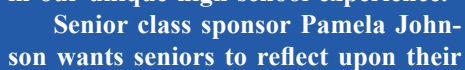


[www.thewarrioronline.com](http://www.thewarrioronline.com)

**by Aidan Trump '21**

On May 18 the Montgomery County Council sat as the Board of Health to chart the new course for Montgomery County's reopening. Encouraged by the increased levels in vaccination the council voted to loosen county Covid-19 restrictions. Most notably, the council's resolution set May 28 as the end of all county Covid-19 restrictions, including those pertaining to high school graduation ceremonies. On May 28 "all conduct and business in Montgomery County must follow any State or MDH requirements that are in place," according to the council's resolution. More information regarding

Addresses will also be given by student speaker Noah Ngimbi, and the senior class officers, President Paige Snyder, Vice President Ethan Manlapaz, Secretary Alexis Le, and Treasurer Zoe Rubin. Le is looking forward to delivering



high school careers with pride. “[I hope seniors feel] a great sense of accomplishment, ready to take on whatever life has in store for them,” said Johnson. “Our seniors are resilient and strong in challenging times as they have demonstrated this year.” Johnson’s remarks epitomize what the graduation ceremony is aiming to get across to this year’s Senior Class.

The Warrior Staff reflects on their past four years at Sherwood. (Pages 8-11)

Startling  
inconsistent  
Crazy  
unpredictable  
Impactful  
Efficacious  
Average  
Change  
Exciting  
Unique  
Uneventful  
over-exaggerated  
Memorable  
Fast  
Sleepy  
Bitter-Sweet  
Trash  
lackadaisical  
Diverse  
Wild  
Struggling  
United  
Bittersweet  
Weird  
Worthwhile  
Painful  
Adaptative  
Special  
depressing  
Eventful  
Super  
Nice  
Quick  
different  
short  
Finessary  
Cool  
Love  
Pleasant  
Entertaining  
Caring  
Mediocre  
excellent  
alright  
swell  
FUN  
Amazing  
virtual  
bleh  
Great  
Awful  
eventful  
usefull  
Decent  
inclusive  
educational  
Precious  
Lonely  
underwhelming  
Complicated  
Enjoyable  
Daring  
balanced  
long  
Boring  
Hell  
Eye-opening  
supercalifragilisticexpialidocious  
great  
entertaining  
Messy  
Exhausting  
Awesome  
Stressful  
Rollercoaster  
Rewarding  
Choppy  
Mixed  
Beautiful  
tolerable  
Growth  
misinformed  
patience  
Unforgettable  
Lengthy  
Meh  
New  
Slow  
enjoyable  
Confusing  
Long  
Nostalgic  
Friendly  
Educational  
unpredictable

\*Based off 289 survey responses

## This Year’s Top Headlines:

Here are just a few headlines of online stories written by seniors on *The Warrior* this past year. Check out these and many more articles at [www.thewarrioronline.com](http://www.thewarrioronline.com).

**Covid-19 Could Change College Admissions Forever**  
by Seth Kauffman

**Environmental Groups Head Off Drilling in ANWR’s Coastal Plain**  
by Aidan Trump

**2021 NFL First Round Mock Draft**  
by Aaron Jaffe

**Stop Your Toxic Masculinity, Baby; It’s the Sign of the Times**  
by Martholdy Pierre-Canel

**Sherwood Installs Cameras with Plans To Broadcast Games Online**  
by Ryan Duvall

**Best Things to Come Out of 2020**  
by Elizabeth Casey

**Mandalorian S2 Brings Star Wars Back To Its Roots**  
by Graham Skinker

**Tik Tok is Ruining Music**  
by Jackson Hongtong

**Godzilla Throughout the Years**  
by Dylan Friedman

**If You Believe In Equality, Feminism is For You**  
by Jimmy Yates

**Taylor Swift: the Artist of the Decade**  
by Jenna Bloom

## Letter from the Editors:

This issue that you are holding in your hands is a token of the struggles we have faced this past year. Through masks, Zoom school, virtual college tours, and an overall decline in motivation and mental health, we made it. With only 2.5 years in the building, and 1.5 from our homes, this year’s senior class has faced an unprecedented situation.

We won’t sit here and mourn everything we lost this year, because everyone has lost something. We simply hope you all take a moment to celebrate yourselves and reflect on your years at Sherwood, just as we have done while producing this issue. Whether you’re crying about the thought of leaving Olney or already packing your bags for college, you have an incredible journey ahead of you.

This Senior Issue of *The Warrior* is dedicated to commemorating the experiences that made the Class of 2021 what it is. We all walked these halls together and grew tremendously as people, and now that chapter is closing.

Congratulations on making it this far, we can’t wait to see what you all accomplish.

- Jenna Bloom and Jimmy Yates  
2020-2021 Editors-in-Chief

### Senior Staff Members Reflect on What Lessons from The Warrior They Will Bring With Them into Their Post-Graduate Life...

“Something I will take away from newspaper after high school will be the qualities of being on time and doing good work in that time. Making interesting and informative articles all before a deadline puts pressure on a writer to actually put effort in and have a good work ethic. These are all qualities I hope to use in the future, and it’s all thanks to Mr. Huck.” - Jackson Hongtong

“I’ve improved my writing skills and got better at arguing on political issues. I was able to get a better grasp at researching and reporting different topics.” - Dylan Friedman

“A lesson I will take is do not work for the sake of working; work because you enjoy what you are working on and enjoy learning from your work.” - Ella Casey

"Being on The Warrior for two years has been a really good experience for me. I was able to learn a lot of new things about journalism, and it definitely helped me to decide that I want to pursue a career in journalism moving forward."  
- Graham Skinker

“After writing countless articles for the Warrior, Newspaper class has taught me the importance of time management and the power of informed and quality writing. In addition, I’ve learned that ‘writer’s block’ really doesn’t exist when you have a deadline. The hours spent perfecting multiple article drafts or coming up with the perfect headline has shown me that dedication and commitment are key qualities, which I will definitely take with me post-graduation.” - Sudha Sudhaker

“What I’ve learned from The Warrior is to be open to new things. I’ve mainly written about sports for the newspaper, but I also have been given the chance to write about other things like entertainment which is fun.” - Ryan Duvall



# 2021 All Senior Team

*The seniors on the All-Senior Team were selected by fellow seniors on The Warrior newspaper staff. The main criteria were athletes' contributions to one or more of Sherwood's sports teams; athletes' individual states, titles, and other honors; the overall success of the teams in the regular seasons and playoffs; and athletes' plans to continue playing a sport at the collegiate level.*

## JACK ANDERSON: Cross Country, Track & Field

Jack is a four-year member of the cross country team at Sherwood. Jack was awarded 3 time All Region, 2 time All County, and 2 time All State honors.

## JAKE BECKER: Baseball

Jake is a four-year varsity player who is committed to Towson University to play Division 1 baseball. He won Moco Freshman of the Year award and was also placed on the all district team his freshman and sophomore years.

## STEPHEN BILLIG: Basketball

Stephen is a three-year varsity basketball player for Sherwood. He is committed to play at Washington College in Chestertown, MD, this upcoming season and also was awarded the sportsmanship award as a sophomore.

## ALLY BLOOM: Softball, Basketball

Ally is a four-year varsity softball player and starter at Sherwood, as well as a two-year varsity basketball player. She helped lead the softball team to win states in 2019, and was named captain for both softball and basketball her senior year.

## ASHLEY BUTTON: Field Hockey

Ashley is a four-year varsity field hockey player who is committed to play Division 1 field hockey at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. Throughout her career, Ashley has won several awards including most valuable player for Sherwood in 2018 and 2019, first team all division from 2017-2019, and was an honorable mention for the 2019 Washington Post All-Met field hockey team. She also led the team in scoring her freshman and sophomore years on top of being captain her senior year.

## JIMMY CONNER: Lacrosse, Hockey, Football

Jimmy is a four-year varsity athlete for both lacrosse and hockey and played football his senior year. He is committed to play Division 1 lacrosse at the University of Tampa next year. He won Rookie of the Year in his Freshman year for hockey and was first team all division for lacrosse his sophomore year, along with being a captain in his senior year for both lacrosse and hockey.

## TESS FARLEY: Softball, Field Hockey

Tess is a four-year varsity athlete for both softball and field hockey, along with being named captain senior year for softball. She won the sportsmanship award in 2018 for softball and helped the team win the 2019 softball state championship.

## SAMMY GODFREY: Soccer

Sammy is a four-year girls varsity soccer player at Sherwood. She is committed to play in college at the University of Mount Union in Ohio and has been a key contributor for Sherwood the last four seasons.

## EMILY GRAVELL: Cross Country

Emily is a four-year member of the cross country team. She won the most dedicated award her junior year and was girls team captain both junior and senior year. She was also nominated for the 2018 All-RunWashington Pre-season Team. She plans on participating in the club running team at the University of Maryland.

## MARYAM HIGAZI: Volleyball, Track & Field

Maryam is a four-year member of varsity volleyball, and a two year member of varsity track and field. She is a two-time volleyball regional champion (2017, 2019), and helped lead the Warriors to an undefeated volleyball season in 2021. Maryam plans to play club volleyball at the University of Maryland, Baltimore College.

## KYNDALL HOPKINS: Softball

Kyndall is a three-year varsity softball player, and is the team's starting pitcher. She is committed to continue her softball career at Coppin State University.

## LEXI KIMMEL: Volleyball, Lacrosse

Lexi is a four-year varsity athlete who was a captain for volleyball on both JV and varsity. She won the sportsmanship and MVP award, and is also a captain as a senior on lacrosse as well.

## BRENDAN KLEIMAN: Baseball

Brendan is a catcher for the varsity baseball team at Sherwood and is committed to play at California University of Pennsylvania. He played for four years and was selected as a captain his senior year.

## DENVER LAUER: Softball, Basketball

Denver is a two-year varsity softball and basketball player at Sherwood. She plays both as a catcher and an outfielder on the softball team, and is committed to continue playing softball at Millersville University.

## TYLER LOPES: Wrestling, Football

Tyler is a four-year player for Sherwood's rugby and football teams, as well as being a three-year wrestler.

## MICHELLE LUI: Tennis

Michelle is a four-year girls varsity tennis player at Sherwood. She led the team to winning the division in 2019 and currently plays #1 singles. She also plans on playing on the club team next year at the University of Maryland.

## CHARLIE MATUSEK: Lacrosse, Swim, Football

Charlie is a four-year varsity lacrosse athlete. He scored a combined 100 points in his first two seasons, including being selected to the first team all division and second team all county his sophomore year. He also participated in one season of both swimming and football.

## OLIVIA MILLER: Soccer, Track & Field

Olivia is a four-year starter on the varsity soccer team, and served as a co-captain her senior year. She also ran on varsity track for three years, and holds the Sherwood school record for 800 meters, as well as being the Montgomery County individual champion for that category. She plans on playing club soccer at the University of Delaware next year.

## ALEXIS NNABUE: Basketball

Alexis is a four-year varsity member of the girls basketball team. In her junior year, she received an all-division first team selection along with winning the division title and reaching the regional championship. She was named a co-captain her senior year and plans to play club basketball at the University of Maryland next year.

## MICHAEL PARKER: Dive

Michael is a four-year varsity diver at Sherwood. He was the Runner Up at States his freshman and sophomore year, eventually winning both States and Metros his junior year in 2019. In 2020, he had a perfect dive season, never losing a single competition. He plans to continue diving at The Ohio State University.

## JAIME PETRONIS: Lacrosse

Jaime is a four-year varsity lacrosse athlete at Sherwood who is playing at American University. She was selected as a captain her senior year and was selected to the all division second team in her sophomore year as well.

## KATE PETRONIS: Lacrosse

Kate is a four-year varsity lacrosse player who is committed to play at American University next season. She was selected as a captain her senior year and also made the second team for the all division team her sophomore year.

## SOPHY SANCHEZ: Swim

Sophy is a four-year member of the swim team at Sherwood. She helped to guide Sherwood to wins in states in both 2018 and 2019, along with Metros in 2018. Sophy was awarded most dedicated in 2019, and was also selected to be a captain in the 2020-2021 season.

## BRETT SEILS: Baseball, Basketball

Seils is a three-year varsity baseball player and one-year varsity basketball player for Sherwood. Brett is committed and will play Division 1 baseball at Towson University this upcoming season. He was named to the MSABC pre-season all state team for baseball and was voted as a team captain this year.

## DAULTON STEWART: Baseball

Daulton is a four-year member of the Sherwood baseball program. He has excelled at Sherwood, and is committed to play baseball at Shenandoah University in Pennsylvania. He and his team aim for a successful 2021 season.

## CHRISTY TRANG: Cross Country, Swim, Track & Field

Christy is a four-year member of the cross country, swim, and track teams. She finished at the top of the cross country state meet in both 2018 and 2019, and participated in relays all four years.

## TAYLOR WALLACE: Swim

Taylor is a four-year member of the varsity swim team at Sherwood. She contributed to Sherwood's 2018 Metro title, and Sherwood's Metro and state championship wins in 2019. Taylor also placed 2nd in the Region in 100 Free in 2019. After her sophomore year, Taylor was awarded the most improved award, and for her senior season she was named a team captain.

## MICHAEL WILLIAMS: Swim

Michael is a member of the swim team for two years as he led the boys team to record Division, Regional, State, and Metro titles in 2020. Michael placed 2nd in the Region in 50 and 100 Free in 2020 as a Junior. He also placed 8th in States in both events and 11th in Metros in 50 Free as well as 10th in Metros in 100 Free.

## SEAN YAMADA: Lacrosse, Football


Sean is a four-year varsity lacrosse and three year-varsity football athlete. He was a captain for both sports in his senior year and will attend Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania to play lacrosse and attempt to walk on for football.




Class of 2021: The Journey Continues

Ruth Abera	Eastern Mennonite University	J’Niya Buckman	Montgomery College
Emma Abercrombie	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Jonathan Bui	Montgomery College
Alex Adcock	Towson University	Lillyan Burriss	Work
Meron Aga	University of Maryland	James Butterfield	American College of Greece, Deree
Lissandro Alvarado Chavez	Bucknell University	Ashley Button	Shippensburg University
Morgan Anaya	University of Virginia	Kai Cady	Liberty University
Bathsheba Anaya	Work	Dylan Campbell	Hofstra University
Josselyn Anaya Ardon	Work	Christa Canagarajah	University of Maryland
Jack Anderson	University of Maryland	Valentina Capobianco	Towson University
Peyton Aronow	Radford University	Gabriella Caponiti	University of Maryland
Emma Babcock	Rochester Institute of Technology	Ava Casaus	Elon University
Corey Barnes	Salisbury University	Elizabeth Casey	University of Maryland
Colin Barry	Purdue University	Lewis Castle	Hood College
Melissa Batawila	Montgomery College	Alex Chaves	Virginia Tech
Zoe Bayewitz	Gap Year	Joshua Choi	University of Maryland
Jake Becker	Towson	Arnav Chopra	University of Maryland
Lauren Becker	University of Maryland	Tmothy Chung	University of Maryland
Sarah Ben-Yosef	University of Chicago	Sarah Cohen	University of Georgia
Neal Berisford	University of Maryland	Kalee Comstock	University of South Carolina
Jack Berisford	Work	Jimmy Conner	University of Tampa
Mark Berman	Ursinus College	Ariadna Cordova Ventura	Montgomery College
Rachel Best	San Diego State University	Sylvia Cotten	University of Maryland
Catherine Biem	University of Maryland	Joel Cundick	Brigham Young University
Alex Bigirimana	Towson University	Haile Daniel	Towson University
Riley Blake	University of the Arts	Gregory Daniel	Towson University
Tessa Block	Georgetown University	Jimmy Dong	University of Maryland
Jenna Bloom	University of Maryland	Ryan Duvall	Virginia Tech
Ally Bloom	University of Maryland	Minoli Ediriweera	Georgetown University
Vincent Bonsby	Salisbury University	KJ Edwards	Gap Year
Olivia Bowman	Montgomery College	Tess Farley	University of Tennessee
Camila Brennan	Nova Community College	Helen Federline	Montgomery College
Lindsay Brigham	Montgomery College	Katie Feeney	Penn State University
Kendall Bruns	University of Georgia	Alyssa Feinbaum	Indiana University
Carter Buckingham	Virginia Tech	Caroline Feinroth	Salisbury University
		Ruth Fekadu	University of Maryland
		Angelo Ferraro	Temple University
		Arwen Ferro	University of Maryland
		James Fitzgerald	The Ohio State University
		Natalie Flynn	University of North Carolina Wilmington
		Brooke Formichelli	Coastal Carolina University
		Lauren Fout	University of Rhode Island
		Dylan Friedman	Washington College
		Alec Fritsch	Work
		Michelle Fuentes	Montgomery College
		Grace Fuller	Brigham Young University Hawaii
		Priya Ganganna	George Washington University
		Joseph Gedner	Gap Year
		Naomi George-Hall	University of Pittsburgh
		Joanna Gibbs	Hofstra University
		Joshua Ginsburg	University of Maryland
		Rachel Gkatongoni	Towson University
		Joshua Goldberg	Salisbury University
		Devon Goldstein	University of Maryland
		Mariana Gomes	Colorado State University
		Rene Gomez	Work


What Are the Top Majors for the Class of 2021?




1. BIOLOGY (31)




2. BUSINESS (29)




3. COMPUTER SCIENCE (23)



4. ENGINEERING (20)



5. PSYCHOLOGY (14)



6. NURSING (13)

Top 6 Schools for the Class of 2021



University of Maryland,  
College Park – 59 students



Towson University  
– 21 students



Salisbury University  
– 10 students



The Ohio State  
University – 6 students



Penn State  
University – 6 students



University of South  
Carolina – 6 students

\*Based off 241 students attending four-year institutions

Estrella Gomez Yanez	Community College
Cole Gormley	Marist College
Ishan Goswami	University of Maryland
Emily Gravell	University of Maryland
Aaron Greenberg	Montgomery College
Lily Groff	Lafayette College
Jeffrey Gross	Rochester Institute of Technology
Phoenix Hansen Zule	Montgomery College
Connor Harless	Ohio University
Madeline Hawkins	The Ohio State University
Justin Hayes-Puttfarcken	Miami University of Ohio
Alexandra Heller	Penn State Berks
Brenna Henderson	University of Redlands
Carly Herman	University of Maryland
Caroline Hermosilla	University of Florida
Angelena Hicks	Salisbury University
Maryam Higazi	UMBC
Ghislaine Bias Hilary	Montgomery College
Shalill Hill	McDaniel College
Abigail Hill	Loyola University Maryland
Mackenzie Hillman	University of Maryland
Madeline Hogentogler	Montgomery College
Tatiana Hogston	University of Maryland
Jackson Hongtong	University of Maryland
Kyndall Hopkins	Coppin State University
Colin Horan	University of South Carolina
Ali Hosseini	University of Maryland
Breshae Hubbard	Montgomery College
Korbyn Hunter	Gap Year

Students Going In State and Out of State



In State: 50.6%

“I just couldn’t imagine a world where I’m more than an hour away from Mr. Allen” – Jahnavi Kirkire (attending the University of Maryland, College Park)



“Do you ever wonder what it’s like to go to school in California – the summer sun, fun loving people, and incredible social life? Yeah me neither, see y’all on campus” – Elyssa Cheung (attending the University of Maryland, College Park)



“Jessie J always told me it wasn’t about the money, but Jessie J never considered the cost of med school” – Nia Zagami (attending the University of Maryland, Baltimore County)



Out of State: 49.4%

“Let’s just say I’m really excited about the Greek Life” – James Butterfield (attending American College of Greece)



“I wanted to go to Florida but I picked the wrong Miami” – Justin HP (attending Miami University of Ohio)

Julia Hurley	University of Alabama
Josephine Irving	UC Irvine
Aaron Jaffe	University of Maryland
Irma Juarez	Montgomery College
Felix Kahan	University of Maryland
Chrysanthé Kallimanis	St. Mary’s College of Maryland
Lily Kanstoroom	San Diego State University
Kian Kaplan	Montgomery College
Sultana Karzai	University of Maryland
Logan Katzman	Kent State University
Seth Kauffman	The Ohio State University
Rudy Kaufman	University of South Carolina
Alison Keller	Towson University
Amber Khan	UMBC
Mahlet Kidane	Community College
Abigail Kim	University of Maryland
Ronnie Kim	Gap Year
Lexi Kimmel	Penn State University
Eliana Kindred	University of Maryland
Jahnavi Kirkire	University of Maryland
Ngote Gali Kiroundje Ronel	McDaniel College
Katelynn Kling	Coastal Carolina University
Matthew Kong	University of Maryland
Michael Koo	University of Michigan
Cooper Kroll	University of West Virginia
Thomas Kroma	Towson University



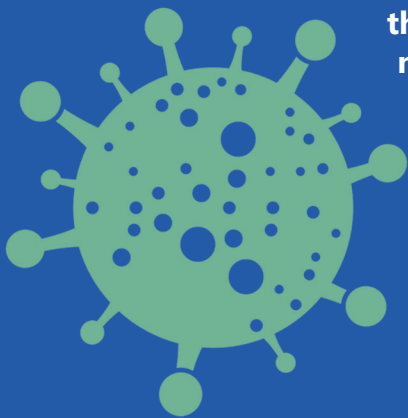
Emily Lamb	Penn State University
Megan Lang	George Washington University
Denver Lauer	Millersville University
Chiamara Lawrence	Towson University
Alexis Le	University of Maryland
Mason Leber	Work
Hannah Lee	University of Maryland
Mackenzie Lee	Howard University
Wayne Legendre	Indiana University of PA
Alex Leonard	University of Wisconsin Madison
Jenny Lill	James Madison University
Erik Lin	University of Maryland
Sydney Linnell	University of Vermont
Kristina Little	UC San Diego
Michelle Liu	University of Maryland
Amanda Lo	Boston University
Terence Lo	University of Maryland
Amelia Lopes	University of Tennessee
Tyler Lopes	James Madison University
Victoria Lucas	Montgomery College
Elizabeth Ludwick	Towson University
Paul Magin	University of Maryland
Charles Matusek	Towson University
Jerry McGill	Bowie State University
Michael McHale	US Marine Corps
Eliandry Mercedes De Aza	UMBC
Jaden Meres	Trade School
Christopher Milke	Penn State University
Luke Miller	Fredrick Community College
Olivia Miller	University of Delaware
Jacqueline Miller	University of Maryland
Katerena Mishler	Towson University
Rohan Mittu	University of Maryland
Justin Morales	Montgomery College
Alexia Morinigo-Spalding	Duke University
Cynthia Mulkey	Marymount University
Katherine Nazzaro	Appalachian State University
Alex Neukam	West Virginia University

University of Maryland
Montgomery College
University of Maryland
UCLA
University of Maryland
Salisbury University
University of Maryland
Rochester Institute of Technology
Towson University
University of Delaware
University of Maryland
Work
The Ohio State University
University of Maryland
Towson University
The Ohio State University

Theo Ng
Noah Ngimbi
Duong Nguyen
Nathan Nguyendinh
Sonyah Ngwafang
Arba Nikiema
Molly Niverth
Richard Onslow
Joao Pagnussati
Samuel Palmore
Ravi Panguluri
Vasili Papoulis
Michael Parker
James Parks
Traci Parks
Colin Patil


### How has the pandemic impacted your college application process/decision?

“Well it was nice to not have to submit SAT/ACT scores”  
- Rudy Kaufman



“Overall, the pandemic has affected everybody in making their college decisions through not having the opportunity to tour schools, meet athletic coaches in person, and also really get to see what the school is like. I think the pandemic caused a lot of people to make their college decision later than they would have wanted to.”  
- Emily Gravell

“The pandemic was honestly that best thing to happen to my college application process. Since most colleges became test optional, I did not have to take the SAT. It really shows that standardize testing should not impact whether you go to college.”  
- Katia Mishler



“It has let me focus on my studies and what I want to major in and where I want to go and not to choose a college based on my friends. So it has helped me with focusing on myself and what I want to do.”  
- Abigail Schmid

“Honestly, the only change that caused any issues would be my ability to travel and get a real feel for what the school is like. So many unforeseen changes have been made that impact the ability to see what your life would be like at the various schools.”  
- Hope Tippery

Penn State University
Brigham Young University - Idaho
Montgomery College
Towson University
American University
American University
University of Tennessee Knoxville
Boston University
Towson University
US Air Force
University of Pittsburgh
Gap Year
UMBC
Work
University of Maryland
Towson University
Loyola Marymount University
University of Maryland
Howard University
University of Maryland

Kate Patterson
Matthew Paz
Priscilla Perez
Steven Perez
Kate Petronis
Jaime Petronis
Emma Pfeiffer
Martholdy Pierre-Canel
Maria Pizanias
Michael Plater
Sydney Pollock
Elias Queiroz Da Silva
Mukund Raghavan
Elis Raskin
Andre Rebelo
Emily Rogers
Madelyn Rohan
William Rousey
Jalen Royall
Seamus Ruane

## Any Students Going to Big Ten Schools?

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - 59

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY - 6

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY - 6

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN - 2

PURDUE UNIVERSITY - 2

INDIANA UNIVERSITY - 1

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - 1

Jadaya Strickland	Culinary Arts
Nicholis Strohmeier	Community College
Julia Swistak	The University of Scranton
Audrey Tagg	University of North Carolina Charlotte
Joshua Tagliere	University of Maryland
Nataly Tapia	Montgomery College
Ethan Therrien	University of Maryland
Aidan Thompson	Gap Year
Tiani Thorne	Hampshire College
Jenna Timmons	University of Texas Austin
Hope Tippery	University of South Carolina
Ashley Trejo-Cabrera	Montgomery College
Aidan Trump	Montgomery College
Bruna Tsetezoh	Montgomery College
Johannes Tsigea	University of Maryland
Miles Vandre	Brigham Young University
Olivia Velasquez	University of Maryland
Melanie Velez	Community College
Kathryn Venable	East Carolina University
Derick Ventura	Montgomery College
Taylor Wallace	University of Maryland
Delaney Walsh	University of Maryland
Clara Walz	Southern Virginia University
Jack Weinberg	St. Mary’s College of Maryland
Brenda Welch	Rochester Institute of Technology
Paige Werden	Towson University
Madison West	Montgomery College
Abigail Wheatley	Barry University
Eric Wilbur	Bridgewater College
Nick Wilson	The Ohio State University
Elana Winter	James Madison University
Andrew Wischmann	West Virginia University
Allison Wong	Georgia Tech
Isabel Wood	Catholic University of America
Lydia Wooden	Virginia Tech
Sean Yamada	Susquehanna University
Jimmy Yates	University of Maryland
Thomas Yates	University of Maryland
Deborah Yosef	Salisbury University
Jun Yu	Montgomery College
Antonia Zagami	UMBC
Robert Zanzville	University of South Carolina
Daniel Zarrelli	Montgomery College
Shirley Zheng	University of Michigan

## How many seniors are playing a sport in college?

DIVISON I - 9

DIVISION II - 7

DIVISION III - 8

“Playing baseball in college has been my goal since I was very young and I’m excited to play at the next level.”  
- Jake Becker (attending Towson University)

“I’ve been dancing for so long that it wouldn’t feel right to stop doing it when I have the opportunity to keep going. I didn’t want to necessarily throw my talent away too quickly.”  
- Kristina Little (attending UC San Diego)

The Warrior attempted to contact all seniors through Google Surveys shared by Honors English 12 and AP Lit teachers, and received 291 responses. However, seniors who did not respond to the survey or are not graduating this year, are not included. The survey was compiled by Jenna Bloom, Seth Kauffman, and Jimmy Yates.





## Learning To Soak It All In

by Jackson Hongtong

Although I have had years and years to plan and devise something great to write for my own senior column, I still don’t even know how to begin. I could share one story and talk about how that shaped my view on something and made me change as a person. I could talk about the many different experiences I have had and how they all have impacted me, giving insight to everyone reading. You’d think that I’d be able to come up with something elaborate and intriguing for my last one, right? Well I thought so too, but that will be my point: no one really knows what will happen, whether it is a surprise test on a Tuesday or a global pandemic that keeps you out of school for a whole year, things happen in our lives that we have no control over. The only thing we do have control over is what we do during that time and how to make the best of it.

In the beginning of adolescence, I believed things were easy. In middle school, I made many friends that I still hang out with and transitioning to high school was never something I was necessarily afraid of. I had my doubts obviously with so many new people, but I knew that was part of the process. Homecoming, Friday night football games, and parties with friends came quickly, giving me some of the best memories to date. The only negative I really ever had was having to sit in the back of the student section, having to wait every

year to move up, but I knew my time would come to be at the front for the best view. Well, at least I thought so.

Fast forward to March of 2020. School closes down for two weeks, which eventually turned into another two weeks, and then suddenly I realized I was finished with my junior year. During this time, not only was I often finding myself alone, but also thinking about all the old memories I used to have during the school year. Although I used to rather stay home over going to school, I began to miss the normality of being at school and interacting with everyone, whether they were a friend, teacher, or even someone I had never talked to before.

As I reflect on the senior year that wasn’t, I wish I could have had the chance to make more of those memories spent in class laughing with my friends and talking about our plans for after the football game. However, being in quarantine also gave me some of the best times with both my family and friends that would have never happened otherwise. And honestly, that’s the message of this whole thing really. There are times and situations that are totally out of your control, but you can still do the things that you can do and have fun. The memories of this past year sure aren’t the ones that I expected to have for my senior year, but I still have made some good ones. Do not take for granted the time you have now because sooner or later you’ll have no more.

## Thanks Sherwood, but Not Really

by Jenna Bloom

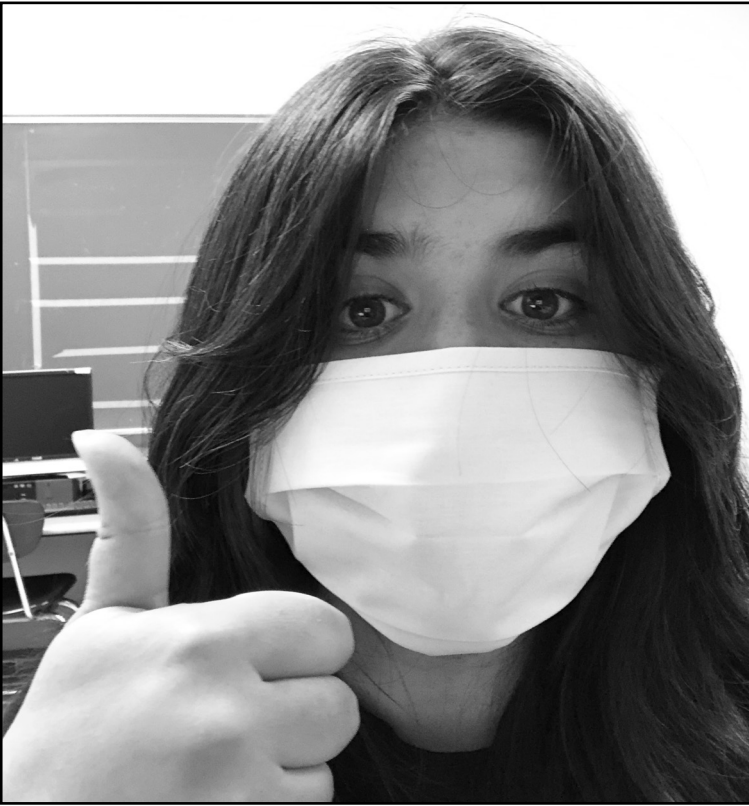
I was in middle school when my Mom brought home a copy of “The Warrior” newspaper, a publication I had never heard of before. Flipping through the pages, I read columns of graduating seniors (who felt like adults at the time), and stories of how Sherwood had changed their lives.

Now, 5 years later, I am sitting down to write one of those very same Senior Columns. I think my story is a little different though. Like them, I have changed tremendously as a person throughout high school, but very few of my transformations have been a direct result of Sherwood.

Since Freshman year I have felt isolated from the “Sherwood community” as a whole. The general atmosphere of the school was not comforting or secure, especially following an incident where rumors were spread about me to my entire grade. I shied away from football games and large events, scared that I would come into contact with the wrong person or not find anyone I knew. I had no desire to join any clubs, meet new people, or branch out from my classic “middle school turned high school friend group” (which eventually fell apart in less than a year).

During this chaos, I joined my Jewish youth organization, BBYO. As I went into my sophomore year, the people I met through BBYO gave me the confidence to not only be myself, but to realize that being myself was more than enough. As a 10th grader, I still struggled with many facets of my identity, but things were looking up. I transitioned into a new friend group, had the best tennis season of my life, and most importantly, I started taking Newspaper.

I also became president of my BBYO chapter, and learned valuable leadership skills and things about myself I never knew. I went



to conventions and events, going outside of my comfort zone and making connections with more people than I ever thought possible. I brought all of this newfound confidence back to school, where I became Spotlight Editor for Newspaper and Assistant Student Director of Rock ‘n’ Roll Revival.

When I mentioned earlier that I struggled with many facets of my identity, the biggest part was my sexuality. I didn’t know anyone else at Sherwood like me, making me feel like I carried around this huge dark secret that I could never tell anyone. I overheard homophobic comments in the hallway, making me feel like an alien who had something wrong with me. Bottom line, Sherwood did not serve as a place where I felt comfortable or accepted, but BBYO did. In BBYO, I found people like me, and I made friends who I felt comfortable coming out to and “sharing my secret” with.

We’re now in the middle of my junior year – and life is going great. Rock ‘n’ Roll Revival is happening, I’ve just been named

co Editor-in-Chief of The Warrior, and tennis season is rolling around again. Then, the virus that shall not be named came and destroyed everything.

But the crazy thing is, once I was physically separated from school, I truly became myself. All of the people in the hallways I once feared were reduced to black screens on Zoom, and I was in control of who I talked to. Over the course of the pandemic, I came out to the world, met my best friends, and I was ... happy. I realized that all of the things that restricted me from loving myself were so superficial, and removing them from my life caused an astronomical change in my being.

So, as I wrap up my Senior Column, I would like to say thank you. Not to Sherwood, newspaper, Rock ‘n’ Roll, or the tennis team, but to the individual people who served as my escape over the past 4 years. I wouldn’t trade my high school experience for the world, because I know it has prepared me for one hell of a lifetime ahead.

## Dos and Don’ts of High School

by Devon Goldstein

Going through high school from freshman to senior year, you tend to notice and learn things from your own experiences and those around you. Throughout high school I have come to realize that things won’t always go as planned, but you should try to control what you can. From my first hand experiences and struggles, here is a list of my DOs and DON’Ts of high school:

DON’T place yourself in a box. You should always be open to trying new things. High school prepares students for college and being independent in the real world, so you should be willing to try something new even if it scares you a little. Whether it be learning a new subject or talking to new people, trying something that is out of your comfort zone can help you grow.

DO find a balance between your studies and social life. Even though high school is a time to make new friends and try new things, school is not the second priority. School should come before parties, sports games, and dances. However, you should make time to be with your friends and family. Trying hard in school pays off and feels great when you get the recognition you deserve but alongside your education, finding your group of people and those that will support you is a very important part of high school.

DO utilize the resources available to you. Whether it be teachers, other students, or online help, using resources will make a huge difference in your success in high school. Just going to a teacher during lunch to get a little extra help on a topic can improve your grade from a B to an A. Even if you are think-

ing that going to get help during lunch won’t do anything or that you “don’t have the time” ... trust me, you do and it will be worth it.

DON’T compare yourself to others. All throughout high school you will see your peers and friends doing some different things than you are. When you see this, you should not compare yourself to them. Doing so will only make you feel bad about yourself and wish you were doing what they were. Trust me, 80 percent of the time they aren’t having as much fun as they seem to be online. Learning to think and act for yourself is very important in high school. I ended up learning this later on but once I did, I started becoming an overall happier and better person.

DO cherish the years you have in high school. Although it may seem cheesy, time really does fly by when you’re in



high school. You don’t notice what you’re missing until it’s gone. Having a lot of my senior year taken away from Covid-19 made me realize how special all of the little moments you experience really are. Cherish all of the school dances, football games, pep rallies, and individual moments you have with those around you at school because you only really experience it once.

DON’T stress out over the little things. When in high

school this may seem very hard not to do; however, over time it begins to get easier. Trust me. Whether it be one bad grade on a test, one mess up at your sports game, or missing one small detail during the day, don’t work yourself up and stress over it. Something I have learned through my four years in high school is that everything will work out the way it is supposed to in the end. Move past the small bumps in the road and focus on the bigger picture.



May 26, 2021

## Senior Year In a Pandemic...Sucked

by Ryan Duvall

In a normal year, most senior columns would be about what we have learned throughout high school, how we have changed, and how we have grown. But these are not normal times. Instead, my fellow seniors and I were forced to attend school virtually the past year, whisking away the dreams of a typical fun senior year full of good memories. I've had to adjust to life as a high school senior learning from home.

Since March of 2020, I have been learning remotely, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. And to tell the truth, it felt like MCPS, and most school systems in general, had no plan for this. Virtual learning started out with no Zoom, no classes, just a few assignments that were due at the end of the week, and it felt lonely sitting in my basement doing school-work for a few hours each day of the second semester. However, by the end of Summer, MCPS seemed to be getting their act together, offering full online classes through Zoom and a real concrete schedule. And that was fine, as we at least had a little normalcy when it came to waking up and attending classes.

Personally, it was very hard to actually learn through these online classes, as for most courses it would typically entail students getting assignments and teachers being present in case we needed



anything. I did struggle with this a little bit, but that may have also been due to a lack of motivation to insert myself into this new situation.

Ultimately, the most disappointing thing in an already bad senior year was the return to in-person classes through Sherwood's hybrid learning, as after numerous delays, it was an unappealing experience that was just as interactive as learning from home. It felt like a cheap trick, because if your teacher had declined to come back to school you were stuck using Zoom in the cafeteria. And with only three of my teachers in the building, it felt like a waste of time, so I opted back out, ending my hope of a somewhat normal ending to what fairly can be described as a terrible year. But I'm putting that in the rearview mirror, and I'm going to embrace an optimistic view that the page is turning on the pandemic. Normal times are returning, and I'm ready for it.

## You Are So Gifted

by Taylor Wallace

As a self proclaimed "high-striving" student, if I have learned anything from these past four years in high school, it's the importance of perspective. Going into high school, my academic ego was at an all time high. Up until that point I only got 'A's' and I didn't plan on stopping. However, it turned out that what I coined as just my ambition showing was actually me experiencing the sneaky side effects of gifted kid burnout. It's very common amongst kids like me, who was a part of a 'gifted and talented' program in elementary school, to experience repercussions such as perfectionism, crushing self-doubt, and a decrease in motivation once transitioning to a more difficult environment such as high school.

Being faced with the reality of my academic abilities and feeling like I wasn't living up to the title of being 'gifted' was the most difficult obstacle I had to overcome. When I found myself getting the occasional 'B' in my classes, it was extremely damaging to my confidence. It made me feel like I wasn't actually as 'special' as everyone had told me I was for years. I felt like a fraud. The shame from not doing as well as I wished in my classes completely tanked my motivation because I had completely convinced myself that my best just wasn't good enough.

My saving grace from this destructive mentality was putting things into perspective. I had to give myself credit for all the hard work that I had done. We often tend to be our own biggest critic



so when I made the conscious effort to switch the narrative in my mind and become my own biggest fan, I was able to find peace in who I was and where I was. I realized that the flawless image of myself I had formulated didn't even exist and I acknowledged that part of life is constantly being a work in progress. That's when I realized that I had to redefine what being 'gifted' meant to me.

My message here is much more than just that you are more than your grades, it's that no matter where you are in life, you are gifted. Every day, you are gifted with the ability to wake up in the morning and work towards making whatever dreams you have a reality. I've spent way too much of my eighteen years on this Earth beating myself up for falling short of the unrealistic standards I put in place. It wasn't until I realized that where I am right now is where I am meant to be that I was able to break out of the mental cage I had locked myself in. I could not be more excited to take advantage of my gift every day and get the chance to go out and fulfill my potential.

## What's Really in a Last Name?

by Jimmy Yates

I was just a little freshman, entering a school ruled by my family. My dad worked at Sherwood for four years as a social studies teacher, and both my older sisters attended and graduated from Sherwood before going to college at the University of Maryland and Towson University, respectively. Thus, my name immediately triggered the mentioning of my all-star student sisters and my energetic father, besides the few new or unfamiliar teachers who spared me from the constant, "Oh you're a Yates?!" followed by "Your sister was an amazing student," or "Your dad was the best teacher!"

It wasn't the attention or the constant praising of my family that I dreaded, but rather the awkward silence that followed. Both the teacher and I understood that their expectations had been raised a few levels because of my siblings, and they did not want to be disappointed. Not to say that the added pressure made it impossible to do well or put effort into school, but it definitely weighed on my shoulders during my first few years of high school.

Following in my sister's footsteps, I was also playing soccer and running indoor and outdoor track. I managed to play soccer in the fall of my freshman year, but my hamstring injury suffered the previous year prevented me from running indoor track. I managed to run outdoor track, and I definitely enjoyed it, but at some point between the hamstring cramps and the asthma attacks, I realized the only reason I was still playing these sports was because I did not want to disappoint my



family and friends. I had played soccer and ran long distance my entire life, and to quit in my first or second year of high school would put a very unsatisfactory ending to my athletic career. I was okay with this truth, but I doubted my parents or friends would understand. My constant sneezing, wheezing, and injuries were enough to convince my parents to let me stop running track, although we decided that I should stick with soccer a little longer.

I played soccer until my junior year, I enjoyed some parts, but I often wished I had quit after freshman or sophomore year. Although I no longer participated in track, I still ran almost every day, the only difference was that I listened to my body more and through caution and rest days, I was more easily able to avoid injury. I chose not to play soccer my senior year. The strange shortened spring season, along with my personal reasons, were more than enough for me to sit out, and even persuade my parents as well.

Instead, I'm playing tennis this spring. No member of my family has ever played tennis before. It's exciting and liberating to participate in an activity which is completely my own, and no one

close to me has any ties to. I find it strange but rewarding putting in all my effort and athletic ability into a sport which I had never even considered playing before. My coach and teammates often ask me why I haven't played since freshman year. I have asked myself the same question, as tennis is very fun. But instead of regretting not starting sooner, I am grateful that I had the idea and the courage to sign up and play in my senior year.

Over the course of my years at Sherwood, the combination of new teachers and different classes has definitely lowered the recognition and raised expectations that usually come with my last name. Branching out into my own activities and interests has not only brought me new experiences and lessons, but it has also allowed me to appreciate the recognition my name receives instead of dreading it like I used to. My sisters and I may have attended the same school, participated in the same sports, and been on the same Newspaper staff. However, each of us have our own interests, and I am proud of the path I've taken, both in and out of my sister's footsteps, to get to where I am today.

## Parting Thoughts from Someone Who's Way Too Sentimental

by Hannah Lee

So I'll admit it: I am a sucker for typical high school coming of age media. I spent much of my preteen years watching movies and shows like *One Tree Hill*, *Freaks and Geeks*, *Perks of Being a Wallflower*, *Clueless*, and other popular TV representations of teen life. While I knew of course these were just entertainment, certain thoughts and scenes would continue to linger in the back of my mind. Would I ever get my own tunnel scene? Would my friends and I return to the playground we grew up playing in after graduation? Would high school be as exciting and reckless as it seemed?

Truthfully? Most of the time it's not. It's often more awkward and tedious as you go through so many changes in such a short amount of time while squished into a hallway with other strangers doing the same. There's no big upperclassman bully dumping you in a trash can, and no magical transformation that can turn you from an "underdog" to the most popular kid in the grade overnight. No *Project X* backyard parties (at least no successful ones). The repetitive school days will blend and mesh and you'll be inspired, then burnout, then be inspired again, and the cycle continues. There's also a sort of bliss in that. No matter how much you mess up or do something you regret, it's really only just *high school*. Some days you'll feel on top of ev-



everything and like things are looking up, other times you'll feel certain that the world and life as you know it is ending (trust me, it's not). So no, the movies don't show the hours of homework or breakdowns over exams, but who would want to watch that anyway? When it comes down to it those won't be the memories you bring with you.

My point is that your "movie moments" aren't always going to be these grand schemes or parties that you may think they'll be - it'll be the moments in between that really sneak up on you. I never thought I'd miss sneaking off to 7-Eleven or the pure bliss of walking to a friend's house after the school day is cancelled midway because of a freak snow storm. The conversations and laughs you share with people you meet in new classes who you never interact with again when you both get a new schedule. The random spur of the moment decision to go and lie

down in the football field at two in the morning or the yearly pre-summer break barbecues. You'll look back on these memories or even just a few people with a kind of fondness and nostalgia that only looking back on your early youth can provoke. You'll learn to have more empathy for the younger versions of yourself because you know they were doing the best they could given the circumstance and while the friends you meet may or may not be forever ones, they still leave you with pieces of themselves that become a part of your own self, a constantly growing mosaic. I'll look back on those late nights and early mornings with people I've grown up with and in a way it'll be my own little movie, flaws and all.

P.S. As someone who's weeks away from graduation please don't think you'll have it all figured out by now. Have I learned a lot? Sure. Do I know what I'm doing? Absolutely not. :)



## Bumps along the Road

by Paige Werden

From crowded hallways and meeting new people, to taking hard classes and receiving extensive work loads from teachers, adjusting to high school life has been very challenging. Stepping into those Sherwood hallways for the first time, I was completely unaware of what would lie ahead of me. I knew that high school was going to present its challenges, but I had no idea what unbelievable circumstances the world and I would come to face.

At the time, my freshman and sophomore years of high school seemed to be the hardest two years of my life. I had gone through so many changes with friends, constantly trying to find supportive people to surround myself with. At the same time, my family was impacted greatly by financial struggles. In Sophomore year, I came to terms with my sexuality and started dating my current girlfriend. Along with this, I took my first AP class and had troubles balancing my social life with the new workload. All of these adversities, though seemingly making my life difficult and unstable, could never compare to the struggles experienced in the years following.

As many agree, the past couple years have been very trying for us all. For the graduating senior Class of 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic cut short junior year and took away many students' abilities to experience a real senior year. This meant no prom, no Rock n' Roll Revival, no winter sports, and possibly never seeing our favorite teachers in a school environment again.

Stuck behind a screen, my anxiety levels increased as the Covid-19 pandemic worsened. I had longed for that perfect depiction of senior year; having the time of my life with those I loved most. I looked forward to being



the senior dive captain for the Sherwood dive team, as I had participated in both swim and dive at Sherwood for the last three years. I looked forward to singing a lead in the 50th anniversary of Rock n' Roll Revival in front of all of my friends and family. And last of all, I looked forward to applying to as many colleges as I could to enhance my chances of getting into a good school.

Just as I felt like my world was crumbling underneath me, a glimpse of hope shone through. As opportunities arose for me, I was able to get my vaccination and I felt my anxieties assuage. Although Sherwood will not be providing a senior prom this year, my girlfriend and I can experience a modified version with our friends. Possibly the most exciting of all, I am featured in Sherwood Music Department's virtual Rock n' Roll Revival 49.5, along with all of my peers I have sang with for the past four years.

Let's not sugar coat it: 2020 and most of 2021 were grueling and disappointing. However, this does not mean good things did not come from this difficult year. I have learned first hand that life will throw curve balls and bumps along the road ahead. The most important thing we can do is to be grateful for the good things that have come from 2020 and thank the bad things for teaching us valuable lessons about perseverance, patience, and hardships.

## With Home, There's Distance

by Lucy Sokol

For much of my life I struggled to identify what my home really was, and with divorced parents, two separate houses made "home" such a complex thought. We all know the saying, "Home is where the heart is," and while my heart has roamed to various places, in the last four years, it has placed itself at Sherwood. I know, I know, it's cheesy to say, but a majority of my unforgettable memories and life lessons root back to Sherwood and the town of Olney.

These last four years have strapped me on a rollercoaster that had me experience some of the hardest lows as well as numerous highs. From coming to terms with my sexuality, fighting against my social anxiety, and taking more risks, I would like to say I have transformed into a more dynamic character. The character that would purposely accept a job that forces them to get out of their comfort zone, and eventually stop obsessing over what others think, and begin prioritizing self-love and personal growth.

Attending University of Vermont in the fall means that I will be 510 miles away from home. An eight hour drive or a two hour plane ride that brings me both excitement and sorrow. I would like to say I will not cry during my next trip up there, but as I am writing this my opinion is slowly shifting. Montgomery County will forever be in my heart and I am going to miss every second I am away. I am going to miss blast-



ing music with my friends in my 2013 Corolla, and feeling pain in my stomach after laughing hysterically with my sisters. I am going to miss being under the Sherwood stadium lights and watching my little sister perform during halftime. I will deeply miss getting into heated rallies with my dad on the tennis court, and the smile my mom presented to me every time she came home from work.

As my senior year comes to an end, I would just like to thank my girlfriend as well as all the teachers, coaches, friends, and family members who gave me unconditional support during my time at Sherwood, as I never thought I would ever have the opportunities and skills I have today. Huge thank you to The Warrior for always being an outlet for me to express my voice and never turning down my random or sporadic ideas. As the curtains close, I look forward to what the future holds for me and I hope I can keep a good grasp on what I now call my distanced home.

## When One Door Closes, Another One Opens

by Seth Kauffman

I thought I had it all figured out. Before I even stepped through the doors of Sherwood as a freshman, I had already decided what my high school career would look like. I would be on the basketball team, playing Friday night games in front of the entire school, and in the spring, I would be a pitcher on the baseball team. I had played basketball and baseball my entire life, and I knew that I wanted to continue doing so in high school. As an athletic kid with experience playing competitive sports, anything else would be out of the question.

But what I didn't realize was that high school sports, especially at a top-tier school like Sherwood, are a whole new level of competition. Sure, I had been playing travel basketball and baseball for years, but I was undersized and high school athletes are coming from even better travel teams and some train all year for their sport. Before, I was playing on teams with the same guys every year, and I had good relationships with my coaches. At Sherwood, I was a small fish in a big pond, competing against big fish who were already used to being in big ponds.

So, sticking to my preconceived plan, I tried out for the basketball team as a freshman. In the days leading up to tryouts, I noticed a sign inviting students to audition for Rock 'n' Roll Revival. I knew what Rock 'n' Roll was, and I remembered coming to see the production as a fifth grader, but I wasn't sure if I wanted to do it. It was a big commitment, and I would already have basketball to worry about.



Long story short, I ended up trying out for both, but only one of them ended up working out.

What I would come to realize later was that getting cut from the basketball team forced my hand. It is impossible to participate in Rock 'n' Roll and play a winter sport at the same time, so after my basketball plans fell through, I was able to fully commit myself to Rock 'n' Roll.

In the spring, I had to readjust my priorities once again. Baseball is possibly the most competitive sport at Sherwood, and I realized I just wasn't as good as the other kids trying out. But, that rejection made me look forward to next spring, when I could try out for volleyball. I took advanced volleyball as a gym class my freshman year, and fell in love with the sport through that experience.

After getting cut from baseball, I adopted the motto "when one door

closes, another one open." I swear I made it up myself but apparently Alexander Graham Bell coined it first. In any case, two amazing new experiences presented themselves for me when my plans fell through. Participating in Rock 'n' Roll Revival turned out to be a life-changing experience, and in the spring, I ended up starting on the volleyball team and helped lead the team to a division championship. Had I continued playing basketball and baseball, my ambitious athletic goals may have been fulfilled, but I would never have solidified my passion for performing music and playing volleyball.

High school marks a big transition in your life that brings change, excitement, and new opportunities. So keep your mind open to the possibility of new experiences, because sometimes fate has different plans for you.

## Looking Back on High School

by Ella Casey

Looking back at the person I was in freshman year I see an astronomical difference to who I am now. However, if you told me back then how much the past four years would impact me, I would have told you how stupid or cliché that sounds. The fact of the matter is, you never realize how much you really grow until you look back at the old 'you' and cringe at your past self, reminisce on your past experiences, and laugh about your past worries.

I cannot pinpoint any specific factors or exact moments in which this growth occurred, but I can certainly say that I am not the same person I was when I first wandered the maze of halls that was Sherwood High School my freshman year. There was always that stereotype that high school is the time when people totally find out who they are as a person, who they fit in with and what they want to do with their lives--again, I thought all this was cliché nonsense. Which it is. But there is some truth to it.

By no means does every person come out of high school with their whole life figured out--In fact, no one fully does. That being said, high school is a time for experimenting and messing around to find out what you really do enjoy and want to spend your life doing. Coming into high school I was planning for a whole different career path than I am on now heading towards college. Before freshman year I had never taken a computer science class. The only time I had had a computer-based course was computer art, which is a totally different field. But after this one class, I took another



computer science course and kept the ball rolling until now when it is my intended major.

But just because I found a course I really enjoyed didn't mean I stopped exploring options throughout high school, like I said: it is a time for experimentation and having fun. I decided to take a diverse set of subjects, things I was fascinated by; it didn't matter that I thought I wouldn't make a career out of it. I took Photography because it intrigued me--I had never held a camera in my life but my mom had one so I thought 'why not'; I took AP level history courses because I enjoy learning about it and wanted to go more in depth; I took Psychology because I thought it would help me understand myself and others more; I took Newspaper so I could learn more about the world and write/research about the things that I was curious about.

As for finding out who you are, that depends on the per-

son. Some people totally figure themselves out and they know who they are, what they want, and what they stand for. For me, I figured out that I don't really know who I am, but that's okay, I don't need to yet. People change all the time, so I don't have to fit into any few traits, which in itself is self-discovery--and one that I think is quite common among high-schoolers.

Overall, high school was not what I thought it would be, and it influenced me in ways I never really realized before or thought that it could. Despite this, I know there is plenty more change to come in college and beyond. So if I have one piece of advice that I've gathered in the past four years it is: work hard in high school, but don't think you have to have your life all figured out. Try out new things, find out what you like and find what bores you. Explore your options, and you may even end up finding your passion along the way.



May 26, 2021

## It's Just Like Kindergarten

by Martholdy Pierre-Canel

I've always been the person who usually had to ask her parents for permission to do things three business days beforehand and the one who could never sleep over because I was in a strict household. Surprisingly though, the girl who had to be home by midnight is soon to be crossing state lines and eventually border lines.

At this very moment I feel more curiosity and excitement than nervousness, but big changes like moving to college do not necessarily register completely until it's time to actually move. I had spent my whole life here in Olney. My friends, family, and school are here. I'll always remember being on three-hour-long facetimes with my friends looking for apartments at our dream locations, especially Boston. I figured it wouldn't hurt, so I decided to apply to Boston University. Fast forward some months to me opening my decision letter in the church parking lot (there is something spiritual about that but that is a talk for another time) and I was welcomed with red and white confetti and the word "Congratulations!" printed in big bold letters to spend one semester in Boston and one semester in London.

I was overly excited for a new change. I was running on a senioritis high watching every dorm tour, dorm review, day in the life, etc. practically anything that YouTube showed me. I was convinced that I was ready to press the commit button until the time came when I actually had to do it. Given the approval by my parents to move, my heart sank and my entire childhood had flashed before my eyes. At home,



if something had ever gone wrong my family was always in a close vicinity and at the end of the day, I could always come home. My friends had been my friends since middle school or the beginning of high school; I had already gone past that "getting to know them" stage and had already picked who to keep in my close circle. Moving 427.7 miles to Boston is a restart button. It was like I had reverted back to kindergarten, knowing no one and knowing nothing about the new world I was entering.

Boston is a tapestry made of different cultures and it has left me wondering since I was accepted if it'd change me for the worse or for the better. Change and independence, though, is vital to growing as an adult. Learning about yourself, your fears, your likes and dislikes, and how you act in certain situations is bound to happen and now just happens to be our time, like kindergarten. In the same way I conquered that foreign feeling of a new environment, even if it was only elementary school, I am tasked with the same inevitable endeavor that I too will conquer again. So yes, homesickness is inevitable but who says Boston can't be home too?

## Focusing on the Bigger Picture

by Sudha Sudhaker

As I look back on my high school experience, it seems like just yesterday that I was an incoming freshman at orientation. It's safe to say that I never expected my four years at Sherwood to shape me as much as it did. Oftentimes, students don't expect their classes to be among the most memorable experiences of high school, but in my case, electives that I committed to ended up really giving me a direction for my future and defining my high school years.

One of my most unforgettable experiences was being in the med-sci program since ninth grade, as the experiences solidified my decision to go to nursing school. Spending class periods taking notes on different bodies and diseases actually became interesting to me. Getting to dissect a cow's heart sophomore year and then getting to witness an open heart surgery during a field trip junior year were definitely some of my most memorable moments. My junior year in the med-sci program was certainly the most demanding. The first unit exam I took I got a C on, which was discouraging. However, I realized that I needed to manage time my better and have better study skills. Countless hours were dedicated to study different disease processes, memorizing medical terms, and learning how to perform different nursing duties. Of course, it was not easy at all, but I knew that this was the path I wanted and was determined to succeed. The dedication paid off and I ended up passing my final exam. The last semester of junior year was spent in completing



clinical rotations in the mornings at a retirement home. This was where I got a chance to care for residents and listen to their stories. This was an unforgettable experience that showed me how I can make a difference in someone's life.

During sophomore year, I decided to join newspaper class, which was one the best decisions I made in high school. Newspaper class gave me an outlet to disconnect from the stresses of school and simply be creative. Moreover, the Warrior has provided me with a community that I will always cherish. I'm glad that I took the initiative to try something new and join the Warrior.

Even though I missed the traditional senior year experience, I am satisfied with the experiences and memories I had at Sherwood. I will definitely miss the little moments that defined my high school experience like walking to class with my best friends or even the last minute reviewing on Quizlet before the AP Lang vocab quiz. My best advice to any incoming freshman would be to try new things and take advantage of Sherwood's many opportunities and academic programs. Cherish your time in high school because it really does fly by.

## Started From the Bottom Now I'm Here

by Aaron Jaffe

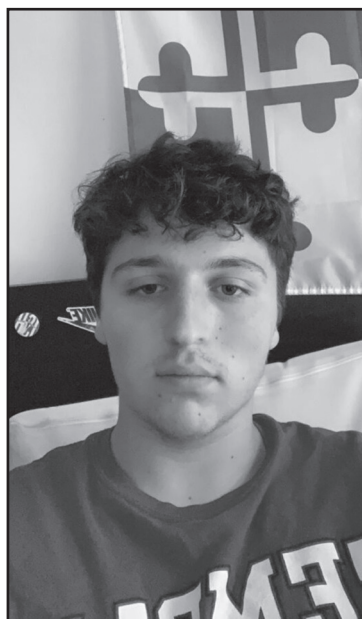
The year is 2017 and I am nothing but a wide-eyed freshman with two things in my mind: I love sports, and I like to talk about them as much as I can. I decided to see what I could do with this little bit of knowledge and signed up for the now extinct journalism class at Sherwood. The class began by focusing on current events and precise grammar work, not entirely what I expected but it gave me the proper writing skills, unique techniques, and a style of writing that I use with each and every piece of writing I create.

Fast forward a few months of "doing the dirty work" and my friend Jackson and I were assigned to cover the girls varsity basketball team, the first of many beat reporting jobs. We went to the games, we interviewed players and coaches, and I felt like I could do this for the rest of my life. It was the rush of feeling that you knew more than the average fan and had that inside information that was only captured by you. Once the season ended, I followed up with another beat, this time with boys lacrosse. I had prior friendships with many of the players on the team, and it made the whole experience more enjoyable feeling like a friend of the team, rather than an annoying media member. I can only hope

that one day I will move up high enough in the world to repeat this experience and develop relationships with pro athletes.

After getting a few beat jobs under my belt, I felt more comfortable in my writing than ever. Over the next two years, I wrote about boys varsity basketball, boys lacrosse (again), wrestling, and the biggest sport at the school, football. To be engaged with the school and the players was possibly my most enjoyable high school experience and my most significant contribution to Sherwood in my two and a half years of in person learning. My writing was also not just limited to covering Sherwood sports. I covered all four major U.S. professional sports, as well as college basketball and football. I wrote articles on everything from mock drafts, to season predictions, to march madness brackets, to opinions on teams, and reactions to the biggest events from the sports world at their time. Writing about my hometown DC teams and other pro level sports teams was the most natural writing for me and confirmed what I had wanted to do with my life.

The pandemic came, and my writing was put on pause. However, because of Mr. Huck, the newspaper teacher/overseer of all, it wasn't for long before I was able to get involved again



and write about sports from the quarantined bubble of my home. The college process began and I looked for schools that would allow me to write and enjoy a big time sports scene. A few short months later, I received my acceptance to the University of Maryland as well as an acceptance to the Phillip Merrill School of Journalism. Being in my home state at one of the best journalism programs in the country was something a freshman me would have only dreamed about. Now as a senior with only a few short weeks to go, I will look back on my time at Sherwood as memorable steps towards my future.

## Remember Warriors, Take It Slow

by Aidan Trump

As I prepare to move on from Sherwood, I'm struck by a multitude of varying emotions. I'm anxious, yet full of anticipation for the years ahead. I am excited to further broaden my horizons and I look forward to tackling new challenges in college and beyond. Still, there is a part of me that wishes I could go back to my first day as a freshman and remember what it was like to be a newbie in the building. I was unwilling to believe the corny cliché everyone told me, the one about how "high school can have the potential to change your life."

Until recently, going to Sherwood day in and day out gave me a false sense of permanence and security. For better or worse it felt never-ending, but now as I brace myself for the unknown I look back upon my past four years at Sherwood fondly. During my time at Sherwood I didn't just learn academia, I learned real life skills. Playing on Sherwood's various sports teams required teamwork and taught me accountability. The rigorous course loads of my AP classes meant I would spend hours into the night studying, which taught me determination. Sherwood introduced me to people with vastly different personalities and backgrounds, which taught me open mindedness. Everything I learned at Sherwood played a part in my personal growth these past four years, shaping me into the person I am today.

Now I see how I was in such a rush to grow up. I took for



granted the repetition of waking up at the same time each morning and seeing the same familiar faces of my friends and teachers. Now as I think about college, the next chapter in my life, I'm nervous. It's the nervousness that comes with any break or change in a cycle. The advent of the coronavirus pandemic and the ensuing quarantine gave me an understanding of how quickly a cycle can change.

After having had a glimpse of how life can transform in an instant I found myself having more and more reverence for my past in all of its structured familiarity. For me, this sentiment is best reflected in a line taken from Vampire Weekend's "Step." "Wisdom's a gift, but you'd trade it for youth. Age is an honor, it's still not the truth." For me, that line has taken on greater importance and has become a personal mantra. The line is bittersweet and serves as a reminder that growing

up, something that we have all wished for at one point or another, doesn't just mean having new freedoms and exciting experiences. Growing up means taking on new responsibilities, and giving up youth and impulsivity.

If I could offer one piece of advice to any underclassman, it would be to take it slow and enjoy your time instead of wishing high school was over. Each day offers a new opportunity to learn and grow. High school really does "have the potential to change your life," and if you're not careful your time at Sherwood can pass in the blink of an eye. Even at the start of my senior year, graduation and college seemed an eternity away, but now it's as if the reality of my situation has hit me all at once. Thankfully, although I'm nervous, I feel ready. My time at Sherwood served me well. I am ready to face new challenges and to continue my life's journey.



"One piece of advice that I would give younger students is to be an advocate for yourself. I think that starting to advocate for myself at a younger age taught me to be more independent. I think it is important because your parents are not going to be there for you when you go away for school."  
- Alison Keller

"I would advise incoming student to think hard about electives. These electives broaden your interests and I would have never found my true career path without completing classes in computer science. These electives should be within your interest and to further your education in a subject you love."  
- Emma Babcock

"Don't put too much pressure on yourself in regards to grades and standardized test scores. Work your hardest, do your best, and whatever happens happens. You will be successful no matter what college you aspire to go to as long as you are devoted and have a strong work ethic." - Ethan Onslow

"High school is hard. New challenges arise just when you think you get a break; it's worth it. Keep working, keep trying, but don't forget to give yourself a break here and there. Your efforts won't go unnoticed and they will get you further than you ever could have imagined."  
- Rachel Best

"School is not a rush, take your time and make sure you do your best in high school because your high school performance will determine if colleges will accept you or not. Be patient and understanding because that's the key to success."  
- Biem Gabrielle

In a survey given to Sherwood seniors, *The Warrior* asked for the advice they would pass down to younger students. Here are some responses:

"Everything happens for a reason whether that be a test grade, a college decision, a friendship, it is supposed to happen so let it. You can't control outside forces so don't try to - it will make your life so much simpler."  
- Paige Snyder

"Learn to balance your life. Don't take school for granted, do the work because it'll only make the future easier. But also, don't dwell on doing poorly on a test, you're here for a short time so make memories."  
- Matthew Kong

"Don't be afraid to send that cold call email, reach out to somebody, or take a risk! Risks end up being the most rewarding, and they are the actions that we remember at the end of everything."  
- Tessa Block

"Opportunities are out there for you, but you have to look for them. You have access to so many more resources and choices than you think you do, but you'll need to ask for them and do the research."  
- Lily Groff

"Not everything is so serious, sometimes you just gotta take a step back and relax."  
- Caleb Stern

"Find a group of people that are loyal and trustworthy, because my friends have been my rock since freshman year and it really helped me through my high school career."  
- Madeline Hogentogler

"My advice is to start the college process early and to do lots of extracurriculars. Applying to colleges can be stressful if you do it last minute so I recommend you start in the summer going into your senior year."  
- Katie Feeney