

Maryland Mandates Full Year of Health

by Emily Siansky '22

MCPS has changed the health education graduation requirement starting with this year's Freshman Class. Previously, students needed to take only a semester of Health, or half a credit. Now, the Class of 2025 and younger will need to take two semesters to fulfill the requirement.

The Maryland State Board of Education met on May 25 and made adjustments to the statewide graduation requirements. It was not until November 9 that MCPS adopted the plans to increase the Health requirement. According to the Executive Summary of the November 9 meeting, with the addition of the full-year Health class, students will need a minimum of 22.5 credits to graduate. This exceeds the state requirement by half of a credit.

The State Board of Education also adopted amendments for World Language and Technology classes. For the language courses, students must complete two credits worth of the same language. The technology education requirements may now also include computer science and engineering classes. The option for the advanced technology class will no longer be available.

In order to accommodate the increase in credits, MCPS has decided to cut down the requirement of elective credits from 2.5 to 2.0 credits. Examples of elective classes include those in music, arts, technology, and other core subject electives. To fulfill the new graduation requirement, students may find it more difficult to find space in their schedule for electives, particularly for those that are repeatable.

The music program, for example, uses different levels of classes to further the development and rigor of the program as a

See Health, Pg. 2

Rock 'n' Roll Cast Prepares for First Show in Two Years

by Matt Kauffman '23

One year and ten months after the closure of MCPS schools due to the Coronavirus, the setlist for Rock 'n' Roll 50 has been released and rehearsals have begun.

This year's show, named Timeless, will be the first in two years, and the band and cast members have been eager to get back into the process that has been missing since the second weekend of shows was cancelled in March 2020. Although the status of the show is currently uncertain due to the surge in Covid-19 cases, the cast members are remaining hopeful about revitalizing a tradition that was lost over the pandemic last year.

MCPS' suspension of non-athletic after school activities, which ended January 18, moved the first two weeks of rehearsals to the lunch period, which is significantly shorter. The first round of rehearsals, which usually lasts about two weeks, is only composed of lead singers and the rhythm section (guitar, drums, keyboard, and bass). Band members and lead singers are aware that each rehearsal may be their last before another closure of schools, but have to try and ignore the precarious nature of the pandemic and focus on rehearsing as much as possible each day.

"As a senior, I can't let myself not be optimistic for the show," said senior keyboardist Megan Cha. "Rock 'n' Roll was really one of the highlights of a lot of our times at Sherwood and I believe that Rock 'n' Roll 50 will happen and meet everyone's expectations." As of now a crowd would not be allowed for the show, but this is subject to change come March. The directors are hopeful that the Ertzman will be at full capacity for the performances.

The general uncertainty regarding what warrants a school closure will not decide the show's fate, according to director Michael Maddox. The show would still be expected to run its course despite a two-



Music teachers Michael Maddox and Johnathan Dunn practice song lyrics with instruments for the annual Rock and Roll Revival show along with senior Luke Hanson during lunch.

week closure, though it seems as if MCPS plans on remaining in person indefinitely. Maddox spoke to the band and leads regarding the importance of individual practice, especially if preparations are suspended due to three or more cases resulting from rehearsals.

There are protocols in place to ensure that the cast will still be able to perform even if one or more leads or band members are unable to perform due to a Covid-19 infection or some other illness.

Each lead singer in the show has an assigned understudy (another lead) who learns their song and is required to be able

to sing in place of someone who is unable to perform. This system was in place prior to the pandemic, and has been used whenever necessary in past shows. If a band member tests positive or is forced to quarantine, another member on the instrument will fill in.

Show members are happy to get back into the real version of the show after last year's virtual replacement. Cha expressed her excitement to get back to preparing for the real show rather than an online version. "I'm excited to finally be able to play with a larger group again and get back into the Rock 'n' Roll spirit."

MCPS Schools Face Desperate Measures in Confronting Substitute Shortage

by Ella Scher '23

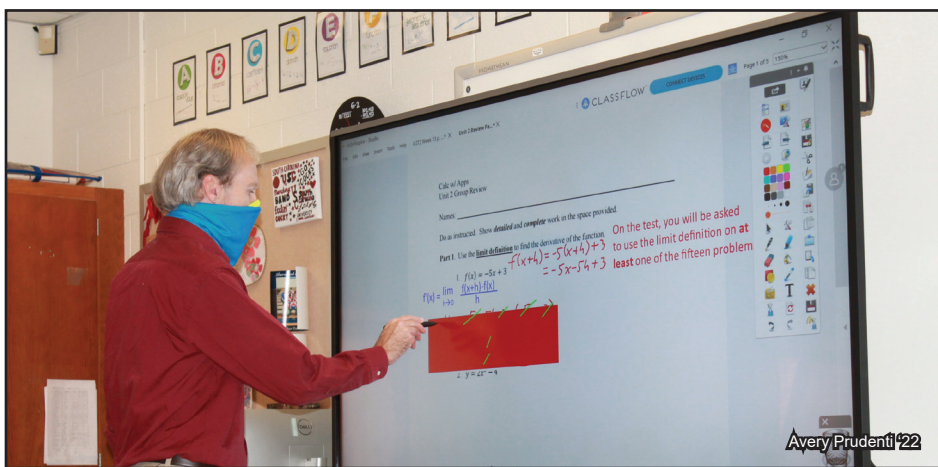
Many students and teachers were surprised and pleased when the MCPS Board of Education voted to close schools one day early for the Thanksgiving holiday. However, it was only a small indicator of a much larger problem that has persisted during the school year. MCPS is experiencing an extreme shortage of substitutes, forcing teachers to take on the burden for their absent coworkers. The situation has become increasingly dire as infections skyrocket from the Omicron variant, and Sherwood at times this month has had to resort to students going to the cafeteria during their classes because there was not

a teacher or sub available to monitor the classroom.

Via Facebook, one anonymous substitute shared that on the week of January 3-7 when there were only two days of school because of emergency snow closures, there were more than 400 middle and high school requests for subs in MCPS with more than double that for elementary schools, meaning that more than 1,000 teachers in the county were absent.

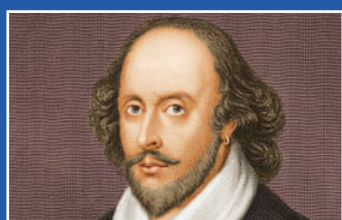
The strain of absent teachers was also felt at Sherwood following winter break. For the first five days of school on January 5-6 and the following week on January

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John Way, a long-term sub, teaches a lesson for math teacher Rebekah Byerly's class.

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Prometheans Remain as MCPS Moves Towards Boxlights

by Tori Newby '22

As MCPS upgraded their Chromebooks to accommodate students during the pandemic, another new piece of technology has also made its way into classrooms this year: Boxlights. These interactive flat panels serve the purpose of Promethean Boards while offering new benefits, provoking a countywide transition. Scott Hughes, a supervisor at the Department of Integrated Technology and Support in MCPS, notes that the image on the Boxlights is brighter and sharper than Promethean Boards, and the operating system allows them to be used without being wired to a computer.

However, as the Boxlights were brought into classrooms throughout the first weeks of school, the Promethean Boards collect dust, still attached to the wall as teachers learn to use their new Boxlights. According to Hughes, problems with global supply chains have suspended the shipment of replacement bulbs and projectors for the Promethean Boards. "By leaving the Promethean Boards in place but adding the Boxlights, it should allow the school some flexibility to meet their technology needs until some of the other issues resolve," said Hughes. It took 10 years to roll out all of the Promethean Boards, but Hughes says the county will implement the Boxlights in a more timely manner if the budget allows. MCPS aims to completely remove the Promethean Boards next summer via an agreement the county has with a technology recycling company, where the interactive boards will be reused or properly recycled.

NAHS To Host Annual Empty Bowls Event

by Lizzy Hermosilla '23

The National Art Honor Society (NAHS) is set to host their annual Empty Bowls event for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic; however, the event has been postponed a second time due to rising Covid-19 cases. Administration reached out to art teacher and NAHS sponsor Hailey Banda about postponing the event until the spring to avoid Covid-19 related challenges. The guests in attendance in the spring will still purchase bowls, made by an NAHS member and receive a small meal as a result of their donation. The tickets for the event are \$10 and all of the proceeds will be donated to the Manna Food Center. The bowls purchased during the evening are a symbolic reminder of all the empty bowls around the world, and of people who are less fortunate.

Banda is excited to host her third Empty Bowls' event. Despite some setbacks like a change of date and broken kilns halting the finishing of many bowls, Banda remains optimistic about the event. "We have 81 completed bowls so far! Some students have started using the pottery wheel so that is very helpful," said Banda. "[We are] aiming for 120 bowls total so as long as we stay at this pace we should be in good shape for the event." In past years the society has produced more than 200 bowls but considering the unprecedented challenges, it is impressive that NAHS will get as many bowls made this year as they are.

MCPS To Amend Discipline Policy

by Erica Kuhlman '22

MCPS is currently seeking comments on proposed amendments to the board policy on disciplinary action for students. These amendments aim for "restorative approaches" to student discipline as required by Maryland law in hopes to foster a more positive and constructive learning environment. Suggested revisions to Policy JGA, Student Discipline, focus on proactive intervention to prevent disruptive and harmful student behavior before it occurs rather than retroactively punishing students for misbehavior.

The proposed policy, now called the Behavior Intervention, Safety, and Well-being Plan, follows a philosophy of harm prevention, reduction, and restoration. The policy encourages the building of strong and positive relationships between all members of the school community in order to model healthy behaviors and environments for students, while emphasizing accountability in hopes to "repair the relationships affected by the problem behavior with the voluntary participation of an individual who was harmed." In keeping with the board's Policy ACA, Nondiscrimination, Equity, and Cultural Proficiency, there is also an emphasis on cultural awareness for staff members and the addressing of implicit biases that can lead to certain groups being disciplined more often and more severely than others. The proposed policy is available to read on the Montgomery County Schools website, and the opportunity to give comment on the revisions is open until February 7, 2022.

Health Credits Alter Starting with Class of 2025

From Health, Cover

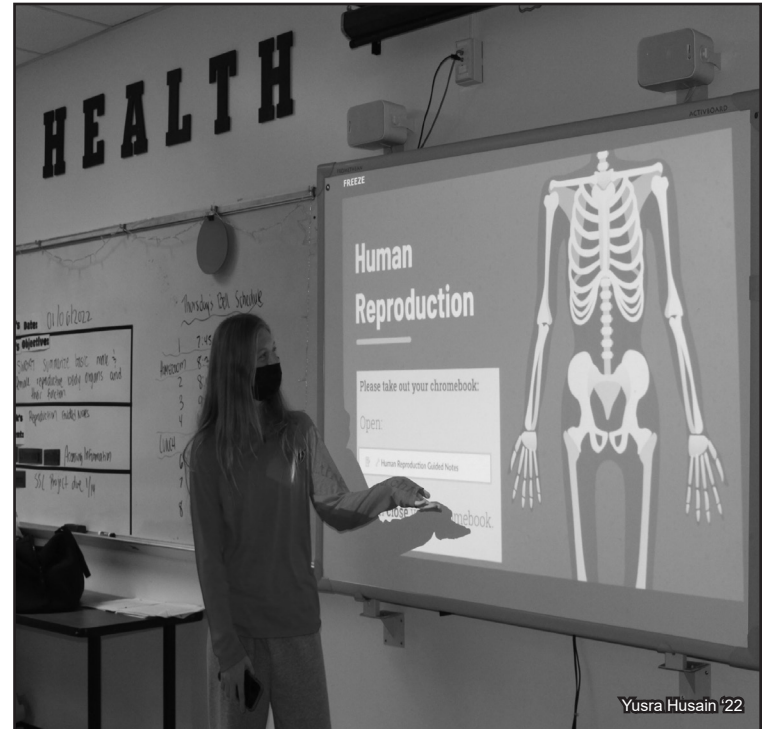
whole. Music teacher Johnathan Dunn explained that the music department usually has to compete with other courses, such as AP and double-period classes.

"As students seek to fill their schedules with required courses for graduation, the new requirements make it more challenging for students to enroll in music for multiple years as students, which is historically something frequently done here at Sherwood," said Dunn. He also is worried that the change in requirement courses will impact the number of students who decide to participate in Rock 'n' Roll.

Similarly to the music program, art classes also have increasingly difficult and rigorous courseloads as students reach more advanced classes. Taking these high level art classes allow students to improve their weighted GPA by taking honors and AP classes.

"When more requirements are added, it does make it more difficult for students to make space in their schedules for what they love," said art teacher Michele Spangle. "There are students who pursue their art for several years and earn AP credits through completing a portfolio instead of taking a test."

The new Health curriculum will now have more of an em-



Sophomore Katie Roecklein shares an informative presentation about the process of human reproduction in her seventh period Health class.

phasis on social justice issues, harassment, and mental health as they relate to the prior Health A curriculum. The extra required semester of the course (Health B) will also focus on life skills that students will be able to better apply outside the classroom.

While Health A has been a required class for years, there is no prior Health B curriculum to use. Teachers and Montgomery County need to create a whole new curriculum for the class; one of the curriculum writers is Health

teacher Heather Giovenco.

"It's going to be pretty tough. I'm going to have to start from scratch. I'm hoping to use this summer as a way to build the curriculum. It also helped that I'm on the curriculum writing team, so I know at least some of it," said Giovenco about adjusting to the new Health class. Even though Health B is not required for the Class of 2024 and older, it is still an option for students to take Health B next year as an elective credit.

Sherwood Stops Offering On-Level English 10

by Lauren Hill '22

Beginning next school year, Sherwood sophomores will no longer have the option to take On-Level English 10. The only available options for English 10 classes will be honors and accelerated honors classes. According to English Resource Teacher Shelley Jackson, the MCPS Central Office requested that schools in the county change the English 10 course options, and many other schools in the county have already stopped offering an on-level offering.

Sherwood will continue to have some differentiation in 10th grade English by also having an accelerated honors class next school year in which a smaller number of students will be recommended to take the class based on teacher recommendations from Honors English 9 teachers, as well as their performance in other accelerated classes such as AP NSL, Algebra 2, and 9th grade Physics.

"There will be significantly more reading and writing in these accelerated sections [of Honors English 10]," said Jackson. "There will also be the expectation that students can make sophisticated inferences about what they read."

Jackson offered a number of reasons that students might benefit from being in an honors English class rather than on-level, including that it will push them harder to be successful. "Students formerly in on-level will benefit from being in classes with peers

who will challenge them," said Jackson. "Students who have chosen on-level because it is easier for them will have to challenge themselves in a course fundamental to academic and professional success."

Many years ago, Sherwood stopped offering On-Level English classes for juniors and seniors, and Jackson said those students who have tried hard in Honors English 11 and 12 have succeeded. Although juniors and seniors are able to choose between Honors and AP English

classes, the belief is that the accelerated Honors 10 English class for sophomores will be an option for highly capable sophomores.

There are plans to help students in Honors 10 English, including that students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) will still have the same support as they have in on-level courses.

The difference will be that these students will now have more opportunity to access an honors-level course in English, according to Jackson.

Sherwood Course Offerings for English (2022-23 School Year and Beyond)

Grade 9: On-Level or Honors

Grade 10: Honors or *Accelerated

Grade 11: Honors or AP Language

Grade 12: Honors or AP Literature

*Students will be recommended for Accelerated course by the school based on ability and academic performance.

January 20, 2022

One Sherwood Cultural Celebration Week 2021



Senior Victoria Nguyen, junior Danielle Lim, senior Eleni Green, junior Naomi Bang, junior Jena Le, freshman Anjana Polmottawegedara, and senior Wendy Tu - all members of the K-pop club - perform a dance during the second lunch of One Sherwood Cultural Celebration Week in the K-hall lobby.

The Black Student Union (BSU) participates in the door decoration competition. Each club was invited to decorate the door of the classroom they meet in order to honor and highlight the variety of cultures and activities at Sherwood. The competition concluded on the third day of One Sherwood Cultural Celebration Week, and the BSU completed their door with elegance and creativity.



Junior Veronica Aguilar and freshman Giancarlos Garcia perform a Marinera Norteña dance in the K-hall lobby during the fourth day of One Sherwood Cultural Celebration Week. Garcia performs "Pañuelos Al Aire" alongside Aguilar who performs "Marinera Si Señor." Marinera is a romantic courtship dance that originated in and is considered to be the most prominent dance of Peru. In Marinera Norteña, the man wears shoes while the woman performs barefoot, and handkerchiefs are typically used as props, as shown in the photo.

Señora Tanya Aguilar, senior Genevieve Calderon, senior Tamara Vargas, freshman Katherine Rodriguez-Belsiario, senior Emily Brum, senior Cassidy Alford, junior Leslie Trejo, junior Diego Rico, senior Meekella Guillen, sophomore Noralexis Carrion, freshman Gaby Palomo, and Señora Ariana Peralta pose after the Viva Latino Dance Team performs a salsa cabaret on the final day of One Sherwood Cultural Celebration Week.



MCPS Responds to Omicron

by Emory Gun '22

MCPS put out an updated statement on its website on January 9 addressing the steep rise in Covid-19 cases and announced that all schools will distribute KN-95 masks and rapid test kits to all students. Results from the rapid tests were to be reported by January 14, through the MCPS Covid-19 Reporting Form, whether positive or negative. Additionally, "Any student who tests positive will be required to isolate for 10 days from the date of the positive test, or 10 days from the onset of symptoms, whichever is earlier."

Other updates were that MCPS is dropping the 5-percent threshold for a school to go virtual for 14 days. Originally the 5-percent protocol meant that, "if 5 percent or more of unrelated students/teachers/staff (minimum of 10 of these individuals) tests positive in a 14-day period, a determination will be made as to whether the school should be closed for 14 calendar days and transition to virtual instruction. Please note that the 5 percent threshold does not automatically result in school closure." The protocol was scrapped after more than 125 schools exceeded the 5-percent infection rates. Guidelines for staff who test positive were also updated. Staff must quarantine for five full days if they've tested positive. The five days start either from when they first have symptoms or five days after they are confirmed to be positive if they are not experiencing symptoms.

Additionally, the January 9 MCPS message said that all in-person extracurricular activities will be able to return on January 18, and all participants must submit a rapid test result by January 14. The letter also addressed the bus driver shortage caused by Covid-19, stating that there will be updates every evening and additions in the morning about affected routes.

Prince George's County Public Schools moved to online school on December 20 and returned to in-person school on January 14. In recent weeks, other major school districts across the United States have announced temporary stoppages of in-person school. In Chicago, the school district ended a standoff last week

with teachers after they voted through their union not to return in-person until more safety measures are put in place to protect staff and students.

Originally on January 4, MCPS announced that the following schools will return to virtual learning for at least two weeks because of high transmission rates: Rock Terrace School, Cannon Road ES, North Chevy Chase ES, Hallie Wells ES, Monocacy ES, Forest Knolls ES, Waters Landing ES, Rosemont ES, Sherwood ES, Roberte Clemente MS, and Seneca Valley HS. Principals reportedly have been directed by MCPS Central Office to create class schedules for virtual instruction in preparation for more school closures. Despite the 5-percent protocol being dropped, these 11 schools stayed virtual until January 18, "out of recognition that many families have made plans based on the information provided."

The Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA) that represents teachers has made it clear that it feels that MCPS is unprepared for in-person classes with the protocols currently in place. The MCEA wants more protection such as an appropriate supply of KN-95 masks for both staff and students, more opportunities for testing, and more accurate and clear information regarding case numbers and shortages. Interim Superintendent Monifa McKnight of MCPS apologized in the January 9 message for lack of clear communication and said that she is in quarantine after testing positive for Covid-19.

All Sherwood students and staff received a box with two at-home rapid tests on January 7 with the request to take both tests three days apart and report results to the school. Since January 10, Montgomery County Public Libraries have been providing at-home rapid testing kits to county residents. There have been long lines of cars as well as people standing outside in the cold all over the county waiting for tests. Getting a test is a first come first serve situation and many libraries have run out of tests each day. The libraries don't want people with Covid-19 symptoms to come into the library to get a test, and instead they are recommending that people with symptoms get a PCR test.

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Gender Gap Persists in Advanced Classes

by Apurva Mahajan '22

Despite Sherwood's efforts at promoting gender equality in academic subject areas, the percentages of boys and girls often significantly varies in upper-level STEM and humanities courses.

These courses are different from others as students choose to be in these classes out of their own volition as upperclassmen, and they are usually not required to take them. Overall, there are more boys enrolled in STEM classes, while there are more girls in humanities.

In a Warrior survey of 120 students in higher-level courses, opinions are mixed on whether the number of enrollment per gender affects experiences. According to one surveyed student, "I feel like there is definitely a disproportionate lack of girls in higher level STEM classes, especially engineering. These disparities certainly contribute to the atmospheres of the classes and Engineering clubs."

An AP Computer Science student notes that she's treated differently by others. "I've had male peers explain basic math to me, completely unprompted, or dismiss my ideas more quickly than they would the other guys. It's frustrating to be treated like I don't deserve to be there as much as everyone else just because I'm female," she wrote.

Contrarily, some students didn't feel that gender affected their education but that it was other factors. "I believe that there's no discrimination on the basis of sex but there is judgment if you don't know how to answer a type of problem or solution," said an Engineering Design and Development (EDD) student. Another EED student commented on the

Class	Total	Girls	Boys
AP Lit	145	103	42
AP Psych	154	79	75
AP Comp Gov	33	23	10
AP Human Geo	23	15	8
BC Calc	56	26	30
Civil Engineering	31	10	21
Aerospace Engineering	21	4	17
EDD	43	13	30
AP Comp Sci	58	19	39
AP Javascript	28	6	22
AP Chem	46	22	24
AP Physics	27	7	20

Semester one data from SIMS Filemaker shows disparities between boys and girls in upper level courses taken by Sherwood students.

survey, "It's rarely mentioned. No one seems to care out loud."

Although boys outnumber girls in STEM courses, girls make up the majority of students in higher-level English and social studies. "There are definitely way more girls in my [AP Literature] class, and there are always more girls in my higher level English classes, but I don't think the boys feel excluded or anything. There are just less of them," said one student.

The Engineering Department provides career resources, opportunities to students, and often

boasts an equal learning environment. Although in entry-level engineering classes the proportion of girls and boys is pretty even, the percentage of girls in the highest level course is only 30 percent. The engineering teachers talk to the girls in these courses about jobs and scholarships in the field, according to technology resource teacher Jason Daigle. "There are a lot of programs out there, such as the Women in Tech mentorship program," said Daigle. "We know that when you have a more diverse group of people, you have a more diverse group of thoughts."

Sub Shortage Impacts Classes From Shortage, Cover

10-12, an average of 13 teaching staff were absent per day according to the staff's 'Daily Bulletin' and on average, more than six of those absent teachers did not have a substitute for their classes. Fifteen teachers were absent on January 12, with 10 of them having no assigned sub to cover their classes. In such circumstances, other Sherwood teachers in one of their "off-periods" have to cover the classes of absent teachers.

Full-time high school teachers teach five periods a day, with two periods allotted to them for planning and grading. However, science teacher Glenn Miller, who is an at-large director for the Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA), explains that MCPS can legally ask teachers to give up one of those planning periods in order to cover a class for a missing teacher in lieu of a sub.

"Any time that is taken away from planning and grading to cover classes, it cuts into the time that we have for students, makes us less available. If we don't have that time, then we don't have the ability to support the students like we should," Miller said.

The lack of substitutes pre-dates the current surge in Covid-19 cases. At Sherwood in the prior week before the Thanksgiving holiday and at a time when the world did not even know about the Omicron variant, 45 teachers were absent on one or more days, school secretary Caitlin Ring said, and of those 45, 17 did not have subs, meaning that other teachers had to cover those gaps. The lack of substitutes significantly can be attributed to Covid-19, but not only in the ways most would expect.

Anatomy teacher Janet Frensilli explained that MCPS regulations mandate that in order for a substitute teacher to remain as part of the "system" (available to teach), they are required to cover at least four days a year. However, since all learning was virtual in 2020, the need for subs was negligible, yet MCPS did not remove the requirement, meaning that an enormous number of subs were removed from the system and then sought employment in other counties.

So far, MCPS has not been forthcoming about the plan to supplement the insufficient number of substitutes currently in the system. In a press conference on January 4, Interim District Superintendent Monifa McKnight emphasized the need to continue in-person learning, but did not answer any questions beyond what has already been stated, that "MCPS was making an effort to continue in-person instruction with no interruptions." McKnight declined to answer questions pertaining to the specifics for MCPS' plan to hire more subs or ease the burden on teachers who are having to cover classes. The MCEA, the union that represents the county's teachers, formally has stated that it has "no confidence" in the Board of Education or in McKnight to address the staff shortage.

With in-person instruction continuing, schools are continuing to make do with the staff available in the building each day. "Sherwood has handled this very well," Frensilli said. "The lack of teachers causes problems ... but the administration is doing the best they can. It isn't an ideal situation, but things will get better. It will take time."

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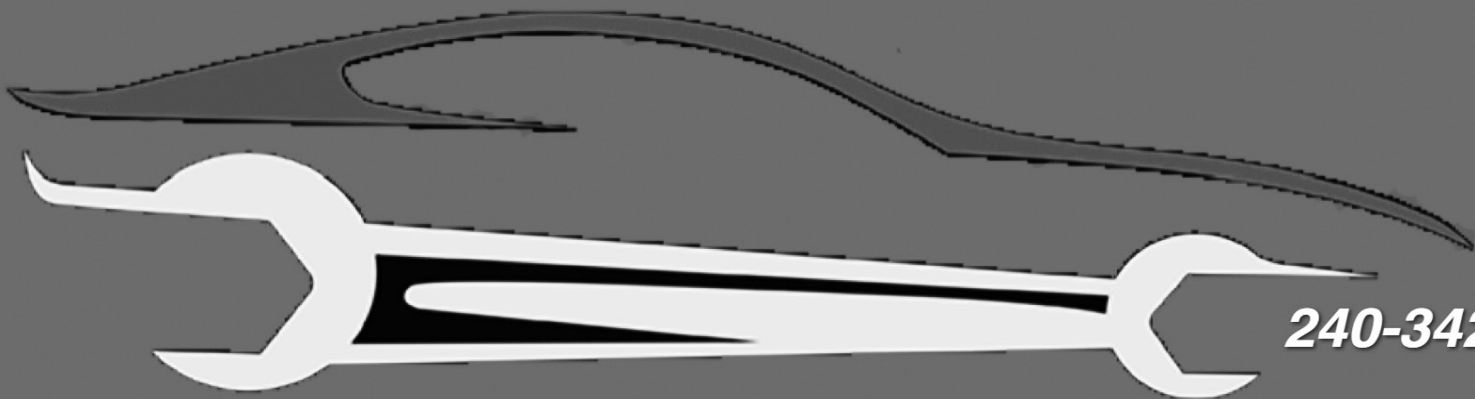
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Conservative Groups Continue Efforts To Ban Celebrated Books in Schools

by Daisia Smith '22

Many students can attest that fictional books helped them as children and young adults learn things about themselves and their world that they never had the personal experience to understand on their own. However, efforts to censor what students may access and read has intensified in recent months. Across the country, parents and even some school board members have voiced their opinions that books that show or discuss human sexuality, black liberation and anything that is broadly viewed as having “progressive” messages should not be allowed in school libraries and curriculums. Along with activist parents demanding the censorship of materials, state legislators and even governors in conservative states are taking measures to make sure the books that are accessible to children are what they deem as ‘appropriate’.

Although banning books is controversial, courts have ruled that officials should take their communities’ standards into consideration to decide whether books are ‘too obscene.’ In 1975 Island Trees Union Free School District fought to ban 11 books for being “anti-American, anti-Christian, anti-Semitic and just plain filthy,” and the resulting controversy gained enough traction that pushed the case all the way to the Supreme Court. In *Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District v. Pico (1982)*, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that public schools can bar books that are ‘pervasively vulgar’ or otherwise not appropriate for the curriculum, but they cannot remove books just because they are disliked.

Last November, the Spotsylvania County School Board in Virginia made national news when it voted 6-0 to remove books

2021 Banned Books

- 1) *George* by Alex Gino
- 2) *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds
- 3) *All American Boys* by Brendan Kiely and Jason Reynolds*
- 4) *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson*
- 5) *The Absolutely True Diary of A Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie*
- 6) *Something Happened in Our Town: A Child’s Story about Racial Injustice* by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard
- 7) *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee*
- 8) *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck*
- 9) *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison
- 10) *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas*

*** Currently or recently taught at Sherwood**

compiled by American Library Association

deemed inappropriate, and two of the members controversially called for burning books. The action came after a complaint from the parents of just one student. A student who identified as part of the LGBTQ+ community spoke at a school board meeting and argued that, “[Students] use books to see, to connect to people like [them], to see other viewpoints, to teach [them] how to feel about others, to teach us how to see others’ points of view. But, you are trying to take that away.”

Increasingly, conservatives

are not only attacking books for their supposed “vulgarity” but because of political and cultural differences. The national organization Moms For Liberty (MFL), with local chapters in more than 30 states, states that its mission is to fight for the rights of parents and protect children. The group’s far-right efforts include banning books. In Williamson County, Tennessee, MFL filed an 11-page complaint with the state about the books being taught to second grade students. The books that MFL want removed include *Mar-*

tin Luther King JR and the March on Washington and *Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story* that the group claims would make children “hate their country, each other and/or themselves.” Such books about racial justice and equality “imply to second grade children that people of color continue to be oppressed by oppressive angry, vicious, scary, mean, loud, violent, rude, and hateful white population,” according to MFL’s complaint.

It is not only far-right activist groups that have tried to ban

books from schools. A member of the Texas state legislature and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott have competed with each other to identify hundreds of books to remove from school curriculum and shelves. In a letter to multiple school districts across Texas, Republican Matt Krause of the Texas House of Representative claims that his goal is to remove books that could, “make students feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress,” and focuses on removing books that he states follow “leftist ideologies” including LGBTQ+ stories, abortion and critical race theory by investigating what is accessible to these children in their libraries.

Krause’s move led a large school district in the San Antonio area to investigate 414 books deemed ‘inappropriate’ and contemplated pulling these books from libraries. As parents and students voiced their concerns and outrage, North East ISD’s Superintendent, Sean Maika, stated that the school district would not be banning books and that the review was not politically motivated.

Amanda Jennings, a senior at Reagan High School in the district, found Maika’s claim improbable. “Although you may say this is not a politically driven act, it is. This letter was written by a politician. The books were chosen and listed by a politician,” she said at a December board meeting, as reported by The San Antonio Report. “It is clear that the explicit content reasoning for pulling these books is a scapegoat to cover the discrimination occurring. Kids need to feel represented by the books that their schools provide, and those who don’t know about minority groups should have access to these books to learn.”

MCPS Has Eased Attendance Policy for Students

by Bryan Kim '23

As students and teachers have adjusted to in-person learning during an unpredictable pandemic, unexcused absences and tardiness has been an issue. Procedures such as hall sweeps were briefly introduced in November to address the problem.

However, because of the pandemic and following virtual learning for most of last year, many attendance policies used in past school years to monitor absences and tardiness are no longer in place.

For students who are excessively absent or tardy, the administration and counseling team create a plan to possibly conduct a home visit, set up a Zoom call or phone call, and send a letter home. An attendance plan will then be put in place for those students, such as check-ins by the counselor to see if students are attending school.

“As a county and school, we still make contact with the family, conduct home visits if necessary, and send letters,” said Principal Tim Britton. “However, the let-

ters are not punitive but more about trying to make contact and check for personal health.”

Certain circumstances will require different approaches to solve the issue. “Sometimes it’s about transportation and we work with the county to see if we can support transportation for the student. If the student is still unable or unwilling to attend, then we look into alternative school placements outside of Sherwood,” explained Britton.

Attendance is taken by teachers and recorded in Synergy. This data can be seen by parents through ParentVue, the parent portal. When a student is marked absent, an automated ConnectEd call alerts the parent/guardian that the student is absent. This allows for quick intervention and escalation if needed.

Prior to the pandemic, Sherwood and high schools throughout MCPS would automatically generate letters to parents if their child has three and then five unexcused absences. Britton stated that the county has eased its attendance policies due to students and/or family members becoming

infected with Covid-19 or having other illnesses or emergencies arise.

Furthermore, in past school years, MCPS had a policy that permitted schools to give a student an E3, a failing semester grade, to students who had more than five unexcused absences and who didn’t follow an intervention contract with the school.

Now, this is no longer in effect; however, students conceivably may still fail courses if they are not attending because of missing work and assignments. In order for an absence to be considered excused, a written explanation must be submitted by either an eligible student or parent/guardian. Eligible students are defined by students who have reached the age of 18.

Although Sherwood has only conducted one hall sweep since November 10, sweeps will resume after the break, according to Britton. “It’s everyone’s responsibility from the teacher, attendance secretary, counselor, admin, and pupil personnel worker,” stated Britton about keeping students in the classroom.

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January 20, 2022

Dear readers,

Thanks for picking up this issue of The Warrior. Once again, the newspaper staff has worked hard to produce what you are now holding, and the support from teachers, peers, and the community means so much. This edition has more pages than November's, meaning more content: student art, an advice column, a crossword, and more. With a completely new print staff this year, I can't help but reflect on how far we have come with The Warrior. We are learning more and more with each print issue that comes out, and I can't wait for you all to read it.

Thanks for reading,
Tori Newby
Editor-in-Chief

STAFF

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The Warrior serves as Sherwood's primary news source, receiving numerous state and national honors over the 44 years it has been in circulation. With a staff of over 50 students under the guidance of Peter Huck, The Warrior keeps the Sherwood community informed about local and national events. All opinion articles represent the viewpoint of the writer, and the unsigned staff editorial solely reflects the opinions of the newspaper staff.

staff editorial

In Our Opinion...

Are adequate safety precautions in place?

What are the health risks of Omicron?

Should MCPS have gone virtual?

MCPS Made the Right Decision

With the Omicron variant of Covid-19 emerging recently and spiking in cases over winter break, MCPS has been forced to make difficult and often controversial decisions. Although there were significant failures in how MCPS communicated to teachers, students, and parents, the best option is to keep schools open in-person unless a lack of staff necessitates schools to close for a week or two until there is again a sufficient number of teachers in their classrooms.

Originally, MCPS decided that if 5-percent of a school's population tested positive for Covid-19, then the school would be evaluated and likely transition to virtual education for 14 days. This 5-percent threshold, which originally was advertised as indicative of a necessary closure, has been abandoned after receiving community backlash, new guidance from the Maryland Department of Health, and the majority of schools going over this mark. Instead, the county plans to analyze each school on a case by case basis to decide about closures.

For the 5-percent threshold, MCPS used a color system in which red indicated over 5-percent, yellow indicated between 3- and 5-percent, and green indicated under 3-percent. As red typically implies stop, this system caused panic, leading the community to assume a school would

close immediately upon reaching the threshold. Despite MCPS' communication blunders, their decision to eliminate the 5-percent rule was appropriate.

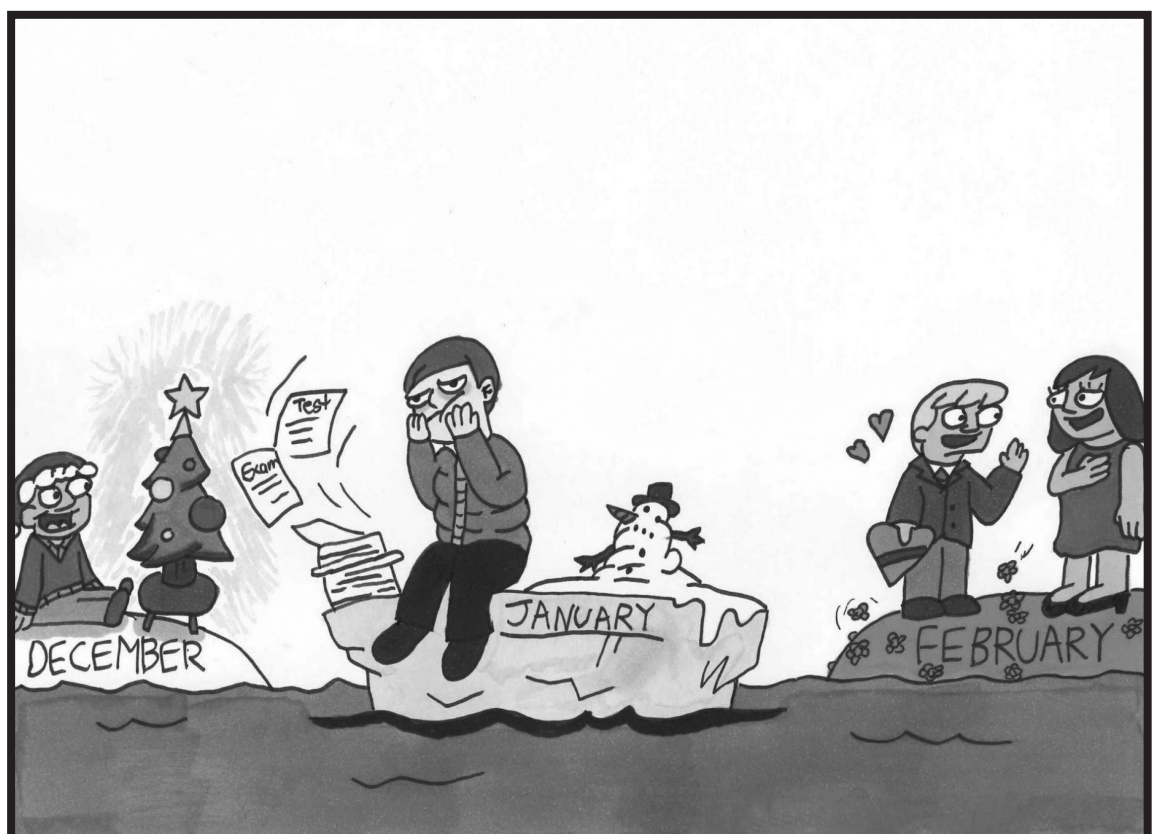
A primary reason for a shift to online school would be a shortage of teachers, bus drivers, and other staff. However, the percentage of the student body with Covid-19 is less impactful, as these students are staying home and learning asynchronously. The CDC has also stated that a temporary closure is unlikely to have a significant impact on the spread of Covid-19. As many recent studies indicate that the Omicron variant is extremely contagious but does not have severe symptoms for vaccinated and boosted children and adolescents, the most effective strategy for addressing this current spread is to let it run its course.

Of course, it is vital to recognize that there is danger to immuno-compromised students, elderly staff, and at-risk relatives of staff and students, but temporarily closing school is not going to protect these groups when the transmission is as great in the community as in the schools. It is necessary to continue promoting the use of vaccines, boosters, social distancing, masks, and other Covid-conscious practices to ensure the health of those vulnerable to Omicron.

Instead of shutting down

schools, MCPS needs to put in more effort to decrease the spread of the virus. With the recent changes to the CDC's guidelines on quarantining, many students have expressed confusion about how long to quarantine. Should they quarantine for 10 days after they test positive, 10 days after their symptoms start, or five days? MCPS needs to make its expectations clear, release guidelines for quarantining, and advertise them to every school in the country so there is no confusion or excuse for students to return to school and further spread the virus before their proper quarantining period has ended.

The county's recent distribution of rapid tests for students and staff to test themselves at home, the requirement of a negative test to return to extracurricular activities, and the promise of providing more effective masks are steps in the right direction, but these simple measures are not enough. Not only encouraging students to get vaccinated, but requiring vaccines for extracurricular activities in addition to sports is a way the county can continue fighting Omicron. Despite the ongoing spike of Covid-19, the detriments of prolonged school closures outweigh the benefits, and the ideal strategy for MCPS at this point is to maintain their current decision and continue efforts to stop the virus' spread.



by Nicholas Schade '23

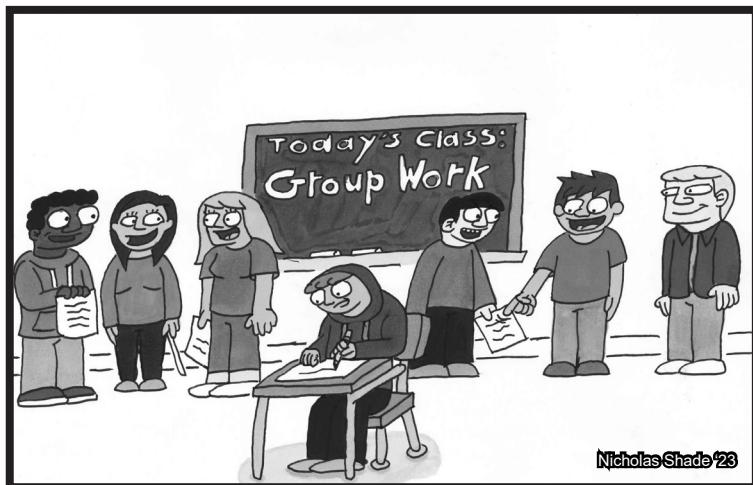
Schools Continue To Fail Introverts

by Anna Haas '23

Pods of desks, group projects, a spot on report cards that grade for class participation. All of these and more are ways that schools alter their structures in ways that benefit extroverts. MCPS has even been pushing to get away from lecture-style teaching and teacher-led instruction in favor of groups, projects, and Socratic seminars. Extroverts reading this are likely jumping for joy at the prospect, but introverts reading this are feeling their social battery draining just thinking about this new learning model.

Contrary to popular belief, introversion and shyness are not the same thing, and it is imperative that people understand this. Shyness is more a fear of social judgment, while introversion is when a person prefers to be in quieter and more solitary environments. Extroverts, on the other hand, prefer to be around lots of people and in situations that offer high stimulation. These differences are important to know in order to understand the repercussions that an extrovert-built environment has on introverts.

As an introvert myself, I have seen the ways schools tailor themselves to fit extroverts throughout my school career. Most often, classes group desks together, so students can work with at least one other person, but usually more. At Sherwood, pods of desks and group work are very common. Now, I'm not saying that schools should do away with grouped desks or group work. It is always beneficial to bounce ideas back and forth and work with other



people. However, these extensive practices should be dialed back. Routinely forcing introverts out of their comfort zone is not beneficial to them or society. Again, I'm not suggesting that people should never be put in uncomfortable situations; they are how we grow. But schools cannot force introverts to be more extroverted. The world needs the balance of introverts and extroverts because each side brings a different kind of creativity that will benefit society. Introverts do need practice being in social situations, but what is often overlooked is that extroverts also need practice being in solitary situations.

A third to a half of the population are introverts. That is one out of every two or three people you know. So, if there are so many introverts, why do schools favor extroverts in their teaching styles? Susan Cain, author of "Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking," explained in her TED talk that society entered the "culture of personality" in the 20th century when it became more necessary to be outgoing and charismatic due to the transition from

an agricultural economy to big business. After this transition, people began to forget the importance of thoughtful solitude and began seeing energetic extroverts as the ideal personality type. This belief bled into schools and workplaces, leading to what we now see all the time as students: introverts being left behind and overlooked.

The extrovert-tailored style of teaching does nothing to help anyone on either side of the introvert-extrovert spectrum. Most colleges teach in a largely lecture style. Therefore, the constant group work from elementary to high school does little to truly prepare students for college, particularly extroverts. They will have had no practice dealing with how to learn in a solitary environment and will likely struggle, all because an extroverted style of learning was seen as the ideal.

Schools must realize that teaching in ways that tailor to extroverts is not really benefiting anyone. Extroverts and introverts alike will struggle at one point or another if the teaching styles do not change.

The Developing World Needs Help Fighting Climate Change

by Reade Fenner '22

Following the end of the two-week COP26 United Nations climate summit held in Glasgow, Scotland, many countries made agreements in an effort to reduce the impact of climate change. The UN resolved to continue putting pressure on developed nations to cut their emissions and the resolution urged countries around the world to phase out fossil fuels. However, developing countries will continue to suffer at the hands of climate change, unable to fend for themselves in a world impacted by environmental tragedies they did not cause. A pitiful compromise was made at the summit called the "Glasgow dialogue" stating that developed countries and developing nations will begin to discuss the damages caused by climate change in the near future.

Another disappointment for developing nations was the broken \$100 billion promise from developed countries. Twelve years ago at a climate summit in Copenhagen, many rich nations agreed to provide developing nations with annual funds adding up to \$100 billion by 2020. This promise has fallen short, with the annual funding at only \$80 billion in 2019 and most of this coming in the form of loans, which developing countries cannot afford to pay off.

Developed nations must take responsibility for their historical role in global warming and help fund developing countries in their battles against climate change. During the Industrial Revolution,

rich countries such as the U.K. and the United States started emitting carbon dioxide, and therefore introduced the threat of climate change. Rich Western countries have had decades to benefit from carbon emissions and now refuse to acknowledge the damage they have caused and continue to cause. Some of the nations currently contributing most to climate change include the U.S., Canada, Australia, and South Korea, highly developed countries who have been polluting for far longer than developing ones.

Less developed countries are also the nations most impacted by climate change because they must battle hotter temperatures, since most are close to the equator. Facing droughts, forced displacement as a result of rising seas levels, increases in devastating natural disasters, heat waves, and wildfires, developing nations carry the burden of developed nations' carbon emissions. People in Kenya are starving because they cannot grow food due to a disastrous drought, while people in Haiti are pummeled year after year by catastrophic hurricanes.

Rich nations need to take responsibility for the climate crisis they began and help developing countries facing the worse impacts to fight it, as they do not have the infrastructure or resources to do so themselves. "It is unjust and it is immoral," said Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley about developed countries' refusal to provide sufficient funding at the COP26 summit. "It is wrong."



Black Men Wrongly Convicted

by Tatiana Rodriguez '23

According to the Innocence Project, an organization working to put an end to wrongful convictions, a black person is "seven times more likely to be wrongfully convicted of murder." Even worse, it is often years before it's found that a person has been put in prison for a crime that he didn't commit. Recently, a black man, Kevin Strickland, was released from prison after 43 years. On the basis of false testimony in the original trial, Strickland was originally convicted of murdering three people in 1979 in Kansas City, Missouri. Attorney Peter Bakers reviewed Strickland's case and used a new law in Kansas which allowed local prosecutors to challenge a conviction when they think that the defendant did not commit the crime.

Strickland's case is one of numerous recent examples that show that the wrongful conviction of black men continues to be normalized and reveal America's overwhelming tendency towards racial profiling, even when it risks someone's freedom. The bare minimum is to provide compensation for everyone who suffered from wrongful convictions. However, no compensation will ever be enough, so the real solution is for the justice system to be fixed by enacting laws that promise a diversified jury, as well as taking forceful action against police and prosecutors who knowingly relied on unsubstantiated and even false evidence to win convictions.

Guns Are a Responsibility

by Sydney Wiser '23

As the legal case continues against the parents of the Oxford High School shooter, James and Jennifer Crumbley, even more disturbing evidence has come out about their inattention to his life and mental health needs. However, at the root of the issue is the fact that they bought their adolescent teen a gun and kept it in an unlocked drawer. The prosecutor was initially questioned for taking the rare action of charging the parents of a school shooter. It's clear though that parents who are irresponsible with their firearms need to face consequences.

The United States is a country where citizens have the right to own a firearm but with that right comes an immense responsibility, especially for parents. The Oxford High School shooting is an extreme case but any irresponsible mistakes a parent makes with a gun could have fatal consequences. According to the Gun Violence Archive, more than 1,500 minors were killed in homicides and accidental shootings in 2021 alone. Many of these cases result from unsecured handguns being obtained by children and teens. Parents and other adults with children in their lives have the responsibility to not only know everything they can about the gun they own but also to keep it locked away in a place that is not easy to access. If something goes wrong with the gun they've purchased, they should face the consequences.

Swim and Dive Deserve Better

by Peyton Blumenfeld '22

Over these past two years winter sports have gotten the short end of the stick, especially the swim and dive team. In 2020, there was no season at all, and this year, meets are either getting canceled or there are no spectators allowed.

New MCPS Covid-19 protocols following the spike in cases over the break have made it so that if there are three or more cases of Covid-19 on a winter sports team, then that sport will be canceled for two weeks. This is unfair because other winter sports such as basketball have significantly fewer members than the swim and dive team, which has about 50 student-athletes on the team. The probability of three people getting Covid-19 out of 50 is much higher than three people getting it out of 15. And if they cancel swimming and diving, it's not just one team that gets the boot. It includes the girls and boys swim team, and the girls and boys dive team, which are four whole separate teams.

To make this system more fair, the threshold for canceling the sport should be based on the percentage of students who have tested positive, not the number of cases. The swim and dive team has already had to cancel one of their meets due to the number of Covid-19 cases. Granted, it is rescheduled at the end of the season but who knows how many cases the team will have by that point.

January 20, 2022

Hero Is Attacked for Saving American Lives

by Marissa Harris '22

“The unseemly things that crises bring out in the world; it brings out the best of people and the worst of people, and getting death threats to my family and harassing my daughters to the point where I have to get security - it’s amazing.” The person who shared this bewilderment is Dr. Anthony Fauci, the current Chief Medical Advisor to the President and director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAD). He dedicated not only the last two years but his entire professional career over five decades to saving the lives of Americans. For that, people threaten to kill him. This fact is one of the most troubling examples of how the country has responded to the pandemic.

Fauci has worked tirelessly for years, including during the 1980s AIDS crisis, but has been in the spotlight since the beginning of Covid-19. The pandemic has become increasingly politicized over time. Individuals have claimed that wearing masks is an infringement on their rights when masks are simply meant to stop virus particles from spreading. FOX News and alt-right news outlets have continuously villainized Fauci and his efforts to stop the spread of the virus.

During his presidency, Donald Trump constantly made fun of Fauci and claimed Fauci was always wrong. In October 2020, Trump attacked Fauci on a phone call and referred to him as a “disaster.” Trump also stated that he



would do “pretty much the opposite” of Fauci. As vaccines were being rolled out, Trump never endorsed getting vaccinated and stayed silent as many of his followers refused to get the shot.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis more recently has bashed Fauci and started spreading the motto “Don’t Fauci My Florida,” even going so far as to sell merchandise with the phrase. Over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, Florida has been one of the states with the most cases. The New York Times reports that so far there have been over 62,000 Covid-19 related deaths in Florida. Yet still, DeSantis is encouraging Floridians to disregard Fauci’s advice, thereby endangering them.

Fauci has also been targeted for allegedly “scaring” the country when he is being realistic and telling people the truth even if that is not what they may not want to hear. His words are meant to give instructions and

advice on what people should do to protect themselves. The bottom line is he is a scientist and follows the data.

Fauci is extremely qualified and has been awarded for his work. In February, he was awarded the Dan David Prize for Public Health. In 2005, he received the National Medal of Science for his scientific accomplishments. He earned the highly respected Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2008.

Fauci, who just celebrated his 81st birthday, gets a few hours of sleep each night and spends his waking hours trying to help the world to the best of his ability. He has 18-hour workdays. To unwind, Fauci and his wife go for power walks. “Then I either do more press or do emails until I’m so tired I can’t do it anymore,” said Fauci. Yet, he receives death threats every day. It is time to listen to Fauci. Wear the masks, get vaccinated, and get a booster.

The Right To Choose Must Be Protected

by Sydney Wiser '23

On December 1, the Supreme Court began hearing arguments for *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, a Mississippi case that could determine the future of abortion in this country. The case directly challenges *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that protects the right to choose whether or not to have an abortion under the Fourteenth Amendment’s due process clause. *Roe v. Wade* has been contested but had enough Supreme Court support to be upheld. Now however, with a 6-3 conservative majority in the court, *Roe v. Wade* and the future of reproductive rights in this country are being threatened.

Abortion has become a deeply divisive issue between anti-abortion and pro-choice activists. Many do not fully understand what it means to be pro-choice and prefer to disengage from the issue, but this isn’t an issue that you can be disengaged from. What must be understood about being pro-choice is that it goes beyond supporting a reproductive procedure. It represents a larger issue of inequality between those who can become pregnant and those who cannot. When a government restricts a child bearing person’s ability to make choices about their own body, it puts that person’s future at a disadvantage.

As identified in the original decision of *Roe v. Wade*, preg-

nancy takes a toll on the physical and emotional wellbeing of a child bearing person. The decision also acknowledges that raising a child may result in a “distressful life and future” for the parent. For those who have support and are ready to become a parent, this is a choice they’re willing to make, but for those who aren’t, abortion should be an option. Limiting or completely banning this option shows how little the country values their child bearing citizens.

In the first *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* hearing, Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett questions if the forced burden of premature parenthood can be addressed by the existence of safe haven laws in all 50 states. Safe haven laws allow those who’ve just given birth to voluntarily give their baby up in safe locations like hospitals and law enforcement offices. While Barrett is correct that safe haven laws are an option for those who’ve made the choice to continue with their pregnancy, they do nothing for the category of people who don’t want to be pregnant.

Every person who chooses to have an abortion has their own reason for doing so. Those who earn low incomes have difficulty managing the financial burdens of raising a child. People who work jobs that require them to be on their feet all day, as most service related jobs do, have difficulty meeting the

physical demands of the job while pregnant. Minors, who aren’t even old enough to vote, are forced to prioritize carrying and raising a child over their studies and social lives. For those in abusive relationships, it’s more difficult to leave once they become pregnant. This can lead to a cycle of abuse for the child. Transgender men and nonbinary people risk violence or abuse by outing themselves with a pregnancy. While these vulnerable populations must be advocated for, everyone has a unique situation that must be respected and validates their right to choose.

Restricting abortions and passing judgment on those who choose to have them, does nothing to stop them. Before *Roe v. Wade*, abortions were dangerous and illegal. They were either conducted by doctors who had no accountability since they weren’t legally allowed to be performing abortions in the first place or self-attempted, resulting in serious injuries or even death. Abortions don’t go away when they’re made illegal, they simply become unsafe.

A person’s beliefs about abortion shouldn’t factor into policy-making about choice. If someone with a uterus does not want to have an abortion, they have the choice not to and if someone without a uterus doesn’t support abortion, they’re fortunate enough that they’ll never have to make that decision about their body.



Shakespeare in School

Each year, Sherwood students are required to study the many works of William Shakespeare. From *Romeo and Juliet* to *Hamlet*, the majority of advanced English classes devote a month or more of the school year to teaching and analyzing his plays. But why? What makes Shakespeare’s writing so important that it is being taught 400 years after it was written? Some say it’s the peak of English literature, while others argue it is outdated and overrated.

PRO

The Play’s The Thing

by Peyton Blumenfeld '22

Now I know that many students groan when they hear the name “Shakespeare,” but hear me out. Shakespeare’s a pretty cool dude. Ever heard of “love is blind” or “in a pickle?” Chances are you have, and believe it or not, you probably know more Shakespeare than you think. The titan of English literature coined thousands of words that we still use in the English language today.

Shakespeare may be difficult to understand, but shouldn’t we challenge ourselves? We ease our way into Shakespeare by starting off with the comedies in middle school, and then tackle his more complex tragedies in high school. This allows us to grow as readers and increase our capacity of understanding other literary works, because if you can read Shakespeare you can pretty much read anything. And if you look past the difficulty, you will realize that Shakespeare was a poetic genius who was able to capture the true feelings and thoughts of human beings like no other individual could. We are still able to relate to his characters, even after 400 years.

We’re exposed to his stories from such a young age anyways, from the countless adaptations and movies inspired by his work like *The Lion King* and *10 Things I Hate About You*. His complex characters and intricate plots and themes are universal and will continue to stand the test of time. Plus, the best way to understand his plays is the way they were intended—to watch them. We must not forget that his works were essentially for entertainment. Instead of complaining about the complexity of the play, we should step back and revel in its narrative, characters, and complex themes through the art of reading and watching them to get the full experience.

Shakespeare may be long gone, but his works will live on forever in the hearts of people around the world. We continue to put on his plays, share his poems, and value the truths he has brought to us, because frankly we owe it to him to carry on his legacy.

CON

Something Is Rotten in the State of Shakespeare

by Avery Prudenti '22

I have been assigned a Shakespeare play every year since 7th grade with the exception of junior year during virtual learning. Yet this year as a senior in AP Lit it is the first time that I believe I have truly comprehended the themes, characters, and plots of a play. Shakespeare is a complicated writer and the language in these plays is extremely difficult to understand. Unless teachers truly spend the time explaining the scenes one-by-one—which many don’t—a majority of students will not have much or any understanding of Shakespeare’s work.

Plays by Shakespeare should be something that is only taught to upperclassmen, to those who have a better ability to comprehend the language. Then students have the opportunity of actually learning from them, as opposed to teachers teaching it to an entire class that has no grasp on what is going on. Also, teaching Shakespeare only in students’ junior or senior years will reduce the repetition of being assigned multiple plays by him.

Let’s face it—the plays aren’t that amazing. Sure, they may have universal themes, but the characters, plots, and delivery often are no longer relevant. Just because something is old, does not mean that it is superior to modern creations. There are many present-day works that contain more complex characters and plot lines that have the ability to teach students more than these plays written 400 years ago.

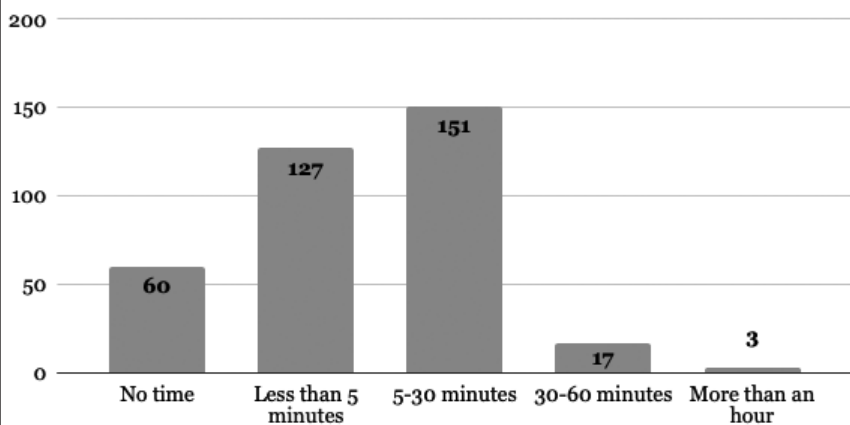
In middle school, there was no appeal of reading *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in 7th grade and *As You Like It* in 8th grade. And it wasn’t much better when we got to *Romeo and Juliet* and *Julius Caesar*. Now as a senior, I can comprehend the plays much more and do relatively enjoy watching *Hamlet* with the captions on. The issue is that it took seven years for me to get to this point. Most underclassmen will not become engrossed in a play by Shakespeare like they may with more contemporary works. It’s time to stop assigning Shakespeare year after year in English classes.

January 20, 2022

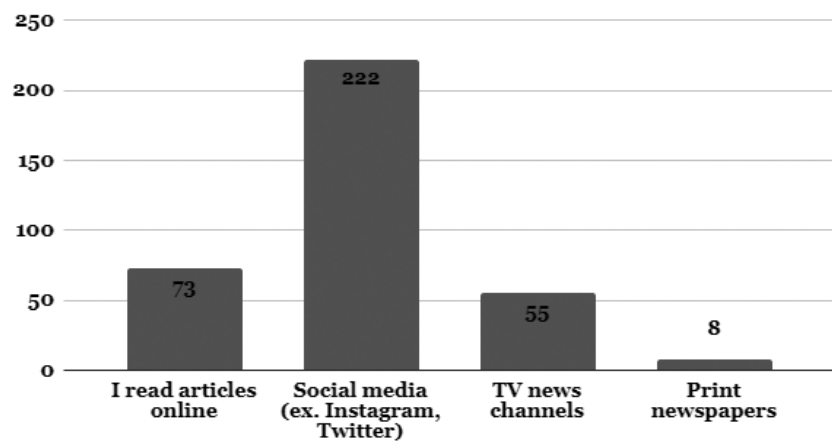
The Pulse

Returning again for The Warrior's first issue of 2022 is The Pulse, a section of Opinions dedicated to surveying the Sherwood student population. With the rise of social media, misinformation has become a major issue and made it difficult to know which news sources to trust. This edition of The Pulse focuses on Sherwood students' knowledge of current events and the quality of their news sources.

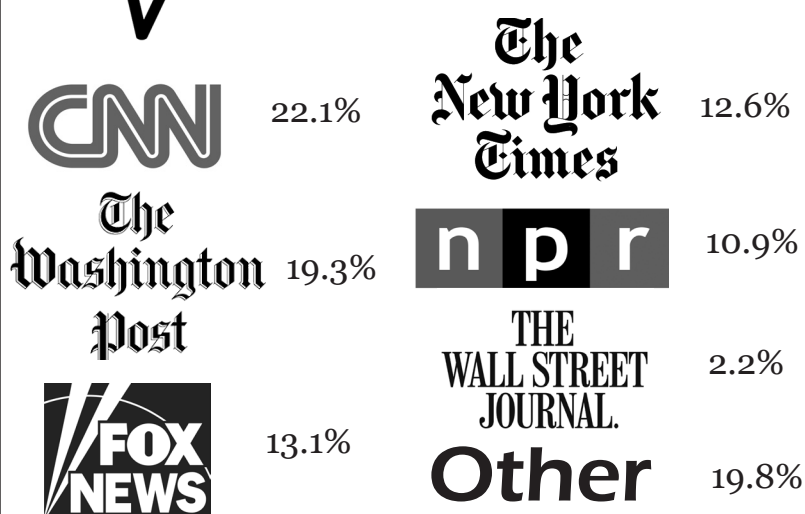
How much time do you spend reading or watching the news each day?



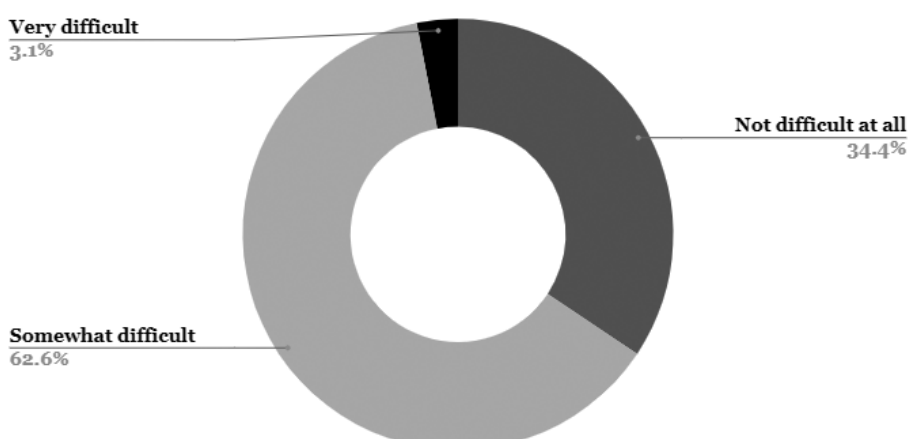
Where do you get the majority of your news?



Which source would you choose?

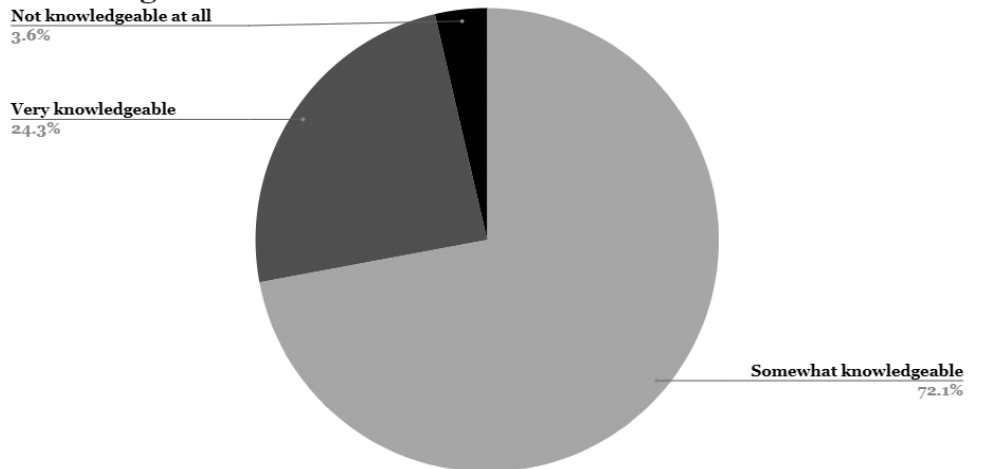


How difficult do you find it to distinguish between trustworthy and unreliable sources?

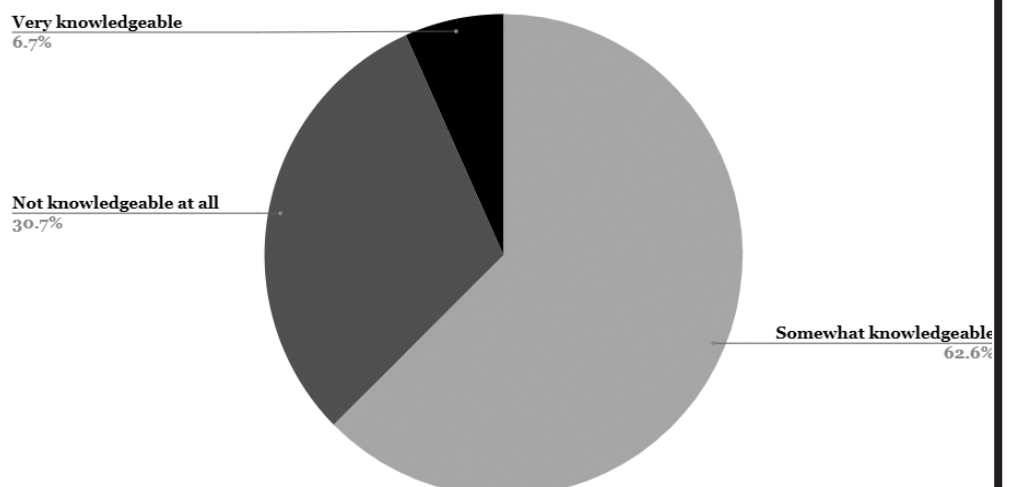


Knowledge of Current Events

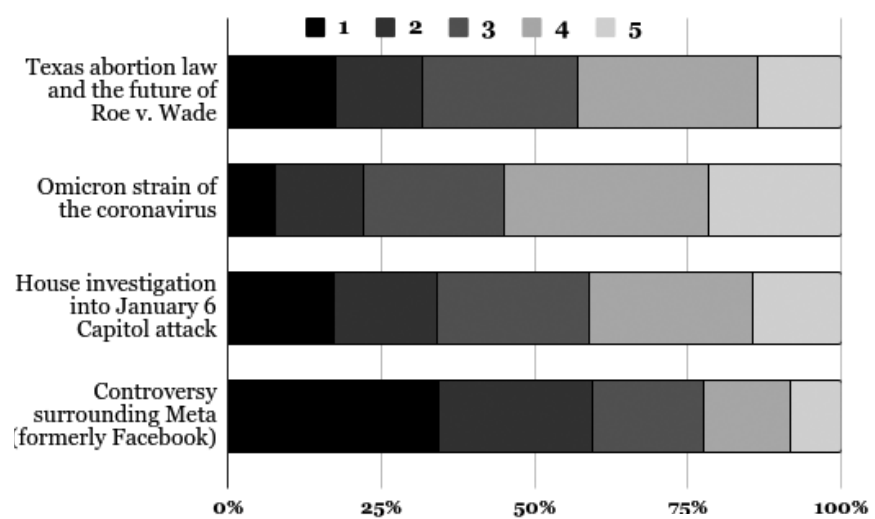
How knowledgeable do you consider yourself about events occurring in the United States?



How knowledgeable do you consider yourself about events occurring internationally?

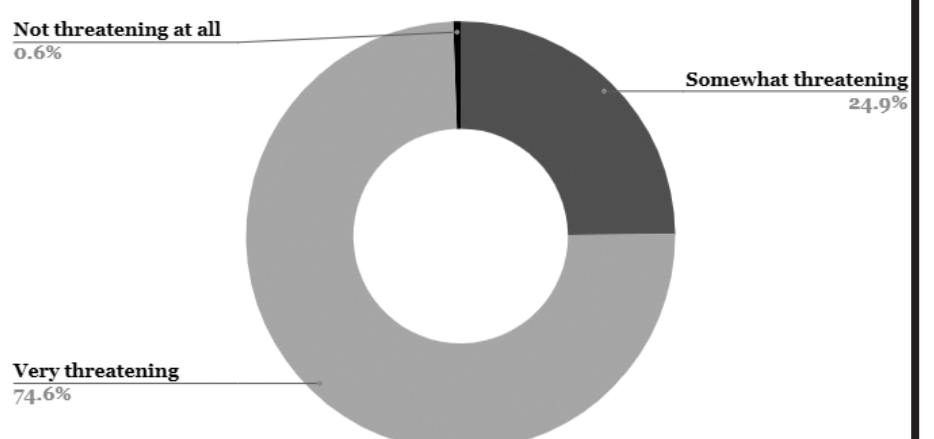


Level of Understanding from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating low understanding and 5 indicating high understanding



Misinformation

How threatening do you believe the issue of misinformation is?



HUMOR DISCLAIMER: This section is intended as satire and uses the tools of exaggeration, irony, or ridicule in the context of politics, current trends, recent school events, and other topical issues.

(not) exactly news

by Ella Scher '23

What the 'Girlboss Empire' Means for American Men

When President Joseph Biden abruptly resigned, the world was stunned and saddened, then fearful, as once-vice president Kamala Harris immediately took command of the White House and declared her dictatorship over her newly-christened "Girlboss Empire." White House staff could only watch in awe and horror as in a matter of weeks, Harris fired every cis male in the building, replacing all of them with her cabinet of "girls, gays, and theys."

But what does Harris' new administration hold in store for American men? At her press conference Saturday, President Harris announced the signing of all-new legislation, saying that it was "for the good of the country." Men are now required to carry ID at all times, and a nationwide curfew has been enacted, meaning that all men must be inside before ten at night to allow everyone else to enjoy their evening. In schools, boys will be required to wear belts that hold up their pants completely, and are no longer allowed to wear tank tops to avoid distracting their peers. Harris ended her press conference in leading Americans in chanting the new national anthem: "Gatekeep, gaslight, girlboss."

Salem Witch Cancellling

In Massachusetts, a new trend has risen from the grave. After a local microcelebrity was caught saying a racial slur, hundreds of teens descended on the area to reenact a live Salem witch trial, culminating in the offending TikToker being burned at the stake.

From trending to cancelled, the rise and fall of TikTokers can be brutal. For even the smallest mishap, even the biggest influencer might find themselves minus hundreds of thousands of followers, subject to being doxxed and harassed in all manner of ways. However, in just a matter of a few weeks, all this has changed as more and more people decide to solve their problems the old-fashioned way. "There's no second chances," one anonymous source told CNN, gesturing to the limp body of a Danganronpa cosplayer behind them, currently being tied to a stake.

The movement has begun to spread to Twitter, and a large majority of the online population has voted that Chris Pratt be the next to go.

Vampirephobia Shuts Down Olney Restaurant

When Little Joe's Pizza Place opened ten minutes away from Sherwood, it seemed like a dream come true for the crowds of people who swarmed there every lunch and dinner session. But after just three weeks of being open, the restaurant is being closed after mobs of angry vampires boycotted the building, waving signs and hurling insults at the patrons. "Green Salad Not Garlic" one sign read. Another, waved by a trench-coat clad bloodsucker, read *Italian Food Is Exclusionist*.

"We reserve the right to suck the blood of any and all innocent Marylanders," vampire Bram Staker fumed, holding out a petition that asked for signatures to have the restaurant shut down. "Having a restaurant in operation that not only serves garlic as a primary menu proponent, but has an actual cross above the door is sick and vampirephobic."

The crying owner was escorted from the premises to speak at his court hearing, scheduled for Tuesday. "Mamma mia," he lamented amidst a hail of cursing and general antipathy directed his way. "I'm converting from Catholicism."

Sherwood Changes Dress Code: Thanks, Euphoria

When the new season of *Euphoria*, an HBO show centering around the lives of several teenagers as they each interact in their own coming-of-age arcs, came out, no one was more surprised than the Sherwood teenagers when the school administration announced the new dress code regulations, lifted directly from the *Euphoria* costume designer's handbook.

No student will show less than six inches of skin at all times, even male students--crop tops and ripped tanks are not only expected but required, as are bodycon lace-up dresses and six-inch stiletto heels.

"I think it's great," one senior said, showing off her official Jean Paul Gaultier shirt and her Zena Bayne choker and harness, modeled after one of the main characters of the show. "Like, our principal is such an icon for this." New regulations have also been added to the teacher handbook in accordance. Teachers are being phased out of their classrooms so that they won't interfere with students who are doing ... recreational activities.

Abnormal Advice

by Ben Schoenberg '24



Hello Benjamin,

My teacher eats his breakfast in class every single morning, but it smells so bad. I walk into the room and immediately feel nauseated by the aroma of boiled eggs and tuna. When I leave, I'm worried I smell bad. How do I tell my teacher he needs to eat his breakfast at home?

- So Smelly

Dear So Smelly,

Well, let me start this off with a reminder that bad smells can easily be fixed with good smells.

Soaps, shampoos, and body washes are all easily available products with strong, pleasantly smelling scents. If you simply add some of these products to your teacher's food, the horrible smell would be eradicated. Now, the reason you're worried about smelling bad is because you need to smell good on the inside to smell good on the outside, so to solve that issue, meditation and motivational quote posters are advised solutions. Next time you walk into your class you can now feel nauseated by the smell of Dove hand soap with a mix of Irish Spring body wash.

Hello Benjamin,

There's a girl I really like, but I'm worried she doesn't know I exist. I followed her to her car one day after school, and I've been leaving secret admirer notes on her windshield every day since. Do you have any ideas for a dramatic reveal?

- Secret Admirer

Dear Secret Admirer,

Looks like we've got ourselves quite the ladies' man over here! Sounds like you're on the right track to winning her love. Every

girl adores being followed online, meaning it translates to real life. Don't get me started on how romantic it is to find what looks to be parking tickets attached to your car, only to find out they're ominous compliments! For your dramatic reveal, you need to think outside the box. Or in this case, inside. The key to a girl's heart is through her locked car. Imagine her surprise when you're sitting in her car's passenger seat ready to confess your undying love after she gets out of her 8th-period class.

Hello Benjamin,

My boyfriend says he only wants to walk me to class if I give him a piggyback ride. I think it would be really hard to carry both him and my backpack to classes. I've tried to tell him that we should just walk next to each other normally and could even hold hands, but he just won't listen to me. Should I suck it up and give him piggyback rides or stand my ground?

- Pick Up or Put Down

Dear Pick Up or Put Down,

This clearly sounds like an issue about boundaries in a relationship. If you are not willing to give him alternate means of transportation to class, how would you be willing to take his hand in marriage? To remedy this, one option besides telling him to dump you would be to get help from a trusted adult. This trusted adult could be a parent, teacher, or even a school administrator and counselor. Adults are usually stronger than high

schoolers, making them the right candidate to provide piggyback rides for your boyfriend. This trusted adult has most likely had their fair share of relationships so it only makes sense for them to fix yours. After all, you are but

Hello Benjamin,

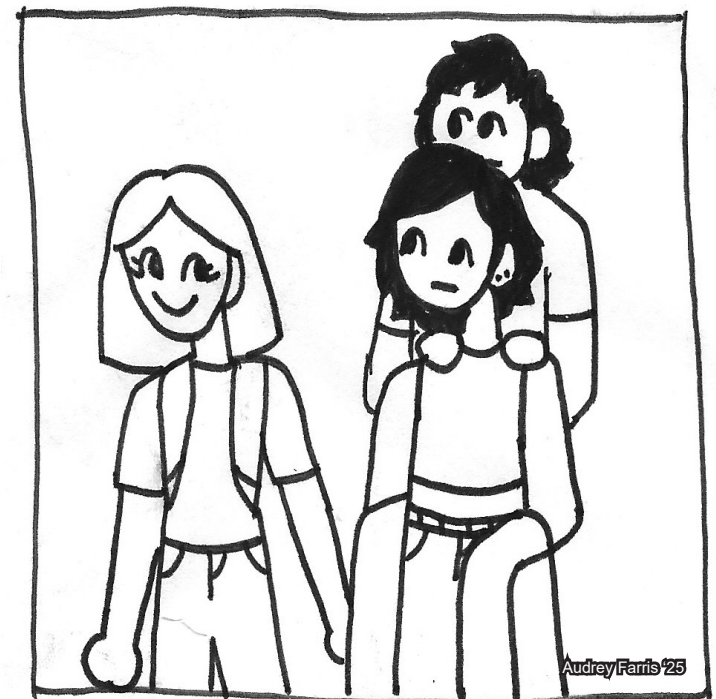
I'm having trouble controlling my body temperature while at school. Some of my classes are so hot, while others are freezing. How should I layer appropriately while keeping up with the latest fashions?

- Fashionista-to-Be



Dear Fashionista-to-Be,

Another example of the classic struggle of style vs. function, akin to the likes of good vs. evil, or possibly even Boxer vs. Briefs. Most would assume a perfect outfit would be full of name brands but this is not like the other winter outfits. Due to it being winter, you will need a proper pair of stylish sunglasses to provide your body with heat, and coolness. To match the sunglasses, a proper black, leather trench coat will do, as it will add an aura of mystery and suaveness to yourself while still protecting you from elements such as ice, water, and judgment. The final step to complete this trendy winter outfit would be to top it off with black leather pants, boots, and the ability to stop bullets while limboing really well. With your newly made winter outfit put together, you will be ready to take on cold weather, cold stares, and Hugo Weaving.



a kid, and the only people who can solve problems are those who have lived past two decades.

Submit advice inquiries to *Abnormal Advice* at thewarrioronline.com/contact-us.

January 20, 2022

Preacher Claims He Has Recieved Divine Message

by Solaiman Hassanin '23

In today's society, few issues are more debated than the role of religion in each individuals' life. One noble preacher has taken the helm and shown his pride in religious and organizational integration: Hildred Archibald.

According to Archibald, a proud NRA member, the American gun movement is set to gain at least one new member: Jesus Christ himself.

In his latest sermon, Archibald claimed divine revelations. "I saw him myself, I saw our Lord and Savior; he appeared like a strong M4 Carbine, with sleek hair, muscular legs, and a thick neck to fill the horizon."

According to Archibald, Jesus has a message for American gun owners: they must stay vigilant while kicking back against demonic oppression and the stripping of their free rights with the power of a "robust Mossberg 500A1 pump-action shotgun."

In his revelation, Archibald said the son of God came forward to place a target next to Archibald, and proceeded to unload an M3 submachine gun into the target, reportedly to "show his manliness" and "establish his love for America and its long history of gun ownership."

After the sermon, many supporters were enthusiastic and energized. "I feel like my prayers have been answered; this is the reassurance that shows us that God is on our side," said choir singer Ann Rufus. "Knowing Jesus is on the side of our right to bear arms just proves that Archibald is the holy leader this country needs."

Archibald was praised for his confidence and natural "holiness." Lifelong gun activist Nick Precious avowed the story was said with the confidence of a "ferocious M16 self-loading rifle."

Unfortunately, Archibald flew out of town on his private plane immediately after the sermon, and was unavailable for comment. A source close to him said Archibald will be "taking a well-deserved rest ... somewhere pricey, in the Bahamas, or Fiji, you know."

When pressed further, Wesley Chantus, head of Archibald's charity, grew irate with skeptics. "He works hard and he's a man of God! What other proof is needed?"

For now, the intellectual debate will be reserved for Twitter, and all claims that the NRA is funding Archibald's upcoming presidential campaign are entirely unfounded.

How To Keep This Year's Resolutions

by Aviv Klayman '24

Year after year, millions of people make resolutions in January to kick off a new start--from going to the gym daily or creating a futuristic dictatorship. And year after year, millions give up on these promises. Why? Simple. A lack of commitment. Here are three methods to help you keep your resolutions--no commitment needed.

One way to keep your resolutions is simply by suspending your body in animation. How can you break your resolution if you can't even do anything? There are many ways to thoroughly freeze your body, the most obvious being ice or liquid nitrogen. Remember that Seth Rogen movie where the great-grandfather is preserved in pickle brine for 100 years? What's stopping you from doing the same? Cost-wise, you can find ice anywhere on Earth, and you can buy a tub of pickles, with the brine, for around \$65 on Amazon.

However, if you're too wuss to do the old-fashioned methods, you can go with the far safer and more high-tech route of freezing yourself in carbonite, Han Solo-style. While some may be wary of these extreme methods, if you're not willing to put your life on the line to keep a resolution, then what are you even doing?



Ella Scher '23

Another "safer" method is simply time-traveling to a future where your resolution has been kept. Take *Back to the Future* for example, with the time-traveling Marty McFly. Just get your hands on a DeLorean, which are going for the low, low price of \$500,000. Every great resolution has an equally great price. But if you're unwilling to shell out for a DeLorean, there are plenty of other devices to travel through time. Just get yourself a TARDIS, or use the Enterprise to slingshot yourself around the sun. Time travel is easy and effective: it'll be a cinch to keep your resolution this way!

One final method is simply brainwashing yourself. There's

the traditional way: propping your eyes open as a repeating loop drills information into your brain. Or watching as a black-and-white vortex drains all your free will, forcing you to complete your resolution. There are enormous amounts of evidence proving brainwashing works--just ask HYDRA (or Obi-Wan Kenobi.)

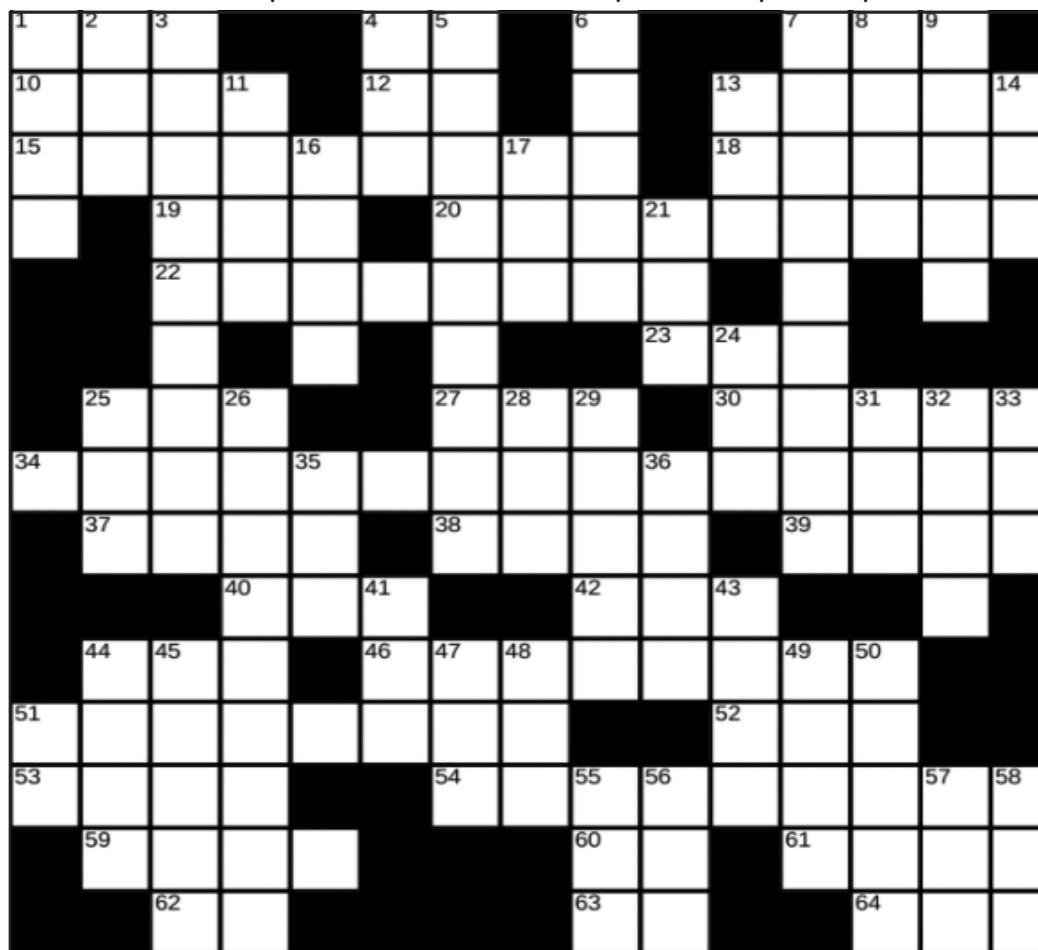
It's only been three weeks into the year--no one is going to judge you for starting another resolution so late. Only airheads wouldn't give a crack at these methods. What do you have to lose? Your life? Unlikely. Your dignity? Probably. But those things are minuscule in the lens of actually reaching the holy grail of fulfilling your resolution.

- Across**
- Suffix of fascism, liberalism
 - Hamlet's famous quote: To _____ or not to _____
 - YouTube gives you the option to skip these
 - _____ enrollment is when someone takes high school and college classes simultaneously
 - State home to deep-dish pizza (abbr.)
 - Star Wars has many involving lightsabers, Mission Impossible II has many involving pistols
 - Type of oil for a diffuser
 - Second-most followed religion in the world
 - Calcium Oxide's name in a scientific formula
 - Attraction with northern and southern poles
 - Removed a bride's head covering
 - Company to call with car problems
 - Intelligence service of the government, founded by Harry Truman (abbr.)
 - The Jackson 5's 1970 single
 - Key components of a scavenger hunt
 - Affirmative greeting to a graduate or newlywed
 - Country home to Machu Picchu
 - Biblical garden
 - 1980s epidemic, subject of "Rent"
 - Versatile breakfast food
 - The second "FANBOYS" conjunction
 - Used in baseball and softball to practice batting
 - A Himalayan or Rocky
 - A theoretical passage through space-time

- Used in movie and television shows to create intricate visual effects
 - The moon's counterpart to wax
 - England's royal matriarch
 - _____ n' Dash
 - A negative reply
 - Summer destination for many Maryland residents (abbr.)
 - 1982 Spielberg movie featuring an alien and Drew Barrymore
 - What you do at a green light
 - Environmental Impact Index (abbr.)
- Down**
- Depicted by a lightbulb
 - Slang for sneaky, mischievous
 - Female is to feminine as male is to _____
 - First three letters of popular digital currency
 - The Bachelorette does this to all but one of her contestants
 - German offensive campaign during WWII was called The Battle of the _____
 - Home to Sydney and Victoria
 - Where you go to buy a BLT
 - Stage name of former Guns N' Roses lead guitarist
 - _____ on Me, song by Billy Withers
 - 6-sided game piece
 - Social Media Marketing (abbr.)
 - End of a star's life: super _____
 - American Airlines (abbr.)
 - Non-disclosure agreement (abbr.)
 - Soliloquy in 4 across occurs in _____ 3, scene 1
 - Paul Blart's occupation in mall-related comedy

Bringing it Back

by Reade Fenner, Tori Newby, and Emily Siansky '22



- Last word of clue in 21 down
- Flowers do this before they bloom
- Magic Eraser brand figure
- "I owe you," backward (abbr.)
- Get a trim to cut off split _____
- Sound of a snake
- Synonym for Aladdin's method of transportation
- First name and last initial of American clothing store owned by the same company as LOFT
- Many people prefer non-_____ foods
- Obama-era policy protecting "DREAMers"
- Frog's best friend
- Bert's best friend
- First part of University of Mississippi's nickname
- University of East London (abbr.)
- Large ethnic population and language in southeastern Nigeria
- My female cousin's relationship to my mother
- _____ Web (abbr.)
- Suffix of an adverb
- Family-friendly attraction in both DC and Baltimore
- Slang used when someone overshares (abbr.)
- Statistics used to rate the level of a country's achievement (abbr.)

Visit thewarrioronline.com for answers.

Congress Investigates Instagram’s Effect on Teens

by Lizzy Hermosilla ‘23

In October, Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen released documents containing data from internal research showing the company’s adverse effects on the minds of young people. Later that month, Facebook and its affiliates rebranded as Meta. The documents, now referred to as the Facebook Papers, contain various troubling statistics about the effects of Instagram, a Meta affiliate, on young people, especially teen girls. The papers sparked congressional outrage, creating a bipartisan movement to reform big tech practices that exploit children and teens.

On December 8, head of Instagram Adam Mosseri testified in a Senate committee hearing titled, “Protecting Kids Online: Instagram and Reforms for Young Users on Capitol Hill.” The hearing, led by Republican Senator Marsha Blackburn and Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal, zeroed in on the harmful data released in the Facebook Papers. This data included statistics such as “one in three teenage girls who felt bad about their bodies said Insta-

gram made them feel worse,” and “13 percent of British teenage users and six percent of American teenage users who had suicidal thoughts traced the desire to kill themselves to Instagram.” Mosseri refuted this data by saying that it was incomplete and developed from a small sample size.

Blumenthal also presented data that his office collected independently. His office created a fake Instagram account for a teen girl and found that the content presented to the “teen user” promoted eating disorders.

In July, Instagram guided teen users of the platform by implementing a safety policy making all accounts for teens under the age of 16 set to private accounts by default. Blackburn’s office investigated the new privacy policy by making a fake Instagram account for a 15-year-old, and found that the account went to a public setting by default. Mosseri responded that the private-by-default feature applied to iOS and Android users, but not those using a desktop.

The hearing also brought to light the continued push by Instagram to continue their Instagram for Kids, a plat-

form more geared towards kids under 13. Mosseri would not commit to ending the plan for the pre-teen platform, but for now its development has been paused. During the hearing, Mosseri mentioned how Meta is losing ground to competitors like Snapchat and TikTok. Mosseri cited data from a recent Forrester survey that depicted TikTok as the main social media platform for Gen-Z. The survey also showed Instagram losing ground as the most popular social media platform among Gen-Z, with Snapchat slowly encroaching on Instagram’s popularity. “With teens using multiple platforms, it is critical that we address youth online safety as an industry challenge and develop industry-wide solutions,” said Mosseri.

Blackburn, a staunch believer in internet safety for kids, was optimistic at the end of the hearing with the new momentum her cause has garnered. “The time is ripe to pass a national consumer privacy bill, as well as kids-specific legislation to keep minors safe online,” said Blackburn.

Catfishes in Sherwood Waters

by Jena Le ‘23

Catfishes are people who pretend to be someone they are not online. They are dangerous, but hard to detect at times. Sherwood recently had an issue with catfishing at the beginning of the school year. Someone under the alias “Jessica Masons” pretended to be a new Sherwood student on Instagram.

Masons messaged multiple sophomore girls and asked them personal questions like “What are you wearing on the first day of school?” or “What bus are you taking?” This person pretended that they were new to Sherwood and needed some friends. Many students felt sympathetic because they know that being a new student is hard. Masons took advantage of that kindness and used it to deflect suspicion away from them and their profile.

Catfishes are hard to detect because like Masons, they try to build a relationship with their victim. Their stories make sense to the victims. Masons asking what their victims were wearing for the first day of school wasn’t a red flag because Masons had never met anyone from Sherwood as a new student. Of course they would want to know what their new “friend” was wearing so that they could find them and not seem like a loner.

How can you avoid a catfish? First of all, if you don’t know the person in real life, it’s completely okay to be suspicious of them from the start. You can never be too careful. To make sure the person you are talking to is legitimate, ask the person to either video call or send a picture of them doing something specific like holding up a blue colored pencil. Most catfishes will not want to show their real

face because they are impersonating someone else. Also, don’t let your guard down. They may try to ask you personal questions about where you live, your friends’ names, or even about your family members and their jobs. Catfishes will most likely try to make you feel sorry for them before asking these types of questions, just like how Masons used their “I’m a new student who needs friends” story to make their victims feel bad.

The final tip is to always trust your gut. If you feel like something is off or wrong with someone online, block them and avoid the emotional turmoil they may cause. Stay vigilant and try your best to be on the lookout for potential catfishes.

Omegle Is Hunting Ground for Young Kids

by Rachel Klein ‘22

Almost every teenager today knows about or has used the website Omegle, where people can chat or video chat with strangers on the Internet. Immediately after the site was launched in 2009, it was gaining hundreds of thousands of viewers per day. In more recent times, as a result of TikTok and everyone having limited social interaction during the pandemic, Omegle became a seemingly perfect way to make new friends. However, these “new friends” can come from anywhere and be any age.

TikTok has become increasingly popular, with one billion active users, most of which being ages 10–19. It became a trend on TikTok to film funny or interesting interactions with people you meet on Omegle, further displaying its appeal to young children. What is not shown are the creepy encounters many users have had with adults, along with exposure to inappropriate and sexual content that can pop up on anyone’s screen, including the screens of those young children.

On the Omegle website, it states that users must be at least 18 years old, or 13 years old with parental permission or supervision. Although these

words are in bold, they are not enforced in any way. Young teenagers, and even children younger than that, have been known to go on Omegle without parental permission because there is no age verification on the website. It is easy for them to chat with random strangers and see things they should not be exposed to at such a young age, such as extreme profanity and pornographic content.

Omegle has become the perfect platform for online predators to find their prey. While Omegle claims there is some sort of moderation of chats, the site is still unsafe. “Omegle video chat is moderated but no moderation is perfect,” states their website.

INTERNET PRIVACY AND SAFETY



How and Why Companies Use Personal Data

by Alex Braun ‘23

In the digital world, privacy is more of an abstract idea than a reality. Millions of users everywhere would like to think that they are safe on the Internet, or that through the use of anti virus software they are protecting themselves from unwanted surveillance and tracking. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Every website visited and every service used on the Internet collects data, and uses it in a variety of ways.

The data collected by businesses online varies in nature. The main four types are personal, behavioral, attitudinal, and engagement data. Personal data includes social security numbers, device ID, IP addresses, and browser cookies. Behavior data is based on statistics, like purchase history, product use, and online repeated actions. Attitudinal data is the measure of customer satisfaction, desirability of a product or service, and purchase criteria.

Twitter Updates Photo Privacy Policy

by Naomi Bang ‘23

Twitter introduced a new photo removal policy designed to protect users’ privacy and prevent people from publishing private images or videos without consent. This update is in response to increasing concerns over media misuse as a tool to harass or share information about individuals without consent. But the vague guidelines of the policy have sparked confusion and controversy with some people questioning how realistic it is to enforce.

“Sharing personal media, such as images or videos, can potentially violate a person’s privacy, and may lead to emotional or physical harm,” said Twitter in a blog post. “The misuse of private media can affect everyone, but can have a disproportionate effect on women, activists, dissidents, and

members of minority communities.” Twitter’s existing privacy policy prohibits sharing other personal information such as phone numbers, addresses, or identity documents on their platform. Under their new procedures, the company requires a first-person report from the offended individual or an “authorized representative.” Twitter will then remove the image or video only once they determine that the reported media was posted without permission. In some cases, Twitter may choose not to remove an image after assessing the context of the post.

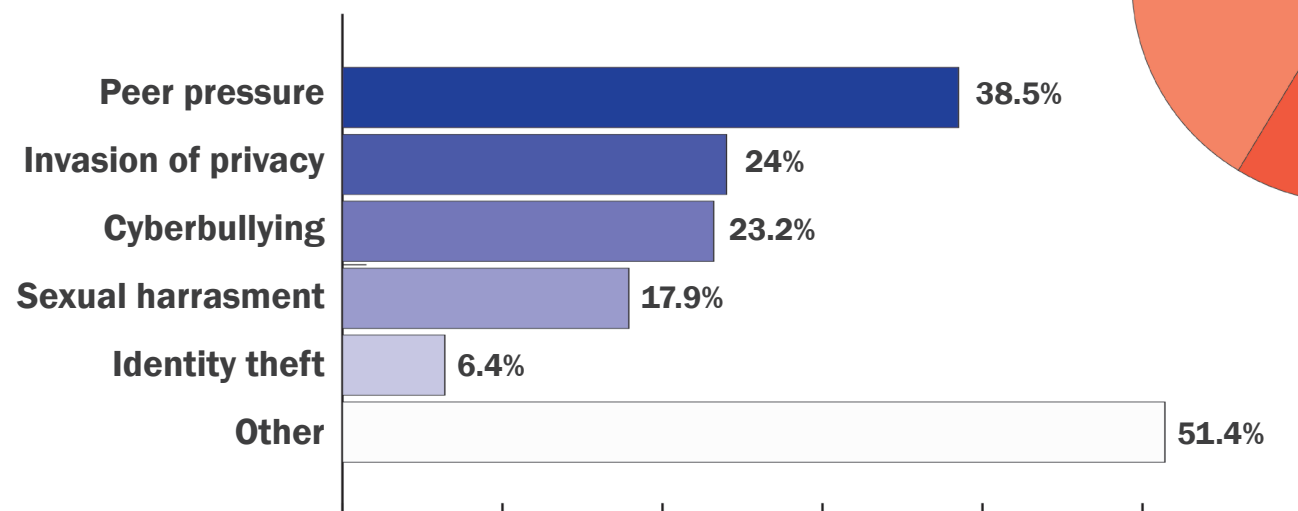
The company will make exceptions for media posted under circumstances that outweigh potential safety risks for an individual. This includes images and videos that are part of a newsworthy event, provide aid during an emergency situation, or are relevant to the community by adding “value to public discourse.” Twitter will not remove any media that it deems to fit these characteristics. Since the main goal of this

update is to protect the privacy of average citizens, the removal policies do not apply to public figures like celebrities or politicians. While some activists believe the change is a positive step against online harassment and abuse, others feel it will be impractical to enforce consistently. “[The rule is] written so broadly that most anyone can lodge a complaint against anyone,” tweeted Emerson T. Brooking, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council’s Digital Forensic Research Lab. Critics are concerned the changes will grant Twitter too much discretion in determining which posts to remove or not. “I don’t like the idea of journalism being sort of an exception that can be adjudicated on a case-by-case basis,” said independent journalist and filmmaker Ford Fischer. “I think there should probably be a presumption of, you know, it is right and proper to film things in public places ... I don’t want it to be based on a reasonableness test that comes from a Twitter moderator.”

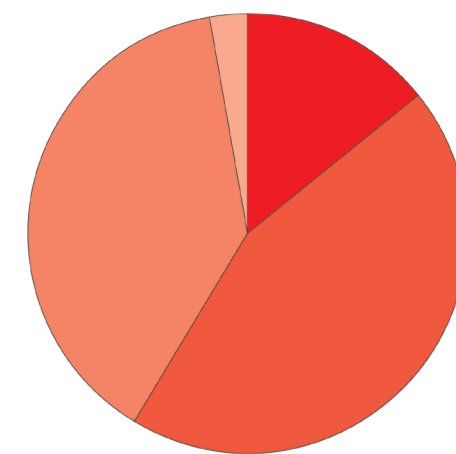
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Survey of 358 Sherwood Students Compiled by Reade Fenner ‘22

Have you ever experienced any of the following online?

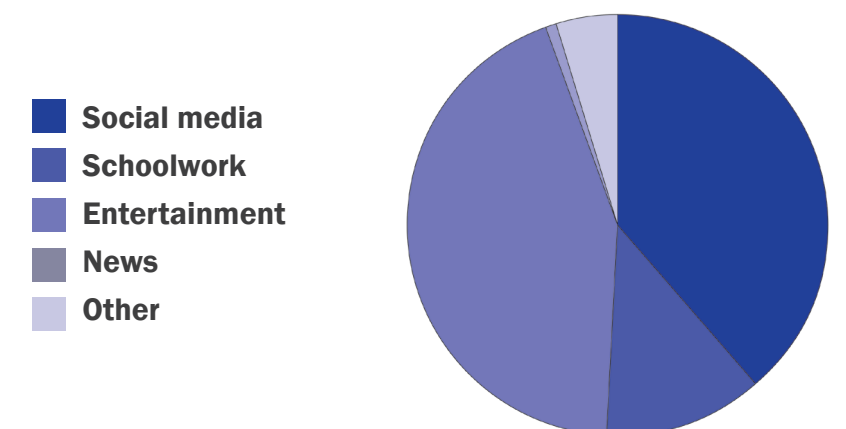


Do you feel safe online?



- Yes, I have never encountered a threat or danger online
- Yes, I know how to handle threats or dangers online
- Sometimes, I am aware of the dangers and know when to turn away
- No, I have had negative experiences online or know others that have

What do you use the Internet for most often?





Smithsonian Exhibit Looks into the Future

by Riley Sandoval '22

The Smithsonian Institution is celebrating its 175th anniversary with a new exhibit called FUTURES. This exhibit encourages visitors to envision the futures they hope to live in. It is an immersive experience with interactive, art-installations, and inventions. Located in the Arts and Industries building, FUTURES has 150 innovations, technologies, and artifacts on display until July 6, 2022. These artifacts include both inventions from the past, and imagined “artifacts of the future.”

With most museums looking into the past, the Smithsonian wanted to look towards the future for their anniversary. “We have so much help from society imagining what could go wrong in the future ... but we don’t nearly have as much help imagining what could go right,” said Rachel Goslins, the Arts and Industries

director in an article in Washingtonian.

There are four main sections to the exhibit: Futures Past, Futures that Work, Futures that Unite, and Futures that Inspire. The first section, “Futures Past,” explores how people envisioned the future in the past. Visitors can view artifacts from other Smithsonian museums including Alexander Graham-Bell’s experimental telephone and a rocket from the Air and Space Museum. This section also displays portraits created by Artificial Intelligence called “Deep Dream” of some futurists from the past. The “Futures that Work” section looks into ideas related to making our working lives more efficient. It includes prototypes for washing machines that water plants while they wash, a machine that captures carbon from the air, and a time capsule for the future. This section also displays the Virgin Hyperloop Pegasus which aims

to quickly transport people across the country at speeds up to 670 miles per hour.

“Futures that Unite” delves into new ways people can connect with each other. In this section, visitors can design their own sustainable neighborhood and have a conversation with the future with the help of a machine called, “Hi, How R U.” On display in the “Futures that Unite” hall is a memorial called, “The Grove” by artist Devan Shimoyama that is dedicated to victims of racial violence and the pandemic.

Lastly, the “Futures that Inspire” hall is about imagining a future full of new ideas and innovations. Here, visitors can look through an augmented reality called, “Rewild” that turns the hall into a flower filled meadow, see a realistic flying taxi, and other artworks that encourage an open mind when thinking about the future. See into the future with these exhibits!

Fear of School Shootings Adds to Strain on Students’ Mental Health

by Hailey Sepulvado '22

Students across the United States have practiced lockdown drills since kindergarten to prepare for the event of a school shooting. The effects of preparing for such a terrible and traumatic event and constantly seeing news stories of schools that have experienced this kind of tragedy are harmful to the youth of America and have heartbreaking consequences.

Students who have experienced a school shooting firsthand are exposed to an amount of violence most people don’t experience in a lifetime. Many students experience PTSD, anxiety, and depression after witnessing something so horrific.

Students can also become desensitized to violence after experiencing it. Researchers have said that violence can seem like an acceptable way for these students to deal with problems in the future.

Moreover, shootings affect those who have seen them on the news or on social media as well. Students across the country fear the possibility of a school shooting. These thoughts affect their education and mental health because of this constant anxiety.

In an article by The Odyssey Online, Temple University student Catherine Campana shared her thoughts on going to school

when shootings are so common in today’s society. “I am supposed to feel safe while getting an education, not anxiously waiting for class to be over so I can hurry home. It is not fair to my family to have to worry and be concerned about my safety at a place where I am supposed to be growing, maturing, and learning,” said Campana.

Lockdown drills now occur in 95 percent of schools across America. In an article by The Trace, kindergarteners to seniors were interviewed about how they felt during lockdown drills.

“One kid, he was kind of worried and thought it was real. So he had a panic attack,” said 5th grader Kennedy. Young children have to experience this fear multiple times throughout the year.

Many students said that their teachers have instructed them what to do if a shooter was to enter the classroom. Valuable instruction time is replaced by practicing for a shooting, affecting the education of students as well.

Children growing up in the generation of school shootings have experienced more fear in classrooms than any other generation, which has damaging effects.

Between constantly seeing shootings on the news to experiencing lockdown drills, children are being harmed.



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January 20, 2022

Weather More Unpredictable Than Ever

by Lauren Frank '23

When people think of climate change, they might think of warmer temperatures, increasing droughts, and rising sea levels. Although global warming is a prominent result, so is the severity and unpredictability of extreme weather. Even as global temperatures continue to rise, the Mid-Atlantic states that include Maryland will still experience brutal winter weather.

Many living in the area expect at least a couple snow storms or school cancellations each winter. Some years seem like a hit-or-miss, only snowing a couple times and melting immediately, while others bring massive storms with loads of heavy snow and ice covering neighborhoods.

In recent decades, human-caused climate change has increasingly raised global temperatures, which in fact contributes to frigid and stormy winters along the Eastern seaboard.

Although it may seem counterintuitive, snow storms are in fact more likely to happen now, but why? The reason for this is because increasingly warmer ocean temperatures are influencing the Jet Streams, powerful air currents separating hot and cold air.

It is also possible that the melting glaciers in the Arctic from warmer ocean temperatures are weakening the Jet Stream al-



lowing it to carry cold air further South. These temperatures additionally cause the Polar Vortex, a cold rotating region of air lying above the Arctic, to become unstable, which in turn influences the Jet Stream's path.

Additionally, another reason for winter snow is that warmer global temperatures have caused more water to evaporate into the atmosphere. With the added moisture, more precipitation in the form of a heavy snowfall or wintry mix is likely if the air is cold due to the weakened Jet Stream.

A prime instance of this new and alarming weather trend was shown during the storms that hit Texas back in February of 2021. Several inches of snow and ice left millions without power and millions of dollars in damage.

Texas is not historically frigid and snowy, but nevertheless managed to endure so much damage. The people of Texas--and the state's electrical grid--were not as prepared since they are typically used to milder temperatures.

More locally in Maryland, as early as the first week of 2022, the area witnessed its first major snow storm since last year. Considering MCPS extended winter break due to the wintry weather and harsh road conditions, the days off clearly indicates that this cold and wintry weather isn't going away anytime soon.

For snow-lovers, this winter is looking rather bright so far. Still, it must be considered that it is never impossible for the forecasted snowfall to shatter the projected amount, or even fall short of the average.

Engineering Club Partners with Non-profit for Change

By Camilo Illanes '22

The engineering club's mission at Sherwood is to explore and design different engineering challenges. They have had many projects in the past working to improve their engineering skills, including the 2020 Maryland Cargo Ship Engineering Challenge, in which they competed against other schools in the state to design the best boat for carrying cargo.

This past year they have started a new project in which they will use their skills as engineers to help better communities around the world. In this new project, they are working with an organization called Engineers Without Borders, a non-profit focusing on building a better world through engineering projects that empower communities to meet their basic human needs.

Engineers Without Borders is currently working in Compo, Peru; El Cacao, Nicaragua; Kiryabicooli, Uganda; Nakifuma, Uganda; and Suma Ahenkro, Ghana. Sherwood wants to focus on engineering projects that give these communities clean drinking water, a resource they lack.

Club president senior Aidan Sachs said the main focus of working with Engineers Without Borders is to look at foreign countries who struggle with ac-

cess to fresh water. "It is vital that we work as a team in order to seek out methods that can improve the lives of those living without necessary resources," Sachs explained.

More than 5,000 children under the age of 5 die every day from not having access to clean drinking water. To fix this devastating issue and ensure freshwater security, Engineers Without Borders has developed various solutions.

These efforts include large-scale desalination, efficient agricultural technologies, and efficient wastewater treatment technologies. The club will expand on these ideas by designing and engineering different solutions to help the organization succeed in supplying fresh water to communities in need.

"Being involved in this project makes me feel like I am making a difference to better the lives of those desperately in need," said senior Alex Hernandez, a member of the club.

Club members are excited to work with Engineers Without Borders and believe they will use their engineering skills to help those in need.

Many of these students want to pursue engineering as a profession, and working on this meaningful project is a great experience for them.

Climate Activists Disappointed after COP26

by Alexis Booker '23

The 26th annual United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) took place from October 31 to November 12 in Glasgow, Scotland. The conference boasted an extensive list of world leaders that attended to set goals in the midst of the climate crisis. With climate change effects noticeable all across the globe, people are putting more pressure on politicians to create drastic changes in regulations.

This year's results centered around the new, formally agreed on Glasgow deal. It creates new environmental regulations to the world market, carbon emissions, carbon-trading, and deforestation.

However climate research scientists, minority groups (such as young people, black, and native groups), and politicians in developing countries all had their own goals in mind. There is a noticeably large disparity between the stricter, more innovative standards of these activists from those political leaders who participated in the actual conference.

Outside of the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) center in Glasgow, many gathered in protest. Scientists' efforts to spread valuable information about the state of the earth were stifled by politicians attempting to contain world panic by suppressing the severity of climate issues.

Youth are angered by the leniency, calling the event a failure and are outraged by world lead-



Protesters carry signs at the COP26 Summit in Glasgow in November.

ers' low maintenance approach. Indigenous and black communities were spread out throughout the protest and remain some of the most directly impacted by the already looming effects of climate change.

The general consensus is that the new deal continues to prioritize political and economic aims over the wellbeing of the planet and its inhabitants. Politicians of poorer countries spoke out at the conference, blaming richer countries for refusing to phase out fossil fuels because they rely on their profit.

Although scientists predict the bulk of the effects will take place in the next 10 to 30 years, because of their early beginnings already impacting these poor countries, the time to take action is now.

The grand conclusion of COP26 has disappointed those who it impacts the most. The demand for more action appears to be unaddressed by the world leaders attending, and with what's supposed to be considered the most monumental climate deal thus far, it still has a long way to go.

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January 20, 2022

Staff Picks

A selection from The Warrior Staff of some of the best of 2021 in film, television, music, gaming, and novels.

Inside (Bo Burnham)

While cooped up in his home throughout quarantine, comedian Bo Burnham put on a one-man variety show directed, written, filmed, edited, and performed all by himself. The resulting musical-comedy is something that everyone can relate to during the ongoing pandemic. His dark humor and cynicism bleed through his songs, allowing viewers to empathize with his loneliness and despair. Exploring themes of depression and mental illness, this comedy special truly grasps the effects of what quarantining does to a person, and how being stuck in one's home and head deteriorates one's sanity.

~Peyton Blumenfeld '22

Red (Taylor Swift)

The hype is real, and *Red* is the most-streamed album in a day by a female artist on Spotify, which is impressive since this album features songs that already came out almost 10 years ago. *Red* includes 30 songs, one of which is 10 minutes long. The relatable lyrics are what makes this so popular among teenagers, many of whom can understand the heartbreak and sadness the Swift writes about. There is a variety of fast and slow songs, and this range allows people to enjoy all kinds of music in one album.

~Avery Prudenti '22

Squid Game

Squid Game is the unbelievable story of 456 players entrenched in financial debt forced to risk their lives in six death games based off of Korean children's games from a bygone era. *Squid Game* stunned many with the intense emotional pull that its superb acting wrought, as well as the sheer shock value that the story held. After all, the rich manipulating the poor for their own entertainment is a tale as old as society, and it is to its own credit that *Squid Game* manipulated these themes, while overcoming cultural and language barriers to become Netflix's top-streamed show ever.

~Ella Scher '23

WandaVision

Filled with elements of nostalgia, bizarre plots, and even heartbreak, *WandaVision* exceeds expectations as the MCU's first TV series adaptation. The Disney Plus miniseries follows Marvel characters Wanda Maximoff and Vision through parodies of classic sitcoms with stereotypical elements synonymous with the golden age of the sitcom era. Yet something is off, and the viewers know it. Uniquely written, the show time-travels viewers through these eras to ultimately unveil Wanda's grieving process. The different storytelling format of *WandaVision* made the show popular with audiences and earned it three Emmy wins and a spin-off series centering on fan-favorite character, Agatha Harkness.

~Nia Peake '23

Genshin Impact

The hit game *Genshin Impact* has risen to worldwide popularity due to its beautiful graphics, diverse cast, and compelling storyline. What makes it unique from many other games, however, is that it is completely free to play. Playing the game's bi-monthly updates, traveling in all the released regions, and even wishing in the gacha (a lottery-like mechanic to gain powerful weapons and characters) is all free of charge. This accessibility, combined with the open-world rpg aspects of this game, allowed *Genshin Impact* to become one of the most popular games of the year, even winning Best Mobile Game at The Game Awards 2021.

~Lilika Jenkins '22

Jubilee (Japanese Breakfast)

When asked about the direction for her latest album, Michelle Zauner (the sole member of Japanese Breakfast) said she wanted it to be a celebration of joy after years of writing through grief after the death of her mother. *Jubilee* does this and more, truly showing how Zauner has grown as an artist/producer, with new sounds like a regal horn section in "Paprika" to her usual fantastic guitar layering in "Sit." The album is a testament to pop of all kinds, from electro pop to dream pop, and combined with Zauner's stellar lyricism and storytelling, it truly is a jubilant and often cathartic experience.

~Kyla Sanchez '22

Sour (Olivia Rodrigo)

At the beginning of this year, 18 year old Olivia Rodrigo crashed into the music world with the release of her first album, *Sour*, which was an instant hit with teens. *Sour* is an emotional roller coaster that depicts moments of her first heartbreak. Some of Rodrigo's popularity can be attributed to her social media platforms, specifically TikTok, where her songs became anthems to popular trends. Rodrigo's ability to make her feelings relatable even for listeners who haven't gone through the same experiences are what make her album an addicting listening experience.

~Perri Williams '23

Voyage (ABBA)

Voyage was such a big hit in the media because it was ABBA's first album together after 40 years, while also being their official farewell as the band will no longer make music together. Extraordinarily, this album sounds exactly like their original music, staying consistent with soft, emotional vocals with incredible instrumentals giving the music a vintage vibe despite the length of time between releases. Along with that, *Voyage* connects to Gen Z and Millennials as they are physically living through an era of ABBA instead of just imagining what it must've been like in the 70s and 80s.

~Joseph Oscilowski '22

You

In October, Netflix released its third season of the psychological thriller *You*. At this point, former serial killer Joe is now married to a girl named Love Quinn. Little did Joe know that his wife is also a serial killer whose kill drive can't be controlled. With the couple recently moved to California suburb Madre Linda, they face deception, lies, and mystery—all while trying to cover up Love's murders and Joe's obsessions.

~Andrew Papalia '24

Happier Than Ever (Billie Eilish)

Music sensation and Grammy-winning singer songwriter Billie Eilish released her second studio album, *Happier Than Ever*, late last summer unveiling her traumatic experiences with stardom and its accompanying difficulties through beautiful, truthful, and raw lyrics. Eilish's lyrical and vocal maturity is shown in this candid album, as each rhythmically diverse song reveals her newfound vulnerability. She touches on her mental health and personal journey towards self satisfaction and happiness, pushing her songs into a new light. This captivating and symphonious album is especially relatable and breathtaking for listeners.

~Lauren Frank '23

The Maidens (Alex Michaelides)

Novelist Alex Michaelides embarks on a delectably sinister plot with mystery, murder, and mythology at the forefront of his newest New York Times best seller. Mariana, devastated by the loss of her college sweetheart Sebastian, sets out for Cambridge University after a call from her frantic niece, Zoe, when her suite mate, Tara, is found dead with twenty two stab wounds and it is later revealed that Tara was a member of the secret society, *The Maidens*. Mariana thinks she knows who has killed Tara, but will anyone believe her before the next body drops? Michaelides weaves a tale of lies, deception, and chaos in this exceptional thriller.

~Lizzy Hermosilla '23

There Is No Evil

Telling four unique stories, Mohammad Rasoulof's anthology *There Is No Evil* touches on ideas of death, loss, and morality as he explores the Iranian death penalty and all its implications. Each chapter of the film builds upon the previous one, with none of the story beats feeling repetitive in the slightest. Chapters range from characters who have to execute prisoners to an escape film where the main character of that story has to maneuver his way out of a secure complex. Every actor delivers a brilliant performance, elevating the material.

~Liam Trump '24

Donda (Kanye West)

Music and pop-culture powerhouse Kanye West came out with his 13th studio album, *Donda*, in August after a weeks-long delay that had fans waiting in the dark as Kanye repeatedly delayed its release. Named for his late mother, *Donda* blends Kanye's innovative lyrical style with melodic, gospel music-themed production into a 27-track album that is one of the top records of the year. The album journeys through several themes such as Kanye's renewed faith, his recent split from Kim Kardashian, and the inspiration he received from his mother.

~Matthew Kauffman '23

Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings

The Marvel superhero and martial-arts master Shang-Chi is forced to re-enter his old life after he was attacked with his girlfriend on a bus by his evil father. Shang-Chi needs to stop his father from destroying the world in his father's attempt to locate the location of his deceased wife; however, Shang-Chi is not alone as his sister is by his side the entire way. The film extraordinarily portrays the thrill and action of a brother and sister working together in order to stop their evil father, as well as including Asian representation in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

~Carter Braun '23

Netflix Reduces Risk for Show Creators ... at a Price

by Jay Joseph '22

Netflix's most popular series of all time, *Squid Game*, generated over 1.65 billion hours of viewership and about a billion dollars in revenue in the first 28 days after its release. However, *Squid Game* creator Hwang Dong-hyuk did not share in the astounding profits that came with the series' record-setting popularity due to the rigid type of deal Netflix makes with its original show creators.

"I'm not that rich. But I do have enough. I have enough to put food on the table. And it's not like Netflix is paying me a bonus," Dong-hyuk explained. "Netflix paid me according to the

original contract."

Netflix follows the cost-plus model when it makes deals with its original show creators. The company offers to pay production costs plus a 30-percent premium. In contrast, traditional TV networks usually offer to pay creators 60-70 percent of production costs in their licensing deals. Since Netflix relies mainly on subscribers instead of advertisers for revenue, Netflix also allows shows more creative freedom with little interference, making the company's deal difficult to turn down.

However, unlike traditional network licensing deals where creators maintain most of their rights to their show, Netflix's con-

tract is an ownership deal. Netflix will only pay creators according to the original contract, regardless of the show's future popularity or revenue, leading the creators of hit shows to miss out on a lot of profit. Show creators also sign away their rights on most future revenue opportunities, including merchandise sales and advertisements on Netflix done through product placement. (Product placement, otherwise known as embedded marketing, is an advertising technique where a sponsor pays for its product to be featured on-screen.) Creators also give up the opportunity for their shows to go into syndication process in which series are leased to multiple TV stations.

In addition, Netflix also charges creators an imputed license. Netflix summarizes this cost as its price for distributing the show to its subscribers. This fee often offsets the 30-percent bonus offered by Netflix, causing creators to break even in the best cases or lose money in the first season of the series. Netflix also requires creators to pay actors and crew residuals each time a new episode airs.

However, Netflix maintains that creators lose less money than they would if they were to sign with a traditional TV network since most TV shows lose money in their first season.

Netflix does provide an additional bonus if the series reaches

its second season, but this bonus is usually far less than what a traditional TV network would offer. Yet, for many series creators, the prospect of covering most of the production costs while having greater creative freedom is more appealing than taking a gamble on their show's future popularity and risk losing far more money with a TV network.

Netflix has not formally announced that there will be a second season of *Squid Game*, but Dong-hyuk is confident that the production will happen due to the series' worldwide acclaim.

"It's possible," Dong-hyuk joked, "that I have to do season two to become as rich as *Squid Game*'s winner."

January 20, 2022

Colorism Plays a Part in Women's Roles

by Timaya Pulliam '23

Zendaya, Amandla Stenberg, Storm Reid, and Yara Shahidi all have one thing in common. They are all light-skinned and mixed women in Hollywood with plenty of major roles. When looking at diversity in television and film, many people think about race; however, skin shade is just as much of an issue. These leading ladies and women like them are often the ones that people picture when they think of young black women in mainstream roles. However, they do not represent all women in the black community, creating a false sense of what black women and black beauty are.

Not only are fair-skinned women seen more often, but they are portrayed in a better light than their dark-skinned counterparts. Colorism is continuously seen in the media, especially in family roles. Shows like *Black-ish* and *K.C. Undercover* consist of families with members of multiple shades; however, while the lighter-skinned sisters are often deemed more attractive and kinder, their darker sisters are portrayed as more awkward or with more sass. These stereotypical archetypes are not only ignorant, but they continue to fuel the ongoing separation that America has placed between light-skinned and dark-skinned women.

The issue of colorism also extends into lighter-toned actresses receiving roles that were not meant for them. For example, the main character Starr Carter in the award-winning book *The Hate U Give* was played by Stenberg in the film version. However, the book cover illustrates the main character as a dark-skinned teen with an afro. The character should have stayed consistent from book



to movie, representing dark-skinned girls.

Colorism in the United States dates back to slavery. As this subject continuously is seen in the media today, it is emphasized how little the world has actually progressed. The domestic tasks that one was given during slavery were often determined by their skin tone. The way that the television and film industry operates reflects that of slavery. Darker-skinned women are more times than not given fewer and harsher roles than lighter-skinned actresses.

It seems that the movie and television industry has gone backward when it comes to diversity. Television shows from the 1990s and 2000s such as *Moesha* and *A Different World* were influential in showing a variation of black people. Both in skin tone and personality, these shows represented black people in ways that were unconventional to what the entertainment industry has often shown. These shows are examples of what the entertainment industry today can aspire to. In a society where growth should be shown, shows today should even surpass what was viewed then. Today, the movie and television industry has more of a chance to change than ever. It is time to take a chance and welcome diversity in skin tone.

The lack of diversity within Hollywood for black women is detrimental to progress, especially in a time when the world should be working toward better representation in the workplace and Hollywood. Lighter-skinned actresses such as Zendaya are crucial to this change. Though continuously benefiting from light-skinned privilege in Hollywood, she consistently acknowledges it and is one to always speak up about diversifying roles for black actresses. More actresses should join Zendaya to use their privilege to speak out about the injustices for darker black women in Hollywood. Talented actresses such as Coco Jones, Keke Palmer, Lupita Nyong'o, Ryan Destiny, Skai Jackson, and Marsai Martin deserve more positive and consistent mainstream roles like their light-skinned counterparts have.

Black women--all of them--deserve better. Little black girls of all shades deserve to look up to various black teens and women to pinpoint who they aspire to be one day. Black women deserve to see representation in relationships, families, jobs, and friendships. If Hollywood continues to stay in this destructive cycle of giving light-skinned women the majority of roles to represent black women, real diversity and portrayal will never occur.

No Way Home Lives Up to the Hype

by Joseph Oscilowski '22

Spider-Man: No Way Home was one of the most anticipated 2021 releases. The film follows Peter Parker, played by the well-loved Tom Holland, as he has to deal with the outcomes of *Spider-Man: Far From Home* and the consequences of interfering with the multiverse.

Receiving a nearly perfect rating of 4.8 stars, *No Way Home* is fully captivating, bolstered by the believable and often heartfelt relationships among characters. Ned, Peter's best friend, and Peter's girlfriend MJ (Zendaya) quickly realize that being outed as Spider-Man's accomplices has negatively affected every aspect of their lives. Doctor Strange becomes a key character in the *No Way Home* when Peter comes to him for help in fixing his friends' situation. Their resulting plan takes a major turn for the worse when Peter defies Strange's instructions. Old villains from past Spider-Man films are re-introduced, played by their original actors, posing big problems for Peter. MJ, Ned, and Aunt May are thrust even more so into the cen-

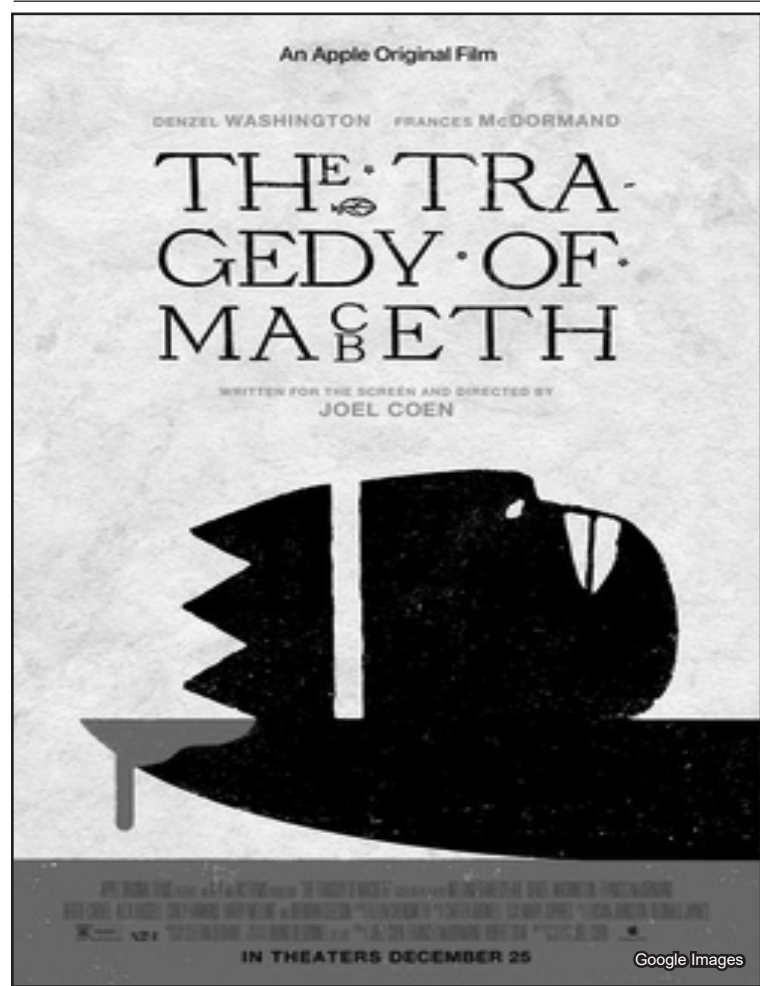


ter of action which allows their relationships with Peter and their characters overall to strengthen. The film contains many surprises and turns which leaves viewers on the edge of their seats. The movie is very easy to follow, even as someone brand new to the Marvel universe. Not understanding all the references does not take away from enjoying the movie.

Months before its release, fans flooded the media with their own speculations and rumors about the film's contents. A main theory shared online was that this Spider-Man universe with Holland would tie together with the other two Spider-Man universes,

starring Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield as different versions of Peter Parker. Fans kept tabs on Maguire and Garfield in case of accidental leaks about their possible involvement in the movie. Other theories arose, speculating the death of MJ, and potential new villains.

Even with all the speculation online, fans could not have predicted just how good of a film *No Way Home* would turn out to be. It's exciting to see where the Spider-Man universe will move on from here as these films continue to surpass expectations.



Joel Coen Retells Shakespeare

by Liam Trump '24

Working as a solo director for the first time since 2003, director Joel Coen proves he can manage without his frequent collaborator/brother Ethan Coen with *The Tragedy of Macbeth*. Tapping into the classic tale of William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Coen spins together a beautifully presented tale full of betrayal and vengeance.

Taking place in 11th century Scotland, *The Tragedy of Macbeth* tells the story of Macbeth (Denzel Washington), the Thane of Glamis, who receives a prophecy from a trio of witches (all played by Kathryn Hunter) who say that he will become the king of Scotland. With this new knowledge and heavy encouragement from his wife Lady Macbeth (Frances McDormand), he murders the then King Duncan (Brendan Gleeson) to take the throne for himself and away from the would-be heir Malcolm (Harry Melling).

While this may be a near one-to-one retelling of the play *Macbeth*, the original material is heightened through stunning cinematography and dynamic performances.

Having such meticulously crafted shots, cinematographer Bruno Delbonnel strings together visuals that are works of art in their own right. The darker and lighter colors are accentuated with the black and white color grade, giving the world of *The Tragedy of Macbeth* a personality of its own. Coen's depiction of Scotland is fantastical to a degree, but is reeled back, reflecting the dark and moody atmosphere.

Alongside the overall presentation, the sets, costumes, and props give off a minimalistic feel which separates this latest outing from the rest of Coen's filmography, allowing the casts' performances to be the main focus.

With such a high-bill ensemble, Coen is able to effortlessly

translate Shakespeare's words onto the silver screen. Even with the numerous soliloquies the script has in store, the cast nailed scene after scene, with Washington and McDormand carrying the brunt of the film. The supporting cast members also do a fair job, with Corey Hawkins, Bertie Carvel, and Alex Hassell being some real standouts.

The level of emotion the cast shows is impressive, to say the least, and adds depth to the sequences where the cast has to interact with one another. The only weak links are the child actors, who luckily don't have many dialogue-heavy moments.

Where *The Tragedy of Macbeth* falters, however, is in forming a foundation for the story to unfold. The beginning of the film suffers greatly from a lack of conflict. An array of characters are introduced, but none of them are interesting as a result. There are some expertly crafted visuals, but they're in service to weak material at the start of the movie.

Although the beginning greatly detracts from the movie's initial appeal, the film picks up the slack as the plot unravels and more engaging story threads are introduced.

The character of Macbeth in particular becomes increasingly more interesting to watch after he murders Duncan, eventually being enveloped by his own nihilism. The later events of *The Tragedy of Macbeth* provide theatrically choreographed action and satisfying conclusions for both Macbeth and Malcolm, two characters who had their fates laid out by the witches.

Undertaking such a notable story from classic literature is a tall order, indeed, but Coen manages to pull it off. With his brother taking a leave of absence from filmmaking, it's safe to say that it won't be detrimental to the Coen name going forward.

Grade: B+

January 20, 2022

Aristotle and Dante Discover A Very Unnecessary Sequel

by Erica Kuhlmann '22

Since its publication in 2012, multi-award-winning *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz has found international acclaim from critics and audiences alike. In 2016, a sequel was announced to be in the works, and five years later, after multiple delays and title changes, it was finally released in October of 2021. *Aristotle and Dante Dive Into the Waters of the World* had some big shoes to fill, facing high expectations due to both the quality and depth of the first novel and the years that fans had to wait for its publication. Unfortunately, it comes nowhere near meeting those expectations.

The novel's plot picks up more or less immediately where the first book left off, and follows quite a similar structure. The reader follows Aristotle "Ari" Mendoza through a summer and his senior year of high school as he and Dante attempt to navigate a new romantic relationship in the unaccepting environment of 1980s El Paso, Texas. It's difficult to describe the plot of this book because, like the first book, it focuses mainly on the development of characters and the relationships between them.

This book fails where the first succeeds with this structure because the dialogue and characterization are very one-note. All the characters basically speak, think, and act the same way. There are so many incredibly heavy and complex themes attempted at once that every character becomes an empty shell for the author to philosophize through. The frequent waxing poetic and "deep" monologues do not reflect how people speak

in real life, and it makes interactions between characters seem stilted and strange.

The writing is often overly dense and flowery, preferring to "tell" rather than "show" the messages the reader is intended to take away. It seems severely under-edited, at times reading like someone trying to meet the minimum word count on an essay and stating in a lengthy paragraph what could have been expressed in a single sentence. Not to mention that the messages and events of the story in general are incredibly repetitive and each sentiment and main idea is not only stated directly, but repeated multiple times, as if readers can't be trusted not to miss the purpose of the book. Despite featuring three funerals and over 150 mentions of crying, the novel in general fails to be emotionally moving because of a monotonous pace and tone that ends up thundering through key moments and dragging out minor ones.

That's not to say every moment in this book is bad. There are some moments where the funny, genuine, and unique characters of the first book do shine through. However, these moments are far between enough that they only really serve to remind readers of how much lower quality the rest of the story is than what could usually be expected of Sáenz.

In the acknowledgments, Sáenz states that he had originally never intended to write a sequel to the first book, and that is abundantly clear in every aspect of this novel. For fans of Aristotle and Dante, this will feel like an empty, pointless, difficult-to-finish sequel.

Grade: C-



Aggretsuko Screams a Bit Out of Tune

by Kyla Sanchez '22

Netflix's *Aggretsuko* is one of the truly bizarre but shining gems of the streaming service's original animated series. The show stars title character Retsuko, a mid 20s red panda, who works as an overburdened accountant by day, and releases her anger through metal screaming sessions at a private karaoke bar by night. Throughout the series she grapples with relatable issues like a sparse dating life, annoying bosses, and more but also deals with pressures of fame and being stalked, making for a captivating show.

While this season of *Aggretsuko*'s highs are certainly high, the overall weak structure and repetitiveness prevents it from being an overall exceptional season. Season 4 starts almost immediately to where season 3 left off, with Retsuko and Haida, a love interest that expressed his feelings in the finale, seemingly about to bring their relationship to a new level. From here, the first half of the season centers on

the slow advances Haida makes on Retsuko, and him losing his confidence again mid season. This romance, which has barely even been developed besides some previous pining from Haida, is often frustrating and very slow paced, and severely brings down the stakes from the events of last season.

This meandering romance also regresses Haida's character, who had last season greatly increased his emotional communication skills but suddenly this season cannot be direct at all with Retsuko. While there is nothing wrong with re-examining a completed arc and making Haida build more on his wavering confidence skills, it makes the show more about Haida, and not in a very compelling way.

Retsuko herself does not grow or change much this season with this more limited screen time, along with most of the other characters unfortunately. The other major event of this season, a new mysterious CEO named Himura taking over with shady means of advancing the busi-

ness, does lead to some highlights like Retsuko swinging in Mission Impossible style with her team of co-workers to retrieve a confidential hard drive but also some low points like a new trio of annoying comic-relief businessmen.

Ton, Retsuko's pig accountant boss and previously villainous character, also undergoes an interesting arc through this plotline. He is forced to quit his job by Himura through a loophole and learns to work with Retsuko (who he had previously been awful to) when she recruits him to be lead accountant for her metal screaming career. His confrontation with his actions and transformation are refreshing next to Haida's passive season arc and is another highlight.

While *Aggretsuko* Season 4 is underwhelming, its funny and emotionally moving moments make it captivating enough to glaze over some of its more boring plot choices and make it an average, but enjoyable season.

Grade: C+

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The Tricky Ethics of Watching True Crime

by Nia Peake '23

True crime has become the new craving of the current generation of young people. The thrill of watching or listening to cold cases unfolding right at your fingertips—who wouldn't be enthralled? But it seems that we forget the lost lives and the loved ones that still mourn those who are the real stories behind the entertainment of true crime.

True crime has quickly made its way to the forefront of modern-day pop culture given the world's obsessive curiosity about gruesome tragedies. What started off as an eccentric literary genre has now expanded all across digital media. Documentaries, TV shows, YouTube videos, podcasts, and even viral TikToks have been centered around retellings of true crime stories.

The rise in the consumption of true-crime culture has fueled bizarre ways to present these murder crimes and mysterious disappearances. It has become a trend for creators to narrate a brutal crime in gory details as they complete a glam makeup look or decorate holiday cookies. By presenting these crimes in a mundane manner, they end up sensationalizing a fatal occurrence, thus reducing these horrors to simply "scary" stories to be watched as light-hearted content

and unintentionally normalizing it for some viewers. Many people acquire such brutal information by playing these videos or podcasts as they clean their house or on a long drive. This casual approach of digesting true crime has led the consumers and presenters to forget that the people they are learning about were actual people, not just someone behind a screen or a form of entertainment.

Streaming services also are culpable as they have started to capitalize on the draw to true crime by constantly having a new documentary on their platforms. While one would like to believe that streaming services are putting out true-crime documentaries to bring awareness to a victim's story, it seems as though the revenue is the real reason. Recently, Hulu released a documentary on the murder of Brooke Preston in which the family wanted no part and had asked for it not to move forward as its focus would be on the story of the murderer and his defense that he committed the crime while he was sleepwalking. Although documentarians don't generally need consent to produce a film about a case it is insensitive to exploit victims and pretty obviously unethical. Or at least it should be obvious.

While true crime as a genre has developed into entertainment,



one should be mindful of the basis of the content. Unlike a movie or a creative work of fiction, most true crime reports are on real peo-

ple who have suffered real and usually fatal tragedies. What may be a fun mystery escape for you, still is a story about a real person

who lost their life. So it's important to keep that in the back of your mind as a way to watch true crime while also being respectful.



(From left) Seniors Adriana Bohlmann, Reade Fenner, Emily Scholl, sophomore Ben Schoenberg, and junior Mia Rohan pose for a photo after rehearsing their one-act "Island Escape," written by Bohlmann and Scholl.

Students Prepare for Winter One-Acts Festival

by Andrew Papalia '24

After the success of the fall production of *The Little Mermaid*, students in Sherwood Theatre are preparing to get behind the camera for the annual Winter One-Acts performance. While other productions are usually directed and run by theatre teacher Elizabeth Kominski, Winter One-Acts flips the script and allows upperclassmen students to not only direct but write and cast their own shows, which will be pre-recorded and available for purchasing on January 20.

One of the eight shows to be performed is *Five Steps to a Successful First Date*, written by seniors Kashmira Heaton-Vakharia and Taylor Hardy. It follows Bruce (played by sophomore Ben Schoenberg) wanting to take Jin-

ny (played by Heaton-Vakharia) to the prom. Bruce and his two friends Clark and Kara come up with a full plan to ask her out, but he is just too awkward around girls to do so. Once at the prom, Jinny is murdered and the group tries to figure out who did it. The satirical horror-comedy is sure to bring not only mystery, but lots of laughs.

"The best part of switching from an actress to a director is being able to work with my best friend," said Hardy. It is great that regardless of the shows being virtual, directors are still getting the same experience.

Another show in progress is *The Group Project*, written by junior Jordan Goodman. The story follows a high school jock, Michael (played by sophomore

Andrew Papalia), who is failing his theatre class. Because of his neglect to keep his grades up, his teacher makes him do a group project with theatre nerds. As a big football player, Michael is very uncomfortable with the idea of working with theatre kids and is reluctant to do the project. He has to learn how to do well to improve his grade, while working around his theatre-hating football friends in order to get through the project. This classic coming-of-age story is great for those who love cheesy and heartwarming plays, and it will not disappoint

Ultimately, the Winter One-Acts project takes a lot of hard work and student effort, and is going to be a theatrical experience that students should not miss streaming when they have the chance.

Licorice Pizza Examines Problematic Relationships

by Audrey Farris '25

While its '70s aesthetic and classic soundtrack drew many in, *Licorice Pizza* has become a controversial, polarizing film. Portraying a relationship with a problematic age gap is a tricky task and the film struggles at points to pull it off. It dances the line between romanticizing pedophilia and outright condemning such relationships.

The story starts when Alana Kane (Alana Haim), a 25 year old school photographer meets 15 year old Gary Valentine (Cooper Hoffman), a child actor and high school sophomore. After conversing during picture day, Gary asks Alana on a dinner date. She states how a sexual relationship would be illegal but Gary assures her they are going platonically. As the movie continues, their relationship grows and they start a business together selling novelty waterbeds. After about a year, the two go their separate ways and lose contact, until the end. In the final scene, they find each other and kiss, which is the first time they are embracing their feelings for each other.

This ended *Licorice Pizza* in a weird way because after going through multiple relationships with people in each of their own age groups, they still came back to each other. The final scene is very bright and joyous but viewers weren't left cheering for the two. Their relationship is still ille-

gal. This scene in particular isn't necessarily glorifying an inappropriate relationship, but it definitely is exploring their relationship.

The film thematically explores external validation by presenting a young woman who feels judged by her peers for not finding a path in life. When a teenager shows this interest in her, she is drawn to it. She is receiving this appreciation that she hasn't gotten from the people who are closest to her. Also, Alana is envious of this boy as he is so young yet has figured himself out. Even if he's faking his self-confidence, it comes off as genuine to her. This inappropriate power dynamic makes for an often perplexing, multi-layered relationship between the two characters.

However, *Licorice Pizza* gets in its own way such as through the casual racism sprinkled throughout. It's entirely unnecessary and apparently used solely for comedic purposes, yet does the opposite and makes viewers uncomfortable. Sure, it's a different time period, but you could show that by the clothing and the cars.

Licorice Pizza is just alright. The plot isn't necessarily coherent and dragged on in certain parts, but the way the writers and directors dealt with the inappropriate relationship between the main characters is often fascinating even if at points uncomfortable to watch.

Grade: C-

January 20, 2022

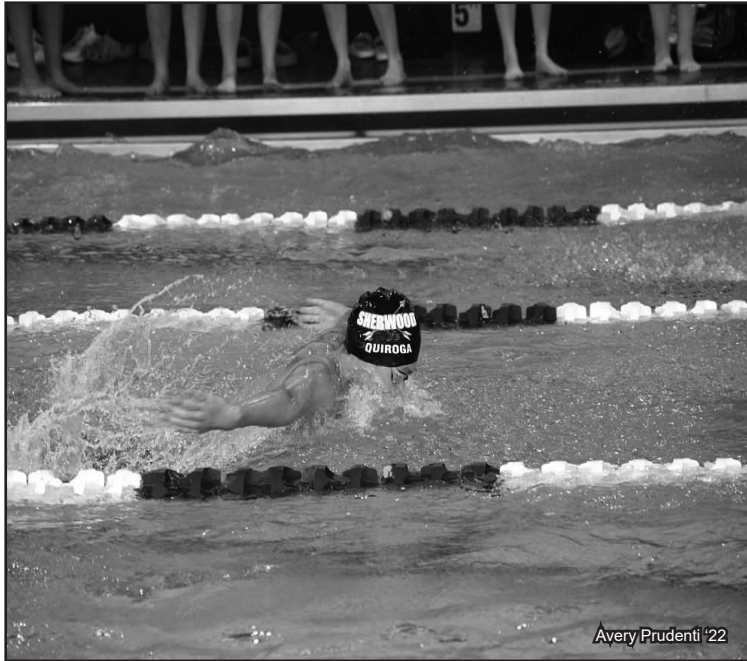
Swim Adjusts to New and Old Dynamics

by Selene Ashewood '22

The swim and dive team got off to a strong start to their season. After winning a scrimmage meet against Blake and Paint Branch and beating Wheaton, a Covid-19 concern and school-wide safety measures paused the winning streak until January 6. The team doesn't plan to hold back now that they are allowed back in the water.

Last time this co-ed team had an in-person season was the winter of 2020, which coincidentally was the year they moved down a division--likely due to the boys on the team not being on par with the girls' results. That mismatch of skill actually seemed to even out this year with a "huge injection of youth on our boys side," which includes "eight new swimmers that will contribute immediately on the [their] side and some that will challenge all of MCPS for top seed in their events," said Coach Ryan Burnsky.

This season, the team is focused on readjusting to the in-person structure rather than going back to Division 1. The swim and dive team as a whole seems stronger this year with Burnsky saying many swimmers on this large team practice both through Sherwood and through club swimming at Rockville Montgomery Swim Club (RMSC).



Junior Lucas Quiroga swims the 100 meter fly against Quince Orchard.

This was why the December 11 meet against Wheaton was so sparse since the RMSC Holiday Championships fell on the same day, meaning many of the strongest swimmers on the team were absent. Yet Sherwood still pulled through and won with boys scoring 115-69 and girls winning 120-66.

The team returned to competitive swimming on January 8 against Damascus in which the boys team won by 15 points while the girls lost 103-83. Sherwood swam again on January 15 in a meet against Quince Orchard.

The girls came up just short, losing 98-88, while the boys continued their winning streak with a 92-82 team result. The meet features a number of great races, especially at the end.

Whatever the results from meets, Burnsky is optimistic as long as the season continues. "I am excited to get the season back on track and I know the athletes are as well," said Burnsky. "The athletes have put a lot of work and dedication into making this season happen. So hopefully we will be able to [operate] safely, and close out strong."

Boys and Girls Basketball Teams Look To Overcome Tough Starts

by Evan Joseph and Perri Williams '23

The boys' varsity basketball team recently is showing signs of turning around their season. During an 0-8 start, the Warriors lost in almost every way imaginable. That includes blowouts against B-CC, Urbana, and Churchill, and heartbreaking losses that just barely slipped away against Einstein, Blake, and Paint Branch. The Warriors hope to find some rhythm after winning consecutive games against Northwood 73-54 and then against Blair on January 14 by a score of 68-61.

The way the Warriors handled the game against Northwood provided a template for turning things around. Even with a slow start offensively for the Warriors in the first half, they proved to be everywhere on defense and caused many turnovers through steals. In the second half, they transitioned this defensive success into offense as they ran away with the game. Senior forward Donovan Prophet continues to turn heads as he put together another great game against Northwood. Seniors Henry Hasanaj (guard), and Brandon Daniels (forward), along with junior Mason Eller (guard/forward) also

made great contributions. On January 18, the Warriors looked for revenge against Blake and to continue to turn their season around.

Girls basketball also has struggled through a challenging first half of the season. The team only returned two players from when the Warriors last had a season two years ago. Not only are the players still getting a feel for their teammates' style of play, but they also had to contend with a Covid-19 outbreaks that also left them without head coach Tim Hobbs for two games. Girls basketball lost to B-CC, Urbana, and Churchill, with games against Magruder and Paint Branch postponed due to Covid-19 outbreaks.

After the winter break the team looked more like their promising selves in a close 66-61 loss in overtime against Blake in the first conference games of the season. Junior Elizabeth Furgione and senior Kay Sakala both scored career highs. The Warriors pushed the ball in the open court to lead to easy baskets in their 56-18 victory against Wheaton and 54-30 win over Northwood. On January 14, the girls played their rival and the No. 1 seed in the division and region, Blair. The Warriors held the lead against Blair the entire game and eventually secured a 47-32 win.

Is Jake Paul the Most Relevant Boxer of the 21st Century?

by Carter Braun '23

Upwards of four billion people in the world are active on social media, and adolescents spend hours a day watching celebrities on TikTok, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter. Whether it be good or bad, almost any publicity is good publicity for celebrities. They feed off the public's attention, and it is irrelevant whether they are hated or loved. That is especially true for former Vine star and Disney actor Jake Paul, now turned professional boxer.

With a record of 5-0 in his professional career and victories over retired NBA player Nate Robinson, retired MMA fighter Ben Askren, and former UFC champion Tyron Woodley, it poses the questions: is Jake Paul actually good at boxing, and if so, is he good for the sport?

Paul, 24, became famous on the since defunct app, Vine, as a teenager in 2013. He has since gone viral on YouTube, gaining a record five million subscribers in his first six months on the app in 2017. Paul appeared on the Disney show Bizaardvark, starring as character Dirk Mann. Kids and teens around the world loved and idolized Paul, as he was a funny, sociable YouTuber and Disney star.

However, things went downhill for Paul after controversies arose surrounding his behavior which included engaging in risky stunts, driving bikes into pools, and starting fires in his backyard. Other more troubling controversies consist of sexually suggestive behavior, getting fired from

Bizaardvark in 2017, and being charged with criminal trespass and unlawful assembly. But most notably of them all, in April this year, TikTok star Justine Paradise accused Paul of sexually assaulting her at his home in 2019. About a week later, Paul was accused of groping an underage girl in 2017. A sign of this new age in celebrity, Paul finds himself in hot water for a time until people forget about what happened and move onto what's trending next.

And so now Paul is re-branding himself as a boxer and on December 18, he defeated former UFC champion Woodley via KO for the second time in five months. This knockout came in the 6th round of the fight during a back and forth match until a strong right hook from Paul sent Woodley to the mat.

After improving to 5-0 in his professional career, Paul has shown that he has the ability to compete with some of the best athletes in the world. He silenced doubters and backed up his arrogant claims by defeating a professional basketball player, a UFC champion twice, and a former mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter.

After the most recent victory, Paul called out the UFC's president, Dana White, with whom he has publicly feuded, and offered to fight MMA stars. Paul pleaded with White to accept his offer and stated that he would fight the current UFC welterweight champion Nate Diaz.

But one question still arises; is his presence as a celebrity good for the overall sport of boxing (or



Jake Paul prepares for a boxing match against Ben Askren during the Thriller Fight Club in Atlanta, Georgia.

for that matter, MMA)? Boxing has taken a dip in relevancy in the 21st century, as less and less people are viewing the sport, and less and less parents are allowing their children to box. Now, kids grow up watching influencers such as Jake Paul, his brother Logan, YouTuber KSI, and other celebrities and professional athletes take up the sport of boxing.

Paul claims that his highly anticipated bout versus Askren generated over 1.5 million pay per view (PPV) buys, meaning that 1.5 million people paid to

watch the fight. If true, the Paul vs. Askren fight would be the 12th most watched Boxing, UFC, or MMA fight of all time. The Logan Paul vs. KSI fight totaled 1.2 million PPV, resulting in it being the 21st most viewed event of all time.

Whether his claim over his viewers is true or not, the world can agree on one thing. A lot of people watch Jake Paul, and a lot of people watch him box. Bringing his celebrity following into the dying sport of boxing can only help the sport gain popularity.

However, many people still doubt Paul's true boxing ability and wonder whether or not he should even be considered as a top boxer in the world. They can argue over whether or not Paul deserves the fame, or whether Paul should become the new face of boxing all they want. But by doing this, it only increases the fame of the young celebrity from Ohio, and only brings more and more viewers to the sport of boxing, which is exactly what he desires. Any fame for Paul and other celebrities, is good fame.

Special Report: EQUITY IN HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

If You Build It, They Will Come and Watch

by Emily Siansky '22

ATHLETIC SUCCESS 2010-2021

GIRLS SPORTS			
	Semi-Finals	Finals	Champions
Soccer	2012, 2015, 2021	None	None
Cross Country	None	None	None
Basketball	None	None	None
Indoor Track	None	None	None
Volleyball	2014, 2017, 2021	2016	2010, 2011, 2012
Field Hockey	2013	None	None
Swimming	None	2013, 2015, 2017	2016, 2018, 2019
Lacrosse	2014, 2017, 2021	2013	None
Softball	2021	2010, 2017	2012-2016, 2019
Track and Field	None	None	None
Cheerleading	2017-2019, 2021	2018, 2021	None

BOYS SPORTS			
	Semi-Finals	Finals	Champions
Soccer	2017	None	None
Cross Country	None	None	None
Football	2021	None	None
Wrestling	None	None	None
Basketball	2012	None	None
Indoor Track	None	None	None
Swimming	None	None	None
Baseball	2012	2014, 2019	2010, 2021
Lacrosse	2021	None	None
Track and Field	None	None	None

Just by appearance, the baseball and softball teams' facilities illustrate a drastic difference between girls and boys sports at Sherwood. The baseball field sits right next to the football stadium. Being so close to the school allows for better amenities and experiences. On the other hand, the softball field is easily missed; it's at the very back of the school. Players and spectators need to walk on the grass through the practice fields behind the tennis courts to reach the field.

Building better facilities and getting the money to do so comes only in part from the county. Instead, coaches and players have to find ways to fundraise for themselves. Beginning in the 1990s under coach Billy Goodman, baseball started a tradition of fundraising for the program. Baseball coach Sean Davis played at Sherwood and

saw firsthand how to fundraise for the program. "When I took over in 2011, I kind of continued along that same mindset. The extra bells and whistles such as the pressbox came from a lot of extra fundraising and a lot of alumni support," said Davis.

Softball has not had the same fundraising history as baseball. Before softball coach Ashley Barber became head coach, "there was not a dime to softball's name." The coach prior to Barber relied mainly on donations from The Warrior Club, an organization of parent members and volunteers that historically is more willing to help a team that is showing its own efforts at fundraising.

Sometimes, parents of players on the team take the initiative to make needed upgrades. In the fall of 2019, parents brought in BobcatS175s to tear down decrepit dugouts at the softball field and build longer and wider ones

to better accommodate the players on both teams.

Athletic Director Jason Woodward makes it a priority that county and school athletic funds are distributed equally among the boys and girls sports at Sherwood. "As far as the two facilities, especially since Mr. Woodward came in, when something is done to one field, the same thing is done to the other," commented Barber.

The problem is that equity now is not going to be enough to make up for the vast differences in the quality of the facilities between baseball and softball that have arisen over decades. Woodward made an attempt at something more significant in 2019 when he submitted a request to MCPS to build a new softball stadium at the location of the current auxiliary field just outside of the cafeteria at a cost of upwards of \$100,000. The proposal was rejected.

Students Missing Out on the Success of Girls Athletics

by Tori Newby and Maddie Tringone '22

With loud student sections and themed spirit days, it's no secret that boys athletics are much more celebrated and advocated for in comparison to girls athletics. Boys basketball and football are the most highly attended sporting events at Sherwood, according to The Fiscal Year (FY) Athletic Financial Reports 2018-2021, with no girls sport coming close to attracting a comparable number of fans. However, the countywide and schoolwide athletic directors are doing their part to ensure that athletics are equitable, and the responsibility for the disparity between boys and girls athletics lies in the hands of students themselves.

According to the financial reports, boys soccer, basketball, and lacrosse received a combined \$9,195 in gate receipts (ticket sales) in the 2018-2019 school year (pre-pandemic) and \$6,581 in 2019-2020. Girls teams of those same sports received a combined \$5,130 in 2018-2019 and \$3,536 in 2019-2020. Football alone received \$13,899 in gate receipts in 2018-2019 and \$23,374 in 2019-2020.

"There are a lot of different ways to read into the data," said Athletic Director Jason Woodward. "It could [be attributed] to who our opponents were. Truth be told ... if the teams were winning fans come out. They do tend to support the boys team more than the girls team, depending on how the season's going ... It's a matter of students making the choice to come to the boys game versus the girls games."

According to Woodward, the scheduling for MCPS athletics is done centrally by the county, and over the course of two years, boys and girls teams of the same sport play approximately the same number of home games. Wood-

ward uses the athletic department funds to spend similar amounts of money on girls and boys teams each year, with the exception being football, whose equipment is required to be conditioned each year.

School-related accounts, such as the schoolwide SGA Instagram account @sherwoodsga, post promotional edits for primarily football and boys basketball games, which are often re-posted on students' personal accounts. According to SGA vice president Ariana Welch, SGA focuses on posting about games with student section themes to promote school spirit, but the reality is that many girls teams do not have student section themes precisely because of low fan attendance at their games.

Welch noted that members of the varsity football and boys basketball teams approached SGA and asked them to promote their events. As captain of girls varsity soccer, Welch noted that attempts to garner support via social media for her own team had little impact on attendance. "I do agree that we need to advertise for both genders," said Welch. "I just don't know how much of a difference that would make."

Senior girls varsity volleyball captain Sophia Kluska said her team was unaware that in order to be promoted on the SGA account, they needed to contact the officers for every game. After contacting SGA multiple times later in the season about posting for the volleyball team, Kluska was disappointed that SGA "added fine print to one of the football promotion posts on social media" for the volleyball state quarter-final game. "I'm not saying that one social media post would have a huge impact on the size of our student section, but the principle



Fans in the student section pose for a photo at a varsity football game (left) and a girls varsity soccer game.

of girls sports having the same level of support as the boys is important to me," said Kluska.

The success of girls teams does not necessarily translate to more students and community members attending their games. Girls varsity volleyball finished the regular season this past fall with a 14-0 record and the post-season with a record of 18-1. "We made it to state semifinals, undefeated, while barely having a student section," said senior captain Morgan Conner, who attributes the low attendance to students' "internalized misogyny due to the fact that we play a women's sport."

Woodward runs a twitter account called @WarriorResults to promote each team and provide updates and final scores of each sporting event at Sherwood. However, such efforts to promote all teams do not overcome the fact that football and boys basketball are popular social events for the school community; many students attend for the social atmosphere rather than primarily to

watch the sport. Regardless, girls teams work just as hard as their male counterparts with similar practice schedules and often have similar or better records, but they do not get the reward of as many spectators at their games.

At many football games this past fall, most of the student section disappeared after halftime to find new places to socialize. "I didn't enjoy the feeling knowing that people left the game and didn't watch us go out there to represent Sherwood and to win, knowing all the hard work and countless hours we've put in," said senior Nathan Natoli, who is a varsity football and boys basketball captain. "I feel bad for the girls because they put in a lot of time and effort, and I feel that they should have support at all of their games as well."

Although many girls sports at Sherwood are highly successful--girls varsity soccer, field hockey, volleyball, and cheerleading all made it to state quarterfinals or beyond in the 2021 fall season--some still find watch-

ing girls athletics less appealing.

"I love watching both girls and boys sports, and I think they're equally as entertaining, but the only thing I could think of would be that in some boys sports, the pace is faster," said senior boys varsity basketball captain Donovan Prophet.

The concept of boys sports being more entertaining and more attended goes further than just high school athletics. For one of countless examples across collegiate and professional sports, in the 2019 professional basketball season, the NBA had an average of 18,000 attendees per game whereas the WNBA averaged 6,768 attendees. Mirroring this disparity, the revenue made from the 2019 NBA season was \$7.4 billion while the WNBA made \$60 million.

"[Unequal support] is a glaring issue; that does need to be addressed. [Girls and boys athletics] should be promoted equally," said Woodward. "Do I think it needs to be equitable and fair? One hundred percent yes."

January 20, 2022

ON SPORTS 

For the Right Price, Your Ad Goes Here

by Perri Williams '23

Commercialization is the process of managing or running something principally for financial gain. Professional sports in the United States and around the world have always been about generating revenue for the leagues and the teams, but that has traditionally been secondary to providing thrills and entertainment to billions of sports fans. The balance between making money and respecting the fans is seriously out of whack when players wear jerseys adorned with advertisements.

Major League Soccer (MLS) was the first U.S. professional league to allow jersey ads in 2006. Within recent years MLS has added a second spot on jerseys where ads can be shown.

In 2009 the WNBA joined the trend, adding sponsors names where their own team names were. This practice has since changed, and ads are now on the bottom of the front of WNBA jerseys. The NBA was late to this, not adding jersey ads until the 2017-2018 season and thus far those ads are significantly smaller than other leagues. The NBA came up with patch ads which were small ads that were placed on the right side of jerseys.

In 2020 the NWSL added ads to their jerseys similarly to the way the WNBA started using them in 2009, where the ads sit where the team name used to be. Most recently, the NHL has announced that they will be adding jersey ads in the 2022-2023 season that will be about an inch larger than the NBA ads. The NFL has not tapped into this type of advertising yet, but it seems it's only a matter of time.

Jersey ads have become an eyesore specifically on the jerseys of professional athletes and highlight the further commercial-

Wrestling Gets It Done

by Camilo Illanes '22

After a 4th place performance in their first dual meet tournament of the season, wrestling came into their next dual meet tournament at Rockville on January 8 with confidence. In each match up there are 14 different fights for each weight class ranging from 105 to 285 pounds.

In their first match up against Wootton, Sherwood earned a tough fought victory, prevailing despite an injury to junior Luke Arnold. However, losing Arnold created a hole in the 106 weight class spot and meant that Sherwood had to forfeit two matches in their next match up against Northwest, which they ended up losing. "With Luke Arnold out we knew we all had to give it

ization of sports. This becomes a problem when there are different ads everywhere. It is notably annoying when an NFL team is playing and the program is interrupted by a half screen of a pizza ad during the game. Or when a soccer game is on and it is difficult to know who is playing because the players' jerseys ads are larger than their team's name.

Perhaps it was inevitable that advertisements would begin appearing on jerseys once teams began re-naming their stadiums and arenas after whichever corporate sponsors was willing to pay the most money.

Consider the professional sports teams in Washington D.C.: The Washington Football Team plays at FedEx Field; the Wizards in Capital One Arena (and before that the Verizon Center and before that the MCI Center); DC United on Audi Field. How long before Nationals Park gets rebranded as Booz Allen Field or as Lockheed Martin Stadium or how about Marriott International Park?

Leagues are constantly coming up with new practices to increase revenue. Most recently, the NBA has begun using a virtual signage on their teams' courts where they change the advertisements each quarter for viewers who are watching the game on television.

Court ads reportedly put an extra 60,000 dollars per game in teams' pockets. While commercialization practices are tremendously lucrative, they can also make consumers' (of the actual sport) experiences less enjoyable and engaging.

So at the end of the day is the advertising all worth it? It is for those making the money. And what about for the rest of us? The leagues and the team owners don't care about that. The leagues and the team owners don't care about that.

100 percent," said senior Grant Wicks.

Consequently, after the first round-robin stage Sherwood was placed in a group with Kennedy, Magruder, and Oakdale to decide the 6th through 8th place finishers at the event. Sherwood was able to fight hard and defeat Kennedy but lost to Oakdale and Magruder, placing 7th in the dual meet tournament. Some standout performances at the tournament included a 5-0 record for senior Grant Wicks, junior Jace Munoz, and sophomore Vasili Siarkis. Junior Sam Dickey also performed well with a 4-1 record and a close 5-3 loss to a top ranked wrestler in the state. "Our team overall did well and our younger guys showed a lot of heart and promising futures," recounted Wicks.

The Winter Olympics Offers China a Chance To 'Sportswash' Human Rights

by Lizzy Hermosilla '23

With less than a month until the 2022 Winter Olympics Games all eyes are on Beijing, the host city of the games. With the prying eyes of the media now of the country of China, grave animosity towards the country has arisen worldwide due to its involvement in the extermination of the Uyghur Muslims, a religious minority in China. They are currently interned in the Xinjiang province which is about 1720 miles away from Beijing. The strategic hosting of massive sporting events like the Olympics is viewed by critics as a way to distract from the bad publicity that various human rights violations attract to a country's global image, commonly known as "Sportswashing."

The Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) internment of the Uyghurs has now been classified by many human rights activist and nations as genocide which is the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group.

China also is now faced with the Women's Tennis Organization decision to suspend all tournaments in China. This comes after the disappearance of Peng Shuai, former No. 1 female doubles tennis player in the world, after her allegations of sexual assault allegations by former CCP leader Zhan Gaoli went public.

Many activists have now dubbed this Olympics as the "Genocide Games" and despite the new nickname, the games only grow closer, and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) remains firm in their stance not to relocate the games.

Students Welcome Back OBGC Recreational Basketball League

by Jack Link '23

A season of OBGC house basketball kicked off on Sunday, December 5, consisting of an eight-league team with a total of 10-12 players per team. Sherwood's Warren G. Crutchfield Gymnasium has the honor of hosting these games, which provide an opportunity for a number of Sherwood students to participate in the league. Students from Magruder, Good Counsel, and other schools make up a smaller percentage of players in the league.

In order for each team to be formed, a parent or guardian from a member of the team must be actively attending each game. One of these parent volunteers is Tom Mavrikes, and he believes that the basketball league is a chance for teens to get out of their houses and stay active.

"It's a good opportunity for high schoolers to get back into so-



Demonstrations protest against China's treatment of the Uyghur Muslims.

Many countries have called diplomatic boycotts of the games in response to the IOC's unwillingness to postpone and relocate the games. This will not stop athletes of that nation from competing, but it does mean that no diplomats from that country will be in attendance during the games.

The United States was the first country to announce their diplomatic boycott and many countries have followed such as Great Britain, Canada and Australia. However, many countries as well as the European Union are fearful of Chinese trade retaliation if they were to join the diplomatic boycott.

The fear brought on by boycotting China is a common occurrence when "Sportswashing" is present. Other culprits of Sportswashing like Saudi Arabia and Qatar face little push back from other countries, including the United States, due to their important role in the global oil market and various alliances.

Despite Sportswashing re-

cently being recognized by international news outlets, it has been around for years going back to the 1936 Olympic Games in Nazi Germany.

The IOC has found itself in similar predicaments with the 2018 Winter Olympics where North and South Korea were allowed to compete as one team which inadvertently pushed positive headlines about North Korea to the forefront of their global image.

In addition, Team Russia, now known as the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) since their doping scandal in the 2008 Olympic Games, have been able to compete in all the Olympic games since under the name ROC while simultaneously committing various human right violations against independent media outlets.

The IOC's consistent blind eye towards human rights violations continues as the 2022 Beijing Olympic Games are a go in less than a few weeks.

cialization with people they may not have seen since before the pandemic," said Mavrikes.

Not only are parents happy and supportive of the league but players are, too. Junior JJ Singleton enthusiastically praises his experiences within the league. "I've had a great time playing with all my best friends; the league gives me something to look forward to on the weekends," Singleton said.

There are specific and strict protocols that are intended to prevent the spread of Covid-19. In an email sent out on December 17, the commissioner of the league, Brad Scott, addressed the mask usage during games.

"In order to continue playing, everyone in the building wears a mask at all times," stated Scott in the email. Some of his plans to enforce these rules are, "[reaching] out to the ref coordinator and [reminding] him of our policy," as well as himself "bouncing around between the 6

gyms we use this weekend and expect to have the policy in place and being followed."

Scott goes on to say that if these rules are not enforced and followed by all players and spectators, the league could potentially get their permits revoked, ending the privilege to play.

Currently, the eight teams have battled it out, and heading into 2022 three teams remained undefeated in a three-way tie between team Andre, Comeau, and Mavrikes, all of which contain a large majority of Sherwood students.

As the season progresses there is likely to be changes in the ranking of each team as the top competitors compete against each other.

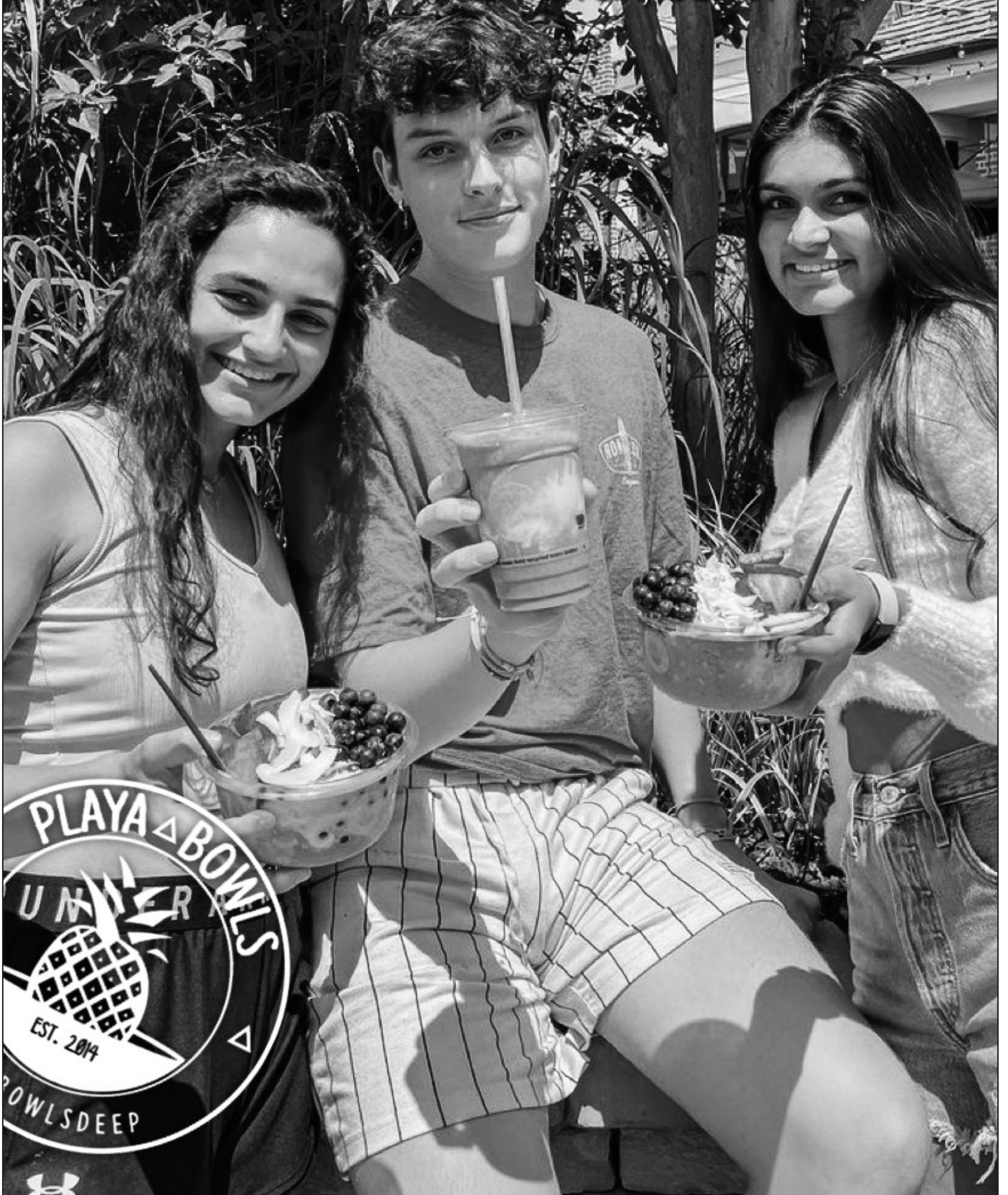
Most recently, the league transitioned into a Covid-safe playing environment where games lack spectators and referees to reduce the likelihood of an outbreak.

January 20, 2022

COME TO

Playa Bowls

18147 TOWN CENTER DR, OLNEY



January 20, 2022

@madsflickdump Showcases School Spirit On Instagram

by Yusra Husain '22

After a year and a half of virtual learning, senior Maddie Tringone decided to whip out her digital camera and capture the essence of senior year. As an athlete, Tringone is no stranger to the pleasure of having nice pictures taken while playing your favorite sport. Thus, when Sherwood returned to in-person learning, she took the initiative to capture the action of sports teams and the school-spirited student section. Tringone posts all of her photos on the popular Instagram account @madsflickdump.

Tringone originally created this account in March of 2021 because she wanted a smaller space to post pictures she didn't necessarily want publicized on her personal account. Initially, she began taking pictures and videos of her friends, family, and fun places. Now, with over 350 followers, @madsflickdump has blossomed into a page that Sherwood students look forward to seeing on their feed the morning after a big game.

During the fall season, Trin-



A collage of the sports, student section, and pep rally photos from the Sherwood 2021-2022 school year.

gone attended and photographed a variety of soccer, volleyball, field hockey, basketball, cheer, and pom events as well the energetic student section at football games. She has also captured other school events such as pep rallies and homecoming. Originally, Tringone felt a little insecure about pulling out her camera around all the students and staff at these occasions. However, she

quickly realized that most students would "probably be excited to have some of the best parts of high school captured." So far, Tringone's favorite team to photograph has been volleyball because many of her best friends are on the team, but she truly enjoys taking photos of all the sports at Sherwood.

Making sure content gets posted to Instagram is definitely

a tedious process for Tringone as attending all these events takes up a substantial amount of her free time. "I definitely feel the need to attend as many sporting events as I can because I know both the athletes and students really enjoy it when I take photos of them," said Tringone.

After a typical night at Caruso Memorial Field or Warren G. Crutchfield Gymnasium, Trin-

gone returns home and spends over an hour looking through all the pictures, downloading them onto her phone, and posting them on @madsflickdump. "Keeping up with the account definitely isn't as easy as when I first started because now I feel like people are waiting for me to post pictures after a big event or game," explained Tringone. Despite the time commitment, taking pictures is something that brings Tringone joy, especially when fellow students are excited to be featured.

Tringone has always loved taking photos and videos as a child and plans to major in Cinematography and Film Production in college. In the future, her dream job is to be a director or producer for films and television shows. Creating @madsflickdump has built an avenue for Tringone to express her love of photography and film by sharing her photos with fellow students and friends.

Tringone is glad she created the account because in years, "everyone will look back on all the photos and feel like their high school experience was documented."

Cropdusters Ready To Play Ball

by Evan Joseph '23

Olney has produced a multitude high-level baseball players including collegiate-level talents and even pros. The Olney Boys and Girls Club (OBGC) has recently announced that they will be adding a collegiate summer league baseball team named the Olney Cropdusters to their organization. OBGC is also building a new stadium for the Cropdusters, which will also be used for other OBGC events.

The idea for a collegiate summer team came to be after a presentation by investors, and members of OBGC jumped on it, acknowledging the great love of baseball in the greater Olney community.

OBGC's mission for the Cropdusters is focused on creating a local baseball experience that brings "fun and family entertainment, while contributing to the development of talented college athletes."

Brad Scott, the Executive and Athletic Director of OBGC, said that the plans are on schedule at this point. "We're basically doing the project in three phases. Phase one will be complete by the summertime and it'll be in-ground dugouts, a scoreboard, and new bullpen areas," said Scott. "The next two phases are going to be lights so we can play games in the dark, and we're going to have some press boxes and then bleachers and stands for the fans. It's going to be a multi-step process over the next few years in order to finish it, but it will be a playable field starting in the summer."

The Head Coach of the Cropdusters is Adam Leader, a teacher in Howard County who has been the head baseball coach for Reservoir High School for 20

years and hosts a baseball camp there every summer. Leaders' goal for the team is "to give college players on our roster the best summer of baseball of their lives" and for "every fan that attends our games to have the best baseball experience of their lives."

The team has players from all across the country and is made up of elite college baseball talent, including three Sherwood alumni: Brett Seils ('21), Michael Bouma ('19), and Ben Vok ('19).

"We looked at a couple of different factors [in selecting players for the team]," explained Scott. "Our general manager has some relationships with certain colleges so he went to some different colleges about sending some guys to play with us. But we also wanted to get guys who would be exciting for the community so we are having some of the guys that have played at Sherwood over the last couple of years that are playing division one college to come to play."

OBGC will also host the out-of-state athletes for the summer. "There are guys coming from as far as Hawaii," said Scott. "We are in the process right now of getting host families. Basically, anyone that would want to have a player come stay with them can become a host family and host them for the months the season is going on, and you get a chance to come to the games and hang out with the players and it makes for a cool experience."

The team will be playing in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Summer Baseball league, which is made up of teams mostly based out of the DMV area. With the Cropdusters on their way, more great baseball is coming to Olney as they look to advance the baseball culture and tradition rooted in our area.

WATCH THE WARRIORS IN ACTION

Spectators suspended through 1/23
Watch live at [nfhsnetwork.com](https://www.nfhsnetwork.com)

Varsity Boys Basketball

1/21- @ Magruder 7:15
1/25- @ Poolesville 7:15
1/28- vs. Blair 7:15
1/31- @ Whitman 7:15
2/2- vs. Clarksburg 6:00
2/4- @ Gaithersburg 7:15
2/8- vs. Walter Johnson 5:30
2/11- @ Kennedy 5:30
2/18- vs. Quince Orchard 7:15

Varsity Girls Basketball

1/20- @ Paint Branch 6:00
1/21- vs. Magruder 7:15
1/25- vs. Poolesville 7:15
1/28- @ Blair 7:15
1/31- vs. Whitman 7:15
2/2- @ Clarksburg 6:00
2/4- vs. Gaithersburg 7:15
2/8- vs. Walter Johnson 7:15
2/11- @ Kennedy 7:15
2/18- vs. Quince Orchard 5:30

Varsity Wrestling

1/22- vs. Springbrook 1:00
1/24- vs. Magruder 7:15
1/26- @ Whitman 7:15
2/3- @ Rockville 6:15
2/5- vs. Damascus and Churchill 5:30

Indoor Track and Field

1/26- @ Springbrook 2:30

Bocce

1/20- vs. Paint Branch 5:30

Poms

1/22- @ Springbrook 4:45
1/29 @ Seneca Valley TBD
2/5- County Championship @ Blair 5:00

Swimming and Diving

1/22- vs. Poolesville @ Martin Luther King Swim Center 9:15 am
1/29- vs. Watkins Mill @ Gaithersburg Aquatic Center 2:30 pm
2/5- Division II Championship @ Martin Luther King Swim Center 4:00 pm
2/9-12- Metro Championship @ Germantown Indoor Swim Center TBD