resentment of school, and self-deprecation, and deliberate isolation. It's now funny, and almost admirable, to hold yourself to low standards and do the absolute minimum in nearly anything. These behaviors are becoming so popularized that working hard, caring for yourself, and valuing academic and social productivity appear borderline taboo.

That being said, social media truly is an incredible innovation. People thousands of miles apart can stay connected and up-to-date with each others' lives, teens with no business experience can jumpstart a brand and become entrepreneurs, and many are offered an outlet that allows them to cope with day-to-day problems via humor and advice. As we explore such an explosive platform, it's important to not overlook its faults and be blinded by a convenient source of entertainment and information.

Glorification of Drugs and Violence In Modern Music Is Very Dangerous

by Hannah Lee '21

Famous musicians are known for their high end and luxurious lifestyle. VIP lounges, private jets, expensive hotel rooms. Many people assume these musicians live a leisurely life whilst basking in such comforts. However, behind closed doors many of them are struggling with serious addiction and mental health issues. Their feelings are often conveyed through their lyrics but many fans (not all) simply sing along rather than showing concern.

This was the year many beloved artists have died such as Mac Miller (overdose), Nipsey Hussle (shot and killed), XXX Tentacion (also shot and killed), and most recently Juice WRLD (seizure due to pills). After every death there is a period when fans and musicians alike warn against the use of heavy drugs and the glorification of a life of violence. But soon after everyone seems to forget and continues to disregard the danger of normalizing heavy drugs and violence in everyday life. Prescription drug use is increasingly normal-

ized in teens today, which can be seen in the rise of opioid deaths throughout the decade. To a certain extent in teen culture, if one has not tried certain drugs they are regarded as boring and can be outcasted by their peers. This attitude is dangerous considering how impressionable young teens are and their desire to fit in with their peers. Many teens strive to relate to the circumstances which some musicians come from. But why would you? A life consisting of addiction, death, and violence is not something to aspire for. It does not make you cooler or more respected, especially if you grew up in a safe and well-off neighborhood.

This is not to say that the music industry is the primary cause of kids rebelling and acting out, because it is not. Musicians themselves emphasize how if they had not made it big they most likely would not still be here today. Many artists also predict their own deaths knowing that their risky lifestyle will catch up to them. Teens misinterpret artists' songs about drugs and dangerous lifestyles to be about advocacy

and praise instead of seeing it as it is; a realization and recognition of their own problems and addictions.

Musicians' whole lives are put on blast and their struggles of addiction are publicized. While this does show that nobody's life is perfect, the public has become incredibly desensitized to addiction and drugs. It is not taken as seriously as it should be, and it is seen as admirable to engage in life-threatening behaviors. Slowly killing ourselves should not be something that is normalized, it should be seen as dumb. Following the most recent death of rapper Juice WRLD on December 8, 2019, fellow rapper Vic Mensa called out the hip hop industry and advocated that rappers must take accountability for the message they send to kids in their lyrics. Mensa has struggled with depression and addiction himself, and therefore feels especially passionate about the issue. "You've got to be careful about what you say because kids take what you say for real. . . so give them something they can use, not stuff that's killing them," said Mensa.

The Flaws of Life360: Helicopter Parents Produce Sneaky Children

by Taylor Wallace '21

Parents these days are so quick to talk negatively about how new technology is ruining their children's lives, yet use that same technology to invade their kids' lives. Many parents have turned to numerous tracking apps in order to keep tabs on their kid's location. One of the most popular is Life360. It is an app that enables parents to not only track their kid, but also monitor the speed at which they are driving. Parents can also set locations that their child must be at a certain time and if the child leaves that location, the parents gets notified. Evidently, it is a very detailed app, but is it truly effective?

On numerous occasions I have heard from my friends the creative ways that they have maneuvered around the app's restrictions in order to go out. One of my friends told me that she left her phone at home before sneaking out so that her parents would believe that she was still at home. Essentially, she put herself in more danger by not bringing her phone with her just so that her parents wouldn't be notified that she left. I've also heard of people connecting to a friend's house's Wi-Fi before going somewhere they aren't supposed to in order

to trick their parents to believe that they are at a friend's house. It is clear that many kids have outsmarted the app. Parents, next time you check Life360 and see that your kid is safely at a friend's house, they may just be halfway across the country. Another key point to keep in mind in the notion that the kids with the strictest parents tend to have worse behavior than those who have more neutral parents.

Life360 not only limits the child: it creates a false and temporary reality for the parents. One day their child is going to enter the real world and they won't be able to track their every move. Therefore, tracking your high school kid will only make it harder for you to adjust to them living away from you in the real world.

The fear of not knowing where your kid is or what they are doing 24/7 is understandable, but tracking their every move is not the way to approach it. Instead, parents should instill a sense of trust and accountability in their kids from a young age. If your child grows up having a strong sense of right and wrong, while also being able to locate the line between fun and dangerous, there is a high chance that during their teenage years they will be able to experience and have fun while staying safe.

I personally do not have Life360 and my parents do not track me. I feel like I could say that I make good decisions in general. Now that does not mean that I never lie to my parents or maybe do something I am not supposed to but no matter what, I know where to draw the line and am smart enough to not do anything that could put me or others in harm's way. From a young age, my parents made sure that my sister and I valued the importance of responsibility. Therefore, my parents have said that they see no reason to need to track us, considering they trust that we will make good choices without their constant surveillance.

Life360 is an invasion of privacy. It also is highly ineffective. Kids who are policed by their parents tend to act out more in rebellion. Instead of tracking their kids, parents should focus more on raising their kids to have strong morals and a good sense of judgment. Teenagers are going to make mistakes and do things they are not supposed to, but that is part of growing up. Our parents' parents did not track them and most of them would say that they turned out fine. Therefore, kids should be granted the same right to live freely without the cloud of their parents constantly hanging over their heads.

Change Grad Requirements

by Shirley Zheng '21

The state of Maryland has a set requirement of 21 total credits that every high school student must complete in order to graduate. Those 21 credits consist of three years of social studies, three years of science, four years of English, three years of mathematics, one year of fine arts, one year of technology education, a semester of health, a semester of physical education, at least two to four years of world language or a career program, and one to three years of electives to include courses beyond requirements.

These 21 required courses occupy the majority of a student's space in their schedule, leaving very little flexibility in scheduling and class options. Sherwood offers a large selection of electives, but most students cannot take full advantage of them since they must make sure to take the required fine arts and technology courses.

Moreover, such requirements demand most juniors, sophomores, and freshmen to take very similar, if not, all the same courses. For example, most sophomores at Sherwood have to take a math, English, science, history, and a foreign language course, along with a fine art or technology and health class in order to be on track for completing their graduation requirements. This creates a problem for students that want to invest more of their time in taking

more double period or AP courses, career path programs, or take other more interesting electives such as newspaper and yearbook. Those students would not be able to take the classes they want to take along with all the specifically required credits simultaneously. Thus, if students chose to take those more important APs or other electives, they might have to take the required credits such as arts or health classes online at the cost of \$300 per semester, creating an unnecessary financial burden for those students.

A solution for this would be to generalize the requirements to fit a greater variety of classes under each category. This will give students more classes to choose from while completing each of their requirements. For instance, the fine arts credit is very specific in that it includes so few classes to choose from, as most students choose to take ceramics or studio arts to fill their art credit. Instead of having such narrow options, other electives such as newspaper or career-path programs should be included to make it a broader scope.

As a result, the more extensive categories will allow students to have much more freedom when it comes to building their schedule and giving them more chances to explore lots of different career fields and take classes that interest them while at the same time not conflicting with the graduation requirements.



Golden Global Issues

by Lexi Kimmel '21

On January 5, 2020 the 77th annual Golden Globes celebrity awards show aired. This year's show served as a platform for many up and coming actors/actresses to debut, but it also served as a platform for issue awareness. Despite discouragement from the host Ricky Gervais to mention politics, many stars such as Joaquin Phoenix, Patricia Arquette, and Ramy Youssef used their acceptance speeches to address real-world issues. Debates have since sparked about whether or not political agendas should be pushed at awards shows.

In a world with seven and a half billion people, it is almost impossible to have your voice heard. When it comes time to talk about serious matters, many people ignore protesters, turn off the news, and bury their heads in the sand. Nowadays, the most effective way to get your voice heard is to talk to the public anywhere and anytime you can, like on an internationally aired awards show averaging around 18.3 million viewers. The issues facing the world right now are stressful and discussing them may not be pleasant, but the fear these discussions induce can create change. It is better to have a society that is afraid and aware than to have one that is content and ignorant.

Get Off of Your Phones!

by Jenna Bloom '21

We live in a world where everything is easily accessible to us. We scroll for hours on apps that show us a new picture or video every couple of seconds, and everything is fast-moving and quickly rewarded to us. Daily news comes to us in a couple of words, and all of our friends are just a text away. It makes it so we have little-to-no time to reflect or analyze what is happening. But how exactly is this affecting us?

The National Centre for Biotechnology Information has claimed that the average human attention span has dropped from 12 seconds in 2000 to 8 seconds in 2013. Look at what's happening around us -- when we wake up, we check our phones. When we're waiting in a long line somewhere, we check our phones. When there is a break in conversation, we check our phones. The problem is, that is our new social norm. This is what we are used to. We as a society need to retrain ourselves to rely less on our phones and more on ourselves. Whether it is a new no-phones-at-the-dinner-table rule, deactivating social media for a little while, or picking up a phone-less hobby, there is a lot we can do to change our ways and start living in the moment more.

Teachers, Learn Names

by Tori Newby '22

"There are 30 of you, and only one of me," many teachers say the first day of school, implying that it will take them a little while to learn names. That makes sense. Sure, there are always a few teachers who will know everyone's name by the second day. But for most, it takes about a week. Maybe two. And other teachers ... well, they never learn them at all. Some teachers have to call out names for attendance every day of the semester. Others lay out graded papers at the front of the class and let the students come up and collect their own because the teacher doesn't know which name belongs to whom. Students who come in for lunch or email a teacher often feel the need to explain who they are.

It's one thing to be bad at learning names. It's an entirely different situation when teachers don't put in effort to begin with. While having a more personal relationship with the students makes learning easier and more fun, it isn't required to memorize names. Teachers that don't bother to learn names the entire semester exude serious disrespect towards their students. It's offensive to expect students to try their best in class when the teacher doesn't even try to learn their names.

Making the Case for Who Should Win the 2020 Election

President **Donald Trump** is controversial, yes. He carries baggage with his untimely comments, as well as actions in his personal life. However, his upside outweighs the negatives. Trump, while he can be obnoxious, is not as controversial as he seems to be on the surface.

Since Trump was elected in 2016, the American economy has boomed. Around 6 million jobs have been created, resulting in the unemployment rate dropping to 3.7 percent, the lowest in 50 years. The thriving economy is more than just jobs, as 2019 held all-time highs for the major stock averages. Additionally, he has stood up to China, beginning a trade war to protect and benefit his American citizens. Trump's accomplishments are not limited to the economy. Trump showed that he will not allow foreign nations to attack American people when he ordered the strike on January 2 that killed Iran's top general Qasem Soleimani.

His continued, pro-American approach hasn't wavered. President Trump is not the perfect candidate, or man, but after a deeper look underneath the controversy and inappropriate comments, it is clear that he is an American man, and will continue to fight for Americans over the next four years.

by Adam Pfeiffer '20

If you're anything like me, you're a little overwhelmed by all the candidates vying for the Democratic nomination. And, when it comes down to it, all you want is someone who has the capacity to beat Trump. **Michael Bloomberg** is the best candidate for that job. Elected three times as mayor of New York, he considers himself a "liberal republican," and won his third term running as an independent. Bloomberg is moderate enough to appeal to Independents who make up about 30 percent of the electorate, but still has enough liberal views as a Democratic candidate.

One big issue he's focusing on is climate change. He called out Trump for his withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, and Bloomberg Philanthropies has pledged millions to make up for the loss of U.S. resources. Bloomberg also hopes to launch "Beyond Carbon," a plan to get rid of all coal-based power plants in the United States and move the country towards cleaner energy options.

by Kara Thompson '20

On February 3, 2020, the first caucus will take place in Iowa, with the New Hampshire primary following on February 11. Recent polls have shown former vice president **Joe Biden** leading the Democratic field with 27 percent of national support, followed by Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren according to the New York Times.

Biden is the most widely known and experienced candidate in the field. He worked as a senator for 36 years, and served as Vice President under the Obama administration. The focus for most Democratic voters this election is to ensure Donald Trump does not win another term. Biden is the Democratic candidate with the best chance to win the 2020 election over Trump. Compared to the other candidates in the Democratic field Biden has moderate views. Candidates such as Sanders or Warren are seen as too liberal, leaving many voters with doubts about their ability to beat Trump. However, Biden's centrist views will be supported by a larger group of Americans than any views that are too extreme.

by Lauren Hill '22

Democrat candidate **Pete Buttigieg** currently polls close to the top in the Iowa caucus, which could be due to his long-shown belief in creating proposals instead of merely defining problems. For example, Buttigieg has a plan that aims to cut emissions down to zero by 2050, one to address systemic racism, and another for universal healthcare coverage.

Buttigieg graduated from Harvard, became an Oxford Rhodes scholar, and was deployed to Afghanistan as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserve. Presidents also are expected to be able to sympathize with their public, which includes all ages. Buttigieg, being only 37 years old, would be able to understand and support the younger generations while still being able to appeal to older adults through his more moderate stances.

Buttigieg, unlike Elizabeth Warren or Bernie Sanders, could appeal to voters who identify as Independent. Buttigieg's belief in a less politically polarized country would help the government function less like a battleground and be more beneficial to the public.

by Brenna Henderson '21

Are you fed up with the way that companies treat their workers? Are you angry that the richest man alive, Jeff Bezos, barely pays his workers minimum wage? Are you passionate about real change in America? Then look no further than 2020 presidential candidate **Bernie Sanders**. Sander's left-leaning policies promise to help the poor and the middle class of America. He'll pass laws that help workers, the environment, the poor, and minorities. Unlike Trump, Sanders genuinely fights for the rights and the liberty of people of color and Dreamers. And unlike Biden, Sanders is clear and direct with his messages, leaving no room for bumbling anecdotes and mixed signals.

Along with all of that, Sanders has a decades-long career in politics, with an established base of supporters from the 2016 elections. He is always willing to play nice with Democrats and other politicians. So if you're looking for a candidate, then I suggest you Feel The Bern in 2020.

by Drew Scott '20

Massachusetts Senator **Elizabeth Warren** has innovative ideas that will provide all citizens with an overall better quality of life. Ever since Trump entered office, the wealthy have thrived whereas middle and lower class families have been left in the dust. Warren wants to put the power back into the hands of workers and labor unions. She also vows to make sure extremely wealthy Americans pay their fair share of taxes. Warren believes it is vital that all Americans are treated equally and fairly under the law. She hopes to achieve this by creating an Ultra-Millionaire Tax on America's 75,000 richest families.

One of Warren's main objectives for her presidency is to have universal free public college. With Warren's free college plan, all debts will cease to exist. She also plans to change the amount of carbon emissions that Americans put into the atmosphere each day. Warren hopes to achieve net-zero domestic emissions by 2030 with the implication of the Green New Deal.

Warren believes in advocating for everyone no matter their race, ethnicity, or background. From her previous experience in politics to her extensive knowledge in America's biggest issues, Warren has what it takes to beat Trump in the 2020 election.

by Adina Brenner '20



In September, Montgomery County executive Marc Elrich wrote the MCPS School Board and Superintendent Jack Smith urging them to excuse students attending a Washington D.C. Global Climate Strike in which more than 150 countries gathered to protest government inaction regarding climate change. MCPS responded to Elrich stating that though the school district supports student advocacy, students who want to participate in the civic process should do so at school. More recently, Montgomery County state and local leaders wrote a letter appealing to the Board of Education to consider excusing students who participate in civil action. The Board of Education's Policy Management Committee is reviewing the request letter and is set to meet this month.

Advocating for Advocacy

Yes. Protests should count as excused absences. Many areas around Montgomery County, including DC and the Virginia counties of Arlington and Fairfax, already grant excused absences to students who want to attend protests and rallies. MCPS telling students who want to participate in the civic process to do so while at school goes against the exact purpose of organized protest. Staying at school does not emphasize the message of discontent and need for change.

As the local leaders put it in their letter to MCPS, "The research is clear: Civic engagement teaches higher-order skills—including critical thinking, writing, technology, and coalition building—at more advanced levels of aptitude. These skills will serve our students well not only in college and their careers, but throughout their lives, making them engaged citizens capable of advocating for what they believe in." Events like protests help students to

apply what they have learned to the world as a whole.

Time after time, MCPS refuses to accept protests as excused absences. This occurred in 2018 when thousands of students walked out of their schools to protest lack of gun control legislation as organized by March 4 Our Lives. Though directly impacting the lives of students and bringing positive awareness to the issue, their absences were marked unexcused. Students should have a few days a year allocated to advocacy. These absences could be proved through providing parental consent, evidence of attendance to the event, and summary of the attendance, all compiled in a thorough report. This way, students gain reflection from their experiences while also providing reason to their absence. Students should be allowed to exercise their First Amendment rights and fight for a better world with support, not consequences that hold them back.

-Anjali Verma '20

Having Absences Are a Statement

Although many student activists may feel dismayed or discouraged upon seeing their day spent striking marked as unexcused, they may not realize the profound impact this has on the officials they seek to send a message to by protesting in the first place. Absences, especially those in great numbers as often occur during walkouts, disrupt classroom instruction, and this is the greatest power a student has in sharing their voice.

Students should, of course, feel empowered to stand for their beliefs, but waves of unexcused absences on a walk-out day, like the September climate strikes, cause a ripple in administration that makes its way upward in the chain of command. Just as adults across the world left work without permission from their employer to make a political statement, so do students who are willing to sacrifice a day of classes without an excused absence, making their plea for change resonate even louder.

Logistically, a plan to excuse absences on days of protests may be quite difficult to institute and may not be able to fulfill the extent of some students' political expression. For example, one important detail of the original bill proposed by Elrich is that not every protest would be excused; they must first be approved by the principal and have permission from the protest's organization to qualify for an excused absence.

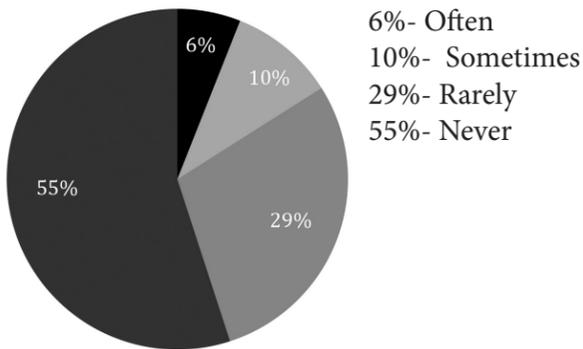
Due to this proposal for future civil action, smaller protests, potentially student-led, may see less of a turnout because a principal may not see enough support for these to deem them worthy to miss class time. While these criteria were eventually removed by legislators due to the possibility of bias on the principals' parts and complications with the institution backing each strike, county lawmakers have yet to propose a new way to determine what MCPS will deem excused.

-Vendela Krenkel '20

The Pulse

As the punchline of the recent meme trend, the phrase, "OK Boomer," seeks to mock older generations, specifically those classified as Baby Boomers, for their stereotypically more close-minded or "outdated" viewpoints. This meme has highlighted the differences between older and younger generations both in ideology and behavior. Some of these differences include use of social media platforms like Facebook, political views, and religious tendencies.

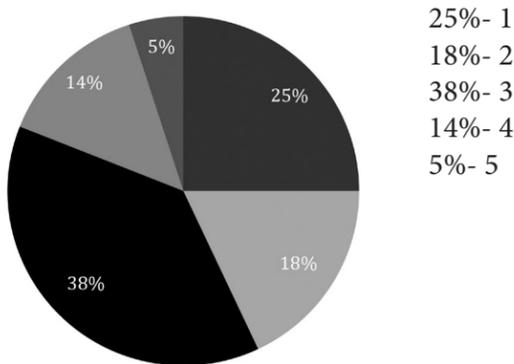
How often do you use Facebook?



Do you consider Facebook the social media of the older generation?

Yes	86%
No	7%
Not sure	7%

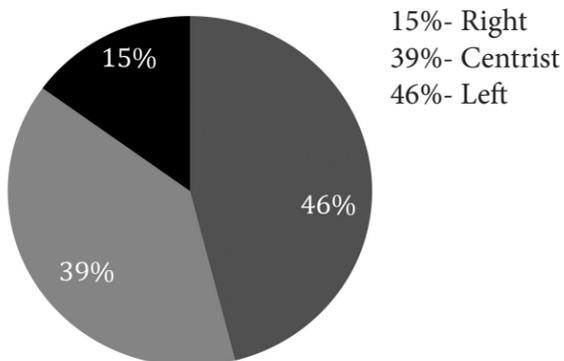
On a scale from 1 to 5, how religious do you consider yourself?



Are older members of your family (40+) more religious than you?

Yes	77%
No	18%
Not sure	5%

Ideologically, your political views lean:



Ideologically, how do you perceive the political views of the older generation?

Left	10%
Centrist	31%
Right	59%

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

I Miss Olney

by Christianna Tran '20

With each passing year it seems Olney is becoming less and less familiar. With businesses constantly leaving, the Olney that stands today is not the town that I have come to love. I, who will be going off to college next fall, am afraid that when I come back to the town I grew up in, it will be newly unrecognizable.

Almost all of the restaurants, stores, and community centers that I have grown up with have disappeared. When I was little, I vividly remember going to Olney 9 Cinemas to watch my first movie in theaters and going to KFC with my family for dinner. However, both of those staples were replaced by other businesses years ago. Olney Town Center was remodeled around 2005 and more recently, businesses such as Sakura and Shoppers have been replaced with IHOP and Giant.

In fact, there have been so many businesses that have left that now Olney has an abundance of empty storefronts. The spots for Hallmark, Rita's, Cheeburger Cheeburger, and many others are now vacant, waiting for the next business to open.

To add to this, there is a ridiculous number of stores that simply aren't needed. Within a mile radius of each other there are four Starbucks. There are also two Dunkin' Donuts, a handful of grocery stores, nail places, and various banks within extreme proximity. It's a shame that the town I grew up in has slowly been replaced with multiples of the same things along with big corporate businesses instead of small chains that really make the town feel like home. For instance, a family business, Olney Jewelers, was replaced by T-Mobile.

I know that with these constant changes to the town that means so much to me, I will never get the original Olney back. But instead of a mess of large chains entering, I wish to see small businesses becoming a part again. This way, Olney would have a stronger sense of home and that small town charm instead of bland shopping centers that you could find anywhere else in America. Growing up, I remember walking around Olney with my friends and family and going into stores such as Olney Toys. As shops from my childhood are replaced, the nostalgia and connection I have with my hometown weakens. Hopefully, in the near future I can see Olney start to add more charming, local-run restaurants, stores, and businesses that make the town more homely.

MCPS Should Work to Revise School Start Times

by Alex Cohen '20

MCPS students can relate to this early morning struggle: drag yourself out of bed, waste time looking for articles of clothing to make the perfect outfit, prepare your lunch for the day, quickly grab a not-so-nutritious breakfast, and frantically rush out the door and hope you didn't forget anything important. It's a cycle that is made worse due to early school start times and little sleep students get.

In October, California decided to tackle this problem. The new bill signed into law, SB 328, mandates that public middle schools begin classes at 8 a.m. or later while high schools will start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. by the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. A main supporter of the bill, the American Academy

of Pediatrics, declared in 2014 that insufficient sleep for adolescents was a "public health issue" and presented studies that found links between more sleep from later start times and better school performance and health among adolescents. The California Governor, Gavin Newsom agreed, saying "The science shows that teenage students who start their day later increase their academic performance, attendance, and overall health."

Although in 2016 MCPS pushed back school start times by 20 minutes, the county needs to follow California's lead and go further by having high school begin classes at 8:30 a.m. Teens are not biologically programmed to wake up in accordance to the current school start times. According to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, "During adoles-

cence, internal circadian rhythms and biological sleep drive change to result in later sleep and wake times."

Additionally teenagers secrete the sleep hormone melatonin from about 10:45 p.m. until about 8 a.m. Adolescents typically have a hard time falling asleep until melatonin secretion begins, and are typically unable to be naturally awoken until melatonin secretion stops, according to Brown University School of Medicine professor Mary A. Carskadon. Most students are not fully aware and engaged in class in the morning and their grades may suffer because of it. According to a study which focused on 882 high school freshmen, cited by the American Academy of Sleep, "Hours of sleep per school night were significantly positively associated with GPA and lev-

el of motivation, and negatively associated with clinically significant levels of emotional disturbance and ADHD." Additionally, a study done by the University of Washington and the Salk Institute for Biological Studies on school start times in Seattle found that, "Later wake-up times were associated with grades that were 4.5 percent higher."

Furthermore, for most students, sports are a major part of their high school experience. Physically demanding practices, combined with the body's natural growth from puberty, makes it essential that teens get quality sleep. Extra sleep in the morning would benefit teachers too. According to Dr. Merrill Mitler, a sleep expert and neuroscientist at NIH, "Sleep services all aspects of our body in one way or another: molecular, energy balance, [etc.]" If MCPS

postponed school start times it would help student athletes perform better and prevent injuries, and will allow both students and teachers to physically feel better in the classroom.

Lastly, the later start times create danger in respect to transportation. Many upperclassmen drive to school in the morning and are not fully rested. Sleep deprivation can have similar effects on the body as drinking alcohol and according to the American Automobile Association "foregoing two or three hours increases the risk of a crash by 400 percent."

MCPS should be working with growing teen minds and bodies, not working against them. The county, if not the state of Maryland, needs to stop this harmful situation by following California's lead and revising school start times.

THE WARRIOR WONDERS...

What Were Your Favorites From 2010-2019?

What was your favorite song?

“Death of a Bachelor by Panic! At the Disco”
- Jonah Sachs ‘20

“Call Me Maybe”
- Michael Zhao ‘20

“Money Trees by Kendrick Lamar”
- Alex Sarmento ‘22

“Take a Hint by Victoria Justice”
- Lindsey Moris ‘20

Which college or professional sport did you follow most?

Football 30%	Soccer 12%	Basketball 17%
Baseball 9%	Hockey 11%	Other 21%

Would you relive the past decade?



43%



57%

What was your favorite TV show?

“Grey’s Anatomy or Survivor” - Ryan Loiacano ‘20

“Gossip Girl” - Andrew Chung ‘20

“Wizards of Waverly Place” - Kirstyn Collins ‘20

“Good Luck Charlie” - Corinne Wasson ‘23

What was the most important movement to you?

Black Lives Matter 10% **Climate Strike** 25% **#MeToo** 9%

March For Our Lives 21% **LGBT rights** 11% **Other** 24%

What was your favorite food trend?

Unicorn/Mermaid
5%



Pumpkin Spice
11%



Vegan/Organic
12%



Avocado
29%



Bacon-Wrapped
20%



Mukbang
23%



What was your favorite app?

Instagram
22%

Snapchat
24%

Other
18%

Spotify
16%

Netflix
20%

What was your favorite snack?

Pizza/bagel bites
27%

Scobby doo gummies
16%

Flamin’ Hot Cheetos
11%

Gripz
5%

Taki’s
14%

Other
27%

What was your favorite fashion trend?

“Crocs and hoodies” - Michael O’Neill ‘22

“Socks with funny things on them” - Alex Jaffe ‘21

“White sneakers” - Maryam Higazi ‘21

“Resurgence of denim jackets and death of ‘swag’ attire” - David Do ‘20

January 16, 2020

Exclusive Behind the Scenes with Student And Soundcloud Rapper 'Dirtyy' Eli Williams

by Martholdy Pierre-Canel '21

It is extremely likely that you have heard the name "Dirtyy Eli" in the hallways of Sherwood. Junior Elijah Williams has been gaining fame throughout the school since freshman year by producing trap music for his fans.

Coined by Williams himself, he encourages students to join the "AllButt Nation" of people he identifies as fans and supporters.

Now you are probably wondering where the name Dirtyy Eli came from. Rapper "Swipty" or "Dirty Swipty," who unfortunately passed August 21, 2016, was Williams' favorite artist of all time. "I never knew him but I could relate to his music so it felt like he was a close friend to me," said Williams. He then decided to name himself Dirtyy Eli as a tribute to Swipty but added a second "y" to be different from other rappers because it is not common to see "dirty" with two "y"s.

Williams love for music has always been present. "Music calms me down," said Williams, "Who wants to drive in a car and not listen to music?"

This inspiration to create music, however, started when Williams made his first song in the eighth grade and his friend, Maria, messaged him on Snapchat complimenting his work and reciting the lyrics of his song to him via Snapchat. "Next thing you know I go to school on the first day and everyone is saying 'Dirtyy Eli!'" remembered Wil-



Dirtyy Eli shows profits from his growing fame producing trap music.

liams, "The poms are saying it, [and] they're supporting me. If it wasn't without the poms and Maria I don't think I'd be a rapper, for real."

Williams' inspiration for making music is simply happy faces. Seeing his supporters all around Sherwood praising his work and asking for more singles motivates Williams to continue to drop hits. In order to make his music, Williams uses an MP3 Converter along with a microphone, finds a beat, and creates his lyrics.

When it comes to collaborators, Williams can be seen with BossUpShawn and Drippy Tre but Williams doesn't collab often because he doesn't "want to [blow up] and [people] be like 'oh he only blew because of such and such.'" Dirtyy Eli's music can be found on Youtube, Soundcloud, and Spinrilla.

Williams plans to continue making music as long as his fans ask for it. Therefore, become a member of AllButt Nation and support our hometown rapper, Dirtyy Eli.

'The Rise of Skywalker' Crumbles under Pressure

by Conall Sahler '20

Like the aim of a stormtrooper, "Star Wars Episode IX: The Rise of Skywalker" is clumsy yet oddly charming. "The Rise of Skywalker" is the culmination of 42 years, 11 films and four television shows. Does this concluding chapter properly end this beloved series? Kind of.

"The Rise of Skywalker" has a lot to wrap up in its two hour and 21 minute run time. Director J.J. Abrams attempts to conclude the stories of characters new and old as well as offering his own take on the iconic franchise. The movie is too convoluted and the pacing is far too messy, and the first two-thirds of the film are a blur of exposition and damage control from the controversial eighth entry to the franchise, Rian Johnson's "The Last Jedi." In this, the film completely backtracks on everything Johnson set up in the previous film and instead of embracing the controversial past, Abrams attempts to erase all traces of it (including its characters).

Everything Johnson did to subvert audience expectations, Abrams ignores. For instance, consider Rey, the main character of the Disney trilogy (episodes VII, VIII, IX). Throughout the previous film, we wonder who Rey's parents are until her parents are revealed as nobodies in the Star Wars universe, completely surprising the audience. In episode IX however, Abrams ignores this detail and reveals Rey's lin-

eage to be something completely different.

Something positive about the film, however, are its performances, from Daisy Ridley's Rey, Adam Driver's Kylo Ren, and John Boyega's Finn. Abrams respectively handled the passing of actress Carrie Fisher and honored the character of Leia Organa. Though the performances shine, this new trilogy clearly lacks an end goal. In 2015's "The Force Awakens," Abrams brings us back to the world of "Star Wars" 30 years later. The film was criticized for being too much like the original 1977 "Star Wars." In 2017's "The Last Jedi" Johnson attempts to fix the errors of episode VII by subverting audience expectations and trying something new. Johnson fails to follow Abrams original story though, and in his subversion destroys most of what Abrams has set up. Abrams returns for the final film and again tries to right the wrongs of the previous film. The rise of social media presence around the release of these films scared the creators of the movies into only trying to appease the audience.

With a messy plot, and choppy pacing, "The Rise of Skywalker" is difficult to follow for the first hour and a half. But, with a strong conclusion and great performances from each actor, the "final" film in the saga is a fun popcorn movie as long as you don't overthink the plot.

Grade: C-

Olney's 5-Star COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY DENTISTRY

- BOTOX®/Dermal Fillers
- Children's Dentistry
- Crowns & Bridges
- Dental Emergencies
- Dental Implants
- Invisalign™ Orthodontics
- Partial & Full Dentures
- Periodontal (Gum) Evaluation
- Teeth Whitening
- TMD/TMJ Treatment
- Tooth Colored Fillings
- Veneers & Laminates

Dr. Levine
Dr. Bers
Dr. Joshi

If one of your 2020 New Year's Resolutions is to "GET THAT TOOTH FIXED" or "HAVE A SMILE TO BE PROUD TO SHOW OFF," we'd love to help make that a reality!

NOW OFFERING APPOINTMENTS ON **SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS!**

Call today to **SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT.**

301-276-7886

OlneyDentalCenter.com
17902 Georgia Ave., Ste. 200

NEW PATIENT SPECIAL • Limited Time Offer

\$130

COMPREHENSIVE EXAM
Includes necessary X-rays & Cleaning

Limited time offer. Value of \$338. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 3/31/20.

👤 GENTLE, CARING DENTISTS & STAFF
👤 IN PRACTICE FOR OVER 25 YEARS
👤 FINANCING AVAILABLE

★★★★★ *"We love the office. It is extremely **PROFESSIONAL AND FEELS "CURRENT"** without being alienating at all. The services seem to be **TOP-OF-THE-LINE** and the **EXPERTISE** of the staff is top notch. In addition, the **FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE** gives the practice a home-town vibe where you can get to know the people and it feels like they **CARE** about getting to know you as well."* - MICHAEL H.

Upcoming Movies and Performances

Movies

1/17	Dolittle PG	<u>Director:</u> Stephen Gaghan <u>Cast:</u> Tom Holland, Robert Downey Jr., Emma Thompson	Fantasy-Adventure
1/17	Bad Boys For Life R	<u>Director:</u> Billal Fallah, Adil El Arbi <u>Cast:</u> Vanessa Hudgens, Alexander Ludwig, Charles Melton	Action-Comedy
1/24	The Turning PG-13	<u>Director:</u> Floria Sigismondi <u>Cast:</u> Finn Wolfhard, Mackenzie Davis, Brooklyn Prince	Horror Thriller
2/7	Birds of Prey R	<u>Director:</u> Cathy Yan <u>Cast:</u> Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Margot Robbie, Ewan McGregor	Action-Adventure
2/14	Fantasy Island PG-13	<u>Director:</u> Jeff Wadlow <u>Cast:</u> Lucy Hale, Maggie Q, Portia Doubleday, Michael Peña	Action-Adventure
2/14	Sonic The Hedgehog PG	<u>Director:</u> Jeff Fowler <u>Cast:</u> Jim Carrey, James Marsden, Ben Schwartz, Neal McDonough	Action-Adventure
2/28	The Invisible Man R	<u>Director:</u> Leigh Whannell <u>Cast:</u> Elizabeth Moss, Storm Reid, Oliver Jackson-Cohen	Sci-Fi Thriller



Music

1/19	Snoop Dogg	The Filmore Silver Spring
1/23	Lil Baby	Baltimore Soundstage (Baltimore)
2/8	Hayley Kiyoko	The Filmore Silver Spring
2/8	Poppy	U Street Music Hall (DC)
2/11	Saint Motel	9:30 Club (DC)
2/12	Rex Orange County	The Anthem (DC)
2/14	Fitz and the Tantrums	Rams Head Live (Baltimore)
2/22	Post Malone	Capital One Arena (DC)
2/22	Wallows	Rams Head Live (Baltimore)
2/28	The Lumineers	Capital One Arena (DC)



'Uncut Gems' Is Truly a Cinematic Panic Attack

by Jack Miller '21

Prolific actor and comedian Adam Sandler takes a break from the typical slapstick schlock he's become known for in recent years to deliver a sledgehammer performance in "Uncut Gems," the electrifying new crime thriller by Josh and Benny Safdie. He plays Howie Ratner, a sleazy diamond district jeweler that makes a series of high-stakes bets in hopes to score big. In doing so, Ratner sets off a long string of hazardous pitfalls that threaten his money, his family, and his life.

"Uncut Gems" is akin to the anxious acid-trip that is "Good Time," the Safdies' previous film, in the sense that both are nerve-racking, claustrophobic, and disorienting experiences, shot with gritty realism and imbued with an aching sense of melancholy.

However, "Gems" is far more grand in scope, making for an even more riveting experience. This film is two hours and fifteen minutes of pure, unadulterated stress, and I mean that in the best way possible. It's dizzying, restless, and remarkably tense, and that's all thanks to the impeccable craft of the two sibling auteurs.

The Safdie brothers flawlessly capture the chaos of Ratner's routine with their dazzlingly loud direction. They shoot the endangered protagonist's high-wire act of endless lies, transactions and adversaries with a hypnotic, fast-paced energy that is simply irresistible. Their street-realistic style lets Howie rummage through a world made up of sudden pans, aggressive tracking shots, con-

finer sets, and harsh lighting, with each amping the film's suspense up to another level. Darius Khondji's grimy neon cinematography effortlessly captures the seedy side of New York City while Daniel Lopatin/Oneohtrix Point Never's cosmic synth score glides through the air, juxtaposing the hectic action taking place on screen.

The script of the film is nearly as brilliant as its direction. Howie Ratner is a slimy, self-absorbed, moronic character. He loud-mouths his way through most of the film, spewing vulgarities and false promises like a fountain, and he always seems to make the wrong decision. Despite this, the massive stakes make it hard not to root for him. He is a very specific type of person, a combustible character that can't help but get in his own way and can't stop digging his hole even deeper. The film dissects his lifestyle in a way that is not just exciting, but also quite sad—the Safdies depict his life as fruitless and his struggles as unending, forming a portrait of an exasperated man in deep pain. Sandler masterfully conveys the mania and sorrow brewing inside the self-destructive jeweler in what is likely to be a career-defining performance.

"Uncut Gems" is a trainwreck that you can't look away from. It's woozy, hectic, and even nauseating at points, but beautiful nonetheless. Don't miss it.

Grade:

A+

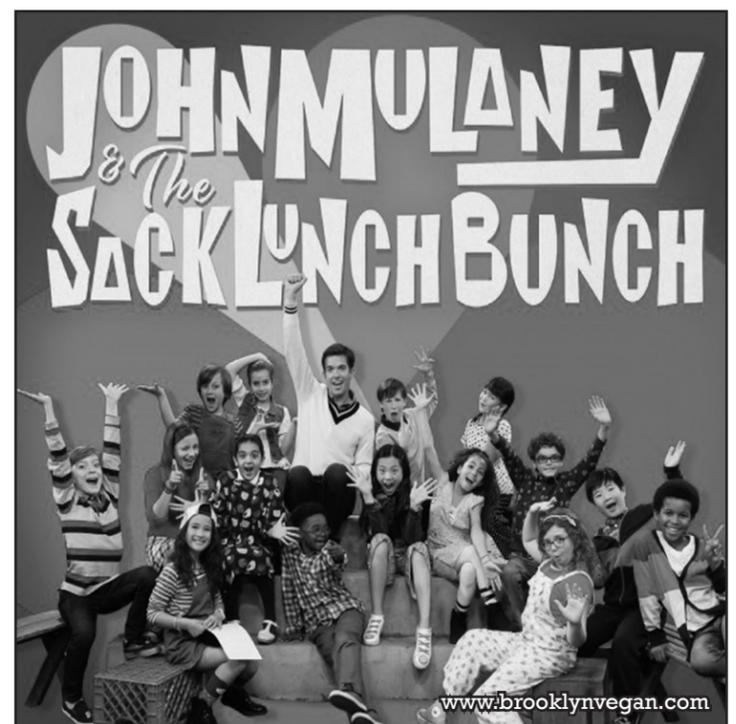
'John Mulaney & The Sack Lunch Bunch' Is Full of Whimsy, Nostalgia, and Originality

by Sarah Nove '20

While promoting his latest project, comedian John Mulaney emphasized his lack of musical ability, as well as his disinterest in having kids. Despite that, his new Netflix special, "John Mulaney & the Sack Lunch Bunch" (JMTSLB), is a children's musical comedy. In it, Mulaney and a group of kids ages 8-13, dubbed the "Sack Lunch Bunch," perform skits and songs—often accompanied by elaborate choreographed dance numbers—that are incredibly bizarre, yet undeniably charming.

Describing a show like JMTSLB is no easy task. It is both silly and dark, with interviews where cast members discuss their greatest fears interspersed between lighthearted songs like "Plain Plate of Noodles" and "Do Flowers Exist at Night?" It's a lot like watching "Sesame Street" if the characters talked about mortality instead of letters and numbers (and minus the puppets). JMTSLB follows a similar structure; rather than a single narrative, the special follows a group of recurring characters through a series of loosely-related segments. At times, this format comes off as a bit unfocused and disorienting, but, for the most part, it works. The rapid pace of the show emphasizes two of its main themes: time flies, and life is full of the unexpected.

Like many children's shows, JMTSLB is full of delightful earworms. In fact, the soundtrack was composed by "Sesame Street's" Eli Bolin. Bolin's experience writing music for kids' TV



Alongside his young co-stars, Mulaney (center) introduces his new show.

gives the songs in JMTSLB authenticity; if it weren't for the eccentric lyrics written by Mulaney and his writing partner, Marika Sawyer, the music in JMTSLB would fit right in with any show on PBS Kids. Every track is hilariously absurd with a hint of existential anxiety. Though silly on their surface, the lyrics touch on serious topics, such as the importance of compassion in songs like "I Saw a White Lady Standing on the Street Just Sobbing (and I Think About It Once a Week)," and "Grandma's Boyfriend Paul."

Possibly the most notable aspect of this special was the cast, specifically, the children who comprise the Sack Lunch Bunch. Aside from a few moments where their inexperience shows, their

performances were impressive. They are never the butt of the joke, because they are always in on it. Bits that could have easily come off as unintentionally mean instead hit the mark dead on, which is a testament to Mulaney's strong rapport with the kids, as well as the kids' fantastic comedic timing.

It's difficult to compare JMTSLB bunch to Mulaney's previous works because it is so different from anything he—or anyone, really—has done before. Mulaney seems to have carved out an entirely new genre, combining old ingredients with his unique personality to create something excitingly original.

Grade: B+

Baby Yoda Carries 'The Mandalorian' 'Little Women' Turns Out To Be No Little Achievement

by Sydney Henry '20

Director Jon Favreau's newest project, "The Mandalorian," is an original "Star Wars" series made for Disney's new streaming service, Disney Plus. Favreau expands the "Star Wars" universe through an eight-episode story that follows a lone bounty hunter as he makes his way through the galaxy. Although the series was originally intended to follow this bounty hunter, known as Mando, the Internet quickly took over and made the rising star a small child nicknamed "Baby Yoda" by fans of the show. This creature draws in viewers to the series because of his allure and funny interactions throughout the show. Baby Yoda's scenes bring lightheartedness to the episodes, drawing away from the fact that Mando, played by Pedro Pascal, has little to no personality and is monotonous throughout the series.

Favreau has mentioned in interviews that the idea of having a character whose face you do not ever see (this character being Mando who wears a mask throughout almost the entire series), intends to bring complexity to the character as you cannot see his reactions and emotions through his facial expressions. However, Pascal does not bring this complexity through his voice, as he remains monotone throughout the episodes. And while some may say that this monotonous be-



New Star Wars creature carries likeness to original character, Yoda.

havior has to do with him being a bounty hunter who is very decisive about his words and actions, it still creates a lack of character development throughout the series as he seems to be the exact same character in the very first episode as he is in the finale. The only character that seems to have a semblance of growth is Baby Yoda as the viewers learn more about his background and he explores new abilities and connections to the original movies.

As far as the plot goes, the show attempts to have a base storyline and then also delve into mini plots within the episodes. It isn't as successful as the directors may have hoped, because after the first few episodes, the original plot is almost forgotten as it is not carried throughout or even brought up again until the last two

episodes. While the mini plots are interesting, they once again draw away from the original plot and create a stretch between the first and last episodes where nothing is happening that actually affects the original plot. However, the last two or three episodes draw you back into the plot for the finale and leave you on a cliffhanger with some questions unanswered. Although season one wasn't memorable enough to rewatch, watching season two (which is set to air in 2020) may be necessary to get the answers to these questions. But if you're just interested in Baby Yoda, just watch clips on Youtube and don't waste your time watching the entire series.

Grade:

C+

by Jack Miller '21

Greta Gerwig's "Little Women" is full of love. Every frame is bursting with warmth—the passion and care poured into it can be felt during every second, even the most fleeting of moments. Whereas other films so joyous might feel corny, "Little Women" feels genuine—because that's exactly what it is.

Gerwig's sophomore effort is based off Lousia May Alcott's beloved 1868 novel of the same name. The "Lady Bird" director's spin on the classic story is the seventh film adaptation of Alcott's novel, which tells the story of four sisters who come of age in America during the Civil War. The miracle of this film is how fresh it is. Gerwig breathes new life into the timeless tale through audacious storytelling techniques that modernize the book's existing themes but also transcend them in an unexpectedly meta fashion. With the help of a brilliant dual-timeline structure, Gerwig tackles questions of a woman's identity, ambitions, and place in the world all while ruminating about art and owning one's story. It's equal parts genius and poignant.

The film stars Saoirse Ronan, Florence Pugh, Emma Watson, and Eliza Scanlen as the titular sisters. The four are each be-

guiling in their own way, but the wonderfully energetic Jo (Ronan) and lovable but quarrelsome Amy (Pugh) steal the show in two exceedingly charming performances that carry oodles of emotional weight in the latter half of the film. Laura Dern, who plays their mother, Marmee, graces the screen in a dearly sweet manner, making her few scenes some of the highlights of the film.

Gerwig's direction is once again fantastic. The pitch-perfect pacing marches the viewer through two deliberately constructed timelines with ease. Nick Huoy's editing seamlessly glues the two chronologies together through transitions that cleverly juxtapose images spanning the seven-year gap. The gorgeous and tender cinematography and set design give the film the look of a nineteenth century portrait brought to life. Famed composer Alexandre Desplat's score for the film is suitably cheery, but never cheesy.

"Little Women" is a big film with an even bigger heart. It's that special kind of movie where everything blends together so well that you can't help but give a big smile when it's all over.

Grade:

A+

Across:

1. Ariana Grande's genre of music
4. Former Eagles Quarterback Detmer
7. USA Triathlon (abbr.)
11. Prime time to eat a fruit, when it is
12. "La Vie En"
13. Travis Scott's "Mode"
15. To be excessively dramatic
17. "Footloose" protagonist actor
18. Informal British expression of surprise
19. Cream-filled oblong pastry
21. A lyrical poem
22. Knowledge to action (abbr.)
23. Hairy, wild pig
24. Pooh, Fozzy, or Yogi
27. Thick, flammable liquid
28. Ed Sheeran's most recent mathematical album
30. Eastern New Mexico University (abbr.)
33. Song on 28 across; graceful entrance to pool
36. Older sister on "The Goldbergs"
38. Aretha's favorite genre
39. High School Musical (abbr.)

40. chic: whimsical, eclectic style of fashion
41. "Wonderwall" group
43. Former NBA player Lamar
45. A greeting or sign of agreement (two words)
46. Genre of both music and dance
48. Type of brain scan (abbr.)
50. Lo, singers of "I love this life"
51. 22nd amendment limited this to two
53. 'Senioritis' results in a decline in this
56. International Breaking News (abbr.)
58. Shaken instrument
60. "E I", children's song
61. Hawaiian greeting
64. Classical male singers
66. What a car needs to run
67. Container or tub
68. Mathematical curves on a circle
69. "We've got the"
70. Autonomic Nervous System (abbr.)
71. What friends call the "Pioneer Woman" on Food Network

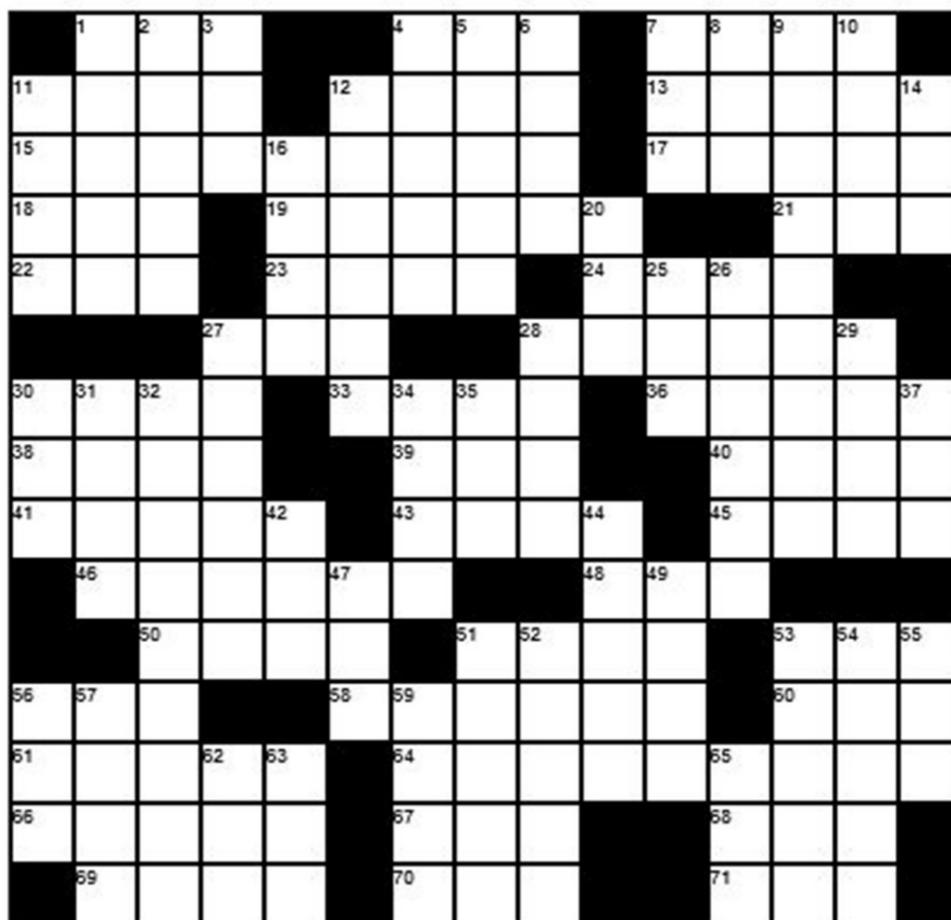
Down:

1. Turn with respect to a point
2. Andrew Lloyd Webber's Phantom lives here
3. For each
4. Sleepy Australian marsupial
5. Wilde, The Grouch, or Mayer
6. White, Himalayan creature; brand of insulated drinkware
7. Cable connector
8. Eye-hiding "Chandelier" singer
9. Box-shaped instrument
10. Capture, take-down

11. Dwayne "The" Johnson
12. Vinyl music form
14. One half of our school slogan
16. Singer and actress McEntire
20. Run batted in (abbr.)
25. The night before
26. Deploys during a collision
27. Scientific name of the tulip?
28. Trial release
29. Amazon home product
30. This to a Spaniard
31. Owner of a 68 across homonym

"Put Your Records On"

by Jenna Bloom '21, Adina Brenner '20, Adam Levine '20, Katherine Mahoney '20, Kara Thompson '20



32. Symbol representing a musical pitch
34. Restaurant chain with burger publicity stunt
35. Heart defect in two lower chambers (abbr.)
37. Term regarding addiction (abbr.)
42. Our school (abbr.)
44. Thanks, to a Frenchman (abbr.)
47. Unit of electrical resistance
49. Electromagnetic acoustic transducer (abbr.)
51. "Hey, Soul Sister" band
52. Obtains, receives
53. Category of music
54. Proportion, section
55. Marvel's (three words)
56. "Sam" (two words)
57. A unit of thick liquid
59. Popular 1970s Swedish band
62. Homeowners association (abbr.)
63. Paintings, movies, photos, music
65. Band who sings "Peace"

Despite Tough Loss to Damascus, Boys' Season Still Looks Promising

by Jackson Hongtong '21

The boys varsity basketball team have proven themselves as contenders this season up until this point, putting together a solid 5-4 record. Along with being tied for second in the 4A East division for their 2-1 divisional record, they are also third overall in overall record in the division.

"We are all hungry and competitive to win. It's a battle every practice which makes the whole team better as this season goes on," said senior guard Bryan Major, who has been a contributor on both offense and defense this season for the Warriors. "Everyone has a role on the team and everyone's trying to play so we have to play our best basketball."

Sherwood faced Damascus at home on Monday, January 13. Coming off a strong win against Paint Branch, Sherwood looked forward to starting off their three-game week with a win at home. The first half displayed the strengths and faults of both teams, as the Warriors led by only a few points.

Damascus however came out with a spark in the second half which eventually led them to taking a lead in the middle of the fourth quarter and finishing the game out strong, beating Sherwood 69 to 59.

Sherwood played Paint Branch at home on January 10. Sherwood came into the game



Hannah Lee '21

Senior guard Bryan Major driving to the basket in the Warriors' 80-60 win against Kennedy on January 3. Boys basketball is currently 5-4.

looking to bounce back from their loss and did just that. The Warriors came out and played well on both sides of the ball, leading them to an 11-point lead at the half. After the half, the team continued their dominance throughout the game and won the game 78-57, with Major dropping 22 in the win.

"We got off to a hot start and

played good defense the rest of the way," said junior guard Stephen Billig on the game against Paint Branch. "Our shots were also falling, which hasn't happened every game this season. If they fall like that, we have a good chance against any team we play this year."

The previous night, Sherwood lost to Blair by nine points,

84-75. Prior to the game against Blair on January 9, Sherwood was on a winning streak, beating Whitman, Bladensburg, and Kennedy all by 10 points or more.

"We have high expectations for this year's team," said Coach Tom Sheahin, who is in his second season of being head coach for the Warriors. "Last year we won one playoff game. This year,

our goal is to win our region. We will need to be more consistent on both offense and defense. We are hoping to get our team at full strength with various injuries and hope to be playing our best basketball in February."

Sherwood will have played Blake on Wednesday and will play Clarksburg this Friday at 7:15 at home.

Alums Petition To Name Gym after Crutchfield

by Julia Robins '20

Momentum is building to name Sherwood's gymnasium after Warren Gordon Crutchfield, who passed away at 82 years old on July 5. He taught physical education at Sherwood for 30 years, also coaching basketball, track, and cross country teams. He was the first African American head coach in MCPS. Prior to being a teacher and coach, he sprinted in the Olympic trials and served four years in the Medical Corp in Germany.

"Crutchfield was a great man who knew how to get the best out of others, while making them feel good about themselves and wanting to be better humans. This quality, and one of his finest, is that of a true leader," stated Sherwood alumnus Kathy Awkard, Class of '77, on Change.org, the petition she started that closed with 2,713 signatures.

In late August, Principal Eric Minus had received information from a faculty member about Crutchfield's death. Soon after, he became aware of Awkard's petition. More members of the community started contacting him, seeking an opportunity to honor Crutchfield for all that he did for the students and families here at Sherwood and beyond.

The stories that Minus has been receiving "have been overwhelming to hear, and I think that is why I've been most impressed. This is a gentleman who has a



Former teacher and Sherwood coach of 30 years Warren Crutchfield.

long standing history, not just in school but in the community, and he has served in multiple capacities [and] it sounds like he was a true champion for all students here at Sherwood."

Crutchfield made a vast difference in the community and inspired many students, including social studies teacher Caitlin Thompson, who is also the assistant coach for indoor track. Her freshman year, she tried out for his basketball team, and even though she got cut, Crutchfield pulled her aside, and told her that she had strong potential for running track. He worked hard to make her feel better about herself. According to Thompson, he was also tough but in a way that meant students knew he cared

about them.

"Mr. Crutchfield was a pillar of this community in every imaginable way for decades. He helped shape the lives of student-athletes and is one of the brightest spots in many people's memories of Sherwood. I can't think of a more deserving person to honor," said Thompson.

According to Minus, after an individual petitions the school system, stakeholders (that include students, community members, and teachers) collect input from the community and then vote for a recommendation to the county of whether or not to proceed with the change. The committee aims to meet and give its recommendation/vote to the school system in January.

Upcoming Varsity Sports Events

Friday 1/17:

Boys basketball vs Clarksburg 7:15pm;
Girls basketball at Clarksburg 7:15pm

Saturday 1/18:

Boys and girls swimming 7:15pm at
Kennedy Shriver Aquatic Center

Tuesday 1/21:

boys basketball at Northwood 7:15pm;
Girls basketball vs Northwood 7:15pm

Wednesday 1/22:

Boys and girls indoor track meet at PG
Sportsplex 2:30pm

Friday 1/24:

Boys basketball at Kennedy 7:15pm;
Girls basketball vs Kennedy 7:15pm

Saturday 1/25:

Boys and girls swimming at Olney Swim
Center 9:15am

Tuesday 1/28:

Boys basketball vs Blair 7:15pm;
Girls basketball at Blair 7:15pm

Friday 1/31:

Boys basketball at Springbrook 7:15pm;
Girls basketball vs Springbrook 7:15pm



Alexis Nnabue shooting a free throw in the girls 71-58 blowout win against Blair on January 8 at home.

Girls Basketball Team Off to a Very Dominant Start to the New Season

by Malec Fahmy '20

After posting one of their best regular seasons in years, the girls basketball team suffered a disappointing loss 50-48 to Blair in the second round of the playoffs last season. With a bitter end to what was a great 2018-2019 season, in which girls basketball finished with a regular season record of 18-4, this year's squad looks to be even better. Following last year's second round loss to Blair, Coach Tim Hobbs previously told *The Warrior*, "We should be in a great position to win every time we step on the court [next season]."

The girls have opened up the season with a 6-2 record, with their two tight losses coming on the road against Whitman on December 20 by a score of 47-43 and a 56-52 loss to Paint Branch on January 10. The Warriors won their five games so far this season by comfortable margins, including 71-58 victory at home against Blair on January 8.

"[So far this season] I think we have been playing well, but there is always room for improvement," said junior Alexis Nnabue. "As we start to play better teams, we need to learn how to finish a team when it comes down to the wire."

The varsity girls are led by its senior leadership, headlined by captains Cristi Mathis and

Hannah St. Laurent. Both look to use their veteran experience early in the season, hoping to build upon a team that developed great chemistry last season. So far this season, the girls have stepped up to the challenge and have dominated opponents at times. In their first game of the season, the girls routed Einstein 65-30. The team was missing sophomore Angela Nnabue, who was waiting to be cleared from an ACL tear. In her absence, her sister Alexis led the team scoring 14 points, followed by sophomore Chase Bell with 10 points.

Coming off a three-game win streak to start the season, the team suffered the loss to Whitman. "We needed the loss to show we weren't invincible and to boost us up as well to show that if we keep making mistakes things won't go our way," said senior guard Nana Kwaygan. "Over break we worked on free throws and layups," Kwaygan added.

Coming out of winter break, the girls had their first game on January 3 against Kennedy. Holding Kennedy to a scoreless first quarter, the Warriors dismantled Kennedy 54-13. The team was excellent on the defensive side of the ball, allowing no more than five points in any quarter.

Five days later, the team played a then undefeated Blair team on January 8. The

Trail-Blazers were handed their first loss of the season in dominating fashion. The girls stepped up in this contest, defeating Blair by a score of 71-58. The team was led by Bell who scored 18 points. In addition, St. Laurent and Alexis Nnabue each scored 14 to help carry the squad to another win.

Following this big win, the girls traveled to their rivals Paint Branch, where they suffered their second loss of the season. In the four-point loss to Paint Branch, the team got off to a slow start in the first quarter. Despite a run to start off the third quarter in which the girls took a double digit-point lead, a mixture of bad calls from the referees and poorly executed defense ultimately resulted in the final score loss.

Following the gut-wrenching loss to Paint Branch, the girls blew out Damascus in January 13 by more than thirty points. Led by senior Melanie James with 21 points, Alexis and Angela Nnabue also both added 11 points respectively. The girls started off slow once again, but once the second quarter started, took off.

"If we continue to keep up the intensity in practice and work hard in games, our season will look to be very promising," said St. Laurent.

The squad will travel to Clarksburg on Friday, January 17, at 7:15.

ON SPORTS

NFL Teams Are Missing Out by Passing on Kaepernick

by Aaron Jaffe '21

In late October of 2019, Colin Kaepernick and the NFL organized a workout with several teams to showcase his QB skills in hopes of being signed by an NFL team. It has been three years since Kaepernick left the NFL, which is three years too many. Kaepernick reportedly opted out of his contract with the 49ers in the 2016-2017 season, but the NFL was happy to see him go he kneeled to protest racial injustice in America sparking controversy across the NFL. Three years into the saga, NFL team owners and executives are just as cowardly and hypocritical as they were from the start.

After Kaepernick's initials protests, President Trump repeatedly expressed his frustration over the National Anthem Protest. Trump said at a rally in 2017 that if he was an NFL owner, he'd "get that son of a b*tch off the field right now, he's fired!" Trump has stated in the past he has "good relationships" with the owners especially Patriots owner Robert Kraft. During the same time period, Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones announced he would not tolerate any players kneeling during the National Anthem.

Flash forward two years, before Kaepernick's workout even began there was controversy. Kaepernick and his agent changed the location of the workout, half an hour before it was scheduled to begin, from the Atlanta Falcons training facility to Charles Drew High School, a familiar practice facility for him. Kaepernick's agent explained that the reason for the switch was to ensure a transparent and open process.

Kaepernick threw different passes to his selected receiver and went through several different drills that his agent and former NFL coach Hue Jackson picked out beforehand. After the switch, only seven of the 25 NFL teams' representatives attended. The teams that did not attend were sent video footage

of Kaepernick.

There are several NFL teams that need a QB or that needed one at the time of Kaepernick's workout. However, three months after his Kaepernick, Roger Goodell, the commissioner of the NFL, said the league has moved on from Kaepernick and his window of opportunity had passed. The Detroit Lions (3-8) and the Pittsburgh Steelers (7-5) both passed on Kaepernick even though they are down to their third string quarterback due to injuries. The Cincinnati Bengals (1-11) are also in desperate need of a QB but showed no signs of approaching Kaepernick.

The NFL has let invited players with criminal and drug filled pasts to come back to the league time and time again. For example, Vontez Burfict has remained in the NFL after failing his drug test at the NFL combine and displaying countless acts of anger issues on the field. Burfict was fined over \$4 million during his career in Cincinnati, missed six games, along with 12 games without pay in his first season with the Oakland Raiders for unnecessary roughness. Former NFL star, Josh Gordon has been suspended five times after failing five drug tests. He was most recently suspended indefinitely on December 16, after failing a drug test. Gordon should not have been allowed a third, fourth, or fifth chance if Kaepernick does not earn a second. The NFL is being hypocritical moving on from Kaepernick because he LEGALLY protected using the NFL as a platform.

Several teams need a talented QB to revive their offenses and Kaepernick is exactly that, leading the 49ers to the Superbowl in 2013 in his first year as the starting QB and throwing for more than 3,000 yards in each of the next two seasons along with 40 touchdowns combined. Kaepernick is no Peyton Manning or Tom Brady, but he belongs on an NFL field. It's time for NFL owners and GM's to sign Kaepernick to step up and help their teams out.

Sherwood Swim Focused on Building a Family-Like Environment

by Kat Mahoney '20

With an outstanding performance resulting in an another 4A State Championship for the girls team, and great performances by the boys team, the swim team was able to cap off yet another successful season in Coach Brendan Lees' last year with the swim team. The reward of a state and regional championship last season came at the cost of losing one of the largest senior year classes in years, including four NCAA Division 1 swimmers. The team

will have to battle even stiffer competition as they moved up to Division 1.

The team had to say their goodbyes to 13 graduating girls and three graduating boys from both the diving and swim team. Lees led the team to two Metros titles, three state championships, and several regional championships. Not having as many year round swimmers has made it more difficult moving to Division 1. Ryan Burnsky, a Sherwood alumni swimmer, has taken Lees' place as the coach of both teams.

Burnsky coaches in the summer at Tanterra, but most notably has high school experience coming from Blake.

Despite these changes, the team is focusing on the positive aspects the season has to offer. With Burnsky's new coaching position, practice is focused more on drills and technique of not only just the stroke, but also starts and finishes. He has also implemented optional dry land workouts after school. Senior Captains Alex Bacon, Malec Fahmy, Amanda Wenhold, and John Wilbur, have

worked alongside Burnsky and their teammates to prioritize the creation of a strong familial bond between every member on the team, which includes pasta dinners before almost every meet this season.

"Our main goal [is] to make the team a family. Of course, winning is nice wbut no one can win without a family or support group behind you," said Wenhold.

The team is not comparing themselves to their performances from previous years. They are striving to make this year's team

one that will be remembered as a family who encouraged each member to better themselves not only in the pool but in life overall. "I want the swimmers on the team to do the best they can ... to just get faster for themselves. That's how we surpass last year; we stop worrying about the past and focus on the future," explained Wilbur.

With the end of season in addition to the end of the school year quickly approaching, the team is making sure they swim their hardest to try to qualify for Metros.

January 16, 2020



After one of the most bizarre and entertaining wildcard card and divisional weekends, the NFC championship is set. With all the upsets in both conferences, the top-two seeded teams heading into January will occupy both spots in the big game.

What to watch for: Green Bay has a defense that doesn't match the Niners, but more than capable of holding up and making stops when needed. San Francisco is getting healthy on the defensive side of the ball and the run game is for real. The 49ers should be looking at this like theirs to lose. They have a stronger pass rush, secondary and linebacker group. Rodgers have obvious experience and talent over Jimmy G but over the course of this season the better quarterback was Garapolo. Other than Davante Adams, San Francisco is deeper at wideout and has the ultimate x-factor in star tight end George Kittle.

Bold Prediction: Rodgers throws for under 200 yards but gets a shot thanks to a big timely play by the Green Bay defense, but ultimately falls short.

Super Bowl Prediction: Chiefs 32 — 49ers 30

by Aaron Jaffe '21

After winning in their divisional round games, the Green Bay Packers and San Francisco 49ers are set to play in the NFC championship. The 49ers have emerged as the favorites, as they beat Green Bay in the regular season and have home field advantage, but it should still be a fun game.

What to watch for: If the Packers want any chance of winning, they have to pressure 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo early and often. This is only Garoppolo's second playoff game, and if Green Bay's elite pass rush can get to him it will for sure disrupt the 49ers' offense. On the other side of things, San Francisco's main concern should be Packers wideout Davante Adams. Adams is always an x-factor, as he went for 160 yards and two touchdowns against a strong Seattle defense last week.

Bold Prediction: Garoppolo will silence his doubters, outplaying Aaron Rodgers and leading the 49ers to the Super Bowl. Garoppolo will go for 300 yards and a career five touchdown passes, with three of them going to Kendrick Bourne.

Super Bowl Prediction: Chiefs 42 — 49ers 27

by Ryan Duvall '21



The Titans's surprising playoff run has been powered by star running back Derrick Henry, who rushed for 377 yards in the two upset wins over the New England Patriots and the Baltimore Ravens. The Titans are 9-3 since Week 6, one of the NFL's hottest teams, yet remain under the radar. The Chiefs, on the other hand, overcame a 24-0 deficit against the Houston Texans to win 51-31, and remain one of the best teams in the NFL, and are the clear favorite to emerge from the AFC.

What to watch for: This game will come down to Tennessee's run game. Establishing dominance on the ground with Henry is key if Tennessee will stand a chance against the Chiefs' high powered offense, led by reigning league MVP Patrick Mahomes. Kansas City can score fast and often, so Tennessee must slow the tempo of the game and limit the amount of drives Mahomes has to work with.

Bold Prediction: Henry will top 250 total yards from scrimmage and score 3 touchdowns, outdueling Mahomes's 450 passing yards and 4 touchdowns, as the Tennessee Titans will continue their Cinderella run to the Super Bowl.

Super Bowl Pick: Titans 24 — Packers 16

by Adam Pfeiffer '20

As the Titans shocked the Ravens 28-12, the Titans heart and soul, Derrick Henry, rushed for 195 yards and proved he can run effectively against elite defenses. Meanwhile, the Chiefs beat the Texans 51-31, scoring seven touchdowns after falling behind 24-0. Although the Titans won the regular season matchup 35-32, the Titans cannot afford any mistakes against Kansas City's explosive offense, or they'll fare worse than the Texans.

What to watch for: Although the Chiefs have exceptional talent and speed at wide receiver, the young Titans cornerbacks match up well against the Chiefs. The Titans' weak spot is the middle of the field where Travis Kelce can scorch defenses like he did against the Texans.

Bold Prediction:

Patrick Mahomes will throw three touchdowns and 300+ yards. Derrick Henry will be held under 100 yards.

Super Bowl Prediction: 49ers 31 — Chiefs 24

by Jimmy Yates '21



Courtesy of Adam Pfeiffer

Senior Adam Pfeiffer as he wins the Patriot Classic against Chopticon.

Senior Captain Pfeiffer To Wrestle at Maryland

by Aaron Jaffe '21

In the fall of the school year, senior Adam Pfeiffer was manning the middle of the Sherwood football's defense and was named the team's Defensive MVP, in addition to being a 4A First-Team All-County selection as a linebacker. Both honors came after Pfeiffer led the Warriors in tackles, racking up a total of 84 on the season.

Now in the middle of the winter, Pfeiffer has moved indoors as one of the top wrestlers in Maryland. Pfeiffer, who has a season record of 16-1, is currently ranked second in 4A/3A state division at 195 pounds, only behind defending state champion Timothy Furguson of Damascus.

Pfeiffer knows what it means to be a leader; thanks to being named captain of both the wrestling and football teams. "I do my best to make sure that everyone remains focused and drills hard during practice, and that starts with me," said Pfeiffer. "I practice in the middle of the wrestling room, where everyone can see, and I pride myself on setting the standard of working harder than everyone else, because if you grind and put in the time, it will pay off."

As a freshman, Pfeiffer made the varsity squad, qualified for states and got first-hand experience to big-time high school wrestling. Pfeiffer lost in the first round to the reigning state champ that year, but has only improved

since. He notes his biggest improvement from the past four years is in his technique.

"I probably have improved wrestling from my feet the most. I take people down and dominate the match in the neutral position, mostly due to improved technique," Pfeiffer explained. "Freshman year my technique was really sloppy, but now while there are still improvements to be made, my technique is much cleaner."

Pfeiffer has dedicated his life to both football and wrestling. "I have an equal love and passion between the two sports, as they have been a huge part of who I am, since I started competing in both since I was age 6." Although he loves both sports, Pfeiffer does not plan on continuing his football career into college. Pfeiffer does, however, hold a partial scholarship offer from the University of Maryland to come wrestle for the Terps.

Pfeiffer got his chance to take on the top-ranked wrestler in the state when on Wednesday, January 8, the Warriors headed to Damascus. Pfeiffer and Furguson were locked in an extremely close match and entered the third period tied 0-0. Unfortunately for both Sherwood and Pfeiffer, Furguson closed out and won 3-1.

Pfeiffer will keep working tirelessly, and he knows he'll likely get another chance to take down Furguson. "I'll see him again in the county and state finals," said Pfeiffer.



Check out The Warrior Online for weekly news and sports coverage.

thewarrioronline.com