

CLASS OF '24 SENIOR EDITION

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

www.thewarrioronline.com

Dunn Returns for Graduation Ceremony

by Liam Trump '24

After receiving a formal invitation from Principal Timothy Britton, former Sherwood choral teacher Johnathan Dunn is set to speak at the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2024. During his time at Sherwood, Dunn taught chorus, piano, and music perspectives as well as playing a major role in Sherwood's annual Rock 'n' Roll Revival productions as one of its music directors.

"Sherwood was my first high school position as a general/choral music teacher. It was the place where I learned how to teach, how to connect with students, and how to foster positive working relationships with staff, students, and families using music as a vehicle," said Dunn. "I learned so much from my students and used that knowledge, and/or insight, to gauge next steps in terms of addressing their needs, and goals both in the classroom and beyond."

Dunn has been working in MCPS for 21 years and had been a choral teacher at Sherwood for nine years. After leaving Sherwood following the 2022-23 school year, he moved on to Wheaton where he was appointed as Assistant School Administrator. For the 2024-25 school year, Dunn will be filling an assistant principal position. "After a year of building relationships



Provided by Jonathan Dunn

with staff, students, and families, I did not want to leave and held onto the hope that I could return to Wheaton next year. Now that things are confirmed, I could not be happier," said Dunn.

For his speech at Sherwood's graduation, Dunn wants to get the idea across that graduates should

be true to themselves and find their purpose in life. "Hopefully, graduates will come away with a renewed appreciation of self, the gifts they alone bring to this world, and the opportunities before them to make a difference no matter where they are and/or go," said Dunn.

Hartlove Aims To Inspire Fellow Grads with Speech

by Noah Bair '24

After going through an audition process, Joseph Hartlove was selected by a panel of Sherwood staff members to be the student-speaker at this year's graduation. Hartlove is a particularly fitting choice considering that he was the treasurer of the Class of 2024 for the first three years of high school and this year served as schoolwide SGA president. In addition, he is also the co-president of Students to End Poverty and a captain for the It's Academic team, where he represented the team on television in January.

"I love being a student leader, and throughout my high school career, I have done my best to be an advocate and representative for my peers," said Hartlove. Next year, Hartlove will be attending University of Maryland, Baltimore County to study political science. While he is not completely sure what his exact career path will be, he is certain of his extreme passion for "government and desire to work in politics"

and a goal to "work in a career where he is able to help other people and have a positive impact on the world."

For his graduation speech, Hartlove plans to touch upon a variety of themes to make it relatable to a full range of his fellow seniors. One central message will be the sense of community that the Class of 2024 built at Sherwood.

"I definitely will spend much more time talking about our Senior Class than I do about myself," he explained. "A major reason as to why I decided to try out for the senior speaker position was because I have a desire to represent my class." Participating in many large clubs, honor societies, and the SGA, Hartlove is certainly a great candidate for representing the grade as a whole and speaking directly to the senior class and their parents. He is the embodiment of everything that Sherwood aims to be and the values that they want to instill in their students.

UMD Remains Top Choice Despite Selectivity

by Connor Pugh '24

The University of Maryland, College Park has long had a reputation among Sherwood students as the go-to place for many seniors when looking for college. According to Naviance data for this academic year, 216 current seniors at Sherwood applied to UMD, meaning half of all 424 students in the graduating class applied to the university. Because of the high rates in applications, Sherwood has consistently provided a steady stream of graduating students attending UMD.

"I think UMD will always be desirable because it is our flagship university," explained College & Career Information Coordinator Jenny Davis. "We are lucky to have such a reputable state school with amazing programs and great higher-level learning opportunities for students."

A variety of factors have contributed to UMD's status as a top school to apply to for Sherwood students. Close proximity to Sherwood itself allows students to commute to college for classes instead of having to pay extra to get housing on campus or nearby,

thereby making the college more financially available to many. UMD also has connections to the wider DMV area, with a Metro station in College Park (and another being built on campus) as well as many programs and opportunities for students to work in DC and the surrounding area. The close proximity between Sherwood and UMD also connects the former to the campus culture, with Terrapin logos and merchandise being a common appearance all over the Sherwood area.

At the same time, the acceptance rate for the university has been steadily declining and becoming more selective. According to the UMD 2023-2024 undergraduate catalog, "We typically receive over 58,000 applications for a fall freshman class of approximately 4,750. As a result, we are unable to offer admission to all students who have the ability to be academically successful at the university." Undergraduate freshman acceptance rates declined from 52.2 percent to 45 percent from 2021 to 2023, indicating a turn in a more selective direction for the university.



"It's unfortunate that admissions requirements have become more rigorous and Maryland residents are being turned away from their state school," remarked Davis.

With the previous go-to State School becoming more and more selective, Sherwood students may choose to seek other colleges. Other state schools such as UMBC and Towson University may become more popular, or there could be a greater number of out of state students as people begin looking elsewhere for colleges. Still, UMD likely will continue to be the university to which the most Sherwood students apply. In fact, of the 170 students to complete a survey for this Senior Issue of The Warrior, more than 100 applied to UMD.

What's Inside



Spotlight

Read about what's next for some of our seniors.

Pages 10-11



Sports

Take a look at our 2024 All-Senior Team and their athletic achievements during high school.

Pages 18-19

June 5, 2024

news brief

current events

Survarna Elected SMOB

by Ziv Golan '26

On April 17 nearly 60,000 MCPS middle and high school students cast their ballots in the 2024 SMOB election between Sam Ross, a current junior at Montgomery Blair High School, and Praneel Suvarna, a current junior at Clarksburg High School. The election process began with the nominating convention on February 14 when the final two candidates were chosen by delegates from all MCPS secondary schools. Since then the final candidates ran their campaigns, visiting different schools and communicating their policy goals on social media.

The election came to a close with Praneel Suvarna narrowly winning with 53 percent of the vote. Survarna campaigned for a variety of policies including creating a more welcoming space for transgender and non-binary students along with offering more inclusive school lunches (Halal, Kosher, Vegan, and Gluten Free options). He also wants to work towards making sure funds are being sent to schools that are in need of repairs. He has a wide range of experience both in his school and the countywide SGA.

Suvarna will take the reins on July 1 of this year. The SMOB serves as a full voting member of the MCPS Board of Education and the position comes with a \$5,000 college scholarship, Student Service Learning hours, and one honors-level social studies credit.

BoE President Testifies in Front of Congress

by Katie Ng '25

MCPS Board of Education president Karla Silvestre was one of three school district leaders who testified in front of Congress on May 8. The Republicans from the U.S. House of Representatives Education and Workforce Subcommittee called Silvestre and leaders from the Berkeley Unified School District and the New York Public Schools district for a hearing on antisemitism. The hearing was a follow up of the antisemitism hearings with the presidents of Harvard, MIT, University of Pennsylvania, and Columbia University.

Republicans at the hearing criticized the district leaders for inadequately responding to antisemitism and demanded they discipline and fire teachers accused of antisemitic remarks or actions. The district leaders acknowledged antisemitism but forcefully defended their policies.

Silvestre said that although Montgomery County has not fired any teachers, it has responded to some teachers' actions with discipline. She also emphasized that MCPS will introduce new hate-based training programs and curricula on the Jewish experience to combat antisemitism. Silvestre added that teachers who do not provide a safe learning environment will not be allowed to continue teaching in MCPS.

'Blueprint' Plan Worries Some

by Seph Fischer '25

In February of 2021, Maryland's General Assembly passed the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, overriding a veto from Governor Larry Hogan. The law, a set of sweeping education reforms which, among other goals, attempts to institute a universal preschool program in all counties, increases state funding for education by \$3.8 billion each year, and it requires individual counties to contribute \$700 million more towards education each year than they otherwise would have. While supporters of the law maintain that the Blueprint is a necessary step, others insist that the law is fiscally irresponsible.

Funds for the Blueprint will run out in 2026, meaning that Maryland will have to find some other way to fund the program starting in 2027, raising concern from some on the financial sustainability of Maryland's budget. Individual counties have also raised issues with the plan, namely its inflexibility and the budgetary constraints it would place on them. Harford County Executive Bob Cassilly described the Blueprint funding mandate as "unrealistic," while St. Mary's County Public School System officials complained that Blueprint funding, which is tied to specific programs, "requires the elimination of other programs and supports." Others remain confident in the program's ability to be effectively implemented.

While the five pillars of the Blueprint plan -- increasing funding for early childhood education, high quality and "diverse" teachers, college and career readiness pathways, increasing funding for extracurricular programs, and ensuring effective implementation of these through a governance board -- project confidence in the goals of the program, it is unclear whether the amount of funds the Blueprint requires is sustainable. The Blueprint's long rollout period -- until 2032 -- means it remains to be seen how successful its implementation will be.

Sherwood Says Goodbye to Staff

by Katie Ng '25

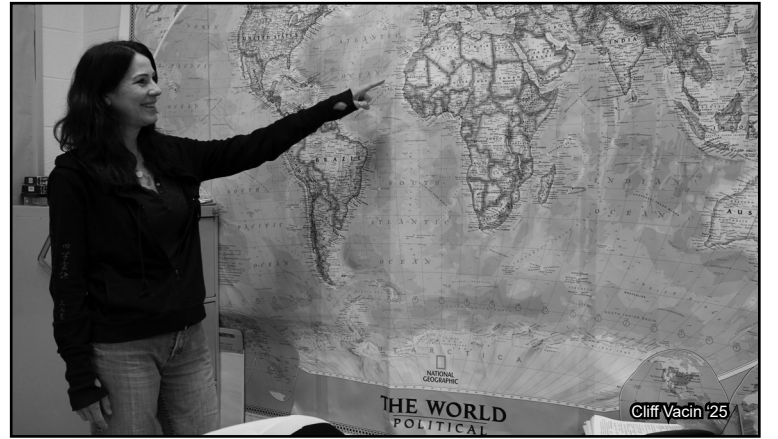
A number of teachers and other staff members are departing from Sherwood this school year, leaving Sherwood with a lasting legacy over their years as impactful teachers. Some are retiring for personal reasons; others are transferring to other schools in the county.

A few teachers retired from Sherwood before the end of first semester, including French teacher John Falls, who taught a total of 31 years. He taught 18 years at Sherwood and was the World Languages Department resource teacher for 15 of them. He decided to retire to take care of his parents and move on to new chapters of his life, and he misses the students he taught and interacted with.

Falls is enjoying new activities during his retirement. "After traveling a bit, I decided to volunteer as a tour guide at Woodlawn Mansion," said Falls. "I give tours of the mansion and the path of the underground railroad." The best part of his retirement life, he told The Warrior, was spending more time at the gym, and having more time to see friends.

Entrepreneurship teacher Catina Wist retired the same day as Falls on December 31. Wist's roles varied, including staff development teacher and student internship coordinator. In late November, special education teacher Donovan Clark retired as well.

In addition to the teachers who have already retired, social studies teacher Michelle Games, biology teacher Mary Baker, and cooking teacher Lisa Gilbert will retire at the end of this school year. Games taught her whole career at Sherwood for 30 years,



Michelle Games taught a range of classes during her time at Sherwood.

and she is now eligible to collect her full pension. "The students are the best part of teaching," said Games about what she will miss most after her departure.

Baker taught high school for 16 years. She started at Springbrook, taught at Sherwood for a couple years, and ended up transferring to Clarksburg. Eventually, she came back to Sherwood. She was eligible to retire last school year but waited to see her senior homeroom graduate. Baker plans to substitute teach for the science department and for her daughter who is a teacher, help write the MISA test, and travel.

"I will miss the students, even the 'annoying ones,'" said Baker. "I love a challenge and finding ways to make my topics interesting and understandable. I know I can't get everyone to 'love' science, but if I can get each of them to, at least once, think something we are learning about is cool, I'm happy."

Gilbert has been teaching since the fall of 2016. She chose to retire with her husband and they are moving to West Virginia soon. Gilbert stated that she will miss her students, some of them who have become chefs.

Though a few teachers are retiring from teaching, engineering teacher Brendan Lees is transferring schools. Lees taught 18 years at Sherwood and 23 years total. He started out as a math teacher and then in 2009 started the engineering program Project Lead the Way (PLTW) at Sherwood. He will transfer to Rosa Parks Middle School. "We have some incredible staff here that I will definitely miss," said Lees. "Mr. Daigle and I started and built our engineering program here. He is an amazing colleague to work with that cares about students succeeding just as much as me. I will also miss my awesome engineering students and seeing all of the great universities they get accepted into and attend."

Lastly, registrar Jaime Fuller and special education teachers Amber Dean and Maggie Fletcher will be departing Sherwood at the end of this school year. Fuller chose to leave Sherwood because she wants to change directions in her career. Dean will transfer to Richard Montgomery High School to be closer to where she lives, and Fletcher will become the Resource Teacher for special education at Rosa Parks.

SGA Acts as Voice for Student Body

by Thien Dinh '26

Two weeks ago, students at Sherwood voted for the SGA and class officers for the 2024-25 school year. Beginning next semester, senior Katie Daniel will be the school's next SGA President, with senior Peyton Williams as Vice President, George Awkard serving as secretary, and Thi Cao as treasurer. While these winners of the elections surely are excited to be involved with student government next year, many students do not know exactly what the SGA is and what it does.

The long-time sponsor of the school's SGA is social studies teacher Katherine Jaffe, who says being on SGA or a class officer is a chance for those students to work for the changes that they want to see at Sherwood. "Sherwood is home to all types of students, and a student may want to join to make sure their voices are heard in decision-making," said Jaffe. "Being a part of SGA helps with leadership skills, and helps students gain more confidence in public situations. With SGA, the benefits are endless. You join a community with a ton of sup-

port and you are able to lead your grade/school."

At Sherwood, the SGA regularly meets with school administration to give input on school policies. Alongside this, they also voice student opinions to a much larger group, the Montgomery County Regional SGA, a student governing group that influences the education, work environment and funding of MCPS schools. Throughout the school year, the SGA plans events such as spirit weeks, pep rallies, school fundraisers, and most importantly, Homecoming. All of these events raise school spirit as well as improve student mental health. The SGA also keeps open a line of communication with Sherwood students through its instagram account @sherwoodsga.

"The SGA functions similarly to every MCPS high school, but there are differences such as officer positions," explained graduating senior Elisha Gabriel, who is the current schoolwide Vice President of the SGA. "Here at Sherwood, we have a President, V.P, Secretary, and Treasurer. Some schools have other posi-

tions extra to these, such as Spirit Chair and Historian. We are extremely lucky to have Mrs. Jaffe give up one of her planning periods to have our schoolwide SGA; most schools do not have an SGA class." Ultimately, though, it is up to each of the SGA officers to display the consistent dedication required to be the voice for Sherwood students.

In addition to the newly elected SGA officers, Sherwood's class officers also were elected. For the next year's Senior Class, the officers will be Jacob Feghali as President, Amanda Kraft as V.P, Melia Walz as Secretary, and Shai Klayman as Treasurer. Class officers for the next year's Junior Class are Alanna Green as President, Norelle Carrion as V.P, Olivia Kiniry as Secretary, and Emelia Fornah as Treasurer. The officers for next year's Sophomore Class are Andrew Fenner as President, Annah Nzomo as V.P, and Kasey Carmichael as Treasurer. As of now, there is no Secretary for the Class of 2027. Officers for next year's Freshman Class will be determined through an election in the fall.

MCPS Acknowledges Concerns about Safety

by Cliff Vacin '25

MCPS sent a letter on April 2 to students, parents/guardians, and teachers regarding the string of in-school fights happening throughout middle and high schools. In the letter, Interim Superintendent Monique Felder pledged that MCPS and its schools will uphold the Student Code of Conduct and will hold students accountable for violating rules. In bold print in the letter to the community, Felder declared, "Let's be clear: a safe schoolhouse in which students have a sense of security and belonging is essential so that all students and staff can teach and learn at high levels."

Felder begins the letter by noting that student behavior has been a topic of concern for students and staff at some schools. One notable case that received news coverage centered around Clarksburg High School—in early March, news stations such as ABC7 and WUSA9 reported about the string of fights happening in the school. A whistleblower revealed that one staff member was hospitalized during these fights, with other teachers dealing with less serious injuries such as bruises.

Right around the same time, local media reported that an 18-year-old student brought a loaded gun to Gaithersburg High School and was apprehended

and charged with Possession of a Firearm on school property. Throughout the school year, there have been a number of student fights throughout the county, as well as incidents of students making threats toward other students or the school. Some parents have complained about what they see as the slow response and lack of communication by MCPS and school administrators in response to these incidents.

In February, two girls at Benjamin Banneker Middle School were hospitalized in a fight that involved a box cutter. After a student was hospitalized in January at Lakelands Park Middle School, parents criticized MCPS and Lakelands Park officials for sending out a letter two days after the incident and explaining that "grade-level town halls" would occur later that week to address expectations for students.

Felder's April 2 letter outlined a number of measures the school district will take to foster a safer school experience for students and staff, including greater physical safety measures, greater security measures, police partnerships, comprehensive bullying training, reporting mechanisms, partnerships with organizations, parents, and guardians, and supportive communication. MCPS has also considered adding vape detectors and weapons detection systems to schools, as well as potentially adding mandatory IDs.

Sherwood Offers New Courses for Next Year

by Justin Lakso '25

In December, students currently in grades 9-11 selected courses to create their schedule for the next school year. The number of students who select a course, particularly for electives and some AP classes, largely determines whether it actually will be offered the following school year. In some instances, courses that did not have enough interest in previous years will come back to Sherwood because enough students registered for it. Similarly, classes that too few students register for get cut.

Instead of traveling to Magruder or taking virtual classes at Montgomery College, students next year will have the opportunity to take Multivariable Calculus at Sherwood for the first time, giving students interested in calculus a major advantage by cutting out travel time in between classes and supplying in-person learning rather than an asynchronous class. Multivariable Calculus at Sherwood will have more relaxed pacing than at MC or Magruder to give students time to properly learn the material and perform better on the AP exam. "This is the best option for our students," said math teacher Heather Baxter, who will teach the class. "There are a bunch of schools in MCPS who offer the course, so why shouldn't Sherwood do the same?"

Rising juniors and seniors who have already taken AP Computer Science can take another



anticipated class debuting at Sherwood next year, AP Java, a course on coding in JavaScript, which technology teacher Jason Daigle will teach. AP Java is a way to help students connect with a college major and potentially a career in programming, engineering, cybersecurity, networking, or any other technical field. "Our world becomes more dependent on computer programs by the day; it is good for all students to learn how these programs are created and what impacts they will have on our lives," said Daigle about the course's appeal.

Another new technology class next school year will be Civil Engineering, offered as part of the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program. In the course, students will plan, design, and construct infrastructure projects such as bridges and buildings.

Additionally, Personal Finance will be offered next year through the Career and Technology (CTE) department as a way for

students to learn how to manage their own money in the future. Although AP European History has been dropped at Sherwood for next year, the social studies department will offer Comparative Religions, taught by Caitlin Thompson.

The English Department will not offer two classes that were at Sherwood this school year. African American Literature was offered for the first time this year, but did not have enough enrollment to continue. Although more than 20 students registered for the Creative Writing elective taught by English teacher Christopher Goodrich, the course was cut for next year because of teacher-staffing needs.

Fortunately, it has been confirmed that AP Euro, Creative Writing, and African American Literature will be offered again in the 2025-2026 school year, giving current freshmen and sophomores the opportunity to register next year to take the class.

Summer 2024 Will Be Hottest in History

by Ziv Golan '26

Over the past few years, the effects of climate change have become more of a real-life problem rather than an issue in the far-off future. The overwhelming heat felt by many in recent summers, coupled with unseasonably warm temperatures in winter and fall, has made climate change a much more impending threat for people around the globe. Even in Montgomery County, this is true with snow days increasingly disappearing along with summer temperatures stretching into Fall. Every single month since June 2023 has set a record for the hottest of that month in recorded history. This is yet another very concerning statistic showing that our planet is trekking closer and closer to being permanently damaged due to climate change, with catastrophe increasingly possible.

This upcoming summer is expected to be no different, with an increasingly grim prediction for the vast majority of the continental United States and the world. Scientists are predicting above-average temperatures for most of the country with the Mid-Atlantic region expected to be one of the most affected in the nation. This summer scientists are predicting hot, muggy conditions with temperatures set to soar to some of the warmest tempera-

tures in recorded history locally.

High temperatures this summer will also be impacted heavily by the El Niño weather pattern. This is a 9-12 month weather phenomenon in which ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern parts of the Pacific Ocean heat up. El Niño coupled with climate change is a deadly combination that has driven a sharp rise in global temperatures since last summer. This combination also aids in causing drought conditions in much of the U.S. The Southwest, Plains, and Northwest regions of the country are expected to be plagued with drought conditions for much of this upcoming summer, heavily impacting agriculture along with outdoor activities in many states.

Good news about this summer is few and far between; however, the hurricane season outlook reflects relatively positive. El Niño suppresses the strength of major hurricanes in the Atlantic causing hurricane season to not be as active. Despite this in the short term, hurricane season is expected to worsen overall in the future due to rising ocean temperatures. Overall, hurricanes and other natural disasters are expected to become much more disastrous in the future especially as sea levels rise, contributing to increased flooding in cities like New York and D.C.

Many remember when last spring air quality warnings were issued across the Mid-Atlantic region after smoke from wildfires in Canada engulfed the region. This is expected again this spring

and summer as many of the same forests are still smoldering due to temperatures remaining high.

This is yet another example of how climate change is affecting daily lives with many people

possibly having to stay indoors due to the unsafe conditions outside. This may only be a precursor of what's to come as climate change will increasingly impact everyday life.

What could this Summer look like?

Summers have only gotten hotter and hotter, with scientists predicting **record temperatures** for this summer. So, what could this summer look like under the effects of **climate change**?

Winter of 2024 saw record-breaking warmth, at over 68 degrees Fahrenheit on **January 26**. This could mean unusual heat for the summer, with scientist predictions reaching higher than average temperatures for June, July, and August.

Hurricane seasons have been **worse overall** across the past decade. In 2021, 2022, and 2023, Hurricanes **ravaged** the Southern U.S., bringing increased flooding and property damage.

On the East Coast, **flooding, scorching heat, and rising sea levels** will affect major cities. Take the Tidal Basin in Washington D.C. for example. Rising water levels have sparked the project of raising and repairing the over 7,000 feet of the basin's walls, with the three-year project calling for the replanting of hundreds of the basin's Japanese Cherry Trees.

Snowfall over the past decade has **significantly decreased**, with the average frost levels each year decreasing for areas that used to see lower temperatures.

Natural disasters are going to be commonplace, displacing families and even entire cities, promising a future of **humanitarian disasters** that will **cost money and lives**.



Favorite Memories

“Senior Assassin was pretty fun. Also last year I painted a ceiling tile in Mrs. Byerly’s room with orange and blue to look like a sine wave.” - Aidan Phipps Oneto

“That one lunch period that was about an hour long where we were able to hang out with friends and eat food from the food trucks. I felt like going to the farmer’s market and it was fun.”
- Cecilia Yuengling

“Doing the plays, musicals, and rock n roll. I’ll always be grateful for the time I’ve spent with the arts at Sherwood High School.” - Mahlet Daniel

“Playing Monopoly and Charades after the AP Exam in AP Chemistry with Mr. Miehl.” - Nicholas Hernandez

“Creating battle bots in robotics club.” - Randy Wang

“ I liked hanging out with my friends, I liked the pep rally, and football games were all fun. But, my favorite memory was probably prom.” - Zachary Soled

June 5, 2024

Warrior Wisdom

“You want to look back on high school satisfied, so don’t take everything so seriously. Put yourself out there and have fun.” - Katie Burdette

“Life is too short, enjoy every second of it. Be kind to everyone, make others smile.” - Emma Walsh

“Don’t procrastinate!” - Davina Canagarajah

“Try everything, don’t be afraid of failing -- you’ll regret not giving it a shot more than the failure.”
- Zaydan Remtulla

“It is important to always go out of your comfort zone and don’t try to get through things so fast, and instead just enjoy where you are in life.”
- Danielle Watson

“Always grow as a person and try to be better than you were yesterday.” - Aiden Quizon

“Don’t stick with people who don’t support you. They may be cool and popular, but that doesn’t mean they’re good for your mental health. Let them go. There’s bigger and better things waiting for you.”
- Kennedy Bonner

“School is what you make of it. No one can force you to put in the effort to get better.” - Nathan Thakur

“Say yes to everything. I spent such a long time not wanting to get out of my comfort zone that I missed out on so many fun experiences. It wasn’t until my senior year that I finally decided to say yes to more things, and made such awesome new friends, and had amazing experiences.” - Hannah Mushawar

“Don’t stress about what is going to happen in the future and instead enjoy what you have now.” - Katlyn Taylor

“You don’t have to be good at something to try it. I took a lot of classes with topics I struggle with, and while I may not have done the best in them, I don’t regret challenging myself.” - Dean Kilpatrick

June 5, 2024

Senior Columns are a way for our senior newspaper staff to reflect, share their experiences, and give other students advice as they leave high school behind. Our seniors uniquely come up with their columns that include personal stories, anecdotes, and memories of their time in high school. These help to give our seniors a final wrap-up before they enter their next chapters in life.

Thanks for reading,
Dylan Sondike
Editor-in-Chief

Freshman Year Coincidence Pays Off

by Dylan Sondike

Looking back, my aspirations in middle school were immature and unrealistic. The pressure of finding extracurricular activities that I might enjoy was a battle. At the time, I had no idea what clubs to try. The only lead I had was to join the school newspaper. It wasn't because I enjoyed writing then or being part of a staff, but because the advisor was my older sister's long-time travel soccer coach.

Originally, I planned to take Newspaper class just my freshman year, aiming to put it on college applications. Little did I know that I would continue taking it all my years in high school and become a vital staff member. Going on Zooms for the newspaper during the Covid-19 year was an experience. At first, it took a lot of work to fit in and have a strong influence on what articles I would be writing. As the year progressed, however, it felt more and more natural. It became so comfortable that I was offered a position for my sophomore year to oversee the print sports section.

Stepping foot in Sherwood for the first time as a sophomore was a major adjustment. It was originally hard to find my footing as in-person learning returned. However, walking into C266 for the first time made me more comfortable. Little did I know how connected and close the entire Newspaper staff was to each



other. The feeling of being part of a group was very rewarding, especially entering a whole new environment after a year of virtual learning.

Current events and politics have always somewhat interested me. Joining The Warrior allowed me to significantly expand my knowledge of what is going on in the world. From current events quizzes to scrolling NPR for 10 minutes at the beginning of some class periods, I became so fascinated with the news. This has even made me want to pursue a major in government or history in college, potentially.

The past four years have allowed me to become a leader and a much more outspoken person. I entered high school shy and reserved. Now, I graduate with the

ability to communicate effectively with a staff of nearly 30 people through my position as the Editor-In-Chief of The Warrior. While this was no easy task, I was able to foster an atmosphere of cooperation and collaboration to run an effective publication. These skills will continue to be valuable to me as I continue to college.

Four years ago I could have never seen any of this for me. Finding a club was scary enough. Being the leader of a club is a completely different story. The skills and lessons I have acquired and learned these past four years have changed me. Had my sister never joined that soccer team, I wouldn't be at this moment today. Sometimes, a little luck or a weird coincidence pays off.

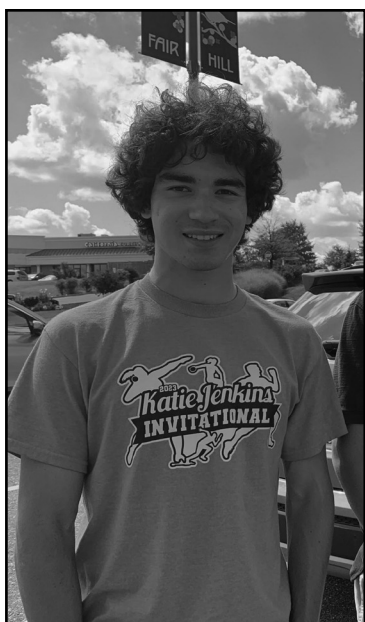
How Little I've Learned Let Yourself Miss a Couple in a Row

by Liam Trump

I remember when I was in middle school and I was first introduced to the idea that all of the work I would be doing during my time in school would be contributing to a final grade, a letter that would represent the weeks of hard work I would put into each semester. The idea of getting the highest grades took me by storm, and by the time I reached high school, I was almost geared solely on the notion that grades were the key to getting into a 'good' college and setting my life on the path for success.

During my sophomore and junior years, I strived to take the hardest classes, participate in the most extracurriculars, and score the highest on my tests. And when college admission season rolled around and months later I received my acceptance letter to the University of Maryland, everything finally felt worth it.

But as the weeks have gone by and that initial sense of euphoria I got when opening my acceptance email has all but ceased, I truly have begun to wonder if maybe I missed out on things because I was so focused on the potential payoffs. In so many of my classes, I put all my efforts into achieving the highest marks because it's what it takes to go to college. However, the amount of material I would gloss over



and completely forget shortly after any given test or quiz left me wishing I could almost redo these courses but without my focus laying solely on a letter at the end.

Going forward with my education, I hope to break out of this cycle and start actually immersing myself in the material instead of cramming as much information in my head the night before a test and hoping it all sticks. If there is anything I've learned from my final year at Sherwood, it's that constantly measuring yourself, whether it be to meet your own standards or the standards of others, will always leave you feeling dissatisfied if the only thing you're focused on at the end of it is just a letter.

by Thomas Fenner

Throughout most of high school, I was terrified of failure. I spent far too much time in high school caring about how my peers viewed me. It took me finding the right group of friends, finding my place on the basketball team, and building relationships with coaches, teachers, and classmates to realize that the people who care and believe in me won't harp on me for failure.

Something I struggled with was my desire for other people's approval. I always felt the need to succeed and believed that any small missteps would be a disappointment to those that were important in my life. I think a perfect example of this is when it comes to basketball, the sport I've played and loved my entire life. My role on the team was to be a shooter, which led me put a lot of pressure on myself. Even when I missed only a shot or two, I was disappointing people who had put their trust in me. One thing that will always stick with me, however, was the constant reassurance from my coaches and teammates. "You can miss 100 in a row, and we still want you to shoot it," my coaches would tell me.

Now as a graduating senior, I've taken that advice and tried to apply it to so many other things. Basketball may not be part of my



future, but the lessons I've learned from it will most definitely stick with me. Whether it be failing a test, not getting the internship or job opportunity I was hoping for, or other setbacks in life, I know that I can and will fail. However, I have realized that I can overcome these obstacles and grow from them. I didn't want to listen at the time, but I now recognize that it takes failure to see what you can truly accomplish. I believe that if it weren't for me messing up (countless times), I wouldn't be the person I am today.

The people in my life that I know will always be there for me are the same ones who have seen me fail and embarrass myself. Yet, they have stuck with me through it all. I still look back on the freshman and sophomore versions of myself, and how hesitant I was to take risks. Now, heading into the next part of my life, I am grateful for all the events that didn't end in a positive outcome, because those moments shaped the senior I am now. Everyone needs to miss a couple in a row to see the next ones go in.

June 5, 2024

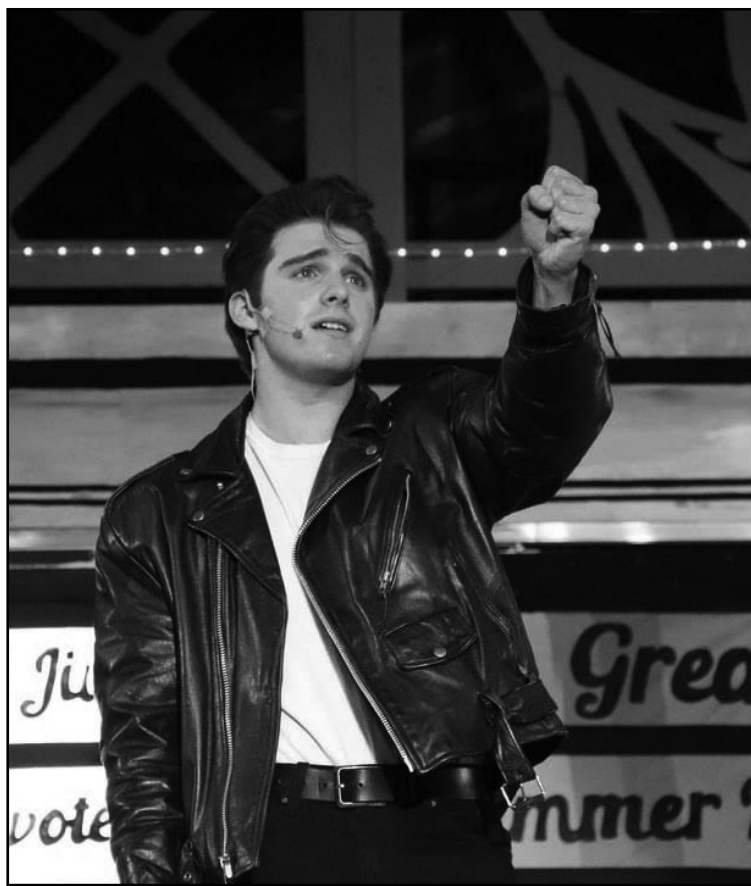
Curb Your Enthusiasm or Live the Larry David Way

by Ben Schoenberg

In honor of *Curb Your Enthusiasm* ending its 25-year run on television, I decided to end my four years at Sherwood High School. After watching all twelve seasons in two months I learned that it is important to live life with a raw authenticity and unwillingness to change the core of who you are. Ideally, try not to get kicked out of restaurants and dinner parties along the way.

Last year I binged all of *Seinfeld* on Netflix, and it quickly became one of my favorite shows. The comedic performances and observational style of humor really connected with me and made me hunger for more Larry David-led projects. After watching the first couple episodes of *Curb* I was instantly hooked. The idea that there could be a whole successful show about a man who says aloud what everyone's thinking and lives freely amongst a cast of other hilarious characters to bounce off of really appealed to me. I immediately knew I was gonna have a good time with this show.

While obviously many of the exaggerated antics and decisions made by Larry and his crew can be seen as idiotic and yes, sometimes offensive, I find comfort in the fact that you can succeed by



being yourself. Up to this point Larry David has made a whole career off of being authentic and *Curb* is another prime example. This idea is carried throughout the show's whole run and keeps it constantly fresh and relevant after two decades.

In retrospect a lot of what Larry David stands for and has

created with *Curb Your Enthusiasm* applied to my four years in high school where I was able to come into my own by embracing what made me unique. Now with college on the horizon and a plethora of new opportunities available to me, I'm excited to explore what's in store for me while staying true to myself.

Taking a Leap of Faith

by Noah Bair

Entering high school, I had planned out exactly which classes I would take and which years I would take them. After two years of taking classes that I essentially chose as a 13 year old, I decided I wanted a change. Instead of taking AP Spanish, a class that I would have dreaded every day, I switched to newspaper. Unbeknownst to me, it was one of the best decisions I have made during my time at Sherwood.

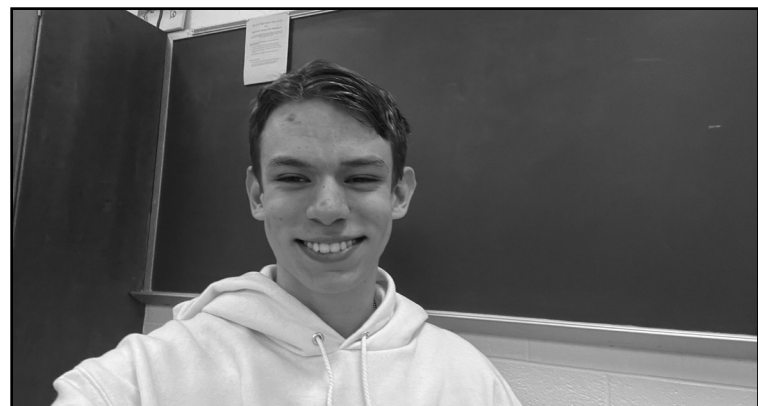
Writing, and really the whole English subject as a whole, was never something I enjoyed. I did know, however, that I had a passion for sports journalism. I came into newspaper junior year expecting to write exclusively sports articles about whatever was going on in the sports world. After only my second week on the staff, I wrote an article for the sports section about veteran quarterbacks in the NFL. I thought this would be a preview of my position for my time on the staff: someone who writes timely sports articles every once in a while. That year, however, I ended up writing articles for each section of the newspaper including an opinion piece and a movie review.

When the seniors left in the spring, I was named as the print sports editor for the next school year. This position allowed me to work closer with the other editors as well as the advisor. I will never



forget the relationships I formed in the newspaper room and the lessons that I will carry onto college, even if I'm not going into the field of journalism.

Taking one risk of switching from AP Spanish to newspaper provided me with the chance to do something with my passion for sports while also presenting opportunities to discover other areas that I didn't even know interested me. Seeing how much that risk paid off, I figured the next step would be to go even more outside of my comfort zone. Instead of staying in-state, I am attending a school 300 miles away. Even though it will be just as unfamiliar to me as newspaper was when I first stepped into the class, I am confident that taking such risks will continue to pay off.



Take Care of Yourself

by Connor Pugh

I spent much of my time in high school going through the painstaking process of trial and error. Many times I signed up for a class or joined a club or some other extracurricular with a genuine interest, only to come out the other side beaten and battered. A particularly eye-opening experience for me was when I took AP Computer Science Java in sophomore year and swiftly learned that field was not the right fit for me.

Many times I went out of my way to try the most difficult classes and experiences out of some misplaced belief in "proving myself" to others. Despite actively hating an experience, I forced myself to keep on going if only to merely tell myself I could. While there is value in grit and going out of your comfort zone, high school shouldn't just be constant over-exertion every single day like I was trying to make it out to be. You're allowed to have fun,

and you should allow yourself to take a break when you need it, and to not go rushing into the hardest challenges just for the sake of it. My advice is to take your time, relax a little bit, and choose for yourself your own pace of work and effort instead of just attempting to do everything.

Despite my hardships, I had just as many times where I came out of an experience pleasantly surprised and accomplished. Newspaper class, for instance, helped me channel my passion for writing into a career choice I really wanted to pursue and plan my academic future. I think the lesson that can be learned from my experience is to focus more on taking experiences for yourself. Don't be afraid to take risks, but also keep in mind that you're the ultimate determiner of your own fate in high school, and there's nothing wrong with having a little fun in high school and looking out for yourself.

Looking Back and Moving Forward

by Gael Rebu

Looking back on my last four years that I spent in high school I find myself having mixed feelings about my experience. These years have taught me so much about who I am and the kind of person I want to continue to be. I've learned how to manage a lot of work and the stress that came with it. I've had so many wonderful experiences that have helped me grow my passion for art, and I'm happy that I made some good friends and connections along the way. While high school has helped me learn a lot, I'm ready for what's next.

Let's not pretend high school is something that I want to repeat; it's something I will look back on with mild fondness but I can't see myself wishing to go through any of it again. I would love to say that high school was some kind of deeply enlightening experience but it really wasn't.

I feel like I'm ready to close off this chapter of my life and move on to the next. I've already achieved what I wanted to during these four years and I have new aspirations that high school can no longer help me with. As I transition to a new phase of life, I see a future that presents itself as a blank page that I can fill with new aspirations to accomplish.

Art has been one of the good things to come out of my experi-



ence at Sherwood. I've expanded my skills in my photography and can finally make pictures that I feel proud of and want to show off. I finally have the confidence to open up more through my art and to experiment by adding other mediums to my photos. Photography has been an outlet for me to express myself authentically; it is an extension of my voice and says everything that I can't

communicate with words. I finally see myself in a position where I can pursue art as a career path and I couldn't be more excited to grow my skills as an artist.

As I stand between the threshold of my present and future, I am filled with anticipation of the next adventure. Looking forward, I see boundless opportunities and most importantly a future where I am doing what I love.

June 5, 2024

Leave the Regrets Behind Finding the Confidence

by Randy Wang

It's difficult to not experience some form of regret. Nobody is perfect. It could be an easily avoidable mistake or a missed opportunity you wish you had taken. I'm no different.

After COVID-19 and the year of virtual learning, I returned to school as a very quiet person. I was unable to bring myself to join clubs such as the robotics club that I finally became involved with during my senior year. During those years, I struggled to focus on my school work and converse with others. By the time senior year started, there were several things that I came to regret.

I really wanted to join that club. I should have studied a little more for this exam. Why did I respond so rudely? I've always had these kinds of thoughts throughout high school, wishing that I could go back in time to fix my mistakes, hoping that people would forget about my embarrassing moments. But, of course, you can't change the past. So what can I do?

Pushing my regrets away won't be enough. I needed to move on. Focusing on the present



and the future, making sure that I can continue living my life without making any more regrets. If I can't get that A on the test, then I'll make an effort to revise and study more for the next one. If I didn't join the club that I wanted to join, then I'd jump on the opportunity in college.

No matter how much I think about that disappointing grade I got in AP chemistry, the grade

won't change. The fact that I waited until senior year to join clubs will never change.

No matter how much you regret that action, it will never change. It will always be part of history. You won't grow from just looking at the things that happened in the past. Focus on the present and what you can actually do. So face forward. Let's do better.

by Mauricio Altamirano

Early in my senior year, I began to feel overwhelmed by everything: college, academic pressure, self discovery, and the impending end of my carefree life. I often felt stuck because I hadn't yet figured out how to be myself or manage my life. There were times when I felt negatively about my situation. However, I no longer carry those feelings and now have a more positive outlook on my future.

There's always that initial pressure for seniors to have a solid college plan and a clear path for after high school. Watching my friends get accepted faster than I did, some to the same colleges, made me anxious about my own situation. Additionally, I was torn between Healthcare and Computer Science, unable to decide which major to pursue. This uncertainty led me to reflect inwardly and ask myself, "Do I have what it takes to be successful in college?"

This introspection led to a new perspective. I realized there are various pathways to success that can utilize the skills I've developed throughout my teenage years. For example, in junior year, I started a small website-build-



ing business with friends, which taught me a lot about entrepreneurship and technology. It showed me that I might not even need college immediately; I could get certified for a specific occupation and build a career from that. Moreover, I began to recognize the importance of passion and interests in choosing a career path. I evaluated what truly excited me and where my strengths lay. My success is not solely defined on one thing but by the drive, skills, and passion that I bring to the field. I'm confident in my future.

There is a lot of personal progress I've made through the ups and downs of my teenage life. This comes from self-reflection. As I reflect on my journey, I feel a sense of relief and clarity. It's as if I've finally completed the tutorial of my life, and I'm ready to start the next level.



Forming Connections

by Elsie Rozario

Walking around the blacktop in elementary school, I never expected to make friends. Most other classmates had already found companionship, playing four-square or tag during recess with their peers. I preferred the isolation of walking. To me, it was better to be bored alone than stressed attempting to introduce myself to others.

Eventually, another person started walking with me. She approached me and began asking about my day and through our daily strolls, we formed a close friendship. As she began spending time with other students in class, our circle of friends grew larger and I was introduced to new people.

By the end of middle school, I had a large group of friends that I ate lunch with, complained to, and generally fooled around with. When they joined a club, I would follow their example and join too. When they decided to go out, I did the same. They became my whole world, despite the fact that I had put minimal effort into forming any of these relationships.

I took for granted the work my friends put into building our relationships until sophomore year, once most of my friends were attending different high schools. Coming back to school after the pandemic, I found myself isolated once again. Though I longed to have a close-knit group of friends, my desire for connection was overshadowed by my reluctance to put in the effort.

Eventually, I realized that if I wanted to form connections with others, it was something I would have to initiate myself. I decided to become more involved in extracurriculars, such as Robotics Club and Leo Club. In my classes, I started engaging in conversations more with my classmates, especially by getting more involved in partner or group projects rather than doing assignments on my own. Though I often felt awkward and was worried about coming off as strange, I began meeting many new people. I learned that in order to form lasting relationships with others, I must be willing to be less protective of my feelings and more open to having genuine interactions with others, even if they don't always go perfectly.

Happily Unoriginal

by Hannah Mushahwar

When reflecting on my time at high school it is easy to hope that I stood out. After thousands of assignments that my peers completed just like me, I still hoped for a way to make myself original and unique. But the truth is, I'm not. One of my favorite quotes from Chuck Palahniuk says, "nothing of me is original. I am the combined effort of everyone I've ever known." So, here are some ways that high school has made me happily unoriginal.

Whenever I hear "Empire State of Mind" by JAY-Z, I will be reminded of all the sunny days I spent in the press box with my friends for the baseball team. Anytime I see orchids I will remember getting ready with my friends before prom. When I go to Panera, I will think about all the days I spent more time talking with my friends than ever actually doing work. My favorite movie is 10 things I Hate About You because of a classmate who showed it to me. My favorite song is one a girl played for me on our usual late night drives after games. I have a favorite breakfast spot after going there every Saturday with my sister after swim meets.

At times I find myself scared to leave all the people and places I love, but I know that these memories of little moments are how we will stay connected. It is bittersweet that the habits, quirks and even routines of the people that we once loved will continue to live within us. And while I am



not sure that I have left my mark in their lives the same way that they have on mine, I find comfort in the undeniable truth that these people have left a lasting impact on who I have proudly become. In fact, as scared as I find myself thinking about my time in high school ending, understanding that no one ever truly establishes an identity all on their own has made me so optimistic to start new jour-

neys past high school and meet all the people who will only add to my list of favorite things.

So, I thank high school for showing me how much my friends and classmates have imprinted on me and know that I will continue to look back happily on all the people who have made me who I am. For the first time, I couldn't be happier to be so very unoriginal.

June 5, 2024

Sherwood High School Seniors

Top Picks for Movies, TV shows, and Music in the last four years



Barbie

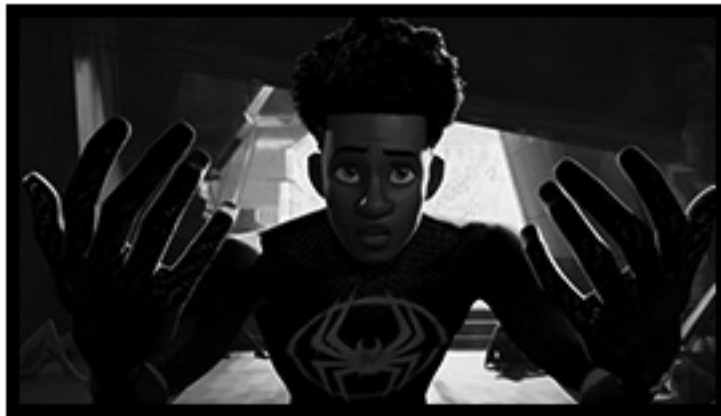


Kendrick Lamar

Mr. Morale and the Big Steppers

Spider-Man

Across the Spider-Verse



Taylor Swift

The Tortured Poets Department



Everything Everywhere
All At Once

Anyone But You

Oppenheimer



Invincible



SZA

SOS

Outer Banks



Morgan Wallen

One Thing at a Time



The Boys

Ted Lasso

Stranger Things

Sherwood Seniors Trend Toward Southern Colleges

by Randy Wang '24

A steady increase in the number of Sherwood seniors have applied to universities in the U.S. South in the past six years. In 2023, 51 seniors applied to the University of Tennessee, compared to the seven Sherwood seniors in 2019. Seniors also applied in greater numbers to other Southern universities such as LSU, Florida State, and South Carolina.

“Honestly, I think social media plays a huge role in where students apply,” said Jenny Davis, Sherwood’s College & Career Information Coordinator. “The SEC schools, warm weather, Greek life, etc., all of that is trending. In talking with our counselors, students haven’t outright shared why they were applying to southern schools, but with ‘Bama Rush’ and other TikTok trends in recent years, one can deduce that social media plays a role in where students are interested.”

The trend of Sherwood students applying to schools in the South and at universities in other parts of the country coincides with many colleges going test optional. Seniors may

feel that they have a better chance of getting into more schools that don’t require SAT or ACT scores for applicants. A significantly lower number of Sherwood seniors applied to the University of Tennessee this year compared to last year, and Davis attributes this to the fact that the university returned to requiring test scores as part of students’ application. Furthermore, many selective universities in the Northeast are reporting even lower acceptance rates, and the University of Maryland has become a highly selective university for both in- and out-of-state students. Sherwood students may be looking to universities in the South as another possibility for where to go to college.

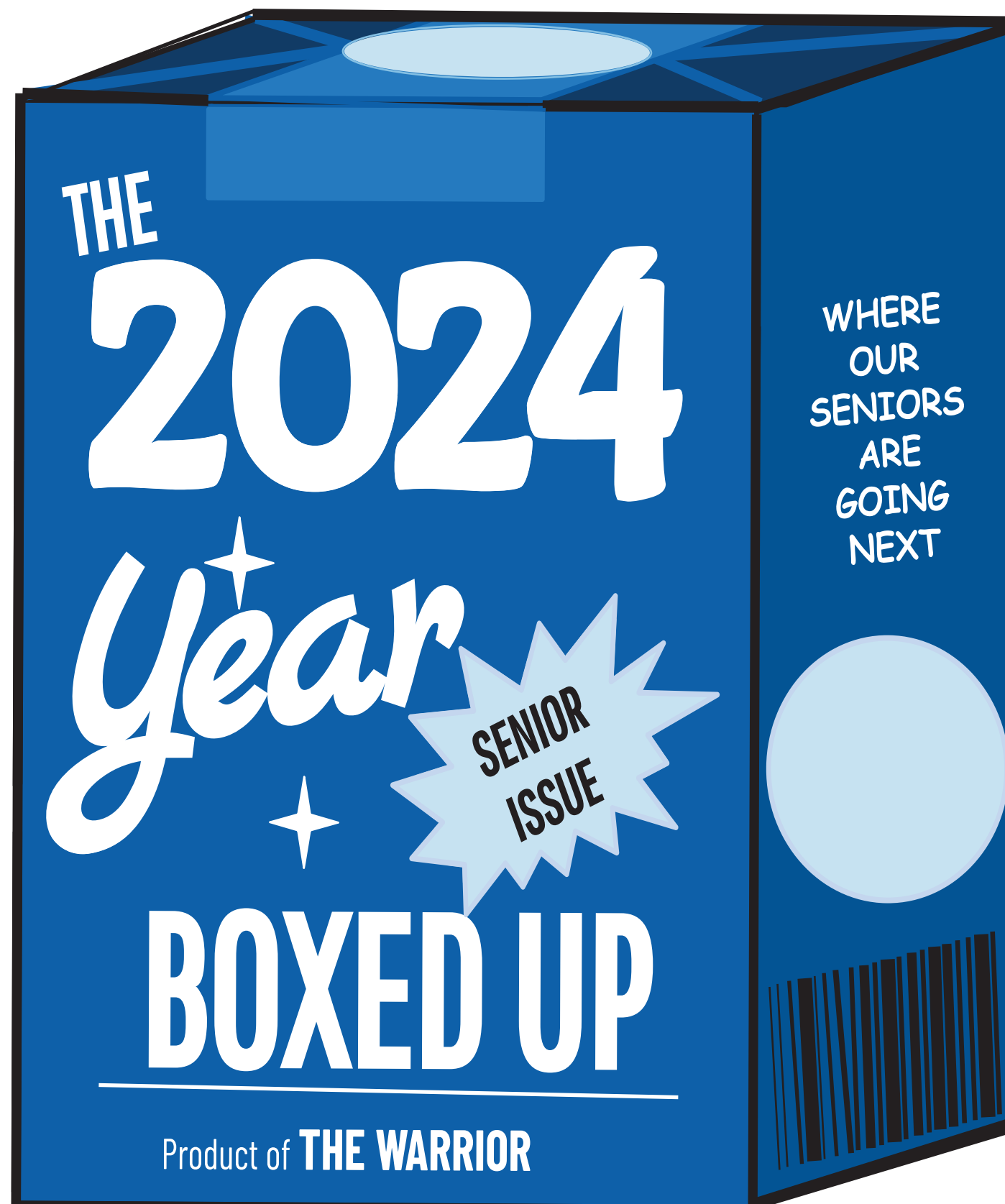
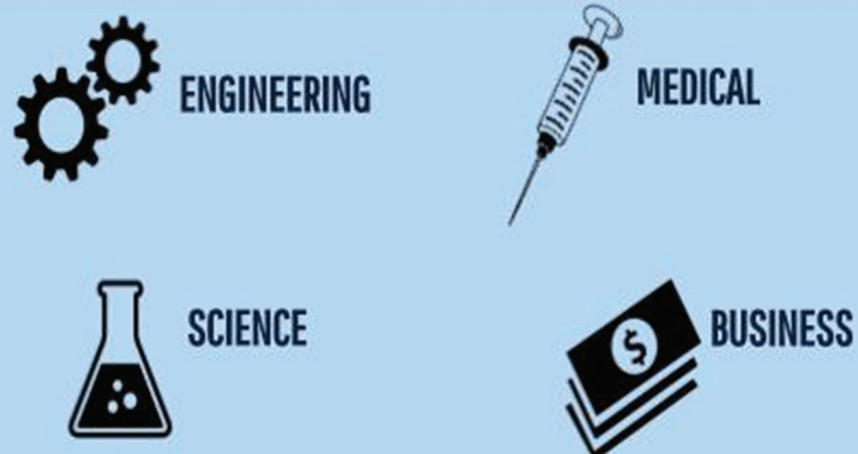
Being the largest county in Maryland, MCPS is often the target of college visits. “Recruiters can reach many students when they plan their visits at the high schools [in MCPS],” said Davis. “We are also ranked the ‘#1 Most diverse county in Maryland’ (according to Niche.com) and in talking with reps, universities are striving to have their campuses to be as diverse as possible.”

ON TRACK WITH 4 YEAR COLLEGE

TOP THREE COLLEGES



TOP FOUR MAJORS



Greek Life Offers More than Its Bad Reputation

by Dasun Panapitiya '24

University of Maryland’s recent lifting of the Greek Life suspension gives incoming students who will be attending College Park more opportunities to access the social life at that campus. However, the reason for the suspension might make graduating high school seniors question joining a fraternity/sorority in the first place at their universities next year. With court filings reporting dangerous activities at UMD such as forced heavy drinking, beatings with a paddle, and burning with cigarettes, does Greek life even seem worth going through the pledging process?

While the incidents involving hazing and drinking make the news, Greek life also offers the possibilities of the sense of community, the pur-

pose and values of traditions, and a tremendous range of activities and events.

One of the first major decisions college freshmen will make at many colleges and universities is whether to pledge to join a fraternity or sorority. At some universities, students rush in the fall, while at others schools the process begins with the start of the second semester. Although there is a common anxiety that students have to be in a frat or sorority to have a full social life, the actual numbers tell a different story. At UMD, for example, approximately 12 percent of students are in a fraternity or sorority. At universities more known for their Greek life, such as large state schools in the South, the figure is around 30 percent of students.

The biggest misconception about Greek life, carried on by media and pop culture, is that frats consist of party bros and sorority girls only concerned about looks and status. There is, however, a range of Greek life houses that work to satisfy many interests for incoming freshmen. A severely underrepresented aspect of Greek life is the range of academic support. They also have many philanthropic aspects that go unreported as well. From fundraisers to community service projects, greek life chapters have made strides in supporting important causes around college communities. With proper research, any incoming and interested freshmen will be able to find a fraternity or sorority that works for how they want to experience college.

The Impact of Cost on College Decisions

by Elsie Rozario '24

For students planning to attend a college or university after high school, the focus of senior year quickly shifts away from joining extracurricular activities, preparing for standardized tests, and exploring what different classes have to offer to pursuing leadership positions, narrowing down college lists, and perfecting college essays. Despite the large focus on education after high school, considerably less attention is given to paying for college until further into senior year, despite its importance in the college decision process.

Over the past two decades, college tuition has been increasing dramatically, with some private universities charging close to six-figures per year for full cost of attendance. Despite schools giving out merit-based and need-based aid, a significant number of students still rely heavily on taking loans to pay for their degree. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, students earning their bachelor’s degree have on average borrowed \$45,300 to cover college costs since 2016, with these students still owing 78 percent of their original loan on average. Even with private scholarships, out-of-state and private schools have become unaffordable

for many.

The problem of college affordability has only been worsened by the 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) delay. The form is used every year by the federal government to calculate the amount of grants and loans students will receive based on their household income and tax information. Many need-based private scholarships also use the FAFSA to determine financial need. However, with the FAFSA delay pushing student aid packages to April for most schools, students this year were pressured to make a college commitment without full understanding of the aid they would be receiving from either their schools or from outside organizations.

Sherwood students have also been affected by college costs. In a survey conducted by The Warrior newspaper, 44.2 percent of responding seniors cited price as the top factor that went into their college decision. Of the 37 percent of surveyed students who reported they were planning to attend a public, in-state college or university for four years, around 73 percent said price was a major factor. For many seniors, having to choose the college or university that they or their family can afford rather than perhaps their more expensive “dream school” is the first tough decision they make as young adults.

WHY DID YOU PICK YOUR SCHOOL

MOST SENIORS CHOSE THEIR SCHOOL BECAUSE OF THE...



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The Warrior serves as Sherwood's news source, receiving numerous state and national honors over the 46 years it has been in circulation.

With a staff of more than 25 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.

DOJ in Right in Apple Antitrust Suit

by Ziv Golan '26

On March 21, the Department of Justice sued Apple for violating antitrust laws and allegedly creating a "monopoly" on the smartphone industry. The lawsuit specifically points to how Apple only allows iPhone users to download apps made for iPhones. The lawsuit also alleges that Apple has banned the use of "super-apps," apps that have a myriad of functions beyond the normal iPhone technology.

According to the lawsuit, the company also limits the use of non-Apple smartwatches on iPhones and disrupts texts and communication with other smartphones. "For years, Apple responded to competitive threats by imposing a series of 'Whac-A-Mole' contractual rules and restrictions that have allowed Apple to extract higher prices from consumers, impose higher fees on developers and creators, and to throttle competitive alternatives from rival technologies," said Assistant Attorney General Jonathan Kanter of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division after the case was filed. Broadly, the lawsuit alleges that Apple has created a monopoly on the smartphone industry, strongly discouraging iPhone users from communicating with people who own other types of smartphones.

Any iPhone user knows the troubles faced when trying to communicate with people who have other types of smartphones. When Android users are added to a group chat with iPhone users then members are restricted from



Google Images

creating a name for the group chat or even adding more people. This is a clear attempt from Apple to try to "bully" other smartphone users, providing clear benefits to buying iPhones and making users of other types of smartphones feel left out. This is a clear violation of antitrust laws, harming consumers heavily in the process.

Apple claims that the lawsuit is wrong and threatens the "principles that set Apple products apart" in the competitive smartphone market. This is blatantly false, considering the fact that iPhones are not nearly as popular in other parts of the world as they are in the United States. The technology that iPhones have is really no different from the technology present in Androids and other smartphones. One of the strongest reasons that Apple has been able to dominate the U.S. market is its marketing approaches that

the DOJ has outlined as violating antitrust laws. Many Americans would be willing to purchase other types of smartphones if it weren't for how inconvenient it would be.

The lawsuit is similar in some ways to previous DOJ antitrust cases against companies like Facebook and Amazon. However, unlike those lawsuits (which aren't as strong -- the one against Facebook being struck down in 2020) this case points to Apple's market power as a technological hub where users can message people, listen to music, and more. Overall, the DOJ has crafted an incredibly strong lawsuit that has the potential to change the way Apple operates. This would benefit all consumers, even those who love iPhones because it would increase competition and innovation for products and apps and likely lower costs.

What Would Trump's Second Term Look Like?

by Evelyn San Miguel '26

As the chances of current President Joe Biden winning the presidency in November's general election are proving to be a toss-up, the terrifying reality of another Trump presidency looms over a sea of concerns about America's future. Biden's approval ratings, especially among young people of color—who bolstered his way to the White House in 2020—have decreased. Issues like the Israel-Hamas War, failures to deliver on the more progressive promises of his presidency, and his advanced age, are just some of the reasons why Biden is facing a close race in November.

So what has former President Donald Trump promised for his second term? For starters, a slew of rollbacks of the Biden Administration's policies, as well as a vow to reshape the federal government by empowering a far-right agenda, boding a dangerous future for American democracy as we know it.

Like his first run for president, Trump's agenda is championing harsh immigration restrictions, especially for the United States' southern border with Mexico. Trump has declared that if elected a second term, he would wage a "war" on cartels and human traffickers, using incidents

such as the murder of 22-year-old Georgian nursing student Laken Riley as fuel for his war against immigrants.

On abortion, Trump has reversed his previous plan of a national abortion ban at 15 weeks, now saying that the decision should be left up to the states. Since the monumental ruling on *Dobbs v. Jackson* in 2022, over twenty states have banned or heavily restricted abortion, and more are certainly to follow. Three of Trump's appointed justices, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett all argued and fought for Roe's overrule. With a second term, Trump would have further opportunity to appoint justices with a similar conservative slant.

Trump's foreign policy agenda for his second term remains relatively similar to his first, promising for an "America First" policy of departing from alliances like the Paris Climate Agreement, reducing reliance on trade with China by imposing restrictive tariffs, as well as a closer diplomatic relationship with Russia and threatening to abandon "delinquent" NATO allies. If Trump is elected, his second term will provide minimal support to Ukraine at a time in which the country relies on imports of weapons and aid from the U.S., instead further-

ing a positive diplomatic relationship with Russia and its autocratic President Vladimir Putin.

Many have forgotten what Trump's first presidency was like and, amidst a young electorate that feels increasingly "crisis-ed-out" and apathetic, have failed to jog their memories of the disaster of Trump's first term. However bad people feel the former President's first term was, he promises to make his second worse. Dictators and authoritarian leaders not only parallel Trump but have been praised by him, and their establishments of authoritarian surveillance states sound eerily similar to what Trump has been spearheading to his voters, arguing that he should have "total impunity" from his involvement in dozens of civil and criminal suits, including potential charges for his alleged incitement of an insurrection on January 6, 2021. Trump, in an interview with Fox News host Sean Hannity in 2023, said he would only be a dictator on "day one" of his presidency, commenting that he would increase fossil fuel production and crack down on immigration.

Already, Trump has made threats of a new American reality. Threats to democracy are not only real, but imminent, and especially so if Trump comes out on top in November's elective battle.

June 5, 2024

Why Politics Do Matter

by Thien Dinh '26

Throughout my life, I've been relatively sheltered. I do not blame my parents, but rather myself. When I was younger, I gave no thought to the world around me because all of it seemed insignificant. Politics, especially, appeared the least important thing during childhood and for most of my adolescence thus far. Everything I did back then focused on whether or not it impacted me immediately, and politics seemed irrelevant to what I cared about. Today though, I am sixteen, and I am trying to learn more about what's going on in the world and in the United States. Even though it's hard to keep up with current events, I now see that it affects all of our futures.

Since most of us aren't old enough to vote, it might seem inconsequential to learn about politics. Well, it's like walking into uncharted territory. The world around us is constantly changing as a result of the decisions made by elected leaders at the state and national level. If we don't know about anything, the learning curve is going to be way too steep when the time comes when we might want—or need—to know more about what's going on.

Politics are the activities associated with governing a country, which happens all around us. It might be tempting to tune it out, but the next five months leading up to the election in November to decide who is the next president has huge implications for our futures. This is because

each presidential election determines how we are governed for the next four years of our lives, essentially determining the way we live. For example, the strength of American democracy and the rule of law is upheld by the U.S. government. Based on the elected officials we choose, we might either have more or less freedoms, and equality. Government action on crime, climate change and healthcare might be more lax or strict, harming more Americans than others or vice versa.

Today, more people express a desire for change in their lives, but don't know where to get started. With an early grasp of politics, the world becomes less overwhelming and easier to change. Young people, such as teenagers, will be more confident in what they themselves believe rather than what they are told by their parents, peers, or from social media.

Yes, politics are inherently divisive. Everybody has different views and are fighting to keep them in place, meaning nothing might get done. However, because of democracy's nature, people must acknowledge different points of view, which can teach open-mindedness even if that other person's views strike you as wrong. As the United States becomes more divided, it becomes necessary for even teenagers like me to take that first important step to become informed about what's happening around us. Only then can we better join the conversation with our informed opinions.

Senior Assassin is a popular game that high school seniors across the country play every spring. On May 8, MCPS sent an email warning families that the water guns that students use to play Senior Assassin can resemble actual weapons and that the game can lead to other unlawful behavior. The Warrior takes sides on whether the game is harmless fun or potentially dangerous.

Criticism Unwarranted

by Ziv Golan '26

Senior Assassin involves teams competing in a tag-like competition where seniors are eliminated after getting sprayed with a water gun. The last person standing at the end wins the game for their team. The game reportedly has been criticized by some parents and others for being unsafe, leading to dangerous instances including reckless driving. However, there has not been a known case in Montgomery County of the game leading to a driving accident, arrest, or even a speeding ticket. Senior Assassin is played purely for fun and encourages bonding among members of the senior classes at countless schools.

Senior Assassin has been a staple at American high schools for years and has even seeped its way into multiple popular TV shows and movies. Ground rules such as not allowing the game to be played at school allow for a safe environment that is not disruptive. A crucial part of senior year is being able to connect with fellow students while still in high school and this game fosters that culture of belonging and inclusivity. Students are given an opportunity to get to know people they may have never talked to before. The game isn't forced onto anyone and every student who enters does so willingly. Senior Assassin is so deservedly popular because it's a great way for graduating seniors to have fun and friendly competition before high school ends.

Potential Dangers

by Katie Ng '25

Although Senior Assassin is fun for the seniors who play, MCPS is accurately pointing out its risks by noting that some players will resort to unsafe and potentially unlawful behavior while playing the game. Hence, while it is important for seniors to enjoy the last months of high school and celebrate their impending graduation, playing Senior Assassin may have adverse consequences, so it is important for seniors to consider safety and well-being.

For one, Senior Assassin can lead to reckless driving. Seniors may drive in unsafe manners to get away from or chase after opponents. Seniors need to remember law enforcement can give expensive tickets or more, so it is imperative they not lose sight of driving safely. Furthermore, since seniors play Senior Assassin outside of school, they may accidentally trespass others' property. It's not impossible to imagine what could go really wrong if an unsuspecting person sees one or more teens hiding in their yard with what looks like a gun in their hands. Lastly, while seniors acknowledge others will record them when they sign up to play the game, because of the game's surprising nature, they may feel embarrassed when they are recorded getting eliminated. Senior Assassin shouldn't be banned for seniors who want to play it, but it's also not necessarily harmless fun.



Milkshakes and Microplastics

by Justin Lakso '25

If you're a male in high school who wants to get in shape for the summer, chances are you regularly go to the gym. It's also likely that you've had a Fairlife Protein Shake. These chocolate milkshakes with incredibly high amounts of protein are usually a gym goer's favorite recovery drink, but it might be time to reconsider that choice.

In a recent article by HealthNews.com, a study by Consumer Reports (CR) found that Fairlife Protein Shakes contained astronomical amounts of phthalate microplastics, roughly 20,500 nanograms per serving. For reference, fast food chains such as Burger King have less microplastics in their food than Fairlife does, and who even knows what Burger King burgers are made of?! High consumption of these phthalate microplastics are linked to increased risk of diabetes, infertility, and most ironic of all, lowered testosterone. Even worse, the FDA isn't appropriately regulating these microplastics. Tunde Akinleye, a CR scientist who supervised the tests, said that many of these government thresholds for appropriate microplastic levels in foods do not reflect scientific knowledge and may not protect against the potential health effects. If you want to get in shape, avoid microplastics, and avoid Fairlife. It could save you in the future.

Why Students Skip School

by Jordan Costolo '25

Chronic absenteeism has been a problem in schools ever since the return from virtual learning. This can be seen not only in Sherwood but also around the rest of the country. Across the United States, there are students not showing up for days or even weeks at a time. In the 2022-23 school year, studies show that 26 percent of U.S. students were chronically absent, with this statistic barely improving now even four years after the Covid pandemic first began. Is this because they aren't interested in doing well in class, or because they lack respect for their teachers? Usually not. What many students are being affected by is a mass-scale mental health crisis.

Most of the students that are skipping school at frequent rates are doing so because of problems going on in either their social or home lives, making coming to school and sitting through class an extra challenge. One of the actions that could be done to help the number of absences decrease is to approach the issue without disciplinary action or judgment. Instead school staff should offer understanding, with guidance on how to help the students as they go through tough issues and challenges. This will help absent students not fall far behind, as well as assure them of a more welcoming environment when they return to school.

NFL Weak on Misogyny

by Declan Rooney '25

Harrison Butker, the starting kicker for the Kansas City Chiefs, delivered a 20 minute commencement speech at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, during which he took the opportunity to spread sexism among other deeply ignorant views. "I can tell you that my beautiful wife Isabelle would be the first to say that her life truly started when she began living her vocation as a wife and as a mother," said Butker during the speech. This was just one of the many ignorant things Butker said during his speech to the graduating seniors and their families. Butker also denounced abortion rights, LGBTQ pride, and COVID-19 lockdowns during his rambling.

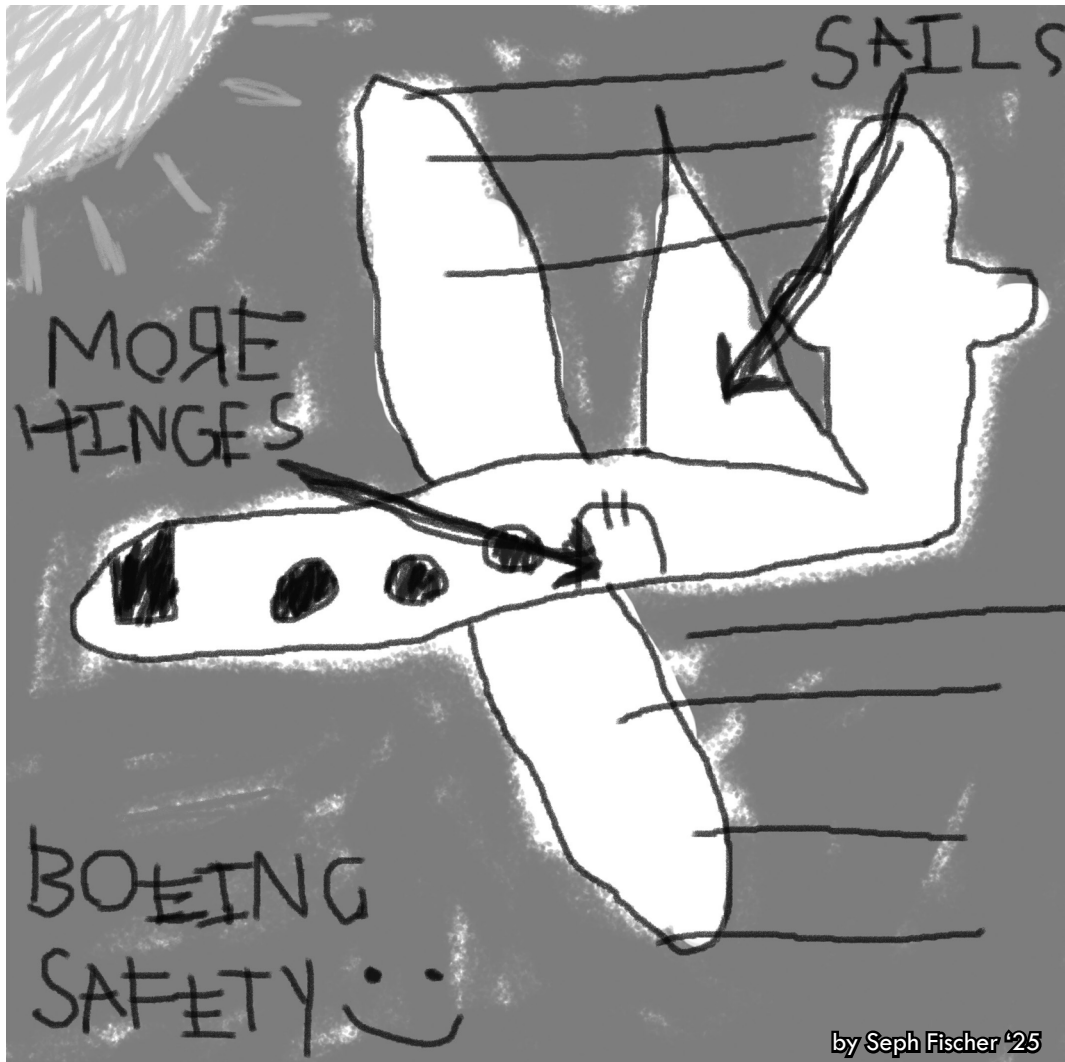
In response, the NFL and the Kansas City Chiefs both declined to comment other than the usual statement to be "steadfast in our commitment to inclusion." This kind of meek stance on insensitive statements by one of its most prominent players is woefully inadequate. Not only is the NFL potentially harming its brand, the league also is demonstrating hypocrisy. This freedom of expression was not afforded to Colin Kaepernick back in 2016, when the NFL essentially kicked him out of the league for kneeling during the national anthem. The NFL needs to take a stronger stand against their players spewing bigotry and misogyny.

June 5, 2024

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.

At Boeing, We Care About Your Safety!

Recently there have been rumors that our planes haven't been functioning properly. These accusations of our alleged malfunctions are completely false, or at least overstated.



by Seph Fischer '25

Fly assured that safety is our number one priority!

Here is a list of tiny, very minor fixes we will be making to our planes in the near future.

- Extra hinges on our emergency exit doors
- Reinforcement of the fuselage with tin instead of using plywood
- Phone "holders" (and it's not so people cannot video mishaps. Really.)
- Addition of sails in case of engine failure
- Complementary nose plugs for seats near restrooms
- Box cutters for cutting off stuck seat belts (extra sharp)
- Fewer crew members for cost savings passed along to our customers.
- Parachute (first class only)
- Prohibition of flight trackers (can't do anything about delays anyway)
- Paper bags instead of oxygen masks

**If you have any complaints, please do not contact us.
We already know.**

929 Long Bridge Drive, Arlington VA 22202

by Jordan Costolo '25

My Solution to the Debt Crisis

by Declan Rooney '25

At some point you may have Googled how much the United States is in debt and been swamped by a tsunami of depressing stories about how the U.S. government is 34.4 trillion dollars in debt which is going to cause a global economic collapse. Fear not concerned citizens, for I have cooked up three delicious ways for our nation to pay the national debt and save the world. Bon appetit!

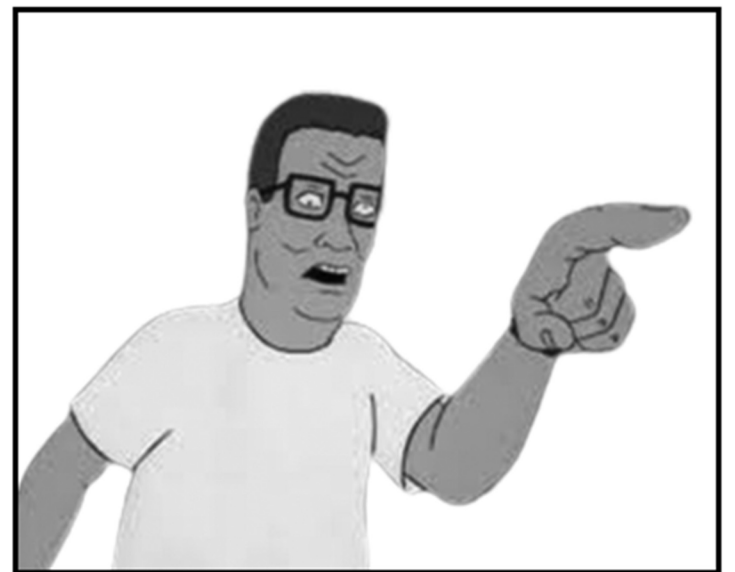
First off, this country is plagued by overspending on our military. What's that stuff even good for if we aren't invading places and stealing all of their resources anymore? That's why I propose to cut all, yes ALL military spending and reinvest it into actually important stuff, such as NASA. After all, if we aren't allowed to conquer and exploit other places on earth anymore, then I guess we'll just have to invade the cosmos. If anybody tries to stop us claiming, "The US signed treaties they wouldn't invade space," please point and laugh at them. Since when has a measly little piece of paper stopped us from doing anything? This is America, people! We do whatever we want. Additionally this will yield a bunch of cool space pictures. Now that's worthy of a few trillion in taxpayer funds alone!

Secondly, we need a Youtube channel. These influencers are making way too much money filming their silly little vlogs and such and it cannot be ignored. I think it's time to move this ancient country into the modern age and start posting on social media more. If you're having second thoughts, please try and tell me that you wouldn't want to watch "Day in the Life of a 110 Year Old Senator," or, "GRWM to Veto Universal Healthcare," or, "Whoops! That Missile Strike I Ordered Hit Civilians!!!" (NOT CLICKBAIT)." These videos would draw in millions, if not, billions to watch and we would make a steady profit. Then start thinking of all the overpriced merchandise we could sell to the fans and suddenly I need a new pair of underwear.

Lastly, the country is plagued by too many boring, repetitive, and uninteresting states. States like Delaware are just not worth keeping a part of this country. So we should get rid of them. "But how?" you might ask. Simple: sell these places to our fiercest adversaries. To us, Delaware might be a worthless, smelly, good for nothing sliver of beach, but to a nation like China this area is a perfect place for a military base or airstrip. It provides a perfect place to monitor U.S. troop movements, and to potentially attack us in the future. Some politicians might argue that this is "a national security issue" or that this "is borderline treason." But remember folks, this "geopolitics" thing is nonsense. We should be selling ourselves out to fascist dictators for profit. The country is a business and should be run like one, afterall, America is a rule of the shareholders, for the shareholders and by the shareholders.

Dear Sherwood Students...

WE WANT YOU



TO JOIN HUMOR

Humor section writers wanted! Come and serve for your school newspaper. Jordan Costolo '25 and Declan Rooney '25 are tired of writing and editing every single article in this god forbidden section. We know we are the two most hilarious people on the planet, but it's just so tiring being this funny, 6'4, and driving a Lamborghini. Sign up today!

One Sherwood!

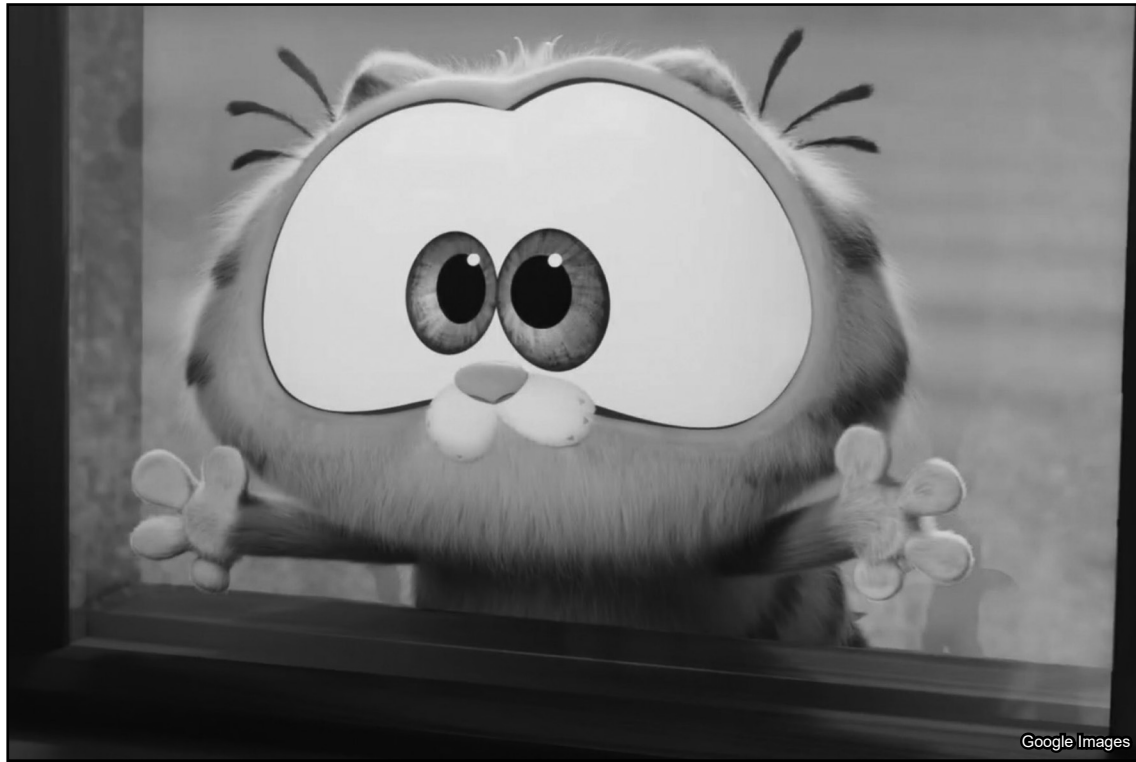
June 5, 2024

The Garfield Movie Loses Track of Its Main Character

by Jordan Costolo '25

Now, I'm sure most of you know this staple character of American pop culture, but for the uninitiated, here is a brief summary: Garfield started off as a comic strip published in 1978 about a lazy orange cat and his owner Jon. Since his original creation, however, Garfield has evolved into something much larger. As the strip evolved, there came new additions into the world of the orange feline. Characters such as Odie The Dog, Nermal The Cat, and Pooky (Garfield's teddy bear), as well as many new gags, such as Garfield's love for lasagna or distaste for Odie being on the table. As the years went on, Garfield went from just being a comic strip to having books, TV shows, lines and lines of merchandise, and of course, movies.

The Garfield Movie that came out this year is not the first time audiences have seen the fat cat on the silver screen. In 2004, *Garfield: The Movie* was released, garnering mostly negative reviews, with critics and audiences disliking the movie as a whole. Whether it be for the film's lazy writing or odd animation, the



movie was a box office flop. There was a second attempt to make a Garfield movie two years later in 2006, a sequel titled *Garfield: A Tail of Two Kitties*, which was also not much of a success. Now, 18 years later, a third Garfield movie has been released.

The Garfield Movie is a completely original story separate

from the other films from the early 2000s, focusing on a completely different side of Garfield then audiences have not seen before: Garfield's family life. The main plot of the film focuses on Garfield (voiced by Chris Pratt) and his relationship with his absentee father Vic (voiced by Samuel L Jackson) as they attempt to heist a

large quantity of milk. Aside from the obvious inclusion of a father figure, the new movie introduces many other new characters, including Otto a bull, Jinx a villainous cat, and many others. Because of this, as well as the main heist plot, *The Garfield Movie* feels less like a movie about Garfield and more like one about doing

a heist with cats, alongside lots of the jokes and plot points that feel disconnected from the film's namesake and main character.

One positive aspect of the movie is its animation, a great improvement from the more horrific real people-animation fusion of the 2004 and 2006 efforts. The colors and movements are all clean and well done. Another plus is the voice acting. Some people might be tired of Pratt's voice after the mass amount of voice acting he has done in the past year or two, but in his voice has enough range and depth to portray a more fully dimensional Garfield.

The Garfield Movie might have the style of a good animated Garfield movie, but virtually none of the substance, humor, or charm that would have given the iconic character the big-screen adaptation that Garfield deserves. Maybe the fourth time will be the charm.

Grade: C



Halo Season Two: Revised and Reloaded

by Justin Lakso '25

Season 1 of *Halo* left much to be desired. From the amount of plot holes to deviations of the source material, fans of the *Halo* series were very disappointed with Paramount for taking a beloved video game series and bastardizing it on television. The producers recognized they had missed their target audience by a long shot and went back to the drawing board for their second season. Thankfully, this revision resulted in an improvement for the series. The writing is more concise, the acting is more focused, and the characters are more developed. However, there are still problems that need to be addressed before a third season is made. Mainly, the story must follow the source material better, and the many plotlines should either be resolved or combined into a single narrative.

Of course, the story must continue on from the trainwreck of season 1. The first four episodes are the series' attempt to right the wrongs of the first season and streamline the plot for-

ward. Avoiding any major spoilers, a hard reset of the world was definitely the right choice in order to adhere more to the series. Since his former Spartan unit is now largely disbanded, Master Chief can return to his lone wolf persona where he is guided but not completely controlled by the UNSC. Many events in this season foreshadow a convergence to the actual Halo canon such as the discovery of the ancient civilization and the Arbiter's betrayal, which line up with the events in the 3rd and 4th games. Hopefully, these events will guide the series towards a more cohesive story that old and new fans alike will enjoy. Let Master Chief wear his helmet more, give him back Cortana, throw him on his own mission, and ratings will skyrocket.

Another issue with the series is the amount of subplots going on at once. In both seasons, there are various narratives with almost every major character (and some side characters as well). Halo has long been the story of a one man and one AI duo who attempt to take back the galaxy

from imminent threats, but the series' story includes: two parents rescuing their child from the government, a new and less corrupt spartan program, retirement conflicts, and a few more tangents that don't drive the story forward in any meaningful way. The way that the camera keeps cutting to different characters on their own arcs makes the story as a whole a bit hard to follow. Some of these plots are necessary for character development or foreshadowing, but it's almost hard to distinguish the side characters from the main characters since the screen time balance between them is nearly even. The series needs to converge into one coherent storyline in order to improve in both continuity and pacing.

Still, *Halo: Season 2* shows significant progress towards improving the series. The recovery from season 1 was tough, but hopefully this will be the bridge to an even better story that both original and new fans will enjoy.

Grade: B

Summer Blockbusters



Despicable Me 4
July 3

Gru, Lucy, Margo, Edith, and Agnes welcome a new member to the family, Gru Jr., who is intent on tormenting his dad. Gru faces a new nemesis in Maxime Le Mal and his girlfriend Valentina, and the family is forced to go on the run.



Twisters
July 19

An update to the 1996 film *Twister*, which centered on a pair of storm chasers who risk their lives in an attempt to test an experimental weather alert system.



Deadpool & Wolverine
July 26

Wolverine is recovering from his injuries when he crosses paths with the loud-mouth Deadpool. They team up to defeat a common enemy.



It Ends with Us
August 9

Adapted from the Colleen Hoover novel, Lily overcomes a traumatic childhood to embark on a new life. A chance meeting with a neurosurgeon sparks a connection but Lily soon sees sides of him that remind her of her parents' relationship.

Challengers: a Story about Love and Tennis

by George Awkard '24

Challengers, directed by Luca Guadagnino, features a love triangle through the lens of tennis. Zendaya plays Tashi Duncan, a fierce and spunky player turned coach for her husband Art Donaldson (Mike Faist), a more reserved and determined tennis player who's gone pro. Josh O'Connor plays Patrick Zweig, an outgoing and driven tennis player without fame or recognition. The movie follows the three through their lives, sharing a common denominator, tennis.

Throughout *Challengers*, Art and Patrick are best friends until they meet Tashi, who divides them. The relationship between the three is masterfully portrayed by the actors, especially Faist, who perfectly depicts the falling out between himself and Patrick, and the resentment he held towards Tashi for pushing him so hard.

The pacing in the movie is interesting as it cuts back and forth between the past and present, which is the best way to tell this story and the most creative because the storyline reflects how the final tennis match goes. In the past, Art and Patrick are two tennis-playing best friends who meet Tashi at a party and continuously compete for her affection, while trying to get better at tennis. In the present, Art and Tashi are married

and Tashi, after a career-ending injury, agrees to coach him. Patrick is now scraping by and hopes a challenger event can help him financially, and Art also enters the tournament to build his confidence.

Zendaya's acting is the best it's ever been. She's able to multitask and play two distinct roles in one. As a young tennis player when she injured her knee and couldn't play tennis anymore, it felt like watching real sports. She also executed the coach-wife hybrid role well through her aloof body language and by responding to Art's meaningful "I love you" with a cold "I know."

Although the love triangle dynamic is overdone in movies and shows, it is carefully and believably constructed in *Challengers*. Tashi has both guys wrapped around her finger and is the mastermind in manipulating both Art and Patrick and changing the way they feel about each other. The final scene is meaningfully powerful, but to tell anymore would spoil the film's ending. It's enough to say that *Challengers* wins--point, set, match.

Grade: A-

In Case You Missed It...

Cowboy Carter - Beyoncé

Beyoncé's most recent release, *Cowboy Carter* is indicative of a new era in the Beyoncé timeline. Representing her Texas roots, the new album has an overarching country sound while still combining elements of R&B, Soul, and Pop music, making *Carter* feel familiar with previous releases. Beyoncé's use of twangy guitar licks, pulsing bass lines, and banjo solos pay homage to classic Country music, along with her cover of "Jolene" by Dolly Parton, a tribute to one of the most popular female classic country artists.

-Audrey Farris '25



Only God Was Above Us - Vampire Weekend

Vampire Weekend has returned after a five-year hiatus. The album is a good listen, with a vibrant and sometimes experimental sound that meshes well with the indie rock that Vampire Weekend became known for beginning in the early 2000s. Generally, these tracks are more emotionally mature than the band's previous albums, with slower and softer songs. No matter if you're a long-time fan or are just hearing them for the first time, *Only God Was Above Us* is worth the listen.

-Jordan Costolo '25



Dark Matter - Pearl Jam

Legendary rock band Pearl Jam's most recent album, *Dark Matter* is a rollercoaster ride through the depths of rock 'n' roll emotions. Lead singer Eddie Vedder's vocals take listeners on a journey through gritty grunge and soulful ballads. Each track is a testament to the band's evolution, showcasing their ability to craft powerful melodies and thought-provoking lyrics. From head-banging to soul-searching, this album has it all. Whether you're a die-hard fan or just discovering Pearl Jam's magic, *Dark Matter* is guaranteed to leave you craving more.

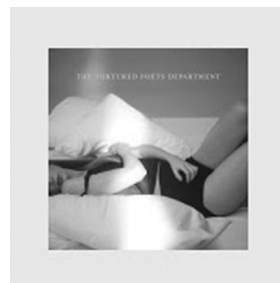
-Audrey Farris '25



The Tortured Poets Department - Taylor Swift

Still the biggest star in the world, Taylor Swift continues to shift into new styles of music. This time she explores slower synth-pop, with the same emotional lyricism that has been present in all of her albums. Along with the base album, Swift has also released a complementary album that adds many more bonus songs to enjoy. There is a similarity to many of the tracks on *The Tortured Poets Department*, but that could be a plus for the hardcore Swifties used to albums from Swift with their own unique identity.

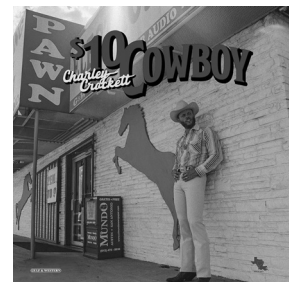
-Jordan Costolo '25



\$10 Cowboy - Charley Crockett

\$10 Cowboy is a refreshing blend of Americana, blues, and country twang that transports listeners to the dusty trails of the Wild West. Crockett's smooth vocals and authentic storytelling evoke images of rugged landscapes and timeless tales of love and loss. From foot-stomping anthems like "Welcome to Hard Times" to heartfelt ballads like "I Need Your Love," each track showcases Crockett's versatility as a musician and his deep connection to his roots.

-Audrey Farris '25



Radical Optimism - Dua Lipa

Beloved Pop superstar Dua Lipa has made an electrifying comeback with her most recent album, *Radical Optimism*. With infectious beats and empowering lyrics, Lipa invites listeners to embrace optimism in the face of adversity. From the groovy rhythms of "Cool" to the empowering anthem "We're Good," it's a feel-good party from start to finish. *Radical Optimism* is the perfect soundtrack for dancing through life's challenges with a smile on your face.

-Audrey Farris '25



You Won't Go Before You're Supposed To - Knocked Loose

Hardcore Punk band Knocked Loose's *You Won't Go Before You're Supposed To* is a relentless onslaught of brutal energy. With mind-crushing riffs and guttural vocals, the album grabs you by the throat from the first track and refuses to let go. While staying true to their signature sound, Knocked Loose also explores new territories, pushing the boundaries and tearing down the status quo of Hardcore music. If you're looking for an unapologetically intense album from start to finish, *You Won't Go Before You're Supposed To* is the perfect choice.

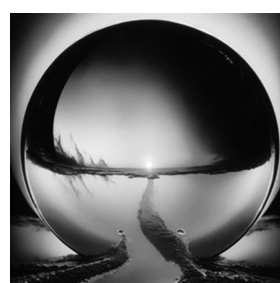
-Audrey Farris '25



Neon Pill - Cage the Elephant

After the many controversies surrounding the band, Cage The Elephant has finally returned with the album *Neon Pill*. Going forward with a similar sound to their previous albums, *Neon Pill* revives Cage The Elephant's classic and beloved indie rock sound with a newfound polish. Songs such as "Float Into The Sky" or "Out Loud" are examples of this sophistication, where the songs are slower and with more attention to the lyricism. One of the most anticipated albums of the year, *Neon Pill* delivers.

-Jordan Costolo '25



Get a Headstart on Advertising for The Warrior for the 2024-2025 school year!

The Warrior is published 4-5 times per school year and each issue of the 11x17 paper is printed on high-quality ground wood white paper stock. Warrior issues are distributed to 1,700 students, 150 school staff members, and 200 patrons who are members of the Olney/Shady Grove/Ashton/Brookeville communities.

Reserve a spot in The Warrior's November issue!

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June 5, 2024

Fear, Hatred, Love, Action: *The X-Men* Return Gloriously In Brand New Show

by Ben Schoenberg '24

Created by writer and producer Beau DeMayo, *X-Men '97* streaming on Disney+ crafts the perfect superhero show the likes of which Marvel hasn't done in years. Starting development in 2021, the show serves as a continuation of the iconic 90's cartoon which ended in 1997 and sees the return of several original voice actors such as Cal Dodd (Wolverine), Lenore Zann (Rogue), and Alison Sealy-Smith (Storm), amongst others. While using many of the original show's characters, designs, and themes, *X-Men '97* tells brand new stories with a mature tone instead of relying on nostalgia like many reboots or continuation of old properties do.

Told in three-episode arcs, the show adapts several iconic *X-Men* storylines such as "Inferno," "Fatal Attractions," "E is for Extinction," and "Operation: Zero Tolerance" with the *X-Men*



facing off against villains such as Mr. Sinister, Bastion, and humanity itself as they face some of their toughest battles yet. One of the greatest strengths of the show is the ability to tell bold and complex stories that can engage and surprise long time fans.. Furthermore, the show excels in portraying the struggle and desperation the mutants must face when constantly persecuted against by humanity and how they must not stoop to humanity's worst traits.

With such a large cast of characters to handle such as the *X-Men*, it could have been challenging to capture every character accurately and give them depth to make them stand out. But not only does *X-Men '97* manage to do so, it also handles several fan favorite characters with the gravitas and respect they deserve. In this show the leader of the *X-Men*, Cyclops (Ray Chase), finally gets to shine after twenty years of being pushed to the sideline in movies and once

again Magneto (Matthew Watson) stands out as one of the most morally complex characters.

Using a style of mixed cgi and cellshading, *X-Men '97*'s animation looks like a comic book come to life and sets a high standard for Marvel animation going forward. Due to censorship, the original show could only do so much with its action scenes, meaning that without limitations the new show's action is limitless and looks dynamic. DeMayo

knows these characters in and out as he is able to show off the powers of decades-old characters in ways that have never been done before.

In ten episodes Marvel was able to accomplish what they've been struggling to do since *Avengers Endgame* in regards to telling an excellent superhero story while establishing a larger world around it. Scattered throughout the show are several cameos from other heroes such as Captain America, Spiderman, and Daredevil, which fleshes out the world the show takes place in to give a true comic book feel. Moving forward, hopefully Marvel learns a couple lessons from the show's success and keeps up the quality for the next two seasons.

Grade: A+

What We're...

Watching

Private Practice is a spin-off of *Grey's Anatomy* where neonatal surgeon Addison Montgomery moves from Seattle to Los Angeles to work at a health clinic run by her divorced friends. It's a fresh and fun take on *Grey's* with its emphasis on a setting in a high-paced hospital. The patients are a lot more dynamic and fleshed out than *Grey's* and have complex stories that viewers lean into more. *Private Practice* is a captivating and fascinating take on medical drama.

~George Awkard '25

Reading

Alice Winn's *In Memoriam* is a stunning WWI romance between two boarding school friends turned soldiers. Set in flourishing boarding school campuses, blood-flooded battlefields, and rural England, this novel brims with beauty and melancholy. Winn's main characters Sidney Ellwood and Henry Gaunt are taken across the lines of the war, falling in and out of love as the war takes away pieces of their humanity. If you're looking for a novel that's brimming with longing, passion, sorrow, and utter beauty, then look no further than this masterpiece of modern fiction.

~ Evelyn San Miguel '26

Listening To

Dystopia's album "*The Aftermath*" has always been a classic in the hardcore scene. Released in 1999, the hour-long sludge metal and crust punk mixture is filled with nihilism and a violent, pained sound. Starting ominous and finishing aggressively upset, "*The Aftermath*" delves into many political and personal issues, with one of the most powerful songs being "Father's Gun,"

~Cliff Vacin '25

Playing

Content Warning is a game where a team of four players play as aspiring content creators who travel into a series of ominous environments to film videos for "SpookTube." The aesthetic and art style is similar to *Lethal Company*, with cartoonish player models and immersive proximity chat, which leads to some absolutely ridiculous moments when paired with others. The absence of a level system or any progression ensures anybody can join without feeling undervalued. In short, *Content Warning* is a hilarious high-energy low-stakes experience perfect for a late night with friends.

~Justin Lakso '25

June 5, 2024

2024 All-Senior Team

The 2024 All-Senior Team was chosen based on multiple factors including leadership, individual accolades, team success, and contribution to Sherwood Athletics during high school.

-Compiled by Noah Bair, Thomas Fenner, and Hannah Mushahwar



Top Row (from left): Liam Irving, Garrett Smith, Alex Lacey, Kobi Gyan, Johnny Markos, Brody Monroe, and Vasili Siarkas

Middle Row: Maddie Simpkins, Taylor Corrothers, Ellie Russell, Emma Walsh, Andy Ruiz Orellana, Micah Webb, Mac Crismond, and Brian Wilbur

Bottom Row: Adrianna Caponiti, Neha Sufi, Savannah Weisman, Olivia Hardy, Katie Roecklein, Marley Hillman, Emma Mascari, and Alexa Lyons

Jeb Buffington (Football, Boys Lacrosse)

Excelling in both lacrosse and football, Buffington had a successful career with legacies in both sports. Playing offensive and defensive line on the varsity football team for two years as well as being the face-off specialist for lacrosse, Buffington served as an anchor for both sports. He also made First Team All-County for both teams his senior year, and holds the school record for most faceoffs won in a game, season, and career.

Taylor Corrothers (Girls Basketball, Girls Soccer)

Corrothers has been a significant part of both the basketball and soccer programs as a guard, forward, and goalie. She was named a captain of the varsity basketball team her senior year, and performed as one of the leading scorers for the division championship Warriors. Corrothers was named First Team All-Division this year and was named to the second team last year for basketball.

Kobi Gyan (Boys Basketball, Track & Field)

On the varsity basketball team, Gyan started every game at power forward his senior season and was a member of the regional championship team his junior season. Gyan took up track and field in his senior year, competing in the high jump and incredibly earning the second highest jump in school history. Gyan will continue his basketball career at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania.

Marley Hillman (Girls Soccer)

Hillman played girls varsity for soccer for all four years of high school, a testament to her caliber as a player. During her career playing both center and wing back, she roamed the defensive line. In her sophomore season, Hillman was a contributor to the team's run to the state semifinals in 2022. Hillman captained the team during her junior and senior years, earning a Maryland All-State nomination and All-Met Nomination.

Adrianna Caponiti (Swimming)

Caponiti was on the varsity swim and dive team for all four years of her career. Captaining the team during both her junior and senior year, she is a three time recipient of the Washington Post All-Met Honorable Mention and won the regional champion title for 100 fly and placed 6th at states in 500 free. She will continue her swimming career at Loyola University in Baltimore, where she will compete in Division I swimming.

Mac Crismond (Boys Basketball, Baseball)

As a standout athlete, Crismond played for the varsity basketball and baseball teams during his time at Sherwood. Both as an infielder and pitcher, Crismond earned All-State honors and played a huge role in the Warriors' last two championship seasons as the starting pitcher in both championship games. Crismond is committed to play baseball at the University of Charleston (WV).

Olivia Hardy (Girls and Coed Volleyball)

Playing as an outside hitter and defensive specialist, Hardy played for the girls varsity volleyball team in the fall for two years and varsity coed volleyball in the spring for three years. Hardy was a pivotal player in winning Regionals in 2023 for the coed team. Additionally, due to her long-time dedication and year round commitment, she was named captain of coed volleyball and was an All Star Player her senior season.

Liam Irving (Baseball)

As an outfielder on the varsity baseball team, Irving played an integral part in the Warriors' state championship runs in 2022 and 2023. His defensive skills saved the team many runs by gunning down runners, even earning the team Gold Glove honor and Rookie of the Year honor in his first year playing varsity baseball. Irving will continue his playing career at Allegheny College in Pennsylvania, competing at the Division III level.

Alex Lacey

(Football, Boys Lacrosse)

Lacey was a three-year starter on both the football and lacrosse teams, earning many honors and accolades in each sport. He was named All-County and All-Region for both sports during his junior and senior seasons, and was a part of the Warriors' run to the state semifinals in lacrosse in 2023. Lacey will continue his successful lacrosse playing career at Hampton University in Virginia, playing at the Division I level.

Johnny Markos

(Boys Soccer, Boys Basketball, Coed Volleyball)

Markos played varsity soccer for three years, while also being a member of volleyball for two years. He also added varsity basketball to his impressive portfolio as a senior. As a multi-sport athlete, Markos proved his value as a teammate to a number of fellow athletes. Markos was a captain on varsity soccer as a senior, and served as a key factor in winning the division championship in back to back.

Brody Monroe

(Boys Lacrosse)

A long-stick midfielder as well as defender, Monroe has been a key piece of the lacrosse team's success all four years during his time on varsity. His importance to the team culminated with him being named a captain as a senior. During his time, boys lacrosse was a four-time regional champion, three-time state semifinalist, and the 2023 state runner-up. Monroe was named Second Team All-Division the past three years and is off to continue his lacrosse career at Frostburg State University.

Katie Roecklein

(Girls Soccer)

Roecklein has been one of the most accomplished attacking players at Sherwood during her three years of varsity soccer. As a captain her junior and senior year, she took home team MVP both years and capped her career off by breaking the school scoring record for girls soccer. Roecklein was a member of the 2021 regional championship team her sophomore year, as well as the divisional championship team in 2023 during her senior season.

Vasili Siarkas

(Football, Wrestling, Boys Lacrosse)

Siarkas played varsity football, wrestling, and lacrosse for three years at Sherwood, graduating as one of the most involved athletes in the school. Playing linebacker, Siarkas won the 'unsung hero award' for the Warrior football team in 2023. As for wrestling, he was named captain all three years and collected more than 100 wins in his career, finishing third in counties in 2023-24. Siarkas played varsity lacrosse for three years, appearing in multiple regional championships and a state championship.

Garrett Smith

(Baseball)

Smith has been an outstanding player to the baseball team, playing on varsity for two years and named a captain his senior year. He played first base and was a starting pitcher for the Warriors' state championship game in 2023 and their county championship win in 2023. Despite not having the state championship run that the team wanted in 2024, Smith played a large part in their regular season success. Smith will continue his baseball career at Frederick Community College in the fall.

Emma Walsh

(Girls Lacrosse)

Walsh has been a midfielder for the girls varsity lacrosse team all four years of high school. As a captain her last two years, Walsh led the team to four straight regional championships and was named First Team All-County three years in a row. Walsh is committed to Lindenwood University in Missouri where she will continue her lacrosse career at the Division 1 level. Walsh has cemented herself as one of the most exceptional lacrosse midfielders in school history.

Savannah Weisman

(Girls Volleyball, Girls Basketball, Lacrosse)

Weisman participated in multiple varsity sports throughout her time at Sherwood, playing basketball for two years as well as volleyball and lacrosse for four. A versatile athlete, she excelled in lacrosse. As a goalie and captain her junior and senior years, she aided the team to win the regional championships for lacrosse all four years. Additionally, she received the Second Team Honorable Mention for lacrosse her senior year. Weisman will continue to play lacrosse at Lee University this fall.

Alexa Lyons

(Field Hockey, Girls Basketball, Girls Lacrosse)

Playing three sports over her career at Sherwood, Lyons has been a member of many winning teams over the years. She has been a varsity lacrosse player all four years, as well as a member of the golf and basketball teams the last two years. She was named captain in all three sports in 2024 and has been on both the First and Second All-County teams. Lyons was also a part of four straight regional championship teams in lacrosse.

Emma Mascari

(Girls Soccer, Track & Field)

As a dual-sport athlete, Mascari has been a key part of both the varsity soccer and track and field rosters. She played two years as an outside back for soccer and competed for three years in outdoor track, running the 400m, 200m, and 100m. Mascari was named captain of the outdoor track team her senior year and finished top 10 in the region for the 400m the past two years.

Andy Ruiz Orellana

(Boys Soccer, Coed Volleyball)

Orellana played varsity soccer and co-ed volleyball during his time as a Warrior, but undoubtedly had the biggest impact on the soccer team. Despite only joining the program as a junior, he immediately made the defensive line stronger and tighter as a whole. In 2023, he was a divisional champion with the team and was named an All-State Honorable Mention. He will continue his playing career at Hood College in Frederick.

Ellie Russell

(Girls and Coed Volleyball)

Joining co-ed volleyball as a freshman and girls volleyball as a sophomore, Russell made an immediate impact on both teams and was one of the program's most important players during her time at Sherwood. She helped lead the girls volleyball team to a regional championship during her sophomore and junior seasons as an outside hitter and defensive specialist and was a captain for both girls and coed volleyball her senior year.

Maddie Simpkins

(Swim & Dive)

Simpkins was on the varsity swim and dive team for all four years of her high school career. Captaining the team during her 2023-2024 season, Simpkins finished 18th at Metros for dive. Simpkins is not only recognized for her individual success, but is also a pivotal part of the success and coaching of the dive team by being a leader when Coach Burnsky is with the swimmers. Her support, advice, and dedication makes her a standout athlete where her contributions have aided the team as a whole.

Neha Sufi

(Softball)

Sufi has been a dual athlete in varsity golf for two years and softball for three, captaining both teams her senior year. She was the lone senior for the softball team this season, and her leadership and dedication was a pivotal part of the team winning the 2024 3A state championship. Playing third base, she contributed to winning the state championship in 2022 as well as the team winning regionals in 2023.

Micah Webb

(Boys Basketball)

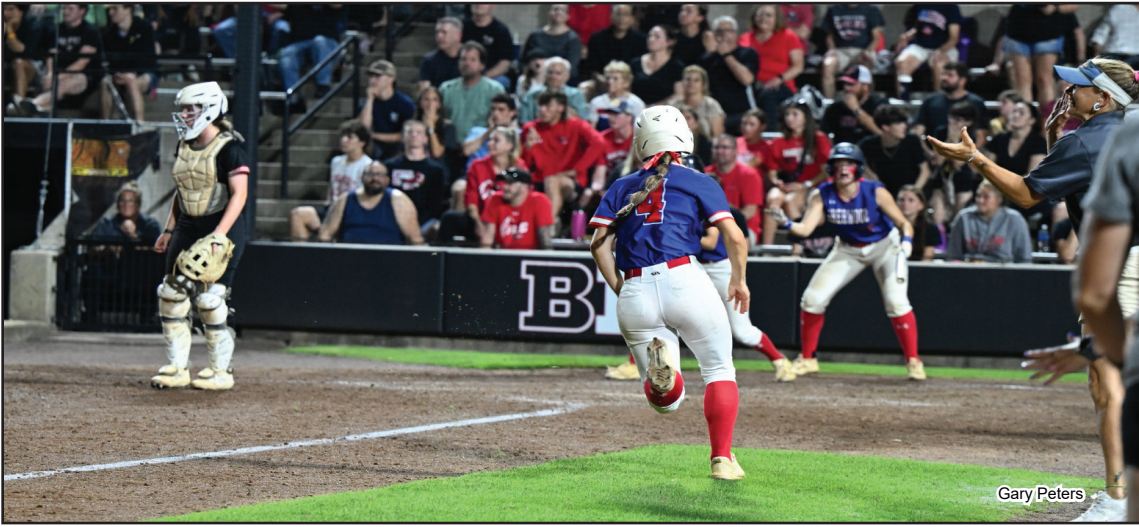
Webb has been a member of the varsity basketball team for the past two years, playing big minutes as a junior and starting every game his senior season at point guard. Webb was an important part of the Warriors' regional championship and state semifinal appearances last season. As a consistent leading scorer for the Warriors, Webb also participated in the Montgomery County All Star game, competing with the county's most accomplished players from this season as a Sherwood Warrior.

Brian Wilbur

(Swimming)

A member of the swim and dive team each of his four years, Wilbur cemented himself as one of the most accomplished swimmers in school history, holding two records in the 100m breaststroke. Wilbur was a junior and senior captain the past two years, and won regionals in 2023 and 2024, before winning states in 2024 as a senior. He was also named an All-American and All-Met swimmer in 2024. Wilbur will continue his swimming career at the University of Delaware.

June 5, 2024



Junior Kiera Schultz prepares to cross home plate to clinch another state title for the softball team.

Softball Defeats Linganore To Claim State Title

by Justin Lasko '25

The Sherwood Warriors' 2024 softball season was surely one to remember, even for one of the most storied sports programs in the state of Maryland. The girls dominated during the regular season with a 16-1 record going into the playoffs. Among the wins were six shutout games and 12 double-digit scores, accompanied by a solid pitching staff and an unstoppable starting lineup. To end this great season, varsity softball collected their eighth state title in school history in a thrilling victory against Linganore.

The Warriors trailed 4-2 going into the sixth inning, but junior Jenna Scott hit a fly ball to right center field for a 2 RBI double that allowed juniors Kiera Schultz and Emily Sefcik to

score, tying the game.

The game went into extra innings, and Linganore immediately threatened to end the game with a run scored in the top of the eighth. Sherwood responded in the bottom of the inning by getting runners in scoring position as sophomore Reagan Corb stepped up to the plate. Corb hit a deep fly ball which forced the fielders back to the outfield wall. By the time Linganore had picked up the ball, it was already too late. Schultz scored the winning run to bring Sherwood softball its first state title at the 3A designation.

"We made a few mental errors here and there, but ultimately we came through and finished what we came here to do," said Coach Ashley Barber-Strunk in her post-game comments. In her

eleven years as head coach, Barber-Strunk has guided the team to six state championships.

The playoff run was nearly as impressive as the title game. Sherwood started off strong with a 10-1 victory against Atholton, then clutched a close victory against Reservoir, barely beating the Gators by a final score of 4-3. In the quarterfinals, there was no competition from Wootton as Sherwood cruised in a 17-0 shutout. This high-scoring continued into the semifinals, where Chesapeake fell to Sherwood by a score of 7-2.

"We have a great group of girls, and I'm confident that we'll win no matter who comes to the program," said Neha Sufi, who was the lone senior on the team this season.

Girls Lacrosse Knocked Out of Playoffs by Dulaney

by Dylan Sondike '24

Just one year after a heartbreaking loss to Dulaney to end their season, the Warriors faced Dulaney once again this year in the 3A state quarterfinals. The Warriors went down early after the first quarter 5-2. They came out scoring in the second quarter to significantly narrow the margin at halftime. A strong second half from Dulaney forced the Warriors to play catch up too little too late and ended up losing 13-12 to conclude their season.

"Despite losing, we did not hang our heads once throughout the entire game," said senior captain Emma Walsh. "We fought our hearts out the entire game, and while the result may not have been what we were fighting for, we played with a great intensity."

Coach Kelly Hughes explained that Dulaney was an extremely well-rounded team that received the 8th seed because of a tough schedule during the regular season and some close losses to talented teams. As a result, the Warriors didn't get the usual benefit of being a No. 1 seed of playing a lesser team in the quarters.

Girls lacrosse had an undefeated record before their last game. The Warriors dominated in most of their games with 12 of their 15 wins being decided by 8 or more goals. The Warriors scored 15+ goals in 12 games and held teams to under 5 goals in 10 games, showing how well-rounded they were this season.

The Warrior's strong regular

No State Title, Still Great Season

by Hannah Mushahwar '24

Sherwood's baseball team became the first high school in Maryland state history to win three straight baseball titles at the 4A classification following their 2023 season. Then moving into the 2024 season, the team had high hopes to earn a fourth in a row and a first at 3A level.

The team had an incredible regular season of 16-2, only falling short to Walter Johnson and Magruder. The Warriors went without senior pitcher Mac Crismond during the regular season due to an injury, but junior Jason Seils and senior captain Garrett Smith delivered great performances on the mound until Crismond's return for the playoffs.

As the team transitioned into playoffs, they had a successful start beating Poolesville 7-2 for the Division Title. Moving into the County Championship, the team delivered another standout performance in a dominating 11-2 win against Whitman.

"Winning the county championship was a really big one," says junior Jacob Bagania. "That was a trophy that most of us were lacking in our player resumes and we finally got it done."

However, the scores got closer as competition increased for regionals. The team competed against Long Reach on May 11 for Regional Semi-Finals and squeaked through with a 1-0 victory. Following that, the boys

were matched against Riverhill on May 16 for their Regional Final game in their toughest competition yet. The score remained 0-0 heading into extra innings. At the bottom of the eighth inning, Riverhill managed to bring two runners home. Nevertheless, Sherwood's hopes remained high and put up a fight. Going into the top of the eighth, Sherwood advanced with a runner on third with two outs. Unfortunately, Riverhill secured the third out and the season came to a close.

Though Sherwood baseball fell short in securing their fourth state title, their accomplishments this season are nonetheless praiseworthy. "We essentially had to replace 8 of 9 starters from the previous year," Coach Sean Davis remarked. "For them to go 18-3 and win the county championship was very impressive."

Captains Mac Crismond will compete at the University of Charleston in West Virginia, Liam Irving will play at Allegheny College in Pennsylvania, and Garrett Smith will join the competition at Frederick Community College. Spirits remain high for the prospects of the next season. Bagania, who has scored a majority of runs for the team as leadoff hitter, reiterates that a fourth state title remains the goal. "We expect to win and the rest of the state expects us to win," said Bagania. "We will not only meet those expectations, but exceed those expectations."



Senior Sam Carbone readies to shoot in regional final victory vs. Blake.

Boys Lacrosse Comes Up Short in State Quarterfinals

by Declan Rooney '25

Coming off of the best season in Sherwood lacrosse history in 2023, the expectations for this year's team were high. Last year the Warriors made it to the State Championship game, finishing the year 16-3. This year Sherwood returned a stacked roster, featuring players such as senior face-off specialist Jeb Buffington, senior defenseman Tyler Bishop, junior midfielder Andrew Cavanaugh, and junior attackman Andrew Bergesen, all who received all county awards last year.

Throughout the season the Warriors continued their domination from last year, going undefeated in the regular season on route to

a County Championship in which they defeat Einstein 19-3. During the season the Warriors outscored opponents 159-58 on aggregate. They continued this success into the regional playoffs, defeating Reservoir and Blake to claim the regional championship.

Sherwood's season came to an end earlier than the team would have hoped in a 10-8 loss at home in the state quarterfinals to Marriotts Ridge, which is located in Howard's County. Marriotts Ridge then lost to Severna Park in the semifinals.

Despite a quarterfinals loss, the Warriors should hold their heads up high as they enter the 2024-2025 season.



Junior Avery Graham brings the ball up the field against Reservoir.

season earned the team a spot in the County Championship where they defeated Whitman 10-9 to punctuate their continued dominance against Montgomery County teams. They then cruised past Blake winning 20-2 in regional semifinals and Reservoir in regional finals 18-7 to earn the number 1 seed in 3A.

"I'm really proud of the camaraderie across the whole team," said Hughes. "We have a large underclassmen group, and our upperclassmen embraced them immediately. They were all really close and supportive. We have a really strong group of lacrosse players, and sometimes when you have great players on

your team, it can be dividing, but they truly believed in being a team."

Teams from the Baltimore and Anne Arundel areas have tremendous talent across the board with teams full of future Division 1 players, noted Hughes. For that reason, she said that exposing Sherwood and other MCPS teams to more out-of-county opponents during the season would be beneficial and should occur more.

The Warriors season may have not ended the way they truly hoped, but an undefeated regular season, a county championship, and a regional title should all be acknowledged as they reflect on this past year.