

Sherwood High School: 300 Olney Sandy Spring Road, Sandy Spring, MD 20860

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## MCPS Drops Mask Mandate

*Number of factors and pressures coalesced to make decision inevitable*

by Alex Braun '23  
and Jay Joseph '22

The MCPS Board of Education (BOE) voted unanimously to move to a mask-optional policy on March 8 after a number of events on the national and state levels made the decision inevitable. MCPS even anticipated the vote's outcome, sending an email to employees and parents on February 26, informing them that the school system expected moving to a mask-optional policy after the vote. In an email on March 4 to students, the county clarified Covid-19 mitigation strategies and where masks would be optional if the vote removed the mandate.

On February 25, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revised its guidelines on assessing Covid-19 risk for individual counties. The CDC shifted from focusing on limiting Covid-19 cases as much as possible to ensuring that communities could handle case numbers as the risk Covid-19 poses decreased with vaccines

and boosters. Rather than counting the total number of cases, the CDC now recommends that counties consider the percentage of hospital beds occupied by Covid-19 patients, the number of Covid-19 related hospitalizations in the past week, and the number of new cases per 100,000 people in the past week. By the revised criteria, counties can determine whether their Covid-19 community level is designated as low, medium, or high and take mitigative action based on this risk. If a county has a low or medium level, they can relax restrictions, and vaccinated individuals can begin to take off their masks. According to the CDC website, Montgomery County is in the 'Low' category, which gave the BOE the green light to remove the mask mandate from the governing national scientific body on the pandemic.

Gov. Larry Hogan also called on the Maryland State Board of Education to rescind its emergency statewide school mask mandate on February 10. Montgomery County's indoor mask mandate policy expired February 22 at midnight and later that day, the Maryland State Board of Edu-

cation voted to rescind the emergency mask mandate. Maryland's Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review (AELR) approved this decision on February 25, giving local school districts discretion over enforcing mask mandates. MCPS sent out its first email anticipating the mask-optional policy the next day.

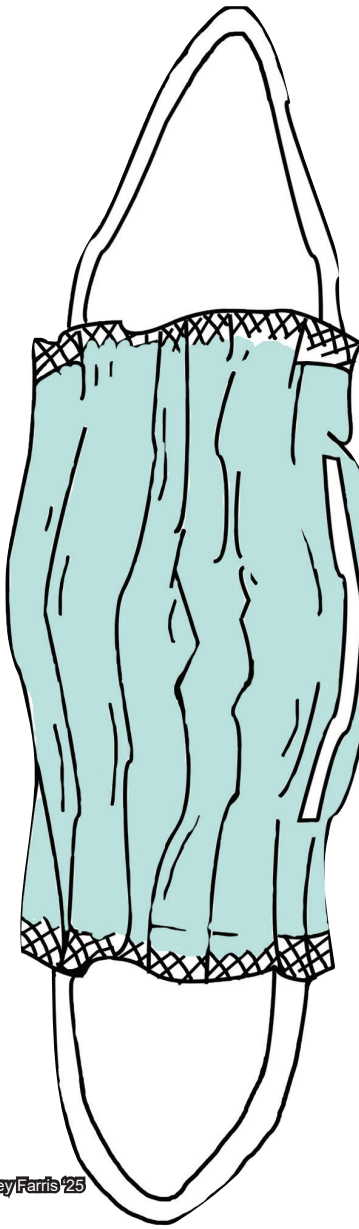
Furthermore, by the time of the BOE decision, Montgomery County's primary indicators of Covid-19 community transmission had been on a steady decline since the surge of cases from the Omicron variant in January. On March 8, there were 45.49 cases per 100,000 residents and a 2.7 percent Covid-19 occupancy of staffed inpatient beds in the previous seven days, indicating a decreasing moderate Covid-19 transmission level.

At this same time, Democratic governors and mayors across the country had also repealed statewide school mask mandates or announced that mandates would relax by mid-March, most notably the governor of California and mayor of New York City. California and New York

City were two of the most hard-hit areas in the country during the pandemic, and with them, many other Democratic-led states repealed school mask mandates and pushed towards going back to "normal."

In this current climate, the BOE faced pressure, and at times intimidation, to remove the mandate. Student Member of the Board (SMOB) Hana O'Looney was cyberbullied after expressing that she was not in favor of removing the mandate. During the meeting to vote on the mask-optional policy itself, security officers had to intervene multiple times, and some in the audience disrupted, booed, and even laughed at testimonies in favor of keeping the mandate, continuing a trend of public disrespect towards school boards and their proceedings.

The BOE made the inevitable decision to remove masks, but the importance of practicing the civility that was absent in that meeting remains. MCPS has launched the "Masks: On or Off, It's Just Me" campaign to promote acceptance of choices to mask or unmask in schools.



Audrey Ferris '25

## Seventeen Staff Members Involuntarily Transferred Next School Year

by Tori Newby '22

A total of 17 staff members were informed in late February that they would not be returning to Sherwood next fall. For the 2022-2023 school year, Sherwood is losing three teachers each in the ESOL and Career and Technology Education (CTE) departments, two each in English, math, science, and counseling, and one each in music, social studies and special education.

The abnormally large number of teacher cuts is due in part to the decline in the student population at Sherwood. Five years ago, Sherwood had just under 2,000 students, and this year, the population is approximately 1,770 students, according to Principal Tim Britton. Next year's projected enrollment is 1,775 students.

MCPS accounts for each school's population size and gives principals the number of teachers allotted for the following school year. Which departments must lose

teachers is based on course enrollment, and within those departments, the teachers with the least seniority in MCPS are involuntarily transferred to another school in the county.

"[I] feel very powerless ... I've never seen this much of a drop in one year," said Britton, who has been working as an assistant principal and principal for 22 years. "It's unfortunate."

The large number of teacher cuts is likely due to the increase in class sizes that the county is pushing for. This year, many class sizes have fewer than 25 students, according to Britton, and he noted that the county wants classes to have 30 to 32 students each next year. Classes at Sherwood will average 30 to 31 students next year.

The enrollment in electives also may

impact the staffing cuts to a specific department; for example, if a particular department goes from offering 10 sections of elective courses one year to five the following year, that essentially represents one teacher in the department since teachers teach five periods per day. The effect of electives on staffing is particularly important in departments such as music, art, and CTE in which most or all of the offered classes are electives that students choose to take.

However, the number of offered electives for a school year also can have an impact on a large department like social studies. Students are required to obtain only three social studies credits to graduate, and the department is better able to maintain staffing if it attracts students to take its electives.

**"[I] feel very powerless ... I've never seen this much of a drop in one year. It's unfortunate."**

**-Principal Tim Britton**

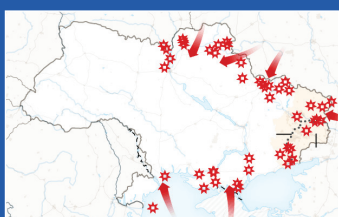
A contributor to the overall decline in Sherwood's population are the changes to the ESOL program. Prior to the 2019-2020 school year, schools in the Northeast Consortium (NEC)--Blake, Springbrook, and Paint Branch--sent students to Sherwood for ESOL. However, according to ESOL resource teacher Laura Bernard-Sanchez, the NEC has since stopped sending new ESOL students to Sherwood in order to allow them to attend their home-base high school.

Students still in the program at the time are allowed to stay and graduate from Sherwood, so the Class of 2023 will be the last graduating class with ESOL students from the NEC. At the peak of the program around five years ago, Sherwood had 280 ESOL students, while this year it has 130, and that number will be 50 next school year.

English teacher Samantha Ager has been at Sherwood for ten years, but as one

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### Timeline of War in Ukraine

Learn about the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine  
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### Rock 'n' Roll: Timeless

Read about Sherwood's 50th annual performance of Rock 'n' Roll Revival  
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## news brief

### current events

### Dunn Named Finalist for Teacher of the Year

by Tanya Marques '23

MCPS recently announced the three finalists for its annual Teacher of the Year, and Sherwood's own Johnathan Dunn is one of them. For the past nine years, Dunn has taught chorus, piano, and various other classes in the music department. Outside of the educational environment, Dunn volunteers at numerous community events and serves as a leader in music ministry and worship.

"After Montgomery County Public Schools officially announced its finalists, I've been in shock, and to say that I'm grateful would be an understatement," said Dunn. "To my Sherwood students from today, to those at SHS and schools from years' past, I thank you! Thank you for the lessons you've taught me and the opportunities you've given me to grow into the communicator/educator/school leader I am today. To Mr. Timothy Britton and every principal that ever gave me the opportunity to work in their building and support their students/families, I thank you! To my current family, the greater Sherwood community, I thank you for accepting me and giving me the opportunity to be a presence in our music department and school."

Dunn is a passionate educator who genuinely cares about his students as he actively listens to their ideas allowing them to express themselves and find joy in music despite their differences. Through numerous shared experiences, students tell how Dunn has improved their lives and how he has supported his students.

### Maryland Republicans Push School Bill

by Bryan Kim '23

In late February, a Maryland Republican sponsored bill, MD HB1287, regarding curriculum transparency in primary and secondary schooling failed to pass, largely along party lines. The bill aimed to require all public school districts to provide certain information regarding curricula and instructional materials to the public beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. Parent empowerment in education has become a recent conservative rallying cry throughout the nation, causing many republican controlled states to put similar laws requiring curriculum transparency in place, most notably Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida. Despite this initial setback, Maryland Republican lawmakers have continued to push for the bill, as a house hearing regarding the bill took place on March 10.

The bill is unclear on how much information school districts should be providing regarding curricula and instruction materials. For example, MCPS already has been providing curriculum overviews with unit summaries and instruction materials for every class from Kindergarten through 12th grade on the MCPS website. If parents were looking for what a student might learn in a specific MCPS English course, for instance, they would be able to find information including course books, topic summaries, themes, and objectives in the curriculum overviews on the website.

### Senate Proposes Permanent Daylight Savings

by Matt Kauffman '23

On March 15, the Senate passed a measure that would make Daylight Saving Time permanent across the country. The bill, known as the Sunshine Protection Act, garnered unanimous support in the Senate but awaits committee investigation and approval in the House. After surprisingly seamless approval by the Senate, the bill has hit a snag as several house representatives are beginning to question the benefits of the proposed law. The bill, if passed, would be implemented in November of 2023, a delay that was requested by the transportation industry in order to adjust scheduling, according to Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL). The Biden administration is yet to signal support for the law.

Throughout its history, Daylight Savings has been anything but consistent. It was originally implemented during World War I and then repealed, then reinstated in World War II and during the oil crisis of the 1970s. The current schedule was put into law by Congress in 2007, in which the clocks jump forward by an hour in March and back by an hour in November. The Sunshine Protection Act would end the jump backwards and leave clocks as they are during the Daylight Savings period. Many Senators hailed this decision, such as Arizona's Kyrsten Sinema, whose state does not observe Daylight Saving Time. However, Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash) expressed hesitancy over the bill, saying that her constituents were worried about it being "dark until like 9 o'clock in the morning" in Seattle.

## McKnight Named Permanent Superintendent

by Emory Gun '22

After Jack Smith unexpectedly quit as superintendent in June of 2020, Monifa McKnight took over as the interim superintendent for MCPS. On February 8 and after 16 months in the interim role, McKnight was named permanent superintendent of public schools in Montgomery County, the 14th largest county in the nation.

McKnight has previously held many positions within MCPS and Howard County Public Schools. Before being named interim superintendent, McKnight served as MCPS deputy superintendent. Additionally, she has won Maryland Middle School Principal of the Year in 2015 as well as the Maryland State Principal of the Year in 2015. She has also been a teacher, English resource teacher, and assistant principal.

This is a tough year to be superintendent in any school district in the United States due to Covid-19 and political pressures regarding curriculum. Additionally, in MCPS specifically, there have been incidents of violence including a student at Magruder shooting and critically injuring another student in January.

In McKnight's letter to MCPS students after being named permanent superintendent, she expressed her excitement for the future and wrote, "Along the way, I may make some mistakes, and sometimes I may do things that you do not agree with; however, my decisions are always based on what is in your best interest, and all other 160,000 students in our district."

Although the Board of Education signaled their strong support for McKnight, some community members were angry about communication on McKnight's part at the peak of Omicron. Originally, MCPS made the decision that if any school reached



Monifa McKnight is the first Black woman to serve as Superintendent.

5-percent positive cases in a 14-day window then that school would move to virtual learning for 14 days. However, when more than 100 schools surpassed that percentage of cases, the threshold then changed to keep those schools in-person.

"While the circumstances leading to these disruptions are beyond our control, we should have done a better job communicating with you about these challenges and clarifying our response. I apologize for any stress this caused our staff, students, and community members," stated McKnight.

On March 8, the MCPS Board of Education (BOE) voted on whether or not MCPS will continue with the mask mandate, and the ultimate decision was to go mask-optional. This is keeping in line with other school districts and states around the country that have also transitioned into a mask-optional policy.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have also

stated that mask wearing does not need to be required for in-person schooling. During the discussion leading up to the BOE vote, parents and students of MCPS plead their case for why they wanted or did not want to keep the mask mandates. This discussion became quite heated and even led to adults booing children who were speaking.

Before the decision was made, WTOP news reported that McKnight, "thinks they should wait until a state legislative committee agrees with the state board of education decision."

After the decision was made, it was implemented immediately. Inevitably, there was political pressure from both sides for McKnight and she has and will have to continue to endure the wrath of parents who are frustrated with how the BOE voted.

McKnight is the first woman to serve as superintendent for MCPS and only the second black superintendent. Her new position has made history in MCPS.

## College Board Announces Changes to SATs

by Lauren Frank '23

The College Board announced earlier this year that the SAT will become entirely online by 2024. This adjustment is intended to make the testing environment less stressful and more accessible. Students will have the option to choose the device they will test on, such as a tablet or personal laptop. Despite the change in platform, the test will continue to be administered in secure locations such as schools.

Along with these notable changes, the test will be two hours, greatly shortening the mentally taxing exam. The reading section will feature shorter passages linked with only one question per passage, offering students more time to answer each question.

For the math section, calculators will be permitted for both of the sections, rather than just the calculator final section.

Similar to the MAP testing MCPS students are used to, each section of the digital test will begin with an introductory set of questions. The difficulty of the questions will depend on whether the student performs well on the first set.

The College Board will now be able to clearly see and assess the student on the skills they have already mastered. Once a test is scored, which will only take days, the student will be provided with resources for local career training and educational opportunities based on their score.

With the new changes making the SAT shorter and easier to administer, school districts will have more flexibility with how often and where they will administer the test, rather than adhering to a fixed schedule. These improvements are especially important to provide students with more opportunities to take the SAT during the school year.

For years, the SAT has been a significant factor in a student's college admission experience, with many students taking months to prepare for a standardized test. However, the SAT has come under increased criticism for disproportionately affecting minorities and students of a lower socio-economic class because they may not have access to adequate test prep resources which tend to be costly.

During the pandemic, many colleges and universities went test-optional or completely did away with the test. Prestigious schools such as Harvard have gone test-optional through at least 2026, and the University of California Schools have permanently removed the test from their admissions processes. This gives students, especially those historically disadvantaged, the ability to stand out in other areas on college applications such as extracurriculars, leadership, and GPA.

## MCPS Reevaluates Security

by Lauren Hill '22

In the wake of the shooting that occurred on January 21 at Magruder High School, which left one student critically injured, MCPS has vowed to reevaluate every aspect of school safety. The newly appointed MCPS Superintendent, Dr. Monifa McKnight, promised a review of the current security plan which would include consideration of reintroducing Student Resource Officers (SROs) back into schools.

County leaders voted in 2021 to end the SRO program and take police officers out of schools county wide. The program, which had been in place for 19 years, was criticized for negatively affecting minority and special education students. The program was changed to a Community Engagement Officer (CEO) program where officers are assigned to cover school clusters and are only allowed inside a school building if they are called for an emergency.

Following the shooting at Magruder, MCPS Chief of Teaching Ruschelle Reuben announced some of MCPS's proposals for security, including giving the county a say in which officers participate in the CEO program and more direct communication between schools and CEOs. This proposal was discussed in greater detail during a planned joint Education/Public Safety Committee meeting in February. However, program proposals cannot take effect until there is a signed memorandum of agreement between MCPS and the MOCO Education Association.

Another proposal made by a group of MCPS students is increasing resources for mental and emotional health. At an MCPS board meeting, high school students spoke to board members about what they believe will be the most beneficial. Magruder student Himanshu Gediya, a member of the school SGA, stated that the shooting was a sign of a widespread mental health crisis.

"SROs were taken out of MCPS schools this year to provide more funding toward mental health support, but that transition was rushed ... I stood here on this podium a week before the shooting incident asking for mental health resources at Magruder and I still haven't seen anything," Ge-

diya stated. While some attendees of the board meeting supported the SRO program being reinstated, multiple students advocated for shifting the focus away from redoing the SRO program and concentrating more effort toward mental health services.

A community letter stated that in the months ahead, MCPS leadership will collaborate with county officials, community partners, and school-based staff to conduct a review of all school safety and security practices, and address concerns regarding police presence on school campuses. While it is unclear whether or not police officers will be back in schools, McKnight has agreed that there were many issues with the former SRO program, and that it promoted inequity in some cases. "I don't want to see any particular program come back ... It's more about... [the] type of environment that we want to create in our schools that creates a safe one," McKnight stated at a press conference in late January.

MCPS is required by state law to review the incident and response at Magruder and submit a report to the Maryland Center for School Safety.

The center will then evaluate the report and participate in an after-action critique and add safety measures to schools. The 2023 MCPS budget amendment has added 12 security positions; however, McKnight is still waiting for a memorandum of agreement with the county police, as well as a signature from the County Executive office. More discussion of the matter has continued with a panel of law enforcement officials and state educators meeting to discuss school safety on March 15.

The treasurer of Public Safety, Susan Burkinshaw argued to bring back SROs. "No one else has pulled their SROs out of school. So why should our kids not have the benefit of something that every other kid around the beltway has?" Burkinshaw said. Currently a petition to reinstate SROs has 5,500 signatures, but some parents and students are still unsure about putting police officers in schools.

Earlier in March, a protest of around 30 MCPS students organized by Young People for Progress argued against the SRO program being brought back.

% PTA Membership/School Population

School Level	Bethesda	Potomac/Rockville	Germantown/Clarksburg	Northeastern	DCC	Gaithersburg/Damascus	Entire County
High	44%	32%	13%	12%	10%	13%	20%
Middle	64%	63%	21%	21%	15%	19%	31%
Elementary	49%	53%	32%	28%	21%	25%	32%

Levels of participation in PTA vary in Montgomery County [Source: Office of Legislative Oversight].

## Parent Organizations Create Inequities Among Schools

by Madison Tringone '22

A recurring question for many years within MCPS is whether or not the funding is equal when comparing schools in higher poverty areas with those in more affluent areas. Although MCPS has strict formulas for ensuring schools are funded equally for day-to-day operations, there may be drastic disparities in funding for athletics and other extracurriculars because of differences in the amount of money raised by schools' respective PTAs and booster clubs.

At the request of Montgomery County Council, the county's Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) published a report in July of 2020 titled 'Parent Organizations in Montgomery County Public Schools' that concluded with a number of findings, including that "all stakeholders that OLO spoke with acknowledged that there is inequity among parent organizations in the County."

The OLO report found that parent organizations in more affluent schools have the ability to provide and pay for "student enrichment activities" while higher-poverty schools focus on providing basic needs to students and staff.

"MCPS seems to do a pretty good job of ensuring schools are getting staffing and resources by per-student formulas. However, as noted in the Office of Legislative Oversight report, there is concern that PTAs' funds create opportunity at some schools, leaving others without," explained Cynthia Simonson, who is the president of the Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA).

Because financial information about PTAs and booster clubs is only publicly available if the organizations reported to the IRS more than \$50,000 in receipts, the

OLO found that it could not find complete information on how much PTAs raise in funds at most schools. However, a majority of parent organizations that filed the required form 990EZ for having over \$50,000 in receipts were located in the Bethesda area. Of the four total high schools in the county that had \$50,000 in receipts, three were in Bethesda (BCC, Walter Johnson, and Whitman). The only middle school that had \$50,000 in receipts was in Bethesda (Pyle).

The OLO report found that booster clubs or foundations have more flexibility than PTAs in terms of what revenue can be used for. As a result, schools that do not have the ability to raise more funds through parent organizations are unable to have extra activities, clubs, and sports perks within their schools.

Simonson of the MCCPTA explained that although high school principals are allocated a certain amount of funding from MCPS for extracurricular activities, they are permitted to go over that amount if they have other outside revenue streams.

"When a principal exceeds what the district has allocated for these extracurricular stipends, the principal must reimburse the district using IAF funds to make up the difference," said Simonson. "Where do those IAF funds come from? For some, it might be cellular tower fees. Other principals might have unrestricted funds coming in through school-wide events, and others might have PTAs or Booster Clubs that are donating funds directly into the Principal's IAF account for "school support."

Simonson continued that principals who increase their IAF accounts are also to increase activities at their schools. Since MCPS allows IAF funding raised

through parent organizations to be used in this way, it can create a disparity based on the fundraising potential of the community being served. While I've raised this several times, to my knowledge, there has been no oversight or specific attempt to minimize this practice," added Simonson.

The disparities created among schools due to the differences in funding by parent groups stands in contrast to the funding allocations by MCPS itself, which carefully check that less affluent schools receive equitable support from the school system. "School allocations are based on the three-year average of required gate receipts, school enrollment, and projections of student parking revenues. School enrollment figures and corresponding calculations are adjusted to reflect the number of students receiving Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS) services," said Anne Marie Rossiter, who is a CMAA Systemwide Athletics Compliance Specialist in MCPS.

Rossiter added that individual schools also are no longer invoiced for regular-season transportation because there now is a central fund to utilize when securing buses. "This will allow for a greater portion of the school's allocation to be used for other program expenses, as well as further enhancing the equity in funding amongst schools," said Rossiter.

Despite these efforts, parent organizations have a significant role in determining what schools will have beyond the basics.

Although support provided by an athletic booster club must be equitable for all school-sanctioned teams and for both genders at that particular school, MCPS does not prohibit inequities in the level of support of a booster club at one school compared to that support at another school.

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March 31, 2022

## When Will Gas Prices Go Down?

by Selene Ashwood '22

Last year the United States saw the biggest hike in inflation rate of the last 40 years at seven percent. This economic shift has resulted in increased prices of goods significant to everyday life such as gasoline. Many teenagers seem oblivious as to the origins of this. But it is important to understand how it got to this point, why it will unfortunately stay at this point for the foreseeable future, and how the nation adjusts.

By February, the average price of oil and gas had risen nearly 50 percent compared to the same time last year, according to an article by MarketWatch.

Experts are almost sure this cost will not fall back down even if inflation is to return to a normal rate. Many even initially predicted it would go higher. There are multiple reasons for why this all came about, many of which will continue at least into the near future.

Even without the fuel crisis, gas costs were still on the rise due to inflation, which all started with global markets' response to the lessening threat of Covid-19, returning to full operation with strained supply yet unrestrained amounts of demand. 2021's journey through supply chain issues acted as the catalyst for a wave of inflation that has stretched into 2022 in the United States.

Although industries were significantly less damaged by the pandemic than they were in 2020, the aftershocks, lasting issues for businesses, and the creation of global trade hesitance still made economic return challenging. Due to these aftermath effects, companies around the world suffered the inefficiency of not having enough resources to fully satisfy demand,

but satisfying it enough to overwhelm shipping ports.

Aside from an increase in shipping times, international and domestic businesses also increased the costs of their goods.

Through a price-hiking cycle, costs for producers became the costs for consumers and thus a multitude of goods were either unavailable or newly expensive.

As the U.S. economy proved its resilience by rapidly growing 1.7 percent in the final stretch of 2021, in turn the prices of everyday items increased. Incomes rose, so cost expenditures had to as well in order to not give the average person a ridiculous amount of purchasing power.

Teenagers missed this economic change since they don't yet have careers with actual salaries to increase, so they are left confused and low on funds at the gas pump. Supposedly, the Federal Reserve (the U.S.'s central bank) will soon raise interest rates to combat this, which would even out all the spending and bring prices back down. However, once the current tax holiday is up, inflated gas prices are likely to stay for months to come. Even the Federal Reserve won't be able to mitigate all the external factors like the war in Ukraine.

Due to said war, crude oil scarcity due to international boycotts of Russian fuel is bloating the value of gas. Following restrictions like Germany's halt on their Russia pipeline and NATO-wide sanctions, a barrel of oil has increased 100 percent in price and will take some time to return to normal, if not rise further. In the event that Europe's economic situation escaped its current stressors, the future of car travel still seems expensive due to the persistent domestic inflation.

## King Sparks Interest for Global Politics Through New AP Comparative Gov. Class

by Yusra Husain  
and Rachel Klein '22

AP Comparative Government was reintroduced this year at Sherwood by social studies teacher Michael King after being discontinued about a decade ago. When King arrived at Sherwood five years ago, AP CompGov stood out to him as a class he wanted to bring back to the school in the near future.

"I know a lot of the students here have an interest in government when it comes to their potential careers or international study, and this class has a little bit of both," said King.

The class curriculum by the College Board is organized around the study of six countries: The United Kingdom, Iran, Russia, Mexico, Nigeria, and China. For each country, students delve deep into the differing political institutions, electoral systems, regimes, and more.

"You learn about some democracies and you learn about some authoritarian governments - you see the good and bad. It's not so cut and dry, so you get more of a perspective," describes King.

The class also provides students with the opportunity to learn about the contemporary world around them, as well as the events that shaped how these countries run today.

Throughout the course, there are six countries worth of current events that keep the content updated and applicable to real life. For example, the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine escalated just as students were learning about Russia's political party and electoral systems, so students used class content to an-



Michael King helps senior Maddie Fecko with her notes on Russia's electoral system during seventh period AP Comparative Government.

alyze and comprehend Russia's actions.

Many students who took AP U.S. Government and Politics (AP NSL) were eager to take King's new class for a multitude of reasons. Senior Emma Dorsy took AP CompGov to learn about "parts of the world other than the United States or western centric ideas." Dorsy particularly enjoys learning about various political parties and citizens' diverse stances on their country's policies.

For others, the primary motive for taking the class was quite simple: Mr. King. Senior Mukhtar Idris learns best from King's teaching style because "he's really nice and laid back, but he also expects things of you. There's a

good balance of both."

Despite positive feedback from current students, AP CompGov will unfortunately not be offered at Sherwood during the 2022-2023 school year due to low registration. "I assumed this might be the case due to the fact that the last two years have been virtual, so I haven't had a chance to build as many relationships as in-person learning," expressed King.

However, King is confident that this won't be the last of AP CompGov at Sherwood. "I've spoken to a lot of freshmen and sophomores this year that I'm teaching who seem really interested in the course, so I feel really strongly that we're going to come back in 2023."

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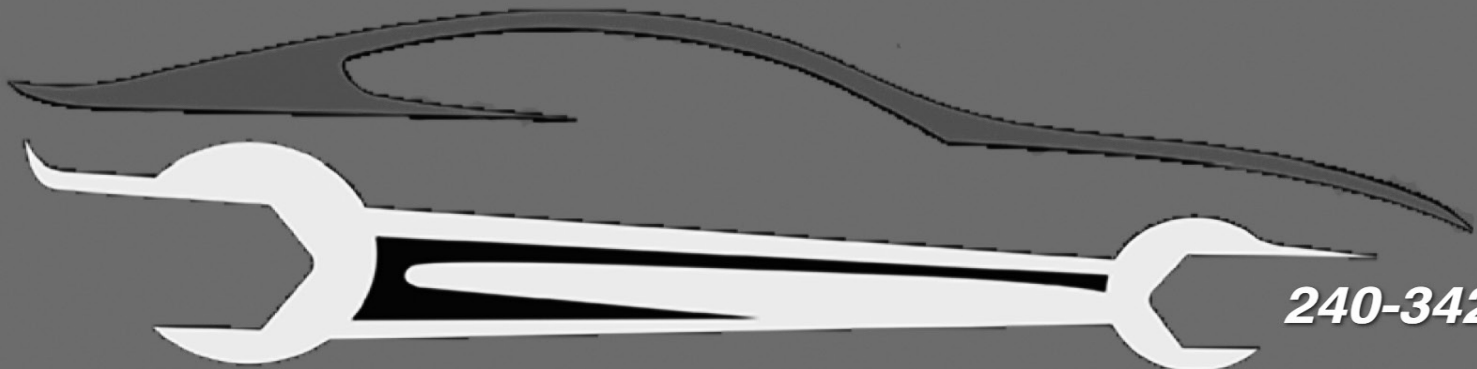
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## MCPS Continues Anti-Racist Efforts in Schools

by Emily Siansky '22

From March 1 to March 31, MCPS students from fourth to twelfth grade completed a survey as a part of the greater MCPS systemwide Anti-Racist Audit. The exact date the survey was taken is up to the discretion of each school, and Sherwood students completed it during homeroom on March 10. Students were offered the option to opt out of taking the survey.

The goal of the audit is to address and examine racism in schools across the county at all levels. While the audit has been ongoing for about a year, the survey will help the county collect data for each individual school.

The Anti-Racism Stakeholder Survey gathered information and data to answer the question “To what extent does MCPS support racial equity and disrupt systemic racism through its policies, procedures, structures, and practices?”

Six stakeholder groups were surveyed: students, teaching staff, support professionals, school administrators and administrative staff, district administrators and administrative staff, and parents and families. When taking the survey, all stakeholders were asked to reflect about their experience at MCPS. The survey has a series of statements with the option to select strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, or ‘I don’t know’ as their responses.

The survey is divided into sections, which allows the evaluators to collect data from different aspects.

The Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium (MAEC) created a list of focuses that the collected data will help reveal. Having the criteria allows both survey participants, administrators, and

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	I don't know
19. One or more <b>adults</b> at my school have said things related to <b>race</b> , skin color, <b>ethnicity</b> , or <b>culture</b> that made me upset.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20. One or more <b>students</b> at my school have said things related to <b>race</b> , skin color, <b>ethnicity</b> , or <b>culture</b> that made me upset.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21. I have been involved in physical or verbal fights for reasons related to <b>race</b> , skin color, <b>ethnicity</b> , or <b>culture</b> at school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
22. I have witnessed physical or verbal fighting for reasons related to <b>race</b> , skin color, <b>ethnicity</b> , or <b>culture</b> at school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
23. I have seen offensive content on social media about students from my school related to their <b>race</b> , skin color, <b>ethnicity</b> , or <b>culture</b> .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
24. I know how to report an incident of racism, hate, or bias that happens at school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
25. If I report an incident of racism, hate, or bias, I believe staff at my school will understand and take it seriously.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The Anti-Racist System Audit survey aims to examine racism in schools.

evaluators to be on the same page in terms of what the intended purpose of the survey is. The survey will help to find students’ general feelings about school and learning, students experiences with learning about race in schools, school climate and safety concerns. The middle and high school surveys will also evaluate the enrichment classes, career readiness, and college materials within the secondary schools.

Over the past few years, there has been a nationwide effort to talk about racism in schools and discuss the institutional racism many schools and districts have encountered. MCPS Superintendent Monifa McKnight explained the purpose of the survey and how it fit into the larger investigation in a February newsletter. In the newsletter, she addressed how MCPS will improve from the survey and audit as a whole, but also acknowledges the flaws to

the system in general. Writing the newsletter from the Carver Educational Services Center, where Black students used to have to attend school, also reminded McKnight about the more historic issues MCPS had with racism.

“This fact reminds us that racism was built into our core structures. However, we are sitting in this building as leaders of a district that is now one of the most diverse and successful in the country. We are hopeful that we can use this audit to re-envision a school district where all students, families, and staff feel safe, valued, seen, heard, and successful,” wrote McKnight.

Findings from the audit will be made public in June. MCPS will share updates on its website. MCPS offices and schools will then create plans to be set in action over the summer to implement for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond.

## School Community Shocked By Numerous Staff Transfers

From STAFF, Cover

of two English teachers with the least seniority in MCPS, she will be involuntarily transferred next school year.

“You don’t want a principal to be able to cut whoever they want,” said Ager in regard to MCPS’s seniority-based policy. “But when you’re someone like me, [and] you’ve been here for as long as I have been, it kind of stings a little more.” Ager will be teaching at Quince Orchard next year.

Sherwood will undergo several other staffing changes for the 2022-2023 school year. Staff development teacher Anne Taylor is coming to Sherwood from Ridgeview Middle School to fill the staff development position, currently held by internship coordinator Catina Wist. The staff development job has shifted to a full-time position, so Wist will shift her full focus to internship and CTE students instead.

Resource counselor Elizabeth Giffen has decided to step down in her position as department head, and although she will remain in the counseling department, counselor Kelly Singleton will assume the position of resource counselor.

Similarly, world languages resource teacher John Falls is resigning from his leadership position. Music, which has been a part of the physical education department under resource teacher Marc Thomas’ leadership for several years, will be joined with the world languages department next year. Music teacher Johnathan Dunn will assume the position of resource teacher for the now-joint world languages and music department.

Due to a lack of enrollment in music classes, music teacher Michael Maddox will be involuntarily transferred next year. Although Maddox is the second-most senior music teacher following Alex Silverbook, Dunn’s new position as resource teacher allows him to stay at Sherwood.

More than 3,500 students and parents in the community signed a petition in efforts to keep Maddox’s job at Sherwood, citing ways that he has impacted them and their families through music classes and Rock ‘n’ Roll. Ultimately, Maddox will be teaching General Music at Baker Middle School next year.

“If we were ever at the point where we were losing kids not signing up for those courses [and it put an entire program at risk], I would fight hard to keep that position in place,” said Britton. “We don’t want to lose something to the point where there’s no [teacher] down there and we don’t have a program ... [But] at the end of the day, if you don’t have the numbers and you don’t have the courses, there’s nothing for that person to teach.”

Maddox noted he was “absolutely devastated” to hear the news that he would be involuntarily transferred, adding that after nine years of teaching at Sherwood, he expected to retire here.

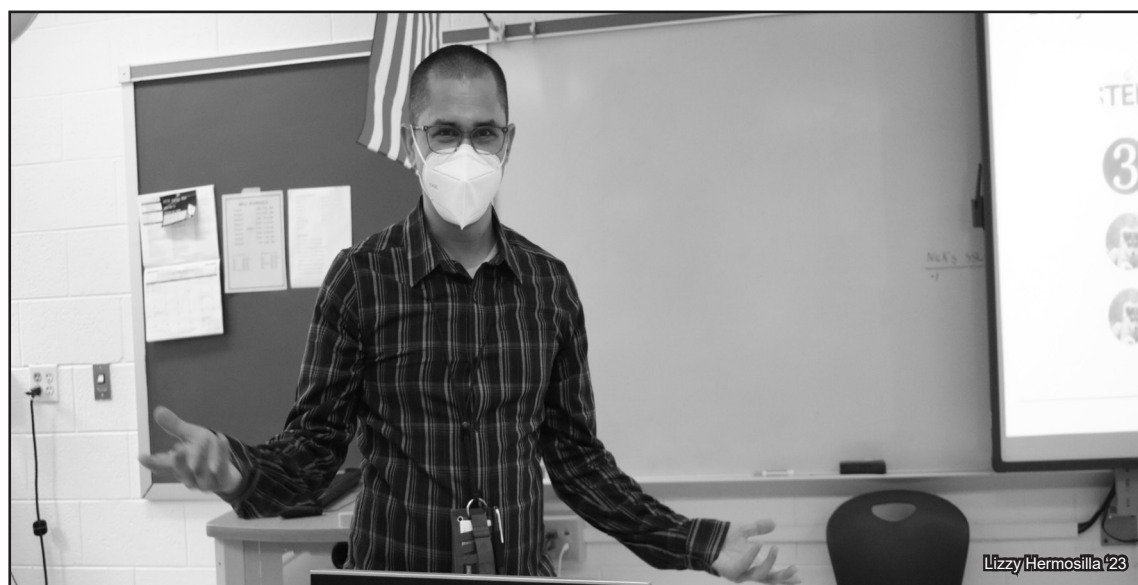
“Teaching music at Sherwood has brought me the greatest challenges and greatest joys of my entire career,” said Maddox. “It’s about creating something together that’s bigger than any one of us. I am honored and humbled to have carried the torch as Rock ‘n’ Roll director and producer, and I will carry the memory of these shows with me for the rest of my life.”

## Manandhar Is Resigning from Sherwood To Embark on Journey of Self Discovery

by Lizzy Hermosilla '22

The computer science program at Sherwood has thrived over the past five years in large part because of the expertise of teacher Swikrit Manandhar who has taken on teaching the heft of the computer science classes offered at Sherwood, such as AP Computer Science Principles and AP JAVA. Manandhar has decided to resign at the end of the 2021-2022 school year in order to devote time to self improvement and service.

Manandhar is a native of Nepal who came to the United States for his post graduate education, which he received from the University of Maryland at College Park. After completing his Masters degree in Telecommunications, he joined the private sector as a systems and network engineer, and in those eight years he became serious about becoming happy in his life through Vipassana Meditation, a nonsectarian practice which has origins from the teachings of the Buddha. This practice of meditation functions



Computer Science teacher Swikrit Manandhar teaches seventh period AP Computer Science Principals.

as a way of self-transformation through self-observation and focuses on the deep interconnection between mind and body.

The end result of practicing this style of meditation is to live a more harmonious and balanced life. Since discovering the practice at the age of 15 and seriously dedicating time to self improvement at the age of 31, Manand-

har has allowed these practices to guide his lifestyle for the past 8 years.

“Once I learned how to change my habit pattern so I can be calm, kind and compassionate, it was an eye opening moment,” explained Manandhar. “After that I decided to surrender my life to service.”

He later transitioned into the

teaching profession as a means to dedicate more time to his meditation. Teaching was the ideal profession because it allotted two months over the summer where Manandhar would be able to go to silent meditation retreats that ranged anywhere from 10 to 60 days.

“Meditation helps me see myself better and live a happy

harmonious life,” he explained “After all, we live to be happy and I know where my ultimate happiness lies, and I’m just following my calling.”

During the pandemic, Manandhar reevaluated what was important in his life, and despite the connections he made with his students and the opportunities teaching gave him to directly serve the community, it no longer offered the time necessary to better himself through meditation to the extent he wished.

“Covid showed what is important in life, that our life is so uncertain. So it’s better to live life with purpose, live in harmony and kindness with all.”

In the coming years Manandhar has decided to split his time between the United States and Nepal where he will spend more time with his family in Nepal, continue to meditate, and search for a more fulfilling and harmonious life.

When Manandhar is not meditating, he volunteers at the centers where he and others go to practice Vipassana Meditation.

March 31, 2022

## Timeline of War in Ukraine



compiled by  
Camilo Illanes '22

### February 24

Putin authorizes "special military operations," launching an invasion on Ukraine. Russian forces begin missile and ground attacks, striking major Ukrainian cities including the capital Kyiv. The United States responds with sanctions on Russian banks that cause the Moscow stock exchange to plummet 45 percent.

### February 28

The Ukrainian forces surprisingly have a fierce defense of their country and most of Russia's ground attacks stall. Russian artillery bombards residential districts, killing at least 11 people, according to Ukrainian officials. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky says the Russian plan is to terrorize the country's civilian population.

### March 1

In response to Ukraine's unexpected strong defense of their country, Russia amasses a 65km long convoy on the outskirts of Kyiv. Russian forces bomb a supposedly safe corridor, preventing humanitarian supplies from reaching the city of Mariupol. The United Nations (UN) states that 2 million refugees have fled from Ukraine so far.

### March 16

Zelensky makes emotional pitch directly to a joint session of Congress to establish a no-fly zone in which U.S. planes would patrol the skies to prevent Russian jets from targeting Ukraine military personnel and bombing citizens. The Biden administration declines to answer that request, stating it could lead to war with Russia.

### March 21

The total number of refugees that have fled Ukraine reaches 10 million. The UN has found evidence that Russia has committed a war crime by using cluster bombs to kill Ukraine citizens. Biden declares Putin's "back is against the wall" from the war crimes he is committing. Ukraine rejects a Russian ultimatum to surrender in Mariupol.

### March 23

Almost one month after the initial invasion, Biden said Putin's claims that Ukraine has chemical and biological weapons are a "clear sign he is considering using both of those." The UN also confirms that Russia has used hypersonic missiles at least once. The U.S. government formally declares that Russia has committed war crimes in Ukraine.

## U.S. Troops on the Ground in Ukraine Remains Unlikely

by Camilo Illanes '22

With the Russia/Ukraine war now reaching five weeks of fighting, many young Americans are wondering--and worrying--whether they will be drafted to fight Russia and help aid Ukraine. However, this common anxiety is largely the result of misinformation from social media platforms such as TikTok. The reality is that the possibilities of America reinstating the draft for this conflict is extremely unlikely.

Currently the United States professional military consists of almost 1.5 million people on active duty, with 857,261 reserve

personnel. This is more than enough troops to protect Ukraine, and drafting unprofessionals would be unnecessary and inefficient. Even with these factors making conscription unlikely, if Biden for some reason decided he wanted to draft citizens, he would not be able to as it has been outlawed in the United States since 1973. In order for Americans to be drafted, Congress would first have to reinstate the law that allows U.S. citizens of age to get drafted.

Furthermore, Biden has made it very clear that if the United States sends troops to actively fight in Ukraine, Putin could

expand the war into other NATO countries such as Poland. "That's a world war - when Americans and Russians start shooting at one another, we are in a very different world than we have ever been," Biden declared on February 11.

Since Biden declared that the United States would not directly fight in the conflict in Ukraine, the circumstances have become more complex and fraught with danger as Russia's ground assault largely has stalled and the Ukrainians have put up an unexpectedly fierce defense of their country. Although Biden continues to rule out American troops on the ground, he is facing pressures to

take other steps that will escalate U.S. involvement.

On March 7, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky called on NATO to impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine to limit attacks from Russian warplanes. A "no-fly zone" prevents countries from using war planes to attack military targets and civilians on ground. In order to do this NATO (a defense alliance of European countries and the United States) would have to fly their own military planes into Ukraine to block the Russians from bombing Ukraine. These NATO planes also likely would have to eliminate Russian air defenses in Ukraine and

maybe even in Russia. The worry from the Pentagon is that this could lead to Russian and NATO planes shooting each other. "It would essentially mean the U.S. military would be shooting down planes, Russian planes. That is definitely escalatory." White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki declared. The Biden administration is focused on assisting Ukraine by implementing heavy sanctions, and supplying Ukraine with resources and funding. The only way that the United States would get further involved in this conflict is if Russia expands the war into a NATO country, which remains unlikely.

## Covid-19 May Soon Be Endemic Worldwide

by Riley Sandoval '22

After two years of the coronavirus pandemic, people are eager to move on with their lives. The more transmissible Omicron variant is bringing many hope for a finish line. Some countries are looking towards Covid-19 as endemic rather than as a pandemic. While it is too early to deem Covid-19 as endemic worldwide, some countries, including the United States are moving forward with less restrictions surrounding the virus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) outlines an endemic as "the constant presence and/or usual prevalence of a disease or infectious agent in a population within a geographic area," while a pandemic is more defined by rapid and widespread transmission. It is important to understand that endemic does not mean there will be no more cases of Covid-19, but instead there will be a lower, more stable, and predictable level of cases. It also does not mean the virus will be milder, just less frequent.

Endemic would mean living with Covid-19 similar to how the world lives with other viruses like the flu and malaria, both of which still infect people and cause deaths each year. The flu is an endemic disease that still infected an estimated 35 million people in the United States from 2019 to 2020 according to the CDC. And like Covid-19, there is a vaccine to help minimize the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths from the flu.

There is no exact threshold as to when a virus becomes endemic. It can be reached, however, when enough people have

built immunity to the virus either through vaccination or prior infections. This will reduce the number of people who are getting infected, as well as the number of hospitalizations and deaths. The rollout of vaccines, especially in developing countries, will help to reach endemic levels of the virus. As of January 12, two-thirds of people in wealthy countries have been vaccinated, compared to only 11 percent of those in low-income countries.

While that disparity in vaccination rates across the country seems worrisome, one country in Africa shows it is possible to reach endemic status due to prior infections. Malawi is a country that seemingly was never hit hard by Covid-19 because of a lack of available tests and little reporting of cases.

A study by an immunologist in Malawi found that most people had already been infected even before the emergence of the Omicron variant. Most of the population is younger with a median age of 18, so most of the cases were either asymptomatic or not severe enough for people to get tested or go to the hospital.

Last summer, the immunologists looked at blood samples collected from their national blood bank where they found that 80 percent of the population had antibodies from prior infections. With only five percent of Malawians being fully vaccinated, their resistance mainly comes from prior exposure. Similar studies done in other African countries like Kenya, Madagascar, and South Africa all show similar results.

The World Health Organization warns that it is too early to deem Covid-19 an endemic virus

as there are still outbreaks around the world and a predictable level has not yet been seen. Future variants may also disrupt the path to endemic status.

Nonetheless, it is up to individual countries to move forward based on their own levels of immunity from vaccines or prior infections. Political leaders are moving forward with an endemic mindset in regulations. This includes the United States and several European countries, where mask mandates and restrictions have been removed or are in the process of being removed. It seems as though a combination of vaccinations and infections help countries to progress closer to the end of the pandemic, as the vaccine helps reduce the severity of the virus and getting sick will also build immunity. Portugal is one example of a country that initially reached endemic status because of their high vaccination rates.

As of February 26, a little over 90 percent of Portugal's population is fully vaccinated. After reducing restrictions, however, the country is now facing a massive wave of cases. Similarly, China has high vaccination rates but a low tolerance for a rise in cases, resulting in repeated lockdowns. Although they have a highly vaccinated population, scientists are unsure as to how effective their shots are without any exposure to the virus.

Malawi may have hit the jackpot to move towards endemic, but other low-income countries as well as countries facing civil unrest have very low vaccination rates that might prolong the pandemic status of Covid-19, causing even more suffering around the world.



## Queen Elizabeth II Celebrates Seven Decades on the Throne

by Anna Haas '23

Many people are fascinated by the drama, splendor, and historical significance of the British Royal Family. Now, the fascination will continue as the eyes of millions fixate on the events that will celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee as she marks 70 years on the throne. Queen Elizabeth is one of the most famous and beloved monarchs in the world and is currently the longest reigning monarch as well as the world's oldest. However, Queen Elizabeth never would have even become Queen if her uncle, King Edward VIII, had not abdicated the throne in 1936, placing Elizabeth's father, King George VI, on the throne. Even still, Queen Elizabeth would not have had the title of longest reigning monarch if her father had not died suddenly in 1952. Seventy years later, the United Kingdom (UK) and the Commonwealth have planned a year-long celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

One of these events includes the Platinum Pudding competition where bakers nationwide have been tasked with finding a new pudding for the Queen. The five finalists will prepare the pud-

ding they created and present it to a judging panel which will include the palace head chef. The winning recipe will then be announced to the public for people all over the world to enjoy.

Another celebratory event includes the Queen's Green Canopy project which will plant thousands of trees throughout the UK. Since the beginning of the year, more than 60,000 trees have already been planted. This project is set to continue throughout the year and into March of 2023.

The week of June 2 to 5 is the culmination of the Jubilee. The first day will include the Queen's birthday parade and 'Trooping the Colour' as well as an Royal Air Force fly-past. Beacons will also be lit throughout the UK and Commonwealth with the principal beacon being lit in a special ceremony at Buckingham Palace. One of the last events will be the Platinum Jubilee Pageant where people, including artists, dancers, musicians, and military personnel will come together to tell the Queen's story of her 70 years as monarch.

Though full of regal ceremonies and activities, this event is most importantly a time to celebrate a woman who has seen and done so much during her life.

March 31, 2022

## Democrats Struggle To Hold onto Congress

by Alexis Booker '23

United States citizens demonstrated their enthusiasm to vote in November of 2020, creating the largest voter turnout in American history with almost 160 million voters total. Both Democrats and Republicans showed up to the polls displaying their strength in numbers. Democrats prevailed with over 81 million votes while Republicans still managed to secure over 74 million. Joe Biden then prevailed and was sworn into office on January 20, 2021. Now over a year later, the latest concern is no longer who will be president, but which party will control Congress. More specifically, it will dictate how much more of his agenda Biden will be able to accomplish without partisan stalling.

The midterm elections will take place on November 8, 2022, with all seats in the House of Representatives up for re-election and 34 senate seats open. Facing a declining approval rate and a general frustration with the ongoing waves of the pandemic, Democrats have not delivered the speedy change their voters had anticipated. Due to this in-delivery, voter efficacy--defined as citizen's faith in their ability to create a change in government through participation--is now at an all-time low. This now endangers the Democratic majorities in Congress.

Why specifically do voters feel so discouraged to turn out this November? During the 2020 election campaign, Biden promised significant changes such as forgiving student loan debt, increasing the federal minimum wage to 15 dollars an hour, and creating comprehensive voting legislation that prevents voter restriction laws-especially at a state level. Many citizens voted with the anticipation of these goals being completed because many felt that it was overdue. Though initial steps were taken, nothing has changed and none have been signed into federal law.

es distributed daily in the beginning of March, in comparison to 100,000 in July and August 2021. Austria, which has a population of eight million, has a vaccination rate of 73.3 percent and is currently vaccinating an average of only 4,000 people each day.

Despite peaking case numbers, Austria has now withdrawn its previously imposed general vaccination mandate for all adults. This is due to milder cases and low numbers of Covid-19 patients in intensive care units as Karoline Edtstadler, the minister for constitutional affairs from the Austrian People's Party, argued, while stating that the legal framework will be drafted in preparation for a potentially critical fall season. Austria would have been the first Western democratic country to mandate vaccinations for all citizens aged 18 and above with the threat of fines up to 3,600 euros (\$4,000). Austria

is hopping on the European bandwagon in dropping nearly all of its Covid-19 restrictions, supposedly in an attempt to build up a solid immunization rate within the population, not merely with the strategy of vaccinations but also infections from the milder Omicron variant.

For months prior there had been restrictions in Austria for unvaccinated people to enter restaurants, theaters, gyms and most shops. Furthermore, there was a curfew in place for unvaccinated people that only allowed them to leave their houses for work and covering basic needs. This had been a highly controversial measurement that led to outrage and resistance amongst anti-vaxxers who took to the streets in protests that sometimes turned violent. It is, therefore, questionable if the vaccine mandate would have had the desired effect of raising the vaccination rate. There have

The reason why these issues were not addressed lies not with Biden directly, but with the members of Congress. The filibuster (a strategy the minority senate party uses to stall opposing legislation in congress sessions) has been a long debated problem since its existence. Republicans want to keep the filibuster in place while most Democrats believe in its removal. It has been consistently utilized to prevent the passing of certain bills Biden wants to accomplish. Senators Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema have been the only members of the party to oppose eliminating it, and with the close Senate majority only being broken by Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris, they are key to the agenda. These two factors have led to the failures of the government and disheartening of citizens that lead them to be less inclined to vote.

With Democrat voters feeling dispirited, Republicans are now leveraging this opportunity for a 'red wave' to take place in the midterms. Since the 2020 election, the GOP and their voters have been outspoken in their determination to take back a majority in the federal government. As seen with the January 6 insurrection, the drive for abrupt change and even destruction is strong, being further fueled by conservative politicians vocalizing their support. This includes former President Trump who, in the past

few weeks, has begun on his rally trail once more. He has endorsed many Republicans running for seats such as Senate candidates Mo Brooks and Ted Budd of Alabama and North Carolina. This support further will likely encourage a large Republican turnout. This turnout has already begun to be seen with the surprising win of Governor Glenn Youngkin in Virginia, who replaced his Democratic incumbent Ralph Northam. If the Democrats continue on the path they do now, they are anticipated to experience a more negative outcome for themselves. They ultimately will lose the weak Senate majority they have had since the election of John Ossoff and Raphael Warnock in the 2020 Georgia run-off elections.

The House is potentially in more danger for them with the 2020 election slimming the Democratic majority with Republicans flipping 15 seats compared to their 3 in the House of Representatives. If Democrats lose their majorities in Congress, it will be impossible to follow through on Biden's biggest campaign promises. To change this probable outcome in the coming months, Democrats in Congress will need to take steps that lead to the fulfillment of Biden's original agenda while they still are in control. In doing so, it may restore the faith of Democratic voters in allowing for a higher voter efficacy/turnout on election day.



## Affirmative Action in Danger

by Apurva Mahajan '22

The Supreme Court announced on January 24 that it would hear two cases related to affirmative action to determine the legality of race-conscious admissions at Harvard and the University of North Carolina (UNC). The cases would be heard in October, with a verdict around June 2023. Because of the 6-3 conservative majority among the justices, many speculate that these cases potentially could lead to the fall of affirmative action, taking away 40 years of history.

Affirmative action was first introduced to universities in the 1960s with civil rights legislation to make institutions racially integrated after segregation and provide equal opportunity in employment. Universities at this point were almost all white, so affirmative action was introduced to ensure that racial minorities were given seats. In the 1973 case Regents of the University of California v. Bakke, Allan Bakke, a white man, was rejected twice from the University of California's Medical program. The school reserved 16 of 100 seats for minority students, but Bakke's test scores and GPA exceeded those of all the minority students. The Supreme Court ruled that while having racial quotas violated the Equal Protection Clause, it was permissible for race to be used as a factor in admissions for diversity, and Bakke became the first case brought to the Court in opposition of affirmative action policies.

In 2003, two parallel cases were brought to the court: Grutter v. Bollinger, and Gratz

v. Bollinger. Two white women, Barbara Grutter and Jennifer Gratz, argued they were denied admissions to the University of Michigan due to the consideration of race in the application process. However, the Supreme Court was split on the cases. In Grutter's case, the court ruled that the university was not being unconstitutional in its holistic admissions policy, but in Gratz's case, the court ruled that the way race was being valued in admissions violated the Equal Protection Clause and too much weight was being given to race, as students earned twenty points as a racial minority but five points for artistic achievement.

The Supreme Court case against Harvard this year alleged that the university discriminates against Asian American students by holding them to higher standards, creating a ceiling for them in admissions. This and the UNC case are led by the group Students for Fair Admissions. "Harvard and the University of North Carolina have racially gerrymandered their freshman classes in order to achieve prescribed racial quotas," said the organization's president, Edward Blum, who has historically organized lawsuits against race-conscious admissions.

With the court seemingly reevaluating decisions from decades ago, and the conservative majority possibly favoring the Students for Fair Admissions, the Supreme Court's acceptance of these appeals raises concerns about the longevity of affirmative action. Getting rid of affirmative action would change how diversity is handled in education for decades to come.

## Push for Vaccination Requirements in Europe and U.S. in Retreat

by Charlotte Koderhold '23

As Covid-19 cases are declining rapidly across the United States after the surge of Omicron, the most infectious variant yet, European countries are currently still facing peaks of reported cases, leaving many additional people immunized. These altered conditions have prompted governments to lift their restrictions and rethink their vaccination requirements as the numbers of first dose vaccinations hit a ceiling and increased cries for a return to somewhat normal life become audible.

In Europe, first dose vaccinations have come to a standstill. In Germany, which has the largest population within the EU with 80 million citizens, 75.5 percent have received at least two shots. The number of daily distributed doses, however, is declining at a fast rate, with only 7,000 doses



been similar but less restrictive approaches in other European countries such as Italy, Germany and France. Italy and Greece, for example, require senior citizens to be vaccinated.

In the United States the vaccination situation is similar and according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an average of 76,000 Americans received their first shot in early March each day. This marks the lowest rate since December 2020 and the trend is not only observable when it comes to first doses, but also for second shots and booster shots. On the other hand, in April 2021, during the peak of the vaccination campaign and when they were first becoming available to a greater number of eligible groups, an average of 1.8 million Americans were vaccinated each day. It appears as though the people who still have not received their first shot are not like-

ly to be convinced of the proven safety and effectiveness of the vaccine.

In a recent survey conducted by the New York Times, 129 U.S. companies were questioned on their vaccine requirements for employees. Three in four employers stated that they planned to require vaccinations for some of the workers; however, five of these companies said that they would accept regular testing as an alternative. This was after the Supreme Court struck down a vaccine mandate of the Biden administration that required employees of larger businesses to be vaccinated while offering a weekly testing alternative. The ruling would have affected 80 million workers nationwide. It is likely that in light of this decision by the Supreme Court, similar vaccination requirements in other areas of public life would not follow through in the United States.

Dear readers,

As you open our spring issue, I want to thank you all for reading The Warrior. The print editors have worked tirelessly, as always, in Mr. Huck's back newspaper room for weeks to create from scratch what you're now holding. We seniors are getting ready to transfer our jobs over to the next generation, so as one of our final projects before our last issue in May, we've produced something we are proud of, and we hope you enjoy it.

Thanks for reading,

Tori Newby  
Editor-in-Chief

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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...

## Deserved Appreciation for All That Teachers Do

The strain of the pandemic has extended into many if not most aspects of this school year, but just like students, it has heavily affected Sherwood teachers. In light of the pandemic, teachers had to learn how to teach online, a task made even more difficult by many students having little self-discipline and ignoring lessons behind vacant Zoom screens. Some subjects like art were particularly difficult to manage in an online setting, but for the lack of resources and equipment, Sherwood teachers persevered and made the best out of the virtual time.

The transition into in-person learning brought even more challenges, but just as they did in a virtual setting, teachers have continued to succeed and uplift in these trying times. Students face much of the same issues as teachers this year: the anxiety of Covid-19 infection, uncertainty over school being in-person or switching to virtual, and more, but with teaching comes additional stresses like the many staff cuts occurring this year. Even still, the Sherwood staff soldier on strongly and have

helped students in so many ways.

Sherwood teachers have done a fabulous job with keeping a fun, positive learning setting despite the many issues and anxieties swirling around the school everyday. So many Sherwood teachers have a talent for making students laugh, and it can be great as an outlet from their typically stressful day. The attitude Sherwood teachers set and the amount of dedication and passion conveyed in their classrooms is infectious; it's difficult not to want to be involved and engaged when a teacher is working so hard for their students.

Teachers have also been very considerate this year in regards to work load and the rigor of their content. With them slowing the pace of the class, reviewing content done virtually, providing opportunities for retakes, and more in the first semester, students have been able to slide back into the normal speed of the second semester with ease. Giving constructive feedback on student work can be a challenge, especially when one is grading students of many grade levels and backgrounds, each with

different ability levels to consider (especially with quarantine affecting students with its atypical learning styles). However with their specific, considerate critiques, often given virtually and verbally, Sherwood teachers know how to efficiently guide students towards improvement.

Teachers' contributions to extracurricular activities has been a blessing this year as well. Clubs and sports are such an intrinsic part of normal high school life, and teachers' availability as sponsors and the extent to which they have contributed to their activities really got students back into the swing of things. Typical Sherwood events coming back like Rock n' Roll Revival and the Senior Art Show are thanks in very large part to amazing teachers willing to dedicate precious time and energy to helping.

Though Sherwood teachers have had a real task in guiding students back into in-person learning, they have done so beautifully and thoughtfully, and deserve all the props in the world. Thank you teachers!



by Nicholas Shade '23



March 31, 2022

## Politicians Must Step Up To Improve School Safety

by Declan Rooney '25

On December 14, 2012 a young man pulled into the parking lot of Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. He stepped out of his car and broke a window to enter the school, where he killed 20 first graders and kindergarteners as well as 6 staff members including the principal. Shortly after, the shooter took his own life. The tragedy at Sandy Hook came more than a decade after Columbine in 1999, which was the first modern mass school shooting and where 15 people died. Since 1970, 1,316 school shootings have happened across the United States, including an incident at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2018 that resulted in 17 deaths.

If these shootings continue to occur, there is an obvious problem, yet little has been done by legislators to decrease the likelihood of school shootings continuing to occur. The obvious solution is to dramatically reduce the number of guns, but that is not likely considering America's current political climate. Still, there are realistic steps that can be taken to make schools safer.

For example, in a shooting that occurred last year at Oxford High School in Michigan, a student used a gun that his parents purchased for him. In a rare instance that should happen more often, the shooter's irresponsible parents have been charged with involuntary manslaughter. Holding parents accountable for their poor supervision could make gun owners more responsible and decrease the number of school shootings by teen students who cannot



Magruder High School in lockdown after the shooting on January 21.

legally purchase guns on their own. State laws could be changed to make it easier for prosecutors to charge parents or other adults with felony crimes if they allow teens to access firearms.

Another realistic and necessary measure to reduce the risk of school shootings is to outlaw so-called "ghost guns" such as the one that was used in the shooting at Magruder High School this past January. A ghost gun is an unregistered firearm that is sold without the ability to trace it. The Maryland House passed a bill to ban ghost guns, but the legislation is stalling in the Maryland Senate. Pro-Second Amendment groups have pushed back against the proposed law: "We hate the euphemism of 'ghost guns'... When lawmakers talk about banning 'ghost guns,' you are criminalizing a normal behavior and a hobby industry based on the illegal activities of a small percentage of the population," stated the Maryland Rifle Association. Even if the bill is eventually signed into law in Maryland, other states need to take similar action so that ghost guns are not smuggled across state lines.

At the federal level, Congress continues to drag its feet to pass gun-reform legislation even when it is supported by a large majority of Americans. The House last year passed the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021 that aimed to expand background checks for those who want to purchase a gun, but Republicans in the Senate have blocked the bill from proceeding. Inexplicably, very little has been done legislatively or in the courts to reduce the risk of school shootings. It remains just as dangerous for students in high schools across the United States as it did in 1999, 2012, or 2018.

Despite the deadly problem of guns getting into schools, life goes on for students. We go to school everyday while elected officials at the state and federal levels do little to nothing to keep us safe. The shootings at Columbine, Sandy Hook, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and Oxford, to name a few, should not be forgotten. The crying parents, wailing sirens, blood-stained hallways, ambulances, and stretchers show us why something needs to be done. It's time to reduce access to guns to make schools safer.

## Ketanji Jackson Deserves To Be a Supreme Court Justice

by Tatiana Rodriguez '23

President Joe Biden during his presidential campaign vowed to nominate the first Black woman Supreme Court Justice, and he has lived up to this promise by selecting Ketanji Brown Jackson to replace Justice Stephen Breyer who is retiring. Jackson is expected to be confirmed by the Senate in early April; however, there is the likelihood that perhaps only a handful of the 50 Republican senators will vote for her confirmation. Although much of the criticism from conservatives lately has been vague attacks on Jackson's record as Federal Court judge, their initial argument was that Biden was practicing "reverse racism" and only nominated Jackson because of her skin color and gender. This is insulting to her as it implies that she could not be a Black woman and highly qualified to be a justice. Despite Jackson's extensive qualifications, it is the Republicans that fail to see beyond her skin color and gender.

These accusations of reverse racism ignore Jackson's remarkable qualifications. The claim that Jackson was nominated for the Supreme Court just because she is a Black woman is insulting when one looks at her educational background and extensive accomplishments during a 30-year professional career as a lawyer and then judge. Jackson went to Harvard Law school, sat as a United States District Judge, and worked as a lawyer in a practice that focused on civil and criminal appellate litigation.

Jackson is highly qualified for a seat on the Supreme Court and her race and sex are added bonuses. As an African American woman, Jackson provides an unprecedented perspective on the Supreme Court. The increased diversity there will better reflect the demographics of the United States. Jackson's confirmation to the Supreme Court will provide a different insight on issues that might impact women and people of color.

Along with the better reflection of the United States on the Supreme Court, Jackson will also serve as an example for decades to come to young Black women. It is important for young African American women to see someone living their dreams in order for them to know that the possibility to reach the tallest peaks of a profession will be there for them. Instead of only seeing white people (and most often white men) in positions with high power, Jackson can now be seen as a representation of what opportunity there is for women like her. Jackson will inspire many who share her race and gender to do the hard work and know that their dreams are truly possible.

Biden kept his word by nominating Jackson and making history. Jackson has done all the work she needs and is extremely qualified for the position as a Supreme Court Justice. Her gender and race contribute to the needed representation in American government. Now, it is up to Senate Republicans to help confirm Jackson's and be on the right side of history.



## College Decisions, Come Sooner

by Tori Newby '22

High school seniors pour out their heart and souls into countless essays in the hopes that some college admissions reader finds them worthy of acceptance. However, all this work is piled up within the first few months of the semester, only for students to have to wait months until the spring for a decision. Many regular decision acceptances come in at the end of March, and sometimes, early April. All college decisions must be made by May 1, meaning seniors have about a month to decide where they want to attend college for the next four years.

One month to make a well-rounded decision is simply not enough time. Visiting schools is vital in the decision-making process for students to be able to picture themselves at a certain campus. However, for many students who applied to schools far from home, a visit in such short notice may not be enough time to make travel arrangements. A month is also short notice to figure out financing and available scholarships. January regular-decision application deadlines should instead be in October or November when many early action and early decision applications are due. Admission decisions could then come out in January or February, allowing students to take ample time to consider what college would suit them best.

## Harm of 'Don't Say Gay'

by Sydney Wiser '23

On March 8, the Florida Senate voted to pass the controversial "Parental Rights in Education" bill, more commonly known as the "Don't Say Gay" bill. The bill will restrict educators from including topics pertaining to gender and sexuality in grades kindergarten to third. Parents also have legal grounds to sue if they feel educators are engaging in these topics "inappropriately" in any grade. LGBTQ+ activists worry that the vague language of the bill could discourage teachers from even acknowledging that some children have two mothers or two fathers or reading children's books that happen to have LGBTQ+ characters. Lawmakers claim the bill will prevent schools from making curricula that force inappropriate topics on children. In reality, this bill will create a culture of fear in schools and encourage the repression of a child's identity.

No child should be pigeonholed into a sexual identity before they're old enough to understand it themselves but must be shown non-heterosexual relationships. Equal representation in class lets children know that when they're older, regardless of who they love, their feelings will be valid. Treating LGBTQ+ identities as if they're taboo and only showing children heterosexual relationships breeds homophobia and prevents children from being able to safely explore their identities in the future.

## Opening Up Maryland Jobs

by Apurva Mahajan '22

Governor Larry Hogan recently announced that four-year college degrees will no longer be a requirement for many Maryland state jobs. This will allow more residents to work without the massive debt that comes with acquiring a four-year college degree. The Maryland state government currently employs 38,000 people, and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) estimates that more than half of these jobs can be done with enough experience, training, or a community college degree in place of a Bachelor's Degree. This is the first bipartisan initiative like this in the country, and it should be implemented throughout the rest of the country, possibly on a federal level as well.

Implementation of initiatives that provide people with state jobs without four-year degrees would allow more qualified individuals to get these jobs when a lack of college degrees were holding them back. A private out of state four-year college costs around \$50,000 per year, even in-state universities cost upwards of \$30,000 per year. 65 percent of students seeking a bachelor's degree have student loan debt. By expanding the opportunities for non-degree candidates in the workforce beyond just state and government jobs, the unemployment rate could decrease while people would simultaneously receive livable wages without having student loan debt.

March 31, 2022

## Counting Calories in Class Is Unhealthy Dear UMD Admissions: Get Your Act Together

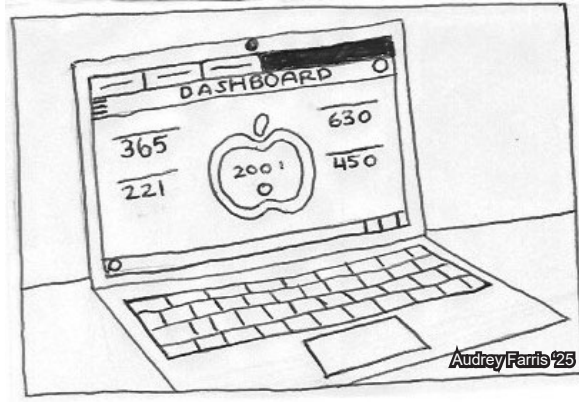
by Tori Newby '22

You're in seventh grade science class eagerly awaiting Thanksgiving break, and your teacher hands out an assignment due when you get back. Students groan, and you join in on the negativity, thinking that homework is the last thing you will want to be doing over break. Little do you know, this assignment will impact you for years to come, leaving you with feelings far worse than from merely doing homework.

The assignment? Calorie-tracking. You're expected to log every bite of food you eat over break onto a website, where your eating habits and calorie counts will be tracked for you to evaluate and submit to your teacher. The point, of course, is to teach the students about balanced eating and make them aware of what they are putting into their bodies each day. However, when you log 2001 calories and the number turns an alarming red to let you know you've exceeded your recommended amount, the experience has the potential to turn into an anxiety-inducing habit to last for years--the basis for an eating disorder.

This project is assigned in some health classes at Sherwood, a class many students take sophomore year. The program is called MyFitnessPal, and students are expected to download an app to log their food intake and exercise throughout one week. The app is connected to the teacher's app so they can monitor the students.

Requiring teenagers to count calories is detrimental to their body image and mental health.



Psychology Today notes that the teen brain is particularly vulnerable to their environment, and requiring middle and high school students to count calories has the ability to affect them mentally, both in the moment and for years to come.

Requiring an exact log of food and exercise each day can lead to guilt as well. "I remember I ate a cheeseburger and was embarrassed to track it on the app," said a senior, who asked to remain anonymous. "I lied about how much I worked out," noted another anonymous senior.

Students input their height, weight, gender, age, and activity level into the app in order to get a custom calorie goal, but these factors fail to recognize the realities of genetics, metabolism, and other health conditions that affect how many calories a person needs in a day.

The app also asks the user if their goal is to lose, gain, or maintain their weight. Teens and preteens should not be focused on weight loss or weight gain, but rather nutrition from a holistic approach. "Healthy" means something different for everyone, as different people need different

amounts of exercise and certain nutrients. A focus on counting calories can steer students away from some nutrient-dense healthy foods, such as nuts or avocados. 200 calories worth of fruit is not the same as 200 calories worth of candy, but tracking calories theoretically presents the two food families as the same value.

Focusing on calorie intake can be stressful as it does not necessarily promote balance in a diet. According to WebMD, one out of seven women is struggling with an eating disorder, one out of three adolescent girls think they are overweight, and one out of six are trying to lose weight. For men, 20 to 40 percent are unhappy with some aspect of their looks, including weight and muscle size. A mandatory assignment in health classes requiring students to track their calories can exacerbate or ignite these sentiments.

Having awareness of what one is consuming is healthy, but tracking every calorie that enters your body is not. Counting calories can damage one's relationship with food and affect their mental health, especially at the crucial developmental stage of adolescence.

## Rogan's Scandal Is Just the Tip of the Podcast Misinformation Iceberg

by Reade Fenner '22

Joe Rogan, host of popular Spotify podcast "The Joe Rogan Experience," recently has come under scrutiny for spreading Covid-19 misinformation. Last April, Rogan promoted the use of Ivermectin, an anti-parasite medication discredited for aiding Covid-19 symptoms by doctors throughout the world. More recently, Rogan welcomed anti-vaccine conspiracist Robert Malone onto an episode in January. Malone, whose medical advice has been widely criticized by the medical community, was banned from Twitter for spreading Covid-19 misinformation. He also discussed conspiracies regarding the inflation of Covid-19 deaths, President Biden lying about receiving the vaccine, and the legalities of vaccine mandates, all of which were proven false.

In response, a group of 270 doctors, science educators, and physicians sent an open letter to Spotify calling for Rogan's removal from the platform, leading Spotify's audience to echo this sentiment, citing the platform's zero-tolerance policy for content "that promotes dangerous false or dangerous deceptive content about Covid-19." In response, Spotify removed specific epi-

sodes of Rogan's podcast and agreed to put warnings on certain episodes of "The Joe Rogan Experience" that discuss Covid-19, but refused to break off their \$200 million exclusivity deal with him, as he brings a massive number of viewers to their platform. Disappointed by Spotify's minimal action, popular singer-songwriters Neil Young and Joni Mitchell requested their music be removed from the platform.

Though Spotify hasn't faced a significant viewer drop following Rogan's scandal, their situation speaks to a larger issue regarding the regulation of misinformation in podcasts.

Misinformation, and how to regulate it without crossing the line into censorship and the restriction of First Amendment rights, has been a prevalent issue for decades. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) loosely restricts what can be broadcasted on television and radio, banning false information that can "cause direct and actual damage to property or to the health or safety of the general public, or diversion of law enforcement or other public health and safety authorities from their duties." The FCC attempted to regulate broadcasting companies' approach to contentious topics in 1949 with the Fairness Doc-

trine, which required television and radio broadcasters to deliver balanced coverage of significant controversial issues. However, this doctrine was rescinded in 1987 because the FCC found that it had a "chilling effect" on Freedom of Speech rights, leaving radio and television again with few regulations.

Though television and radio are hardly monitored, podcasts are overseen even less. As a sort of a gray area, podcasts are not currently regulated by the FCC or any other government agency, meaning their sole concern is copyright infringement, not monitoring the spread of misinformation.

Publishing titan Simon & Schuster has faced similar challenges with balancing Freedom of Speech with harmful information. In 2017, Simon & Schuster canceled a book deal with controversial conservative author Milo Yiannopoulos after he publicly defended pedophilia, and pulled another deal with Senator Josh Crawley following the January 6 Capitol riots as a result of their morality clause. Most recently, Simon & Schuster severed a deal early last year with an officer involved in the shooting of Breonna Taylor. The actions Simon & Schuster have taken demonstrates that platforms such as Spotify that

by Hailey Sepulvado '22

University of Maryland at College Park (UMD) admissions sent out early action decision letters on January 28, 2022, meaning some people are happy and others not so much. Admission to UMD has recently become increasingly difficult for in-state students, which has made applicants angry and confused. Why is it so difficult for Maryland students to get into their state school? This is the question many people, including myself, have been asking since college application season has started.

Throughout my college application process I have worked with college counselor Hillary Hytken Morrow of Fairchild Educational Services. She helped me apply to multiple different colleges using her knowledge of what each specific college is looking for. I was able to curate each application to make it appeal to each college, but with UMD it was more challenging. "I tell every student, regardless of their grades, scores, and resumes that UMD is a reach school. Often, it shouldn't be and it is frustrating to have to tell kids who have worked really hard that they might not get into their dream school," said Morrow. A student could have done everything possible to be admitted to the school, but it still would not meet UMD's ridiculous standards. This is unfortunate because many students at Sherwood and throughout Maryland look forward to going to their state's flagship university.

My uncle is a high school teacher in Howard County and has a former student currently attending Harvard University; this same student was denied admission to UMD. A student living in Maryland got denied from the state university (supported by state taxes paid by the student's parents), but was admitted to one of the most prestigious colleges in the world. This shows that UMD has no sensible criteria when choosing who to let in and who to deny.

I was one of the lucky ones who got an acceptance letter from UMD, but many of my peers were not. Luck is what it seems to come down to when applying to UMD because being accepted is comparable to winning the lottery. UMD was always my dream school and I'm elated that I got in, but I also know that many people with better resumes than me deserved my spot. UMD is a great college, where any student would get a great education. However, I feel that it is not prestigious enough to be this picky about who they let in. UMD needs to be more consistent with their admissions requirements, and the school needs to stop giving preference to students from other states just because it can charge them out-of-state tuition. If UMD truly believed in the mission of a flagship state university, it would admit more in-state students, who now account for only 60 percent of the student body. The University of Maryland should care more about taking care of its own.



distribute creators' work could battle dangers to public safety caused by misinformation on its platform. Spotify chooses not to take that action.

Despite his faults, Rogan does not deserve to be banned from podcasting altogether. However, he is an immensely popular and successful creator with an expansive audience, which comes with a certain level of responsibility. Regardless of Rogan's rejection of the "journalist" title, he is giving guests a platform to spread misinformation to millions. If Rogan fails to do the proper research himself to fact check such guests, he fails to ensure his viewers receive the accurate information.

Though Rogan personally needs to improve as a podcast host in the public eye, podcasts need to be more heavily regulated to ensure no similar situations

arise in the future. Amy Westervelt, host of "Rigged," a popular podcast that discusses misinformation, has a simple idea for a solution. "The government could very easily say, you know what? Podcasts are going to be under FCC," said Westervelt in a recent NPR interview. "There's zero reason that's in the public interest that I can think of why that hasn't happened."

Though Spotify is taking small steps to limit Rogan's ability to spread misinformation, it is not doing enough; both Spotify and Rogan need to take further action. However, the issue is ultimately larger than just a platform. As long as podcasts remain a gray area of unregulated content, misinformation will continue to spread regarding Covid-19 and other important topics regarding public health and safety.

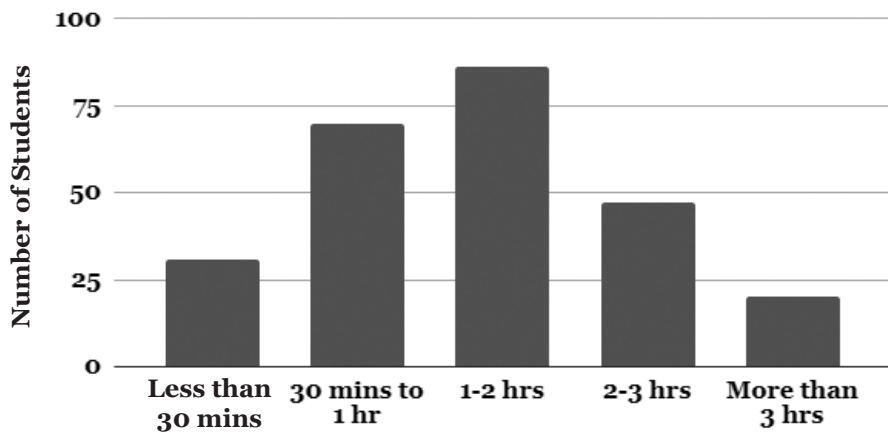
March 31, 2022

## The Pulse

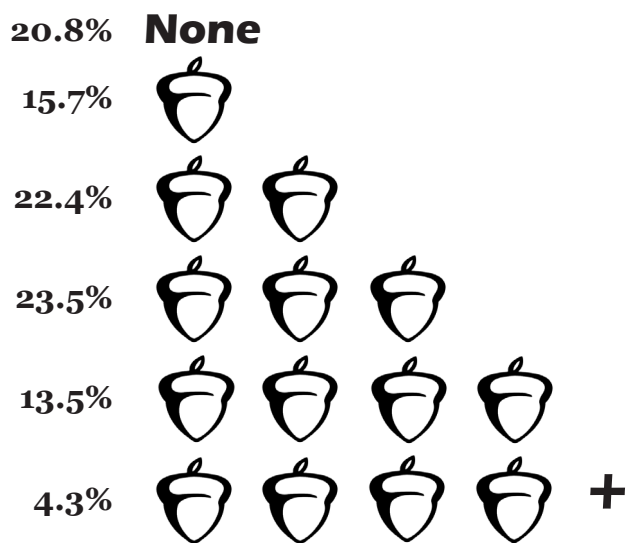
Returning again for The Warrior's second issue of 2022 is The Pulse, a section of Opinions dedicated to surveying the Sherwood population. As the third quarter comes to a close, students are getting busy with schoolwork piling up, AP exams approaching, and Spring sports starting. This edition of The Pulse will focus on the stress levels of Sherwood's juniors and seniors and how overcommitted they feel.

### Academics

How much time do you spend on homework each weeknight?

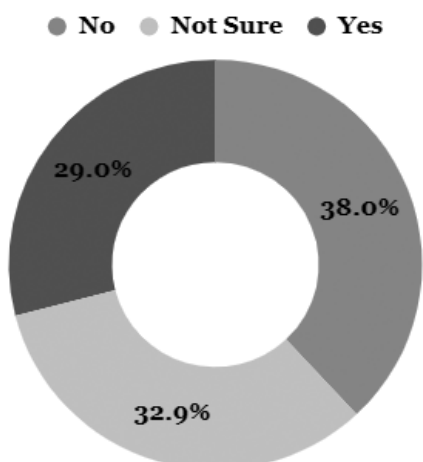


How many AP classes are you taking?



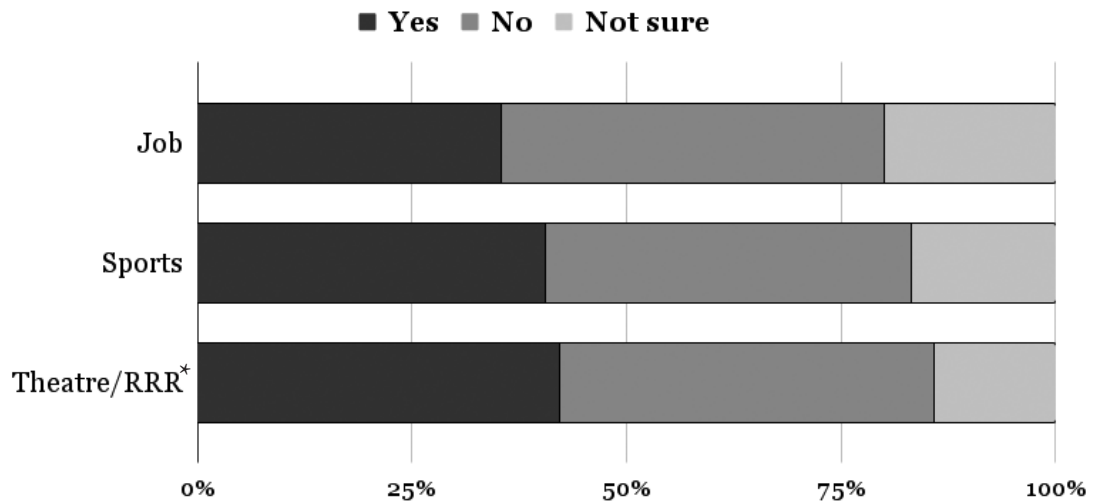
### Overall

Do you feel as though you've overcommitted yourself?



### After School Activities

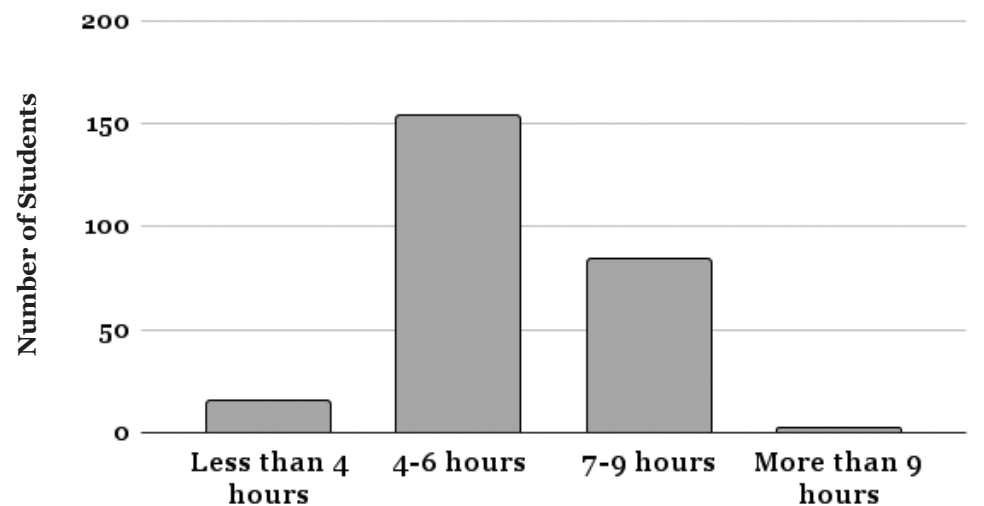
Does your involvement in the following activities interfere with your academic performance or grades?



\*RRR is short for Rock 'n' Roll Revival

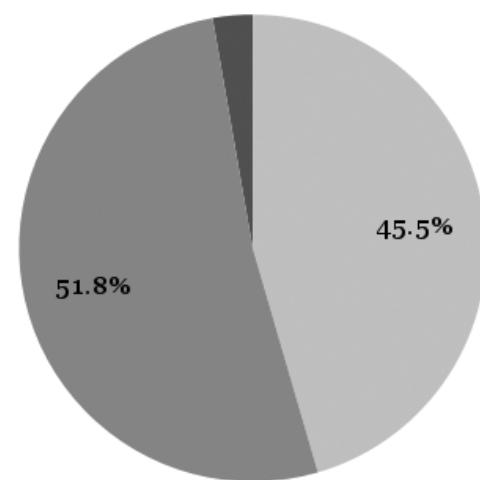
### Sleep

How many hours of sleep do you get per night?



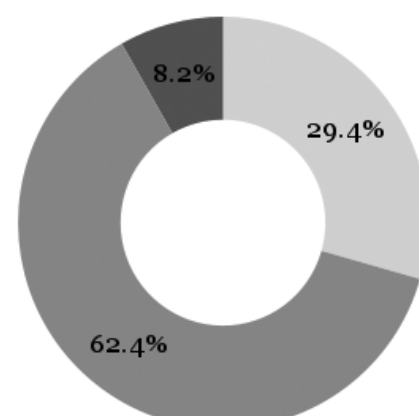
How well-rested do you feel each day?

● Not well-rested at all ● Somewhat well-rested ● Very well-rested



How overwhelmed do you feel?

● Very overwhelmed ● Somewhat overwhelmed ● Not overwhelmed at all



# the Warrior

## Through The 2000s

Since the beginning of the 21st century, The Warrior has reported on major events both within the school and across the nation.

### Every Day is a Day to be Cherished

*Community still reeling after 9/11 terrorist strike*  
by Richard Auxier '02

"Many students at Sherwood rushed to the phones to call parents in the wake of the attacks to see if relatives were okay. Lines stretched down the hall, as students anxiously waited to see if their lives had directly been affected by terrorist attacks."

Sept. 28, 2001 (23rd Year, Issue No. 2)

### Fantasy Football: Coming on Strong

by Brian McCarty '03

Sept. 28, 2001 (23rd Year, Issue No. 2)

### Netflix Sends Blockbuster into Bidding War

by Rhett Beattie '07

"I've gone to Blockbuster a lot less [since subscribing to Netflix]. I really don't go there at all anymore," said senior James Killion."

Oct. 13, 2006 (28th Year, Issue No. 2)

### Students Charged with February Arson

by Aaron Oster '04

"Once security arrived to open the doors, they found that a window had been broken and explosives had been set off in a downstairs computer lab ... Shards of homemade Molotov Cocktails, makeshift bombs made of a breakable container filled with flammable liquid, were found among the debris."

March 31, 2004 (25th Year, Issue No. 6)

### Boy Bands Never Fail to Sweep Pre-Teen Girls off Their Feet

by Maria Claudia Garcia-Rada '13

June 5, 2012 (33rd Year, Issue No. 5)

### Softball Takes First State Title in School History

by Brendan Cudd '14

"The Warriors went to Terrapin Softball Complex at the University of Maryland on May 25 to take on the Chesapeake Cougars for the 4A state title ... This is Sherwood's first state championship for softball and is only the second title ever for Montgomery County."

June 5, 2012 (33rd Year, Issue No. 5)

### Hard Work Pays Off with Trifecta for Girls Swim

by Ben Cooper '16

"After high expectations coming into the season, the girls' swim and dive team lived up to the hype and more. They completed their own version of a 'triple crown' by winning not only the Division 2 title, but also The Washington Metropolitan Swim and Dive Championship (known as 'Metros'), the Regional 3A/4A Championship, and the State title."

March 17, 2016 (37th Year, Issue No. 4)

### Teenagers Blowing Smoke in New Fad

by Meagan Barrett '15

"Within the last year, a trend has arisen in the form of e-cigs and e-hookahs, or hookah pens."

Jan. 30, 2014 (35th Year, Issue No. 3)

2001

04

06

12

14

16

02

05

10

13

15

2018

### As Iraq Debate Heats Up, Students Divided on War

by Jesse Blitzstein '03

Nov. 1, 2002 (24th Year, Issue No. 2)

### Sherwood, Rockville Communities Reflect

*Evaluating school safety after the tragic loss of a teen life*  
by Melissa Cohen '06 and Steven Overly '06

"The devastating murder of 15-year-old Kanisha Neal shocked both the Sherwood and Rockville High School communities, causing each to reevaluate their current protocol regarding violence and security ... The administration at each high school took immediate action to address these newfound concerns with the intention to both quell anxiety surrounding the stabbing and help prevent future incidents."

Nov. 9, 2005 (27th Year, Issue No. 2)

### Oscar Predictions: 2009's Most Deserving Nominees

*Who's going to win: Avatar*  
by Ariana Rodriguez-Gitler '10

"Ignoring the enormous box-office success of 'Avatar,' the movie tells a mesmerizing tale in a groundbreaking way ... 'Avatar' is a deserving film, not because of its success, but in spite of it."

Feb. 24, 2010 (31st Year, Issue No. 3)

### Bitcoin Attracting Tech-Savvy Teenagers

by Ankur Kayastha '15

"Legal cryptocurrency has some concerned that teens across the country have access to the so-called "Dark Web" and its related illegal activities."

Jan. 30, 2015 (36th Year, Issue No. 3)

### Shootings, Code Blues Lead to Increased Student Caution

by Amy Cooper '03

"The recent sniper shootings stirred emotions of both frustration and fear among students and the community."

Nov. 1, 2002 (24th Year, Issue No. 2)

### Students Hooked on Facebook

by Arami Aquino '07

"Although Facebook is less than two years old, it is steadily gaining popularity throughout both the college community, and now the high school community ... People who like all the creativity involved with Myspace might not like Facebook."

Nov. 9, 2005 (27th Year, Issue No. 2)

### It's Time to Ban Assault Rifles

Unsigned Editorial

"In the light of recent events, including the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School and at a Texas community college, President Obama wants a new policy on gun control ... As reasonable human beings, we must realize the potential this policy has to make schools safer and prevent catastrophe nation-wide."

Jan. 31, 2013 (34th Year, Issue No. 3)

### Nov. 6 Elections Set to be Most Important in Decades

by Nick Hermosilla '19

"2018's midterm elections on November 6 are being billed as the most important in decades, or perhaps ever ... Many key issues for this election extend past political issues. The largest topic dividing voters for the past two years is President Trump himself."

Oct. 25, 2018 (40th Year, Issue No. 1)

March 31, 2022

**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

### **Relief Fund Started For Teen Victims Of NFTs**

Though the members of Sherwood's NFT Club joined with high hopes, three weeks later, their dreams have come to a crashing halt as every single one of the club's fourteen members has lost over \$50,000 individually. Sherwood's SGA is now creating an emergency relief fund to help the bereft NFT club members and their families. "It's about supporting the community," said a representative of the Sherwood SGA. "We can't hold them accountable for their actions: how were they supposed to know that emptying out their entire college funds and putting their parents in thousands of dollars of credit card debt would be a bad idea?"

As Sherwood prepares for spring break, almost a thousand dollars has been raised in bake sale profits, all of which (minus a small stipend to the PTA) will go to the victims. Sherwood counselors are working with students to reevaluate their college plans, and as of now, only some half a million dollars of debt remain.

### **'I'm Not Addicted To Games' Game-addict Pleads**

His wrists growing sore, his vision tunneling and getting blurry as he tapped his phone screen to defeat the latest boss level, Marylander Glenn Rodriques once again reiterated that he wasn't addicted to games. Sources close to Rodriques report that the man was thirteen hours into a twenty-hour grind session on one of the twenty gacha fighting games clogging his phone's storage. His sobbing wife had attempted to serve him divorce papers no less than three times, but Rodriques simply took the papers and used them to mop up the oily sweat on his fingers so that he could maintain maximum skin-to-screen contact. At press time, he had developed an acute case of carpal tunnel syndrome, yet furiously maintained that he "could log off anytime he pleased, in fact. Just not right now."

### **Customer Service Industry Confused By Worker Shortage**

In stores and at restaurants, wait times are getting longer, service quality is going down, and job offers are flowing out the door. The reason? Lack of integrity. "I just don't understand why everyone keeps quitting," said manager Jenny McRobins. "Shouldn't people practically be lining up for thirteen dollars an hour and no job security?"

McRobins, who manages a chain fast-food restaurant, lamented the almost instantaneous turnover rate and attributed it to the lazy employees. "These days, it's almost impossible to find anyone willing to endure months or even just weeks of senseless abuse without them giving up and moving onto the next dead-end job," McRobins complained, noting that she had become increasingly more frustrated by people's increasing willingness to tip her employees out of gratitude for working on the front lines during a pandemic. "Are you kidding me?" McRobins said dismissively. "It's not like people's lives are in danger ... well they are, but not really." McRobins reportedly perked up noticeably when she realized that one of her employees had handed a customer a cup that was one size larger than they had ordered.

### **Spring Break In The Slammer**

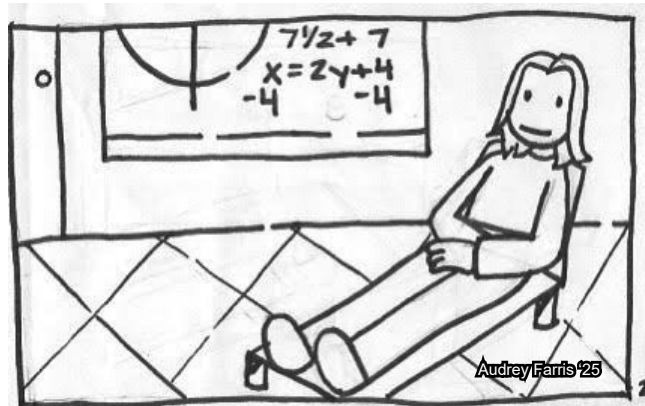
Fed up with the rampant rule-breaking of Sherwood students, Sherwood security guards are starting their own 'Scared Straight' program. For the duration of the spring break, five rebellious Sherwood students will be locked inside the building 24/7 with a small group of actual convicted criminals.

The school administration assures that there will be safety protocol in place to protect the convicts from the students, who all have lengthy criminal records--ranging from skipping classes and loitering in the halls, to actually leaving campus entirely during lunch. The security guards will stay in constant contact with the convicts to ensure that all goals are being met: by the end of ten horrific days, the students will emerge--no longer juvenile delinquents--to rejoin society as law-abiding citizens.

If the program meets with success, a school administrator may meet with the Board of Education to discuss extending the program to the entire school.

## Abnormal Advice: Reloaded

by Ben Schoenberg '24



**Dear Benjamin,**

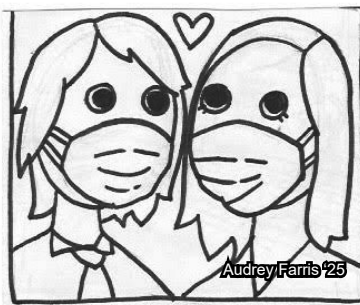
Lately, my math teacher, "Ms. Smith," has spent most of class sharing her family drama with us. I feel bad, since she is clearly dealing with intense trauma - Ms. Smith's mother cheated on her husband with Ms. Smith's own

husband! But, I'm also failing Geometry. How do I provide emotional support while conveying that I need to learn math!? - **Not A Therapist**

**Dear Not A Therapist,**

To me, it sounds like your math

teacher is extremely selfish and doesn't care about education and its value in our society. As a math teacher, you accept the responsibility of educating the youth on the genre of math. With great power comes great responsibility, and "Ms. Smith" has ignored this great power to instead waste time worrying about her menial inconveniences. She clearly needs to get her priorities straight and reconsider her choice to work as a teacher in a time where many hard-working and respected teachers are losing their jobs. You have to tell her straight up that she needs to shut up and do geometry stuff because she is "Ms. Smith" the geometry teacher, not the drama teacher.



My girlfriend and I have been Covid-safe dating for the past two months. We go on outdoor dates with a 6-foot rope to keep us apart and always wear masks.

Last night, after much agony and discussion, we decided to break the rules once and for all and take our masks off to kiss. I realized I had never seen her face before, but she looked beautiful. However, before we could even get to the kiss, my girlfriend turned away and told me to put my mask back on. Does she think I'm ugly? Should I be worried? - **Mask Up**

**Dear Mask Up,**

Better safe than sorry, as they say, and it seems like you

should've continued keeping it safe. To me, it sounds like by wearing your mask you were making the right decision. Covid can be contained but ugliness can't. Maybe your girlfriend could have been a little more diplomatic, but her bluntness is a valuable trait in a relationship. Honesty is the best policy, and the honest truth is that your girlfriend thinks you're ugly. Time for you to also be truthful about your feelings and boldly point out one of her shortcomings in the name of Covid safety.

**Dear Benjamin,**

Yo dawg, I keep getting my skateboard confiscated, so I can never shred in the halls! My bogus teacher keeps taking it and hiding it somewhere in the room! Any other way to glide?

- **Skater Brah**

**Dear Skater Brah,**

I totally understand, the skateboard isn't just a vehicle, it's

a way of life. If your teacher can't catch your drift, then their wave is lost. But if you're in search of a new slick mode of transportation, I heard that surfing the internet is totally in! By simply connecting a technological device of your choice to Sherwood's high-speed internet, you're in for a hell of a ride. As you pass by all of your classmates, using the device that

slows them down to go faster, you will realize that you're way cool and they are not. Time will be your oyster as you can now quickly traverse the busy and crowded hallways of Sherwood using your 21st-century solution.

Submit advice inquiries to *Abnormal Advice* at [thewarrioronline.com/contact-us](http://thewarrioronline.com/contact-us).

## ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ HOROSCOPES ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑

**ARIES** -- After a long period of isolation, the voices in your head now have faces to match. Why not befriend them and extend your social circle?

**VIRGO** -- If you find yourself stuck in a love triangle with a vampire and a werewolf, I'd suggest just setting both of them up to give yourself an easy out.

**TAURUS** -- You're remarkably resilient. This will come in handy if/when a medieval torturer spawns in your household and decides to test out the rack. Cheer up--you may gain a few inches in the spine area.

**SCORPIO** -- Much is happening this week. You may receive a message that could change the trajectory of your life, either romantically or familiarly. The only way to avoid this is by faking your death, so you should go ahead and stage a tragic car accident.

**GEMINI** -- When faced with difficult choices, your gut feeling is often correct. Which is why you should 100% spend your entire college fund on a digital ape.

**SAGITTARIUS** -- You may be making improvements to your lifestyle at this time, probably technological in manner. Double-check every new electronic device that enters your house: it's only a matter of time before the FBI figures out how to wiretap you for good.

**CANCER** -- Your desire to stay constantly in motion will be beneficial: there's an 0.2% chance that the zombie apocalypse will occur later this month. I hope you like running.

**CAPRICORN** -- If you're wondering if everyone hates you, the answer is yes.

**LEO** -- Instead of therapy, consider taking out all your negative emotions on your loved ones and permanently alienating yourself from your friends.

**AQUARIUS** -- Go ahead and ignore your teachers in class. You can definitely google the answers to your unit test the day of.

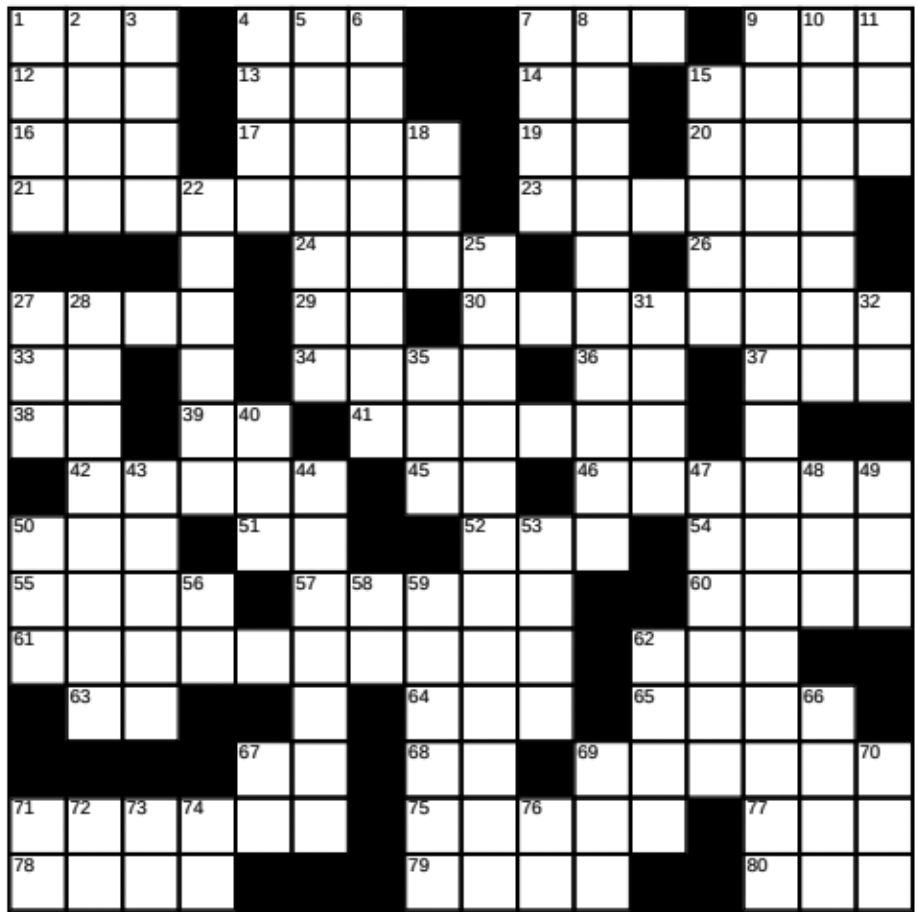
**LIBRA** -- It's important to remember to do things for yourself. This could be anything from treating yourself to coffee to establishing a military dictatorship over a third-world country.

**PISCES** -- Take comfort in the fact that even if you know absolutely nothing, there's always someone else (also a Pisces) who knows even less.

March 31, 2022

## Food for Thought

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



### Across

1. Poison sludge Pokémon
4. \_\_\_-tac-toe
7. Plead
9. Show ID to get in here
12. Drink cranberry juice to heal
13. Movie where the first Death Star was destroyed (abbr.)
14. Home of the Longhorns
15. Dr. Pepper, Sprite, Coke
16. American horror franchise
17. Clothes found at a thrift store
19. Initials of recently passed *Glee* star
20. Oral Health Assessment Tool (abbr.)
21. Some elevators skip this floor
23. Bicycle with two seats
24. A 19th century Russian emperor
26. "Granny" in German
27. Humpty Dumpty's family
29. Brand of calculators
30. Dunk your \_\_\_ in milk and brush your teeth with \_\_\_-flavored toothpaste
33. Battery needed for a Wii remote
34. Women in \_\_\_
36. D.C. university, colors are buff and blue
37. Past tense of 27 down
38. Initials of an 11-time Grammy winner
39. State home to White Sands National Park
41. Disney World ride found in EPCOT's "The Land" pavilion
42. Most populated city in Africa
45. Left-leaning news channel, C\_\_
46. Relatives of Marty from Madagascar

50. Lasted 8 days which led to the creation of Hanukkah
51. Between noon and midnight
52. Timberlake song "Suit and \_\_\_"
54. Chain diner with a publicity stunt to promote burgers
55. The \_\_\_ Duckling
57. Owners of a Facebook group
60. Condition caused by poison ivy
61. Burger chain based in NYC with lines out the door
62. Sum of all goods produced in one country in a given year
63. Latest Spiderman's initials
64. "Yea"'s counterpart
65. Traditional Japanese soup
67. Popular clothing outlet (abbr.)
68. Lincoln's home state
69. Olney gym with orange lighting
71. Rear
75. Species of the main character in *The Emperor's New Groove*
77. MCU rival
78. Where anti-maskers keep their masks
79. Yesterday in Spanish
80. Orange starch at Thanksgiving dinner

### Down

1. Obligated to
2. Home of Salt Lake Temple
3. Third single in Harry Styles' debut album
4. Pulled tight
5. Animals that have a three-part body
6. Orange square-shaped snack
7. Your mom's sister
8. To create a game plan
9. Queen song featuring Galileo
10. Strongly opinionated
11. Geronimo Stilton's species

15. Gomorrah's biblical counterpart
18. Double helix
22. Zodiac sign that describes the social identity
25. In a way that expresses love
27. What you do at breakfast, lunch, and dinner
28. \_\_\_\_, gatekeep, girlboss
31. Old-fashioned spelling of "own"
32. \_\_\_ amo
35. Geological unit of time
40. 2020 dance craze
43. God in Islam

44. A way to prepare potatoes
47. One under par
48. Marvel TV show with 7 seasons (abbr.)
49. UMD's School of Public Health (abbr.)
50. Suffix of continuous, marvelous
53. Squids can be described as
56. iyk\_\_
58. Batter for a pitcher
59. A type of folder
62. Green Mountain Horse Association (abbr.)
66. *Free Willy*

67. Indefinite article
  69. Dystopian trilogy starring Dylan O'Brien (abbr.)
  70. What you would say after eating 6 down
  71. Northeast school with eagle mascot
  72. "I don't care"
  73. Greeting to a friend
  74. Second word of last One Direction album
  76. Initials of first female aviator to fly across Atlantic
- Visit [thewarrioronline.com](http://thewarrioronline.com) for answers.*

## Space Bajillionaires Unite

by Jordan Costolo '25

The one percent is going to space. If that's not alarming, I don't know what is.

I'm sure you all know what I'm talking about: the billionaire space race with that baldy from the Amazon and that guy who named his kid a math problem. I'm fine with a bit of friendly competition between equals, like the time I nearly crushed that old woman's clavicle on Black Friday, but this is too far! Bezos and that Musky fellow are all in on a plot with the rest of the 1 percent to move their behinds up to space, looking down on us truth-seekers. Soon the billionaire higher-ups will make their super-expensive space voyage, leaving regular folks behind.

Not only that, but those bigwigs are all directly plotting against the common man. Right now as I write this, they're probably organizing to meet with the galactic confederation to sell the minds of every human on Earth for alien experiments!

Though the situation seems grim--don't worry: studies show that a durable blend of aluminum and magnesium in a helmeted structure is able to deflect the brainwashing transmissions. That sounds expensive, but these



things are found in the most common items, such as tin foil and foil-related products. Still, remain vigilant--the Illuminati is even now developing a foil substitute, ineffective against alien brainwaves, for national distribution. Citizens concerned about the integrity of your foil, stock up now!

You may be wondering why The Man is doing this to us, but the reason is simple. The bajillionaires of Earth have sold out the 99% to a race of aliens who are hell-bent on taking over our wonderful planet, and sadly, the Illuminati is helping them do it. The rich, being the rich, have made a deal with these aliens to keep themselves safe. Sources say that about 60 percent of the rich are actually ultradisguised aliens, already on Earth's surface

to begin a land-based assault. Without the Space Force, I don't know where we would be right now. To these aliens, I say: no way José!

We must fight back against these dastardly extraterrestrials, and we can start this by boycotting Amazon. Then, we cut down that darn forest in Brazil--those acres and acres of unattended rainforest are probably their base of alien operations! To many, that seems like a lot of hard work for a risky cause, but if we band together, we can do anything we put our minds to! It may seem that the world may be falling apart, and I know it can be scary, yet remember, all hope is not lost.

It's going to be really hard for those huge junky spaceships to launch since the Earth is flat.



Nicholas Schade '23

March 31, 2022

# The Batman Is a Moody Masterpiece

by Ben Schoenberg '24

Set up against a rainy background, a group of thugs follow a man out of the train to rob him. The criminals look up and see the iconic bat symbol in the night sky and glance into the darkness in fear of the Dark Knight. Out of the shadows in the train station, Batman walks out, impressively disarming and defeating the group of criminals. When one of them questions who he is, Batman responds with, "I am vengeance."

Using beautiful cinematography, an atmospheric score, and a strong cast, director Matt Reeves proves Batman's importance as a symbol of hope while creating an outstanding film filled to the brim with suspense and atmosphere. Released on March 4, the film stars Robert Pattinson as the Caped Crusader himself and Catwoman (Zoë Kravitz) and Jim Gordon (Jeffrey Wright) as his closest allies. The story revolves around a series of notable murders tied to the serial killer the Riddler (Paul Dano) and the search for his identity before any more people are killed.

The film opens by showing a gritty, crime-infested Gotham that has learned to fear Batman in the two years he's waged his war on crime. Not only does it establish Gotham's relationship with Batman, but it also establishes the tone of the film overall. It presents the audience with a dark atmosphere and a younger more brutal Batman.

During the course of the film, Batman must confront the question of whether vengeance

is the right way to enact change in Gotham after experiencing the consequences of revenge first-hand.

All of the unique visuals presented in *The Batman* are in no small part due to the film's notable cinematographer Greg Fraser who creates a distinct style with blurred closeups and visually stunning shots of Gotham and the Dark Knight. The color palette of oranges, reds, blues, alongside the overall emphasis on darkness, makes the brighter colors pop, creating a good blend between gritty realism and comic book camp.

Michael Giacchino's score for the film perfectly captures the noir feel with the most iconic track being the haunting new Batman theme. Other standout compositions include "The Riddler" and "Catwoman," which set the mood for their respective characters.

The emotionally grounded acting in *The Batman* immerses the audience in the story and its characters. Pattinson's Batman is a man of few words, portraying the hero as a more lonely, obsessed, and moody Batman that prefers being his vigilante persona over his actual identity as Bruce Wayne. This portrayal of the character blends well and complements Kravitz's confidence that she brings to Catwoman, creating charming and awkward chemistry between the two vigilantes. Colin Farrell stands out as the Penguin, providing most of the humor throughout the film due to the charisma he brings to the character.



Nearly three hours in length, *The Batman* still is able to keep a consistent and energetic pace for most of the film. The only scene that comes to mind that interrupts the pacing of the film is the Batmobile and Penguin car chase scene. While it's a well-

shot scene that exemplifies the movie's realistic and grounded sound design, it drags on for too long and doesn't contribute to any major character or plotlines. Overall small complaints such as these do not take away from the film's excellence. *The Batman*

accomplishes the task of creating a visually unique and grounded Batman story while also being a well-made film.

**Grade: A**

## Euphoria Season Two Continues To Effectively Illuminate Teen Struggles

by Marissa Harris '22

For the first two months of 2022, *Euphoria* was a trending phenomenon among its legions of viewers. In an age of what is usually on-demand streaming, suddenly Sunday nights at 9 p.m on HBO Max was "must-see TV." For fans like myself, it's nearly impossible to objectively review Season 2 because I became so engrossed in the experience of watching it. Even with that disclaimer, *Euphoria*'s second season is an intense and effective portrayal of the darker side behind teens' high school years.

The format of the show is an emotional rollercoaster, with several concurrent plotlines that got messy and somewhat overwhelming to follow as many problems remained unresolved. However, it gave me the opportunity to think long and hard after the show and speculate what was going to happen during the next episode. I discussed the different plots for days on end with other watchers because of how moving and content-filled each episode was. Every little detail played an important role in the characters' development and the overall narrative. Lexi (played by Maude Apatow) has more screen time during the second season



and finally speaks about how she feels being in the shadows of her older sister Cassie (played by Sydney Sweeney). Lexi does this through a drama-filled play that illustrates different situations that she and her friends encounter. The finale had some intense parts, but I was still a little upset that many plot lines were still not addressed, such as Rue (played by Zendaya) still owing \$10,000 to a human trafficker. I am happy that Rue was sober at the end of the season, and we heard her speak through her emotions. I can

not wait for the third season to see how the plot lines pick up again.

One story line that will need more explanation next season was a scene involving hazing. During the first season, Christopher McKay is at a college party and is inducted into a fraternity. Later that night, boys from the fraternity barge into his room and sexually assault him. After that episode, the event was never addressed again. There are many important issues raised by the powerful incident, and it's disappointing the show's writers just dropped it.

The show is meant for mature individuals, who feel emotionally ready to watch the often disturbing subject matter. The show has very sexually graphic scenes and at times it seems to be excessive. It took screen time away from more important topics, such as addiction, relationships, and trauma.

Depicting these deep struggles is not an easy task, and the actors took their roles and made them their own. Zendaya is magnificent and Emmy-deserving in depicting Rue's struggle with

addiction in the years after her father passes away from cancer. When Rue has a frightening confrontation with her mom, Zendaya portrays the pain and suffering on a whole other level to effectively convey an addict who struggles with wanting to stay alive. The show also effectively portrays the effects of Rue's drug addiction on her sister Gia. Director Sam Levinson successfully illustrates how addiction does not just affect the individual but also those around them.

The visual and musical effects used on the show add to the intensity of the different situations. The show as a whole has an incredible soundtrack that is layered over what is happening on the screen. With most pieces being recorded by Labrinth, each scene has a song, which adds to the emotion and situation that the character is dealing with. My favorites include "All for Us," "When I R.I.P.," "Formula," and "Mount Everest." The finale of the first season ends with an incredible musical number that represents Rue falling back into addiction. I would have liked for the second season's finale to end in a similar way.

**Grade: B+**

March 31, 2022

# Rock 'n' Roll Revival Returns to the Stage

by Avery Prudenti '22

Whether it be on Broadway or at Sherwood, shining lights, loud bands, impressive dance numbers, and melodious singers are what audiences anticipate seeing at musical performances.

As the 50th year of Sherwood's annual show, this rendition of Rock 'n' Roll Revival was one for the books. The cast list was lengthy, and the song choices were spot on to fit the theme of "Timeless," which is really what this show is--timeless.

March 4 through March 6 was the first weekend of the show and the first time Sherwood's Rock 'n' Roll has been on stage for two years since MCPS schools closed right after the first week of performances in 2020. Last year, Rock 'n' Roll was held virtually, with far fewer singers and even fewer songs. This year's shows offered extra excitement as singers, dancers, and musicians took to the stage in front of a live audience again.

The show went on without a hitch the first weekend, quickly selling tickets for full capacity shows. After ticket sales opened on the website, almost all of the shows for the first and second weekend were sold out. Masks were still a requirement for the audience, as well as the singers and band members on stage, for the first weekend. Then, on March 8, the MCPS Board of Education voted to make masks optional, effective immediately. This allowed the singers and audience to enjoy the second weekend of the show without masks.

The energy in the air after



Seniors Steven Lawrence and Mackenzie Samartzis perform their duet together "Then Came You" by the Spinners during rehearsal for Rock 'n' Roll Revival.

the mask mandate ended was one that many haven't felt since before Covid-19. It allowed singers and dancers the opportunity to give the audience an even bigger performance than they did before. "I was really excited that we had the option to be mask-less for the final weekend, because seeing our faces really adds to the excitement and emotion of the performances," said senior Emily Scholl, a soloist for two numbers in this year's show.

For some, this show was the first time they have ever per-

formed in front of an audience. Many seniors wanted to make the most of their time at Sherwood, especially after losing nearly two years of a typical high school experience. This was the case for senior Chris Major who sang "Turn Back the Hands of Time" by Tyrone Davis. In addition to this solo, he was also one of the dancers.

"The social interaction was a nice change of pace," said Major, "It's like we had our own little Rock 'n' Roll family, even if the dance practice for two hours daily

combined with having to do song rehearsals sometimes was really draining." Major added that since it was his first time performing in front of an audience, it was a bit nerve-racking having to perform alongside those who have sung before or are pursuing music as a career. "I didn't want to mess up the show for everyone else, so that sort of motivated me to do better."

With almost 200 students participating in this year's shows and rehearsals every day for six weeks, the opportunity for stu-

dents to get together and socialize is one that was needed by many after such a long time stuck at home.

"Knowing that this was my last time being able to perform in this show, and knowing there was always a chance shows could get canceled because of the pandemic, I have made it my goal in this process to soak up and enjoy every single minute of rehearsals and performances," said Scholl. "I really just want to make memories that I can look back upon and remember how happy I was."



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SCAN ME



March 31, 2022

# Attack on Titan Season Four Comes Full Circle

by Peyton Blumenfeld '22

After almost a decade, anime's "modern epic" is sadly coming to an end. *Attack on Titan*, or its original Japanese title *Shingeki No Kyojin*, is based on the manga of the same name. For years, the series' creator, Hajime Isayama, has been mapping out every plot point; meticulously planning out how it will end from the very beginning.

Let's flashback to season one for a little background. Giant man-eating titans have been roaming the world for 100 years, and humans have three main barricading walls that keep the titans out. However, safety is destroyed when two abnormal titans breach the walls and let destruction reign upon the people. No one knows how the titans originated or the world's history. Originally, the show had a basic conflict of man vs. titans. Eren Jaeger, the series' protagonist, joins the Survey Corps, a military branch that is directly involved with titan combat. He has a simple goal ... to kill all the titans. But that all

changes when Jaeger and the rest of the world discover a devastating truth.

Flash forward to the fourth and final season, which has a timeskip of four years from the events of seasons one to three. Season four had a lot of pressure riding on it, not only because a new studio was animating it, but it also had to live up to the thrilling action sequences that defined the first three seasons, and boy did season four deliver. Let's just get down to the nitty gritty of the plot: everything as we know it is basically a lie. Questions from season one finally get answered in the most mind-boggling ways. Plot twists occur episode after episode, leaving viewers questioning the story's entire history and what has happened up to this point. Just when you think you know where the story is going, it hits you with another curveball. Every single detail of the story comes full circle; even what seems like the most irrelevant piece of information has a purpose.

One who doesn't watch an-



ime mustn't make assumptions. Although it's animated, *Attack on Titan* is very graphic and can cause one's toes to curl. Containing violent images of sword and gun attacks, torture, and genocides, this show is not for the faint hearted. It conveys the brutality of war and living in oppression. What started off as a revenge story has evolved into a war for freedom.

Words simply cannot ex-

press the experience that *Attack on Titan* has given viewers. Its vivid and clean animation is just another asset to its elaborate plot. Eren Jaeger has the most prominent character development of any show that comes to mind. He is one of the most complex and compelling characters out there. The show ditches the typical hero vs villain stereotype and demonstrates that the world is not simply black or white. In the end, there is

no true "bad guy" because it's all relative. It perfectly demonstrates how "the world is cruel but also beautiful."

The mere intricacy of the show alone puts it miles ahead of any other series. Without a doubt, *Attack on Titan* will go down in history as not just one of the greatest anime of all time, but one of the greatest shows of all time.

**Grade: A+**

## Beach House Floats On Its Celestial Sound

by Joseph Oscilowski '22

Debuting in 2004 and composed of only two people, Beach House finds itself as one of the most popular dream pop bands. The duo of Victoria Legrand as the vocalist and Alex Scally as the instrumentalist and backup vocalist, has over 8.5 million monthly listeners on Spotify. After six years, Beach House has finally provided its hungry fans with a new album.

Titled *Once Twice Melody*, the album consists of 18 tracks over the span of 84 minutes. In an interview with *Consequence*, the duo stated that the theme of the album is up to listeners' interpretations, however some central ideas are acceptance, romance, and perfection vs. imperfection. The soft techno and echoey vocals work very well with said themes, giving the feeling of floating in the galaxies.

The album is very peaceful to listen to; Legrand's vocals are very quiet and gentle, feeling as though she's singing a lullaby. Throughout the songs, the main instruments used are keyboard, acoustic guitar, bass guitar, organ, and string instruments such as violins. Beach House layers lighter sounding instruments such as keyboard and strings in the foreground of the songs while putting the darker sounding instruments such as the bass as a shadow in the background. This technique, along with the heavy use of reverb to echo the vocals and the instruments, creates celestial sounding melodies.

The lyrics are also very beautiful, though slightly repetitive in each song, and often speak of love in a way that makes fans crave the feelings expressed. Whether that be yearning, contentment, anger or frustration, Legrand's soft voice manages to scream with emotions, taking the listening experience to the next level.

The only fault of *Once Twice Melody* is its length and the similarity of songs. At almost an hour and a half long, the album feels as though it just keeps going. What makes this even worse is that almost every single song sounds identical, which isn't a huge issue as this is the exact style that the band is going for—they're doing their job. However, when sitting and listening to the whole album in one sitting, it becomes very difficult to differentiate between songs and makes time feel as though it's moving at a slower pace.

While yes, the songs are fairly long themselves and sound pretty similar to each other, the overall experience of the album is enjoyable. Playing this album while on a long car ride, on a walk in shining sunlight, or alone in your room at night—no matter where or what you may be doing this album provides a solid, consistent dream-like feeling.

**Grade: B+**



## Plenty of Reason To Care about Rex Orange County

by Perri Williams '23

After a three year hiatus and lots of subtle hints on Twitter, Rex Orange County (Alex O'Connor) is back with his fourth album entitled *Who Cares?*

The dorky indie star rose to stardom after his features on Tyler, The Creator's *Flower Boy* album. Fans are reminded of the two artists' friendship when Tyler is featured in the second song of the new album. In 2020, Rex broke up with his long time girlfriend. Fans may have expected a break up album but instead he gives fans a whole album about loving yourself. The songs throughout the album truly reflect the name with a *Who Cares?* mindset.

It is clear that Rex is at a new stage of his life compared to when he released his first album. Throughout *Who Cares?* he sings about his journey of reflecting and growing into his own skin.

Musically, Rex is known for his complex mix of indie and pop music to create his upbeat sound. On the new album, Rex adds touches of instruments such as the piano, drums, violin, piano, xylophone, and flute. This versatility with instruments changes the mood throughout the album. For instance, the first song "Keep It Up" begins with a beautiful and almost sad violin intro that is soon overrun by an upbeat bass drum and bass guitar beat. When the violin is absent, the lyrics remain somber on songs such as "The Shade" and "Shoot Me Down." Songs such as "Keep It Up" and "Amazing" perfectly encompass the vibe of the album by including all aspects of Rex's style while allowing his fans to be immersed in his endorphin-boosting sound.

Critics of *Who Cares?* have claimed it is boring and repetitive, but they are missing that

the consistency is what makes Rex's music so recognizable and appealing to fans. Plus, the album's variety comes from how it encompasses the different emotions he has felt in the last few years and specifically during the pandemic.

*Who Cares?* is definitely not filled with the heart-wrenching songs that he has offered in the past such as "Pluto Projector" from his last album *Pony*. Instead, the album is overall a celebration of making it through tough times.

Rex Orange County took risks with his newest album to lyrically go in new directions. The messages are very relatable, talking about plenty of struggles that many people faced during the pandemic and still deal with now, but quite literally *Who Cares?*

**Grade: B+**

March 31, 2022

## Embracing Magic with *Asha's Awakening* Sherwood Film Festival Makes Its Grand Return

by Kyla Sanchez '22

Raveena Aurora, an American singer and song-writer who debuted in 2017 with her EP *Shanti*, immediately stood out with her fusion of RnB, soul, jazz and a touch of South Asian Bollywood. With her exploration of intimate topics such as womanhood, generational resilience, and surviving sexual assault, Raveena carved a unique place in the music scene unmatched by any other, adored by critics as well as artists like Tyler the Creator. Her debut album, *Lucid* (2019), left fans wondering what direction her next album would go in. Would she maintain soft sounds and personal subject matter? Would she switch to a more pop-sound in light of singles like "Tweety?"

Released in mid-February, *Asha's Awakening* defied all expectations. A concept album written from the perspective of a Punjabi space princess, Asha, who travels through space and time after a few thousand years of galactic meditation, it is certainly a unique project. While her previous album centered on her very personal journeys, this album does the same (with the character of Asha being very similar to Raveena and many of the songs still based on her experiences) while also adding a touch of unique magic that allows for more creative leeway. The narrative arc is not explicitly stated,

only subtly referred to throughout the project. Instead, Asha's point of view is explored through her own tales of personal healing and travel, immersing the listener into a vibrant, story-book-like world of psychedelic, wisdom, and growth.

The album opener and first single, "Rush," kicks the album off like a ray of sunlight, the first sounds being soft bird chirps before a bouncy, traditional Bollywood 4-count beat cuts in, introducing Raveena's cheery voice as she sings of Asha, herself, and all that she can do. She sets herself up as a being of legend and mystery, smoothly singing 'somewhere in the jungle there you'll find a lover, she could cure everything.' Her lyrics are playful and coy, as are many of the songs on the album, full of lush imagery of nature, flirtatious lines, and evocative images of the powerful Asha.

The album continues to explore Asha's playful and thoughtful perspective, with a balance of light and deeper subject matters from love affairs ("Secret" and "Kathy Left 4 Kathmandu") to overcoming the loss of a child and growing out of her twenties ("Time Flies"). This range of topics for songs keeps the album interesting and engaging. Other songs explore various topics like Asha's mixed feelings on the Internet ("The Internet is Like Eating Plastic"), issues with

overcommitting to relationships ("Love Overgrown"), spiritual awakening ("Arrival to the Garden of Cosmic Speculation"), and more.

The production of the album is also spectacular, with a variety of genres like soft rock, folk, and 2000s era RnB and even more beautiful incorporation of South Asian and Bollywood music elements than her earlier projects. Her South Asian heritage is more actively centered than ever, with Hindi lyrics in most songs and a guest feature by legendary Indian singer Asha Puthi on "Asha's Kiss." The album brings out new sides of Raveena that are welcome in a music world lacking South Asian representation. For so long in the early 2000s, non South Asian pop and RnB stars like Beyoncé and Britney Spears used Bollywood beats and instruments in a culturally appropriate way, it is especially refreshing to hear Raveena's appropriate, loving use of the genre's music in her own magical way.

*Asha's Awakening* pulls Raveena into a new era of growth and magic, where she can expand infinitely and galactically with new and familiar sounds and themes, and makes for an amazing and captivating listen. Her new album proves she is a true cosmic star here to stay.

**Grade: A-**

by Liam Trump '24

After two years of absence, the Sherwood Film Festival is back to showcase student filmmakers. Literature as Film and English teacher Christiane Lock along with Film Club officers will be organizing the festival, which will take place in the media center during lunch on Thursday, April 21 to coincide with the art show. Unlike in years past, only students from Sherwood can submit their films for possible inclusion in the festival. Students will also now be able to submit their films from the past two years to compensate for the festival's prior absence.

"It's easier for kids to attend when it's the daytime and they're already here and I think there's going to be a lot of support for everybody to bring their friends," said Lock. "The whole point of the festival is to give this platform--this opportunity to people to show their work."

There will be two categories for submissions: narrative and documentary, with the first prize winner for each category receiving \$100 and the second prize winners getting \$50. Participation certificates will be given to filmmakers who don't win a category. The funding for the prize money will come from a Super Smash Bros. tournament the Film Club

organized a few years ago as well as grants given to the club. Each movie must be 6 minutes or under and 10 submissions will be chosen to screen at the festival. To judge the submissions, Film Club officers who aren't sending in their own movies, as well as several teachers, will be on the panel. Submissions will be judged on their story, characters, technical merit, editing, and overall creativity.

Sophomore Ryan Agostino is submitting his film "Funkeltown" to the narrative category. It's a 5-minute long spy-action-mafia comedy made during his time in Lock's Literature as Film class. "I'm looking forward to [the festival] because it's going to be fun to show my video," said Agostino. "It was a really fun experience making and directing it."

As for advertising, the Film Club has been promoting the festival through social media, the morning announcements, and flyers around the school. The club's ambassadors have also been handing out flyers directly to fellow students.

"We're hoping to just inspire more students," said sophomore Film Club president Vittoria Satterlee. The Sherwood Film Festival is "a really good opportunity for anyone who has a passion for film [who] really [wants] to just explore it."

## Cast of *The Great Gatsby* Excited for Spring Play

by Audrey Farris '25

The Sherwood theater department is celebrating the Roaring 20s with their first play on the stage in two years. *The Great Gatsby* is the classic story, originally from the 1925 novel of the same name by F. Scott Fitzgerald, that is full of love and heartbreak in jazz-age New York. This tale of the dark side of the American Dream will be performed in the Ertzman Theatre April 28, 29, 30 and May 1.

Auditions were held on February 7 and 8 by theater teacher Elizabeth Kominski, and the large number of students indicated the excitement for theater at Sherwood. "The turnout was great," said Kominski. "It was about the size of a musical audition, which is usually bigger than the spring play." She noted that the students seemed enthusiastic throughout the auditions.

Junior Mia Rohan, who is playing Daisy Buchanan (double cast with senior Emily Scholl), shared the anticipation of finally getting to stage *The Great Gatsby*. Rohan was motivated to audition after the show was canceled two years ago due to Covid-19, and she was cast as a police officer. "I am drawn to the complicated characters and fun scenarios," said Rohan.

On March 7, the first practice was held. "Right off the bat from the first read through the energy was great!" said Rohan.



Seniors Emily Scholl, playing Daisy, and Kate Diuguid, playing Jordan, rehearse their lines for the upcoming spring play, *The Great Gatsby*.

She reminisced on how excited the cast was, and how enthusiastic they were about taking on their roles and to make *The Great Gatsby* an incredible production.

Senior Brooke Wheeler has a special role in this production as the "party singer." Additionally, senior Taylor Hardy, has an important position as she has

been assigned to choreograph dance numbers. Other prominent roles include Jay Gatsby who is double casted with seniors Luke Hanson and Steven Lawrence, Jordan portrayed by Kate Diuguid and Ali Weinrich, and Tom played by Ben Shoenberg.

A factor that makes this play even more special is that it was set about 100 years ago,

at a time when the country was emerging from a flu pandemic that first began in 1918. Fitzgerald's novel dramatizes a time when Americans were ready to party, sometimes recklessly, after enduring the difficult years of a world war and global pandemic. *The Great Gatsby* is in general a fitting play for the first one since the Covid-19 pandemic,"

explained Kominski.

The return to Sherwood Theater and on-stage plays will bring high energy and excitement from anyone involved. The combination of a classic story set 100 years ago and a cast and crew with an excellent work ethic will provide for a wonderful spring play that you won't want to miss.

March 31, 2022

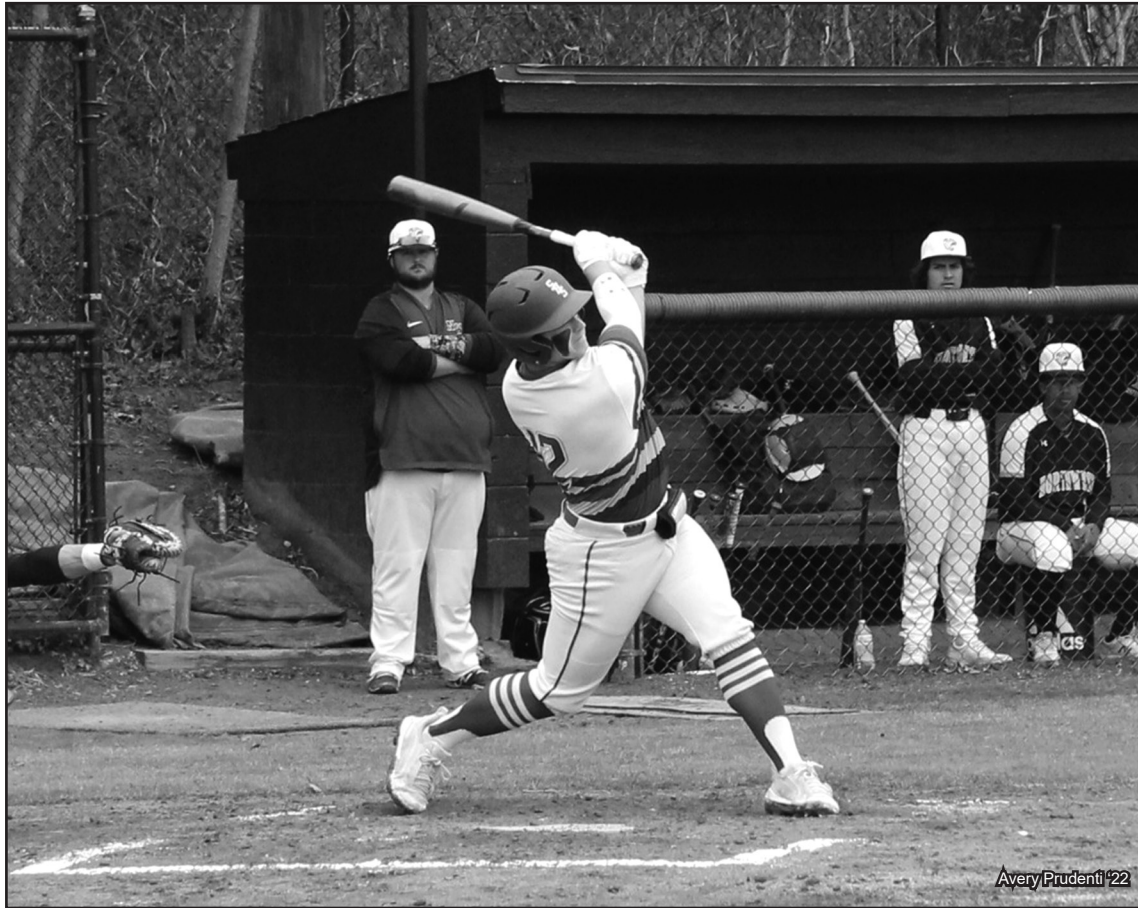
## Mixed Results for Baseball's Start to the Spring Season

by Camilo Illanes '22

On March 22, Sherwood boys baseball started their defense as 4A state champs with a 9-5 win against a very tough opponent in Urbana on March 21. The Warriors continued their momentum in their next game against Northwest on March 24 with an 11-1 win before stumbling on March 26 in a tough 17-7 loss against Churchill.

To prepare for the season, the team has been focusing on drills and fundamentals that improve their skills for frequent in-game scenarios. This includes many ground ball and pop fly drills for the fielders, bunts and sac fly drills for hitters, and intentional walks and catching runners on base for pitchers. "Doing the little things right, like having sound defense, and always running the bases efficiently is what helped our team win the title last year," said senior catcher Leo Whelan. "This season we are looking to keep improving on the small fundamental aspects of our game to find that same success."

Despite those efforts, the start of the Urbana game went poorly for Sherwood as the Hawks scored two runs in the 1st inning off an error in the infield. Urbana followed up by extending their lead in the 3rd inning with a solo home run. "We knew we had the



Junior Ryan Bouma swings at a pitch during varsity baseball's 11-1 win against Northwest on March 25.

offense to bring the game back; we just had to put our heads down and get to work," recounted senior outfielder Jake Shalvi.

This offense came in bunches in the 5th inning as junior Amari Allen got the team going with a go-ahead grand slam. "This completely shifted the momentum of

the game and gave everyone a boost," said senior pitcher Dan Combs. With this momentum Sherwood drove in four more runs, extending the lead to 8-4. Senior pitcher Josh Hollowell shut down Urbana's offense, earning the win with one inning of relief pitching for junior Ben

Berger.

"We are a very tight-knit team and the chemistry we have together is what makes the difference when two strong rosters go up against each other," noted Hollowell. The Warriors will count on very strong pitching from Hollowell and senior Steven Tameris,

a Frostburg State commit, to win games against top tier opponents.

The winning continued in the Warriors' home opener against Northwest on March 25. Sherwood's bats started off hot: senior Niko Pernie collected two hits in the first inning, and junior Ryan Bouma had a base-clearing double as the Warriors went onto a dominating 11-1 win. Berger earned his first varsity win on the mound with relief help from sophomore Mac Crismond, who saw his first varsity action pitching two innings.

The Warriors went on the road March 26 to face a very tough opponent in the Churchill Bulldogs. The game went back and forth through the first four innings with both offenses putting up big numbers. The main contributors to the Warriors' offense were Allen and Escanilla with two hits each and junior Jack Andre who hit a 3-run homer. With an 8-7 lead at the top of the 5th ending, the Bulldogs proved why they are title contenders and scored 9 runs which proved to be too much for the Warriors' offense to come back from in the bottom of the 5th and which put the mercy rule into play to end the game.

"It's a tough loss to a good team, but we can't let that get to us since it is a long season," said Whelan.

## Girls Lacrosse Strives To Reach State Finals

by Dylan Sondike '24

As spring sports start up again, the varsity girls lacrosse team is looking to avenge a 15-6 semi-final loss against Anne Arundel High School last season. In their first game to start the new season, the team lost in a nailbiter to Urbana by a score of 10-9 but rebounded on March 25 to beat Damascus 16-6 and win 19-1 on March 28 against Blair. Despite the early loss, both players and coaches have high hopes for the team.

"I am looking forward to a full season," said Coach Kelly Hughes. "The last two years were hard on everyone. Getting to play last year is something we are all grateful for but playing some of those same teams twice was heart-breaking for us. We had to really push each other at practice since the games were not competitive. This year we are very excited to have a tougher schedule, opportunities to watch film, implement new tactics, and play full games."

Hughes adds that she has high expectations for her team. She said that almost all of the starters from last year have returned, and she thinks they are ready for a "stellar" season guided by the leadership from the seniors. The goal is to go to the state finals, though the schedule is tougher this year, which has already been seen in the loss to Urbana. Hughes added that the Warriors defense is talented.



Senior attacker Greer Cohen runs from an Urbana defender and prepares to pass the ball during the first game of the new season.

Senior Brooke Walsh, who Hughes remarked often makes key plays while playing both midfield and offense, said that she and other seniors want to make this season a memorable one as they get ready to close their high school chapter. Walsh explained why the team's speed is such an asset. "Due to the importance of speed in lacrosse, our team is able to obtain possession of the ball more frequently, allowing us to outscore our opponents," said Walsh. "With our passes, shots,

ground balls, cuts, defensive slides, and offensive motions, our team has a propensity to be speedy. Our team's speed has helped us become one of the best in the county."

Walsh has led the team in scoring including four goals against Urbana, followed by five against Damascus. Sophomore goalie Savannah Weisman has faced about 15 shots on average per game. The Warriors play at home tonight at 7 p.m. against Rockville.

## Tennis Looks To Settle into Their Swing for New Season

by Selene Ashewood '22

This year's tennis season has already ramped up, with at least two games each week leading up to spring break. The Division 2 (D2) girls and boys teams plan to channel their competitive spirits into an exciting and challenging season with high expectations.

Starting the season with matches against Blair, a D1 school, threw the team into the deep end with tough results. Of the seven matches the girls side played, only fourth singles and second doubles won. But other players did not go down without a fight; sophomore Erin Sanchez and senior Kenzie Flanagan spent nearly three hours each playing out their matches, which each went to third sets.

"We have a very competitive group that wants to win," said Coach Michael King, who added that the goal still is to have fun and continue to improve every single day. Leading the team as first singles is senior Peyton Sokol, who is a four-year member of the team and a co-captain. Sokol said the collective hope of this season is "[winning] divisionals for the third time in a row."

On the boys side there exists the same phenomenon of more new players than returning ones. Of the only four who have played previously, "[seniors] Camilo

Illanes and Will Twemlow are our team leaders" and are expected to be reliable winners, according to Coach Thomas Maley. Illanes is a valuable asset to his team, proven by his tennis commitment to play at College of Holy Cross in Massachusetts. Twemlow, who plays second singles, is described as a "seasoned veteran who always [gives] an outstanding effort" by Maley. As for the rest of the team, there is a collective hope for steady improvement during the season.

For their first match against the boys of Blair, they faced the same challenge as the girls team of going up against a team in D1, and Illanes was the only player to win his match. For a short term goal, boys tennis wants to extend games and play out more points with less forced errors. This was not shown in their first match against Blair.

In their first matches against D2 competition on March 26, both teams had some dominant performances against Blake. For girls, all placements except first and second singles won their two-set matches. As for the boys, they also were victorious with the only losses happening on first and second doubles courts. This was a strong result to show that the team has rebounded after a disappointing loss to open the new spring season.

## Outdoor Track Is Developing a Young Team

by Marissa Harris '22

With one-third of the team being new track athletes, the outdoor season will be largely defined by potential and growth for having a successful season. The current seniors have not had a normal season since their freshmen year and as a result, this season will see a variety of personal bests. The time trials and inter-team scrimmage also spotlighted a number of new athletes who have the potential to be some of the top runners, jumpers, and throwers. The team has more than 10 meets scheduled this season, which gives the athletes a lot of opportunities to showcase their talent.

Senior KJ Edwards Fender, sophomore Emma Mascari, and junior Dylan Landis are three of 36 new track athletes who have held their own during the first few weeks of practices as sprinters. Returning sprinters include sophomores Leo Cantor II, Dylan Simmons, and Taylor Flickinger. In the field events, the team has many competitive returning athletes, such as senior Eli Rossini in the shot-put, and senior Katie Kaneko and junior Jack Link in the jumping events. On the distance side, juniors Emily Zanni and JJ Singleton, along with sophomore Sean Gravell, will secure team points while challenging some of the toughest runners in the state. Within the team, there are some injuries that will affect the early meets but will hopefully be healed in a few weeks.

Head Coach Dan Reeks'



Avery Prudenti '22

Distance runner junior Emily Zanni races to the finish line of her event.



Google Images

UPenn swimmer Lia Thomas prepares to race at a recent swim meet.

## Transgender Swimmer Wins Titles and Raises Controversy

by Carter Braun '23

The 2022 NCAA Swimming Championships have concluded, and all eyes were on Lia Thomas, a transgender swimmer for the University of Pennsylvania who has broken school records left and right since joining the women's team this past year. During the NCAA Championships on March 16-19, Thomas finished first in the 500 freestyle and was a finalist in two other events. While this marks the conclusion of Thomas' career at Penn, it only signifies the beginning of a movement, as well as controversy, much larger than sports.

Before the NCAA Championships, Thomas won titles in the women's 100, 200, and 500 yard freestyle events at the Ivy League Championships. These victories came after a swimming season filled with uncertainty surrounding Thomas' participation in the meets in the first place. Previously, she swam for the men's team at Penn for three years. Thomas was eligible to compete in women's swimming events under a 2010 NCAA rule that granted eligibility for trans women who had completed one year of hormone therapy. Although she achieved NCAA eligibility, that has not translated into a consensus public opinion of the issue. In fact, due to the dominance that Thomas has displayed, controversy and push-back have arisen regarding transgender athletes' eligibility.

The public certainly has their opinions, some expressing positivity towards the inclusion of transgender athletes into NCAA swimming, and others claiming that Thomas is a male and is ruining sports forever. However, Thomas remains unphased, stating in an interview with Sports Illustrated, "I am a woman, just like anybody else on the team." Some of her teammates do not feel the same way, and sources close to Penn's team estimate that of 37 total members of the squad,

only six to eight were "adamant supporters" of the senior star and around half of the team strongly opposed Thomas competing in women's events. On February 4, 16 of these teammates issued a letter to school and Ivy League officials speaking out against Thomas' participation in the Ivy League Championships.

Many people believe that Thomas is not fit to be swimming against biological women as it poses an unfair advantage for her. Others argue that if Thomas transitions genders, then she should be considered a woman, allowing her to compete against the rest of the women in the country. According to USA Swimming's new rules that will go in effect beginning with the 2023-24 season, no transgender athlete will be allowed to compete in the women's category prior to showing that her concentration of testosterone in serum has been less than 5 nmol/L for a continuous period of 36 months.

Prominent conservative outlets such as Fox News have consistently run segments on the issue of transgender athletes, and Republican elected officials responded with legislative measures. In the last couple of years, 11 republican governors have enacted legislation banning biological men from participating in women's sports at the high school level, even though they identify as female. On March 3, Iowa governor Kim Reynolds signed a bill that prohibits transgender girls and women from participating in girls' high school sports and women's college athletics. Even more recently and in a surprise to many, Indiana's republican governor, Eric Holcomb, vetoed a bill similar to that of the state of Iowa, which would have prevented transgender females from participating in high school athletics. Even after more than two years in the news, the culture war over transgender athletes appear to be intensifying.

overall goal is to help the student athletes achieve positive results at the meets. With the large number of new athletes, he wants to help them grow both as people and as athletes.

"Our job is to provide the structure to improve and enjoy the challenges of the sport. We would like to qualify at least two relays and four or more individuals for the state meet," said Reeks. He is looking forward to developing a cohesive team and is excited for the invitational meets, which did not occur last spring. Reeks is assisted by distance coach Richard Melnick, sprinter coach Rebekah Byerly, and throwing coach Matt Holonich.

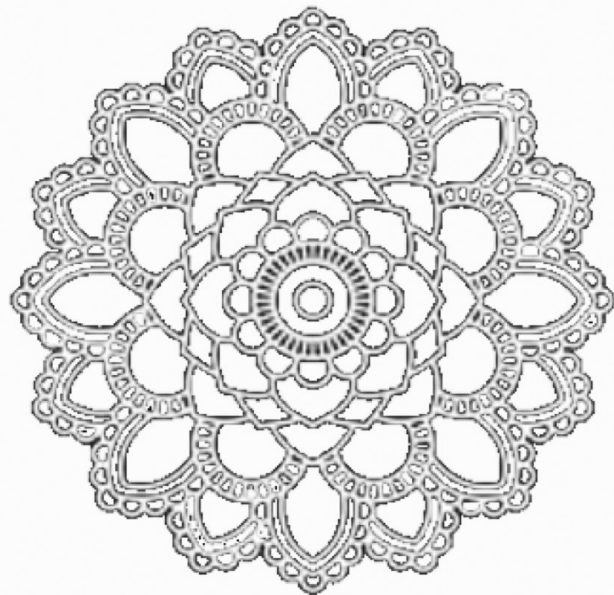
The team competed in their first dual meet on March 24 away at Paint Branch. Although the team had to contend with some bad weather, multiple runners were able to get good times.

The overall scores for boys and girls did not end up how the team wanted, but the new runners definitely learned a lot and experienced what a track meet is really like. Zanni got 5:55 in the 1600, and the girls' 4X800 came out on top.

On the boys side, Rossini won the shot put, and the 4X100 came in first. With more time and focus, the team has the potential to place well at a number of meets to come.

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## So Boys and Girls, Do You Want to Play a Sport in College?

by Sydney Wisner '23

For many student-athletes, sports are a major part of life, and some even want to take their athletic talents to the collegiate level. However, the college recruitment process is scary and intimidating, and it's difficult to know where to start. Sherwood boasts numerous athletes who've been recruited, and although every athlete's experience is unique, the steps are similarly complex.

Generally, the recruitment process starts sophomore year but preparing earlier is helpful, particularly for NCAA Divisions I and II. To avoid losing eligibility, players should understand the NCAA communication rules. For Divisions I and II, the NCAA posts recruitment calendar recommendations and outlines the times for when official visits (a visit to the college campus paid for by the coach), and unofficial visits (a visit to the campus paid for by the athlete) can occur. Division III has less restrictions on coach and athlete contact and official visits begin on January 1 of an athlete's junior year.

In addition to the factors all students consider when researching colleges like campus size, location, and cost, athletes also have to decide if they want a competitive Division I program or a balance of athletics and academics that Divisions II and III provide. For senior Nicole Graham, who'll be playing lacrosse at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia, finding a school that valued her intended major of nursing was important. "I had the opportunity to go Division I but I chose Division III. A couple of

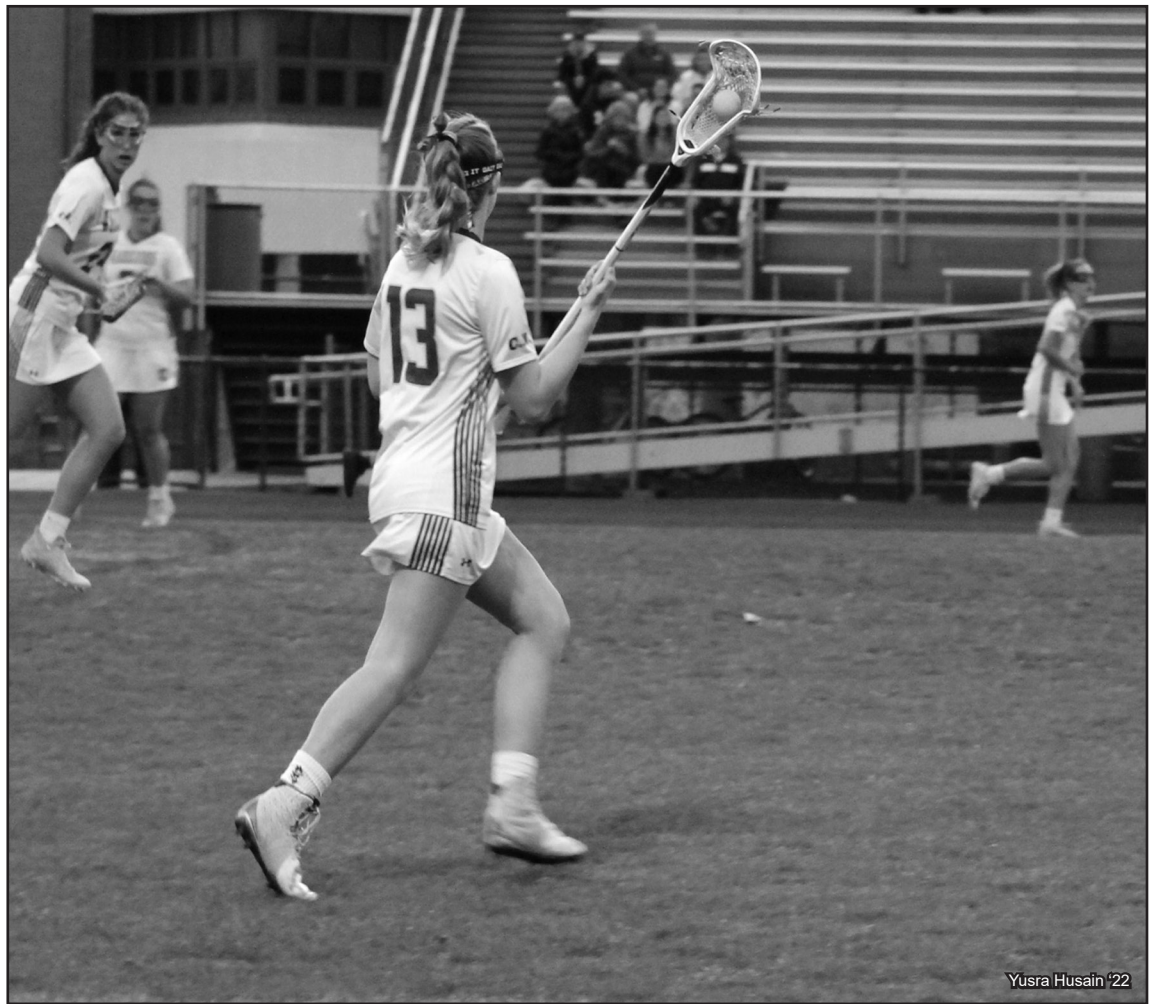
schools told me that if I wanted to play Division I, I would not be able to pursue my major which turned me away," Graham explained.

After an athlete decides what type of school they prefer, they have to determine what's feasible. According to Sherwood's head football coach Andrew Fields, less than 7 percent of collegiate athletes are awarded athletic scholarships. Division III schools don't offer athletic scholarships at all.

Club and high school coaches can give athletic evaluations and help with a plan of action. For time based sports like swimming and track, websites like Next College Student Athlete (NCSA) share the timed results expected of an athlete at each division. NCSA also provides a lot of resources for other sports covering topics like recruitment steps and self evaluation in team sports.

Once a student has identified colleges, it's time to reach out to coaches. Filling out recruitment forms on a college's sport-specific page shows interest in a school. It also puts the athlete on the college's mailing list for information about upcoming tournaments that the coaches will be attending and identification (ID) and showcase camps. Introductory emails are the best way to establish contact with a coach and, they can make an athlete memorable.

Emails include information like GPA, graduation year, teams, highlight reels, and best times for racing sports. Reels give coaches an opportunity to see an athlete's technique, versatility, and speed so they're motivated to watch athletes in upcoming tournaments or



Yusra Husain '22

Shenandoah women's lacrosse commit Nicole Graham runs and passes the ball downfield against Urbana.

invite them to camps.

The easiest way to compile clips is to have someone film the athlete's competition, but Sherwood often films their athletic events as well. It's important to note that coaches might not respond to an initial outreach, but the athlete shouldn't lose hope.

"Be persistent [with contacting coaches] because sending emails and calling coaches can be very tedious, but it pays off in the end if you work hard," advised Division I Charleston Southern

University volleyball commit Sophia Kluska.

Another way to interact with coaches is by attending ID camps hosted by the school or by a company that invites many schools. ID camps allow coaches to see a lot of athletes and give athletes a feel for different schools. Camps often include a tour led by the coach or current players and include question and answer sessions with different members of the coaching staff. Some of the larger, company-run camps al-

low exposure to multiple college coaches at once, but may offer a more impersonal feel.

Ultimately, what's most important to remember is that as intimidating as the recruitment process can be, it's possible to end the journey with success.

"If you want to play at the next level and you love the sport there is a school for you. Everyone I know that has wanted to play at the next level has found a school perfect for them," said Graham.

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## Perspective

### New Ulterior Motives Ruining Youth Sports

by Perri Williams '23

As early as age 5, sports become a key activity in many kids' lives. Parents introduce their children to multiple sports at young ages with the hope of many outcomes, the most obvious being for their child to get weekly exercise and make new friends. Little do parents know, that will all change in a few years. When their child is around the age 12, those same parents will be shuffling that kid to practices. Then there is having to devote entire weekends to playing multiple games at tournaments. All at the cost of thousands of dollars per year. What went so wrong?

Many young athletes get good enough at around age 10 that they move from the recreational team of their preferred sport to the travel team. In order to join these selective teams, there is usually some form of a tryout. The biggest catch is that parents will have to pay for their kid to play. The cost depends on the level of the league and the amount of travel that the team plans to do, but that total average figure regularly can range between \$5,000 to \$10,000 annually. Take a moment to do the math--a young athlete playing on a travel team from ages 10-18 could end up costing a total of \$40,000, or even more. Then there also is the time commitments for the athletes and their parents--multiple practices per week, regular-season games, weekend tournaments, summer camps, off-season training, and on and on. The Youth Sports Industry is a \$19.2 billion market, and this push for profits risks the well-being of young athletes. These children have become their travel/select teams' way into their parents pockets. In Maryland the most dominant youth team sports include soccer, lacrosse, baseball, and softball. This market forces teams to create enticing aspects to their programs to make theirs sought after. Sometimes those enticements may include extra practices or participating in elite tournaments. Another factor is success and legacy. Naturally, the more successful a team is, the more people will want to join them, especially if they produce athletes that will continue their sport in college. But is this a realistic expectation? Very, very few people get the opportunity to play their sport at any level in the NCAA. The exact number is a little more than 480,000 student-athletes out of 19.6 million college students in the United States. So, realistically, kids going to college for their preferred sport is not a very attainable goal.

All of those select/travel team practices or the elite workouts that made the family choose the team in the first place can also cause burn-out. Many people forget that not only do these kids constantly work out, but they also still have school. If players are lucky, they may get a coach who truly cares about their grades and their future beyond their specific sport. Sadly, there are many coaches whose self-interest lies with the team's athletic performance, and could care less about their athletes' academics and overall emotional and physical well-being. This puts even more stress on young athletes.

When playing a sport, injuries are almost inevitable and may include major injuries like an ACL tear, any ligament tear, a broken bone, or even a brain injury. Adding to an already stressed athletes load, injuries can trigger athletes could also experience mental health issues such as depression and suicidal thoughts, anxiety, eating disorders, and substance abuse. Athletes are conditioned at a young age to believe that their lives revolve around their sport, and it is time to separate the sport and the person because athletics are not a forever thing.



Madison Tringone '22

Junior Drew Stahley attempts to pass to his teammate through two defenders at home against Damascus.

## Returners to Boys Lacrosse Hope To Take the Team to Victory, Inspired by Early Successes

by Carter Braun '23

The boys lacrosse season got underway with a bang on March 23 with a 13-5 dismantling of Urbana, who are the defending 3A state champions. The Warriors followed that victory with a 12-3 trouncing of Damascus on March 24 before the game was suspended at halftime because of inclement weather. On March 28, the team annihilated Blair at home by a score of 20-1. These dominant performances are early signs of why the team has such high hopes for the season.

Led by 18 returning players and six returning starters, coach Matt Schneider knows the potential the Warriors have this season to go far in the playoffs. "Our strength is that we have talent and experience at all positions," said Schneider. "We have size, strength and speed at all positions and [we] look to overwhelm teams with our depth and experience."

With 45 goals being scored in the first 10 quarters of play this season, the Warriors should bring plenty of firepower this

year with the return of their two leading scorers from last year: senior Gavin Serwer and junior Drew Stahley. That scoring prowess likely will result in lopsided victories against the inferior competition of Rockville tonight and against Magruder on April 4, as proven in the first games of the season.

"This team expects to compete for a county championship and to reach the state finals. We have tangibly written these goals down as a team," said Schneider. The undefeated start to the season is definitely the first step to accomplishing these goals; however, the team still has many games to go in order to accomplish this demanding feat.

Senior midfielder Sean Scott is expected to be a leader this season and conduct the team from the midfield. He also has high hopes for the season but is not fully satisfied with the team's play to begin the season. "While we had a nine-point lead at half-time, I don't believe it was a good enough showing that represents our goals of winning a state championship," Scott said about

the game against Damascus. "But our 9-1 run against the previous 3A state champions Urbana just shows how much potential we have."

Boys lacrosse had one of its most successful seasons in its program's history last spring when it reached the semi-finals and lost 11-10 to eventual champions Severna Park. But the truth is, the team is not interested in making it back to the semi finals. They aspire to win it all. But winning doesn't come without work.

"The team needs to put in work day in and day out on the practice field to make sure that everyday we improve," said Stahley.

Obviously, the end goal for this team is to win the state championship, and usually a goal like this is unrealistic. However, outscoring their opponents 45-9 to begin the season really does suggest that the Warriors have enough talent and firepower to meet their lofty expectations and not only reach the semi finals but to win the 4A State Championship in 2022.



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March 31, 2022

## Coed Volleyball Is Off to a Banging Start



Senior Division I commit Sophia Kluska spikes over a Rockville blocker in the Warriors' home opener.

## Girls Varsity Softball Seeks a State Championship in 2022

by Lizzy Herмосilla '23

Girls softball at Sherwood has built a legacy of greatness with six state titles in the past decade. The team is currently ranked 5th by the Washington Post in the DMV area, which includes both public and private schools. This season the Warriors are looking to return to the state final game after losing 3-1 to North County in the 4A state semifinals last spring. The team's official Instagram account has dubbed this season their "Revenge Tour" as they work to earn their first title since 2019 and their seventh overall.

"Many of us have taken [losing in the semifinals] personally and this year we want a state title more than ever," said senior first baseman Kay Sakala. "People may ask what our goals are for this season and we all say, 'states' but what people don't see is how hard we work everyday preparing to be the best team and get that state title that we missed out on last year."

The Warriors began the season beating Urbana 11-8 and Northwest 10-0 in the first week of play. On March 28, the team beat Rockville 14-1 in four innings. Sherwood utilized their three seasoned pitchers who effectively worked together to get

the combined win. "Knowing that Kat and Emma have my back is really comforting. I know we will go far this season because we can trust each other to come in when needed," said senior pitcher Alyssa Amond.

However, this season will not be without challenges, as injuries already have required changes to players' usual positions. The team has tremendous depth and a number of players who are equally talented and can fill in at multiple spots in the lineup. The team roster is also loaded with experienced seniors.

"Our seniors will be our strength," said Coach Ashley Barber. "They were able to experience states in 2019. Now they have to earn it. But every player on the team is an asset." Younger players expected to make an impact include junior shortstop Kat Hanson, who also is a pitcher and closed out the final inning of the Urbana game.

The return to a normal spring season has made it easier for players to bond and set clear goals for the team. "The bond is so strong and everyone on the team is so good individually and we all work together well so I'm excited to see how far we'll go" said Hanson.

## The Commanders Could Have a New Home Soon

by Evan Joseph '23

The news surrounding Washington's NFL football team as of late can be described as anything but normal. The team introduced a new name (Commanders), recently traded for quarterback Carson Wentz, and owner Daniel Snyder is under investigation by the NFL for sexual misconduct. In addition, it looks as if the Commanders could have a new stadium in Virginia by 2027.

This news stems from newly elected Virginia Governor Glen Youngkin advocating for an NFL team to reside in Virginia, with his eyes set on the Washington Commanders. This possibility could have major implications on the future of the franchise, and the allegiance of its fans in the DC/Maryland area.

The Washington Commanders organization is looking to invest about \$3 billion into a new stadium with development of the area around it in what Snyder has described as something like a "mini-city." Snyder's vision for the "mini-city" is what could lead the Commanders to move to Virginia, along with the support from Virginia officials.

Youngkin's efforts to attract the Commanders to Virginia have led to pieces of legislature being passed in order to make this stadium a possibility. On February 14, Virginia's Republican-controlled House of Delegates passed a bill granting authority and oversight

on the finances and construction of the stadium that would also anchor a retail and entertainment complex. Essentially, the state has communicated its interest in being the ideal location for Snyder's vision.

This advocacy from Youngkin tied to legislature leads to questions about whether the Commanders would become more associated with Virginia than Maryland/DC if this move is to happen. The Commanders would likely become more associated with Virginia because of its economic ties as a "mini-city" and its location being more convenient for Virginians than anyone else.

This uncertain future could lead to a large number of Commanders fans moving on to the neighboring Baltimore Ravens. Many would argue that loyalists to the team would stay fans, but is this really a guarantee when the original name of the team has been ditched, and the organization has constantly been under scrutiny for a lack of success paired with multiple investigations? Just last year, the team was fined \$10 million for misconduct in the workplace, only adding too many fans' hatred of Snyder. Overall, the team hasn't given fans many reasons to be loyal, so if the team were to move out of state, there is nothing holding fans back from becoming fans of the more successful Ravens.

## WATCH THE WARRIORS IN ACTION

### Varsity Baseball

3/31- vs. Paint Branch 3:45  
4/5- @ Blake 6:00  
4/7 vs. Einstein 3:45  
4/9- @ Wheaton 2:00

### Varsity Softball

3/31- vs. Paint Branch 3:45  
4/5- @ Blake 7:00  
4/7 vs. Einstein 3:45  
4/8- @ Wheaton 3:45

### Varsity Boys Lacrosse

3/31- @ Rockville 7:15  
4/4- @ Magruder 7:15  
4/6- vs. Gaithersburg 7:15  
4/8- vs. Quince Orchard 7:15

### Varsity Girls Lacrosse

3/31- vs. Rockville 7:00  
4/4- vs. Magruder 7:00  
4/6- @ Gaithersburg 7:00  
4/8- @ Quince Orchard 7:00

### Boys Volleyball

3/31- vs. Springbrook 7:00  
4/4- @ Paint Branch 7:00  
4/6- @ Magruder 5:30  
4/8- vs. Blake 5:30

### Coed Volleyball

3/31- vs. Springbrook 5:30  
4/4- @ Paint Branch 5:30  
4/6- @ Magruder 7:00  
4/8- vs. Blake 7:00

### Girls Tennis

4/4- vs. Northwest 3:30  
4/8- @ Quince Orchard 3:30

### Boys Tennis

4/4- @ Northwest 3:30  
4/8- vs. Quince Orchard 3:30

### Outdoor Track and Field

4/21- vs. Gaithersburg 3:30

### Coed Softball

4/7- @ B-CC 3:30