

## New Parking System Is Largely a Success

by Alex Braun '23

Over the course of the two months since the introduction of the new Sherwood parking system, students have become used to the new requirements for where to park and how to leave the lots after school ends. The overall impression is that the new dismissal system is a significant improvement from last year and that the school administration and security made the correct decision to improve the organization and safety of the parking lots.

At the start of the year when the new system for parking was introduced, many students were dissatisfied and unhappy with it. This was especially the case for the numerous seniors who already were driving to and from school last school year. "My initial impression was that the new system would not work and that

I would have trouble getting out early," said senior John Healy. He had parked in the same relative area of the parking lot for most of last year, and the idea that the new system might forcibly change that was off-putting.

Annoyance at the new system rose after it was revealed that the spots were assigned in numerical order, on a first come first serve basis, meaning that the first person to turn in their application got spot 1, and the 126th got spot 126. "Assigning them in order, with the lowest spots being the 'worst' spots to get, discouraged people from actually buying their parking pass," expressed senior Matteo Rosenberg who ended up getting spot number 45, a spot half way through the row closest to the tennis courts.

While the assigning of spots was disappointing to some students, the dismissal system is

viewed as much better than it was in previous years. Last year, it was not uncommon for students in cars to end up stuck behind the buses that all left at about 2:37, and for most students driving home they were still waiting in lines in the parking lot at that time, meaning they had to wait for every bus to leave before student cars could continue to leave.

While there is across the board satisfaction from students about the new dismissal system, many students still remain unsatisfied with the assigned spot system. Both Healy and Rosenberg questioned how necessary the new assigned parking spots system is when the dismissal system alone works so well. "Now the only problem is that my parking spot is far. I wish we could park wherever we wanted so I could park closer to the school," said Healy.



Payton Seppala '23

The new two-lane system streamlines student departures after school.

## MCPS To Stay at 7:45 a.m. as Other Districts Start Later

by Katie Gough '23

Starting this school year, Anne Arundel County Public Schools is mandating that its high schools start at 8:30 a.m., 30 minutes later than the national average. The decision was made as part of an effort to improve students' academic performance by encouraging them to get an optimal amount of sleep, which, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is eight to ten hours a night. Anne Arundel is joining several areas across the nation that have taken up similar initiatives, including California, which passed a state law in 2019 mandating that all their public high schools start at 8:30 beginning with the 2022-23 school year.

Despite later start times increasing in prevalence, the decision by Anne Arundel County Public Schools was met with a negative response from county executive Stuart Pittman, who argued that delaying the opening of high schools would add to an already problematic bus driver shortage. This fear and others are shared by Montgomery County, which, according to Christopher Cram, Director of Communications for MCPS, is not currently in a position to consider delaying start times.

"Primarily for transportation, [we] have to have these staggered start times because the same buses serve all the levels of school," Cram explained. "There is a problem nationally with not just school transportation but with all transportation where services have to be curtailed because there aren't enough people driving right now."

Delaying school start times would also



Payton Seppala '23

Students and buses arrive at Sherwood as early as 7:00 a.m. when it is still dark outside.

impact after school activities like sports, Cram said. "So for example if you're starting high school at 8:30, which is 45 minutes later than us, that means school is done at 3:15; by the time you get to practice and get on the field ... you could be not playing until, what, 5 o'clock?"

Indeed, school ending later would raise real concerns. Students who participate in after school activities would get home significantly later and possibly have to drive home in the dark during winter months. Additionally, it would limit students' time in the afternoon, possibly preventing them from working after school jobs that their families may rely on for income.

While these are significant issues to consider, the benefit of delaying school start times is clear: more sleep for students. Most high schoolers have after school commitments like sports or work and often don't get home until several hours after the school day ends. Coupled with academic responsibilities like homework and studying, research suggests that only about a quarter of American high schoolers get enough sleep. Many scientists argue that

adolescents are biologically wired to fall asleep and wake up later than adults. Forcing teens to wake up earlier than an optimal time could upset their biological rhythms, leading to a decrease in mental health, attention span, energy, and immune system response.

In 2015, MCPS delayed its high school start time from 7:25 a.m. to 7:45. While many argued the change was insignificant, Cram explained that 20 minutes was the compromise that could be reached considering all factors involved. According to Cram, "there's no current effort to study or change the times, [but] it doesn't mean that it won't ever be taken up again. I think there would have to be a significant change in one of the elements that drives start times: student need, transportation availability, and scheduling of after school and other extracurricular activities."

Developments in how Anne Arundel staff and students adjust to their new schedule will offer some insight into the potential benefits of delaying high school start times—benefits MCPS may look to consider in the future.

## Despite Rigor, APs and Honors Have Equal GPA Weight

by Lizzy Hermosilla '23

Sherwood offers three upper level courses—honors, Advanced Level (AL), and AP—that MCPS awards a single point increase contributing toward a student's Weighted Grade Point Average (WGPA). Students in AP, honors, or AL courses that earned an A for a semester grade would be numerically denoted a 5 instead of the normal 4 for an unweighted course. The similar weighting practices between these courses raise questions of fairness when courses with varying levels of difficulty and rigor have the same grade weight. The same grade weight for APs and honors classes also creates uncertainty about how students' course load and grades in those classes positively or negatively affect their college applications.

At the heart of the issue is whether it is fairly representative for a student who earns an A in an honors-level class to get a higher weighted grade than a student who took the AP option and received a B. AP classes tend to be more difficult than honors. Social studies teacher Michael King teaches AP NSL and Honors U.S. History, and he states that the pacing and expectations are different between the two levels. "AP classes have to follow the College Board curriculum. That includes certain selected responses and writing expectations," explained King. "We all have to fit a year-

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# news brief

current events

## MCPS Reconsiders Problematic School Names

by Joon Baek '23

Following petitions by community members and student activists, MCPS approved a resolution in early October to determine whether to rename six schools named after Revolutionary Era individuals who owned slaves. The school names under consideration are the high schools Richard Montgomery, Thomas S. Wootton, Zadok Magruder, and Montgomery Blair, and the middle schools, Francis Scott Key, and John Poole.

Those who wish for the changing of the schools' names point towards the importance of banishing what they see as the county's racist past, while those who oppose the change argue that slavery was a norm during the Revolutionary Period as well as that the schools were named in honor of the founders of Montgomery County. In announcing its plan to update the criteria by which names for MCPS schools and facilities are evaluated, MCPS stated that considerations should take into account that individual's ideals and core values. These values should be in line with those expressed in Board policy, some of which being nondiscrimination, equity, cultural proficiency, and diversity.

## Meet the Candidates of the Maryland Midterms

by Lauren Frank, Sydney Wisner, Alexis Booker '23

The 2022 midterms are approaching on November 8 and some seniors are entering the first election cycle when they can vote. The Maryland races that are drawing the most attention are the gubernatorial election, where Governor Larry Hogan has reached his term limit, the House races in congressional districts, and one Senate seat.

The candidates for governor are Democrat Wes Moore and Republican Dan Cox. Climate change is a significant part of Moore's agenda, and he wants to create job opportunities for people whose work will contribute to a greener and more eco-friendly environment. Additionally, Moore wants to tackle the racial wealth gap and protect abortion rights. On the other hand, Cox supports the overturning of Roe v. Wade. Cox also wants to ban undocumented immigrants from entering Maryland and combat what he sees as Critical Race Theory and gender indoctrination in schools.

For the House, the District 8 seat is likely what Sherwood students are voting for based on their residence. Democratic incumbent Jamie Raskin is facing a rematch against Republican Gregory Coll. Raskin has been the District 8 representative for six years and serves on numerous committees, most notably the January 6 committee.

The Senate race has incumbent Democrat Chris Van Hollen against Republican Chris Chaffee. Van Hollen has worked at the national and state levels to enact gun control legislation, while Chaffee is a defender of the second amendment. Van Hollen has also advocated for legislation that would combat climate change like reducing energy usage in homes. Chaffee prefers to spend federal dollars elsewhere like on the opioid crisis and for American energy independence.

## Sub Shortage Strains Teachers

by Katie Gough '23

Teachers at Sherwood continue to struggle to find subs to cover their classes when they enter their absences in the MCPS substitute system. According to the "Daily Bulletin" sent out to Sherwood teachers by e-mail every morning, anywhere from 4-10 teachers regularly are listed as having 'No Sub' each day. As a result, other teachers frequently are asked to cover classes, often with same-day notice.

Science teacher Glenn Miller, who is on the Board of Directors for the MCPS teachers' union, explains that the problem comes from either a lack of subs or subs choosing not to pick up the job. "Either way, each class [for the absent teacher] needs an educator in the classroom," said Miller.

MCPS teachers have two non-instructional periods, during which they "can be assigned what is called an IRA, or Instructionally Related Activity, such as covering class, or attending a meeting," Miller said. Typically though, he uses these periods like many teachers do, for instructional planning and preparation.

Teachers who frequently have to cover classes during these periods lose valuable time to coordinate and plan lessons for their own classes. Furthermore, questions have been raised over whether teachers are compensated fairly for covering others' classes, for which teachers this year are paid about \$15 before taxes, a rate significantly lower than their normal pay, Miller explained. He believes this compensation is unfair, saying, "teachers are highly educated professionals and the system is not valuing their educators' time."

## Hispanic Heritage Month



Students gather at an interactive event held by the Latin Dance Team in October.

## Counseling Takes Initiative with Mental Health

by Nia Peake '23

Our Minds Matter (OMM) is a nationwide non-profit organization with the mission to end teen suicide and Sherwood's counseling department is continuing to commit to this mission as they enter their second year with Sherwood's chapter of OMM called Warrior Minds Matter. This club will work with students to develop ideas for school-wide mental health campaigns. The club sponsors are counselor Katlyn Kopnitsky and school psychologist Nancy Baglin.

OMM was originally a foundation created 10 years ago that told the story of Josh Anderson, a seventeen-year-old who committed suicide. Anderson's family and friends were unaware of his mental health struggles, which prompted the foundation to transition to an organization to not only continue bringing awareness to Anderson's story but also to work toward providing students with the proper resources they need to address their mental health struggles.

OMM is now projected to reach 500 schools by 2025. This school year, Kopnitsky hopes to reach more students and increase involvement in the club. She believes that there is a need for students to be educated about mental health.

"As counselors, we definitely see a lot of our students struggling with their mental health. The beauty of Warrior Minds Matter is that we have the national club backing it that has tons of resources, activities, and tips that our student leaders can use when planning activities for our school," said Kopnitsky.

Along with having student leaders who will engage with their peers on the subject of mental health, the counseling department also greatly contributes by providing a safe space for students to talk about their issues, connecting them with supportive resources, and teaching them effective coping methods.

During the week of October 10-14, the counseling department and administration recognized mental health awareness week by

our minds  
matter

Google Images

having mental-health related activities for students to participate in. Also in celebration, MCPS partnered with the Montgomery County School Psychologists' Association to put on a free virtual event that will give students and families the opportunity to hear from mental health experts on a variety of related topics.

Aligning with the vision of OMM, Kopnitsky believes Warrior Minds Matter will have a significant influence on the student body and will help reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues.

## GPA's Do Not Reflect Course Selection

From GPA, p. 1

long college course in 8 months. AP classes generally have more homework as well."

MCPS attempts to recognize students that have challenged themselves in high school with certain awards at graduation; however, the awards do not distinguish between AP and honors students. The first award, the Principal's Award, is given to all students who have received a final WGPA of 4.60 or higher. The second award is the Certificate of Merit, which awards students who have taken a rigorous course load. Despite all AP classes being Certificate of Merit courses, all of the required courses for graduation that have honors options are also Certificate of Merit courses.

Although there is no impact on one's WGPA for choosing AP courses over honors courses, colleges look for students who have taken AP classes. "We like to see that students have challenged themselves with the most rigorous offerings that their high school offers," stated Laura Simmons, Georgia Tech Director of Non-Degree Programs Admis-

sions. In the scope of MCPS, the most rigorous offering would be AP classes.

This method of interpreting transcripts is not unique to Georgia Tech. Highly selective Princeton University states on its FAQ page: "We consider it a promising sign when students challenge themselves with advanced courses in high school." The University of Maryland also has a similar transcript interpreting policy and described that most incoming freshmen have taken AP or IB classes.

King agrees with the sentiment that students should try to challenge themselves while in high school. "I think everyone has to make the decision that's best for them," said King. "I personally think it's always best to give yourself a challenge, whatever level that is. I always tell my daughters that grades are secondary to effort. Try your best."

Some universities on the Common Application will ask students to submit either their GPA or WGPA, allowing the student to use their discretion when deciding which to submit. Despite some universities asking for

a GPA or WGPA, inconsistencies among school districts nationwide about the GPA scale may make that data rather arbitrary. Because of this, many selective universities recalculate a student's GPA. Some universities will calculate GPA based solely on core classes while others look at improvement of GPA over time, and others use their own weighting system to create a consistent baseline for all applicants. Regardless of how the students GPA or WGPA is recalculated, colleges look first for two things on a student's transcript: the grade received and the corresponding course.

Science teacher Stephen Wright, who teaches AP Environmental Science and Honors Biology, believes students should not primarily choose courses based on the impact on their GPA or how colleges might look at them. "If a student is only thinking of GPA, instead of their larger place in a society, they are short changing themselves," said Wright. "A well-educated populace is the cornerstone of a democracy. By well-educated, I mean the ability to think and analyze, not just a list of accomplishments."

## MCPS Releases Findings of Recently Conducted Anti-Racist Audit

by Anna Haas '23

In July of 2020, MCPS began an extensive study intent on discovering the depth of racism and racial inequities in its schools and what needs to be done about it. The study was named the Anti-Racist Audit, and its findings were revealed at a media briefing on October 10 before being officially announced at the Board of Education meeting the next day.

The hybrid media briefing was attended by a student representative from every school in the county as well as a panel of individuals who were the main leaders of the audit and many guests. MCPS Superintendent Monifa B. McKnight explained the audit as one “commissioned for us to be proactive in our approach to review how MCPS can take input from our stakeholders - students, staff, community - to truly un-

derstand how the school systems works for some and maybe not others and most importantly what can we do to shift that so that this school system meets the needs of every single one of its students, staff, and family.”

Racial disparities were evident in almost every area of MCPS, including reading levels, participation in higher level classes, graduation rates, discipline suspension, and staffing. Ultimately, the report provides a comprehensive overview of how race impacts the experiences of all students, families, and staff and “... states that, overall, students, families, and staff of color reported having a less satisfactory experience with MCPS than other members of our school community,” said McKnight. Data from 2015 and 2021 displayed at the briefing showed that the 5th grade assessment of Hispanic and

African American student performance in English and mathematics was significantly less than the performance of white and Asian students. In reading, there were gaps ranging from 38 to almost 46 percentage points between Hispanic and African Americans and their white, Asian, and multi-racial peers. In math, there were gaps of around 50 percentage points. MCPS wants to find out what they need to do differently to close those gaps.

Though the audit made it clear that there are racial disparities in MCPS, it also confirmed that MCPS has many elements needed to eliminate those disparities for students, families, and staff. MCPS plans to defragment the school system through five areas: coherence, accountability for racial equity work, equity centered capacity building, continuous data collection, and relational

### Racism:

The systemic oppression of a racial group to the social, economic, and political advantage of another. Racism plays out on multiple levels: internalized, interpersonal, institutional, and structural.

### Antiracism:

Actively working to ensure racial justice by identifying, interrupting, and dismantling racist practices, policies, and attitudes that harm communities of color.

trust. Other recommended actions include ongoing community engagement and a comprehensive plan that will most likely be presented by March. The plan will be created through community input. There are also six domains of the audit that MCPS plans to continue working on. These include school culture, workforce diversity, work conditions, pre-K-12 curriculum, community relations and engagement, and equity of

access. Stephanie Sheron, Chief of the Office of Strategic Initiatives, said that “research shows that all six of these areas have an impact on both the experience and achievement of all students and they don’t operate in isolation.”

Though the Anti-Racist Audit has been completed, MCPS leaders stated that they will continue to work on racism in their schools in order to combat these issues.

## MCPS Ditches Turnitin.com

by Bryan Kim '23

This school year, MCPS will not be utilizing Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection software used in high school English classes for longer than a decade. Towards the end of last school year, MCPS and Turnitin.com had a dispute regarding the protection of student and staff privacy, ultimately leading to the end of the contract. Without Turnitin.com, plagiarism and cheating has become an increasing worry among English teachers.

“Plagiarism has always been a concern even with Turnitin.com. Now, without this platform we are more concerned that students may be more eager to plagiarize,” said Lynnette Evans-Williams, head of the English department.

The English teachers plan on using a program called Google LTI 1.3, a similar plagiarism detection software. Teachers also intend on making smaller changes to help mitigate cheating such as assigning different texts, assigning similar assignments with different prompts, and using more on-paper submissions.

As individual schools within Montgomery County started looking for alternatives to Tur-

nitin.com, it was clear that other anti-plagiarism products were not as effective as this program.

“Turnitin has quite an inventory in which to check for plagiarism as many, many of the universities and many, many of the high schools from both the U.S. and Europe use it. It has spent years building the database of papers in which to compare submitted papers to. It is a classic example of ‘you get what you pay for,’” explained Sherwood Media Specialist Stephanie Flaherty.

However, if plagiarism is detected this school year, the consequences for the student are severe. According to the English Department’s grading policies, “All students are taught the principles of citing sources in MLA format through direct instruction, practice, assessment, and application. ... Students who violate these citation principles commit an act of academic dishonesty. The teachers will have the discretion to allow the student to correct the citations or assign the student a 0 on the assignment depending on the circumstances of the violation. Students who turn in writing from another source and claim it as their own will earn a 0 on the assignment.”

## Principal Advisory Committee Gives Students a Voice with Administration

by Ziv Golan '26

Students want to feel that their input is considered when their schools make decisions and changes that affect them, and Sherwood responded to that prevailing sentiment by implementing Study Circles last year in which a diverse group of students met with school administrators and other staff. The need for such a meeting space became more pressing after a publicized incident in which Sherwood students shouted insensitive and hurtful comments at Einstein athletes during a soccer game last year. Principal Tim Britton decided to continue the meetings, renamed the Principal Advisory Committee, and held a meeting with students over the summer and then again on September 20 and October 18. The meetings will continue to occur once or twice a month throughout the school year.

“We can make Sherwood a more inclusive school for all our students and that’s based on student voice data,” explained Britton. “Most of our students are very involved in our school and

are happy being here and feel supported, but our goal is that all our students have a level of comfort being at this school and are involved in something that they’re interested in.”

Britton decided to form the Principal Advisory Committee after students in Study Circles last year brought up a need for students to continue having a line of communication with administration. This new committee, like the Study Circles, consists of students representing diverse opinions, backgrounds, and grade levels. Many of the students chosen for the committee were involved in the meetings last year, along with a few others from action-oriented clubs. The first meeting of the committee, according to Britton, mainly was to share Sherwood’s mission, visions and goals. Students offered ideas for how the school more effectively can reach out to the student body.

“Some students talked about better ways of advertising all the great things that our school is doing, such as all the clubs and activities. Students could find out about those things through insta-

gram, twitter, posting things on the school walls, and announcements,” said Britton.

The October meeting had a larger student presence with 10-15 students showing up, and various new issues heard by Britton. This time, according to senior and committee member Lilly Stewart, the meeting was not solely about ways to better promote Sherwood activities. Instead, true student problems such as unreasonable due dates for assignments, unfair work assigned to AP students who opt out of the exam, and more mental health awareness were all addressed.

What comes out of the committee is significantly based on what members want to address, with an eye on real change that includes student input in order to address issues that students feel are important to them. “I am eager to address the mental health aspect of high school. I know that myself and many other students have been feeling lots of stress, lack of motivation, and burnout recently, and I’d really like to find effective ways to support them,” said Stewart.

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## Sherwood Brings Back the Model UN Club This Year

by Liam Trump '24

With sponsorship from Staff Development Teacher Anne Taylor, Model United Nations (UN) has made its way back to Sherwood this year. The club role-plays countries at local and regional conferences. Students will act as delegates representing a nation's values and debate policies with countries represented by Model UN delegates from other schools. For every upcoming conference, a new country is

decided for the club to simulate. During conferences, delegates meet in committees to find solutions to international problems.

"I think all students would find Model UN appealing because it's exciting to represent a country even when you don't always personally agree with its positions," said Taylor. "It's always fun to debate, but it's even more rewarding to reach compromises and learn about world issues. Model UN is particularly great for students who want to grow

their public speaking, writing, negotiation, and listening skills."

Meetings are held every other Thursday, but will be held every week closer to the conferences. These meetings consist of researching the position of countries, debating policies, and writing speeches. The club's main objective is to introduce students into the world of diplomacy, negotiations, and decision making. "We practice looking at the world from other perspectives and brainstorm possible solutions

to conflicts," noted Taylor.

In the past when Sherwood had a Model UN club, members were seen as some of the best prepared delegates in the region, winning various accolades at conferences. The first conference this year will be held in December at Churchill. After that, there will be a weekend conference in February called the North American Invitational Model United Nations (NAIMUN), and the final conference will be at the University of Maryland College Park in April.

"Preparing for each conference means doing a lot of research on your assigned country, committee, and current issues, as well as writing a whole position paper. However, having met a few of our members, I don't think it's anything we can't handle," said senior Maalini Srinivasan, who is the president of Sherwood's club. "With a lot going on in foreign politics right now, Model UN is a really fun and interactive way to stay well informed."

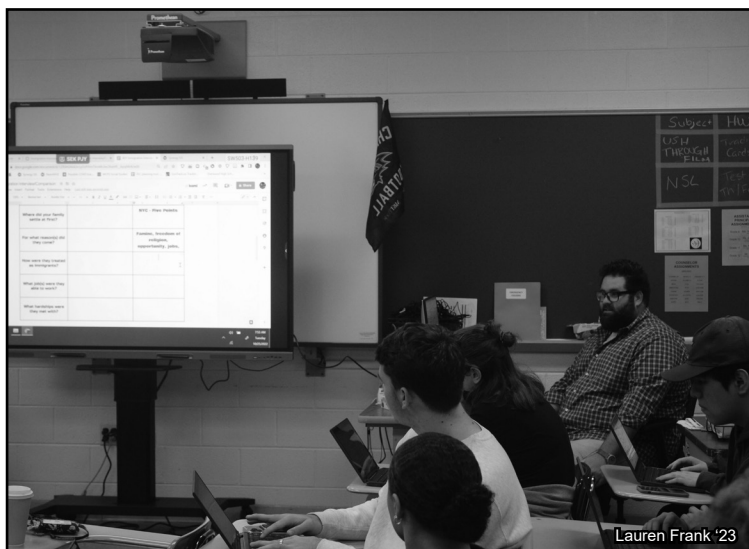
## With Film Class, Burnsky Takes A New Approach to U.S. History

by Devin Kosiorowski '24

Social studies teacher Ryan Burnsky has debuted a new history elective this year dubbed American History Through Film. The one-semester class follows American history by watching movies that follow a specific timeline.

"We have a list of films we can show. We go through each topic of history. We start with the first colonies and pre-contact Native American tribes [and end with] international relations post 9/11," explained Burnsky.

When social studies resource teacher Christine McKeldin saw that MCPS had approved the new course, she thought Burnsky would love the idea of teaching the elective. In a typical history class, students may be assigned to read textbooks and fill out lengthy packets of questions surrounding important moments in time. They listen to lectures, take notes on key events in history, and are required to take a cumulative test at the end of each unit. American History Through Film is different as students in the course obtain a majority of their information through films rather than reading textbooks or taking lengthy notes. Before watching a film, students familiarize themselves with the topic by viewing a presentation or video. This provides students an



Mr. Burnsky instructs class as students fill out a graphic organizer comparing stories of the immigrants in *Gangs of New York* to their own.

insightful background to the topic being discussed.

After finishing the film, students are assigned to write an IMDb review where they rank the film on a scale of 1 to 10. Classes are also tasked with a synthesizing assignment which involves some sort of creative aspect. Examples include making a timeline of each major event in the movie or creating a comic book strip.

"You have three hour-long segments of film, and it demonstrates how somebody would feel at a certain time compared to just reading an article that just has a rather monotone tone," said senior Gabe Dugarte, who takes the class.

Burnsky stated that students will view 9-10 movies over the duration of the semester. Some well known films amongst the list of options include *Titanic* (1997), *12 Years a Slave* (2013), and *1917* (2019). Many films on the list have an "R-rating," which requires a permission slip to be filled out to allow the student to watch the film. In following years, Burnsky said the course may be split over into two separate semesters.

"I would 100-percent recommend the course," said senior Evelyn Miller. "It's easy and it's more interesting than other history classes that you rely on a textbook for."

## Some Users Wonder about The Authenticity of BeReal

by Gabi Admi '23

The social media app BeReal was released in 2020 and rapidly rose from 921,000 active users in July 2021 to 21.3 million users a year later, becoming the most downloaded free app. BeReal is designed to promote authenticity that other social media outlets lack. To implement this, at a random time of day, all BeReal users are given approximately two minutes to take an unfiltered selfie. Given that users don't know what time the BeReal is set to go off, it does not give them time to look their most perfect or choose what they are doing at that particular moment. However, some users of the app, including Sherwood students, are expressing skepticism of just how authentic and "real" the posts are.

A Warrior survey of more than 200 students found that 43 percent of students are BeReal users. Their responses indicated that part of the appeal is to see what others are doing at the same time. "I like BeReal because it gives all of us a chance for everyone to show what they're doing at that exact moment, it's fun to see what someone's doing at the same time as you," said sophomore George Awkard.

The app takes a photo using the phone's front and back camera, showing the person's environment at the time of the BeReal. Users are still given the opportunity to take a selfie after the given two minutes; however, BeReal has built-in "shaming" in doing so by showing other users how late a person posts and doesn't allow them to see others' posts until it is complete. BeReal friends also can view how many times a user retook their selfie. Once the next day's BeReal pops

up on a user's feed, the picture from the previous day disappears. Since the advent of BeReal, other popular social media apps such as TikTok and Instagram have introduced features inspired by BeReal. For instance, TikTok's feature "Now" is a direct imitation of BeReal, displaying how influential BeReal has become across different social media platforms.

While the app is designed to cut out inauthenticity on social media, people are finding loopholes. "I like that people can see what I am actually doing, but it has become like every other social media where people can fix themselves before posting," stated senior Grace Roberts on the survey. BeReal seems to show that when given the chance to be authentic, many people will still choose to portray a false version of themselves online. For as long as social media has existed, people have portrayed versions of themselves that aren't rooted in authenticity. Particularly over the past few years, the detrimental effects of social media have been brought to light through extensive research, bringing bad press to social media companies.

As a result, the tech world has tried to come up with a new solution: let's be authentic. "[These apps] are a market response to a failed need, which is the need for an authentic connection," explained Professor Arun Lakshmanan at the University at Buffalo School of Management in a Fortune article. However, technology is only a vehicle to display what people ultimately are willing to display about themselves. If the BeReal app remains true to its initial goals, success will require its users to show their vulnerabilities and mundane aspects of their lives.

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## Quiet Quitting Trend Crashes the Internet MCPS Relaxes Protocols And Moves on from The Pandemic

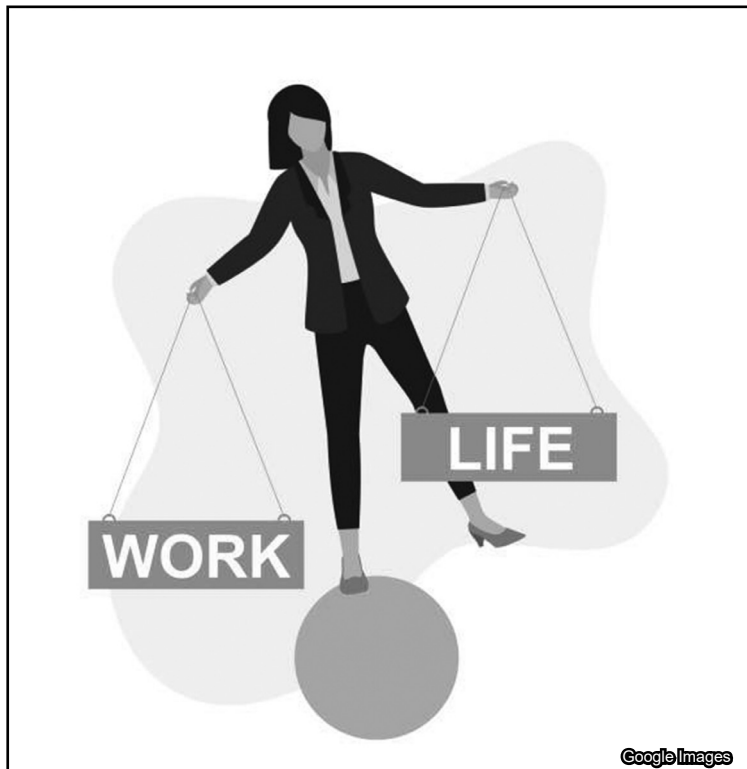
by Naomi Bang '23

The media's latest buzzword is a concept called "quiet quitting" which has taken the Internet by storm within the past few months. Though not an original concept, the term went viral on TikTok when user Zaid Khan shared his experience of finding a healthy work-life balance. Quiet quitting is the principle of sticking strictly to one's job description, working no more and no less than required.

According to a Gallup Poll from last month, quiet quitters make up at least 50 percent of the U.S. workforce. Gallup's definition of quiet quitters describes employees who complete the minimum work required and are mentally detached from their job. On the extreme end, the proportion of actively disengaged employees who are more vocal about their dissatisfaction increased to 18 percent, an all time high.

The coronavirus pandemic completely upended people's work lives starting in 2020. Many companies went remote and employees were forced to change their approach to their jobs. Workers felt the burden of dealing with Covid-19 procedures on top of normal stressors. After unprecedented numbers in 2020, where employee engagement dropped for the first time in a decade, engagement has continued to see a downward trend.

The majority of support for quiet quitting stems from the under-35 workforce including millennials and Gen-Z. Young workers are turning to social media as an outlet to vent about their experiences and advocate



for mental health. In addition to comical skits, users share real-life experiences that motivated them to quiet quit. The overall consensus is lack of manager support and opportunities to learn and develop in their job. Grievances from these young workers point to a growing disconnect between employers and their employees.

Many workers currently experience high levels of burnout. The cost of living has increased and worker rights have declined while wages have remained the same over the past few decades. In response, the rising generation began rejecting this mentality of constant overworking. While the Internet has polarized over the topic of quiet quitting, its original intent aimed to elevate the mental and physical health of workers over pursuing high achievement in the workplace—also known as

hustle culture.

While quiet quitting may benefit an individual's personal life, the mentality of not reaching beyond their current position could harm the employee's chances of progression up the company. Most jobs require workers to step outside their specified duties to better collaborate with coworkers and serve customers. A few TikTok users now warn against quiet quitting, especially for racial minorities and women who must often meet higher standards to be seen as achieving.

Some call it a trendy term for laziness, others see it as a fight against capitalism. Either way, employees that stick to quiet quitting aim to set healthy boundaries between personal and work life to find balance in a time of severe burnout.

by Dylan Sondike '24

In each of the past two winters, the number of Covid-19 cases has dramatically increased in the United States. This raises the question of what should Americans expect from Covid-19 over the next few months as indoor gatherings increase during the colder weather and upcoming holidays. With new relaxed MCPS Covid-19 guidelines, slim numbers of reported positive cases on the MCPS dashboard, and new Omicron-specific vaccines, schools across Montgomery County are proceeding as if the coronavirus pandemic has ended.

MCPS fall 2022 guidelines include many similar procedures from the end of the last year. Schools are supposed to continue sanitation each day, especially door knobs, light switches, and other commonly touched items. New ventilation systems are also scheduled to be installed in schools over time to improve the air quality in response to the pandemic. MCPS also will carry on with supplying Covid-19 tests only during large outbreaks and for students with symptoms.

In regard to masks and social distancing, however, guidelines are more vague. Students are still not required to wear masks and in most cases, only 2-4 students in a class of 25-30 students on average wear one. Similarly, the vast majority of teachers no longer wear masks. While social distancing is encouraged, MCPS no longer makes recommendations about spacing desks nor collects seating charts for contract tracing. Students who are close

contacts of students with positive Covid-19 cases may continue to proceed to school if they follow mask and testing procedures, and continue to show no symptoms.

The MCPS Covid-19 dashboard continues to update each day giving each school's positive case numbers in MCPS in the past week as well as the total number of staff and student positive cases per school and for the entire county. Dashboard results have shown only three schools in the entire county having more than one percent of positive cases as of October 17 and a total of 169 staff and students testing positive for Covid-19 in all of MCPS in the past seven days. However, MCPS has stopped actively reminding students to self-report when they have Covid-19, and it therefore is unclear if the Dashboard is accurately reflecting the number of cases in schools.

New Covid-19 boosters were also approved a few months ago targeting the more recent Omicron variants. People over 12 and older are eligible for the Pfizer bivalent booster shot and people 18 and older can get the Moderna bivalent shot. New vaccines are strongly encouraged for students and others by the FDA.

That being said, scientists expect more contagious Omicron sub-variants to come at any time in the future, with the likelihood increasing from the cold weather. "It is such an unpredictable virus in the sense that we've been fooled before, and we likely will continue to be fooled," said Dr. Anthony Fauci regarding possible Covid-19 outbreaks this winter.

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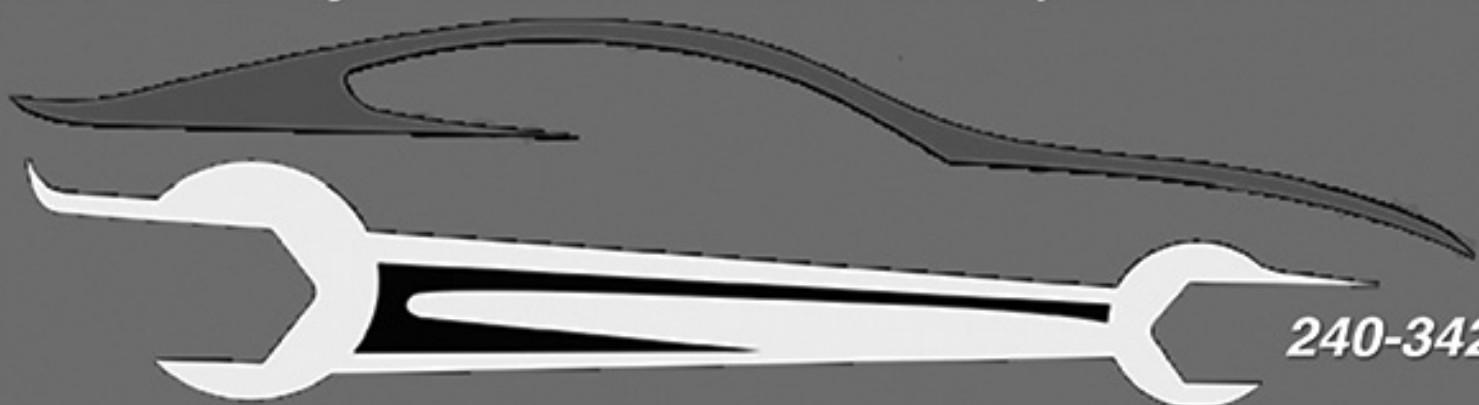
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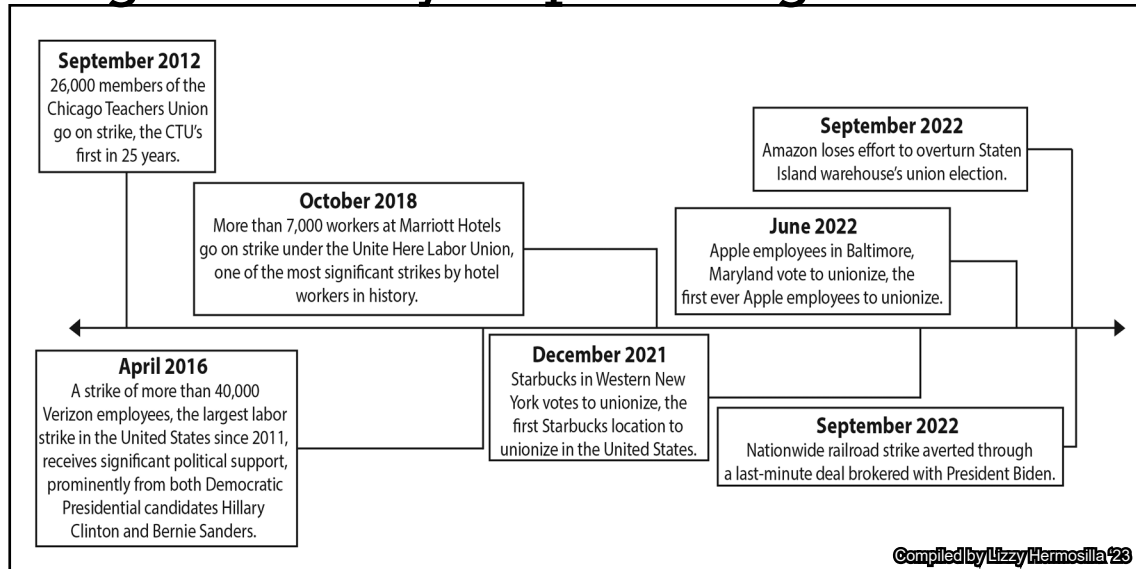
November 4, 2022

## Unions Are Riding a Wave by Capitalizing Off Each Other's Success

by Solaiman Hassanin '23

From Portland shipyard painters to airline flight attendants to nightclub dancers in California, workers across a plethora of fields are turning more and more toward unions for representation. Last spring, workers in an Amazon warehouse in Staten Island, New York, voted to unionize. Employees at Starbucks locations in 33 states have already unionized. In Baltimore, Apple employees voted to unionize for the first time ever last June, while in Philadelphia workers at a Home Depot are set to vote on unionization in the near future.

Perhaps what seems to bode well for unions today is their legal success and increasing legitimacy. Amazon has so far been unable to defeat the Amazon Labor Union in court. At the same time, last September's planned railroad strike was prevented by a last-minute deal brokered with President Joe Biden, a federal government response that was more legitimizing for the unions



than a forced breakup of the strike.

The recent progress by unions has been met with popular support. An August Gallup poll showed that 71 percent of Americans approve of labor unions, the highest total since 1968. A similar Gallup poll, also in August, found that 16 percent of households have at least one union member in them, a number relatively stable for the last two decades.

Still, companies continue to argue that unions are an unnecessary nuisance. According to them, unions force workers into strikes and ultimately harm the laborer's pocket. Amazon and Starbucks alike claim to offer special supplementary support to their workers that make unions useless, a statement echoed by some laborers. Shortly after the Staten Island Amazon warehouse voted to unionize, workers at a nearby

warehouse voted against unionization. Starbucks, on its end, announced a student loan repayment program and a raise to \$17 per hour for its employees that are not in a union.

A lifetime ago, the United States saw the number of worker unions explode. By the 1950s the organizations were sweeping across the country, reaching a peak in 1954 with 34 percent of workers being in a union. The rise

continued into the 1970s, reaching another high with the number of union workers at 21 million. Unions began their retreat in the 1980s with former President Ronald Reagan's free-market policies, which earned him accusations of "union-busting." In 1981, Reagan ordered the forceful breakup of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) strike, not only breaking up the strike but dissolving PATCO and re-forming it under the National Air Traffic Controllers Association.

Now, the unions are seemingly back in style, particularly amongst younger generations. There is no guarantee on whether their resurgence will carry on into the distant future and the wave may very well die out soon, it is nonetheless leaving a significant impact. Companies are taking notice and increasingly pursuing measures to combat the rise of unions, and it remains to be seen how the centuries-long struggle between companies and unions changes in the coming few years.

## Military Is Facing a Massive Recruiting Deficit

by Payton Seppala '23

Across the nation, a growing number of young Americans are deciding against joining the service. Because of this, the military is currently confronting the worst recruiting environment since the end of the Vietnam War in the mid-1970s. Combined, all branches of the military have completed less than 85 percent of their recruitment goals and are dealing with a decline in membership as U.S. tensions rise against other global superpowers like Russia and China.

Although recruitment slows from time to time when the economy is doing well and other jobs are in abundance, this year's decline is greater than ever seen before. According to Thomas Spoehr, director for the Center for National Defense for the Heritage Foundation, the Army is now the smallest it has been since 1939. A variety of factors play into this dramatic drop in recruitment, one of which is the growing competition from other employers. Companies such as Amazon and Starbucks offer new employees higher wages with enticing benefits that are able to rival those of the military and draw potential recruits away from serving.

Studies also have shown that graduating high schoolers are less familiar with the military than ever before. A survey conducted by the Army found that 75 percent of people between the age of 16 and 28 know "little to nothing" about the Army. NBC News reports that among those surveyed by the Pentagon in the same age group, only 13 percent of them have parents in the military, down from 40 percent in 1995. This decline in familiarity with military life has led potential recruits to be misled in their preconceptions of a career in the military. For example, an internal Defense sur-



vey found over half of the young Americans surveyed believed that they would have psychological or emotional problems after serving. In reality, the prevalence of mental health disorders in the military is only slightly higher if not the same as what would be seen in the civilian population, according to a study published in the National Library of Medicine.

To counter the alarming drop in new recruitments, the military is now adjusting its recruitment requirements and approaches. The Army, who has been most severely affected by the recruitment shortage, has increased their enlistment bonus to \$50,000 and decreased their minimum serving time from four years to just two. They have also dialed back restrictions on tattoos and are considering removing their "zero tolerance" policy for applicants admitting to previous marijuana use. The Navy has stopped airing TV ads and is now turning to dig-

ital advertisements, specifically focusing on attracting the younger generation of gamers.

This lack of new recruits translates directly into a lack of manpower in the U.S. military. With fewer people willing to join, there are fewer to fill infantry units and operate the equipment that the government spends billions of dollars annually on. Today, a shortage in servicemen and women means the military is spread thin as more troops are temporarily stationed in allies' countries in the East Pacific and NATO member countries in Europe. Tensions in these areas are rising after Russia invaded Ukraine and made threats against the West's involvement and as China builds up its own military and performs training exercises closer and closer to Taiwan, which the US has sworn to protect. A smaller military could put the interests of both our country and those of our allies at risk.

## Misinformation Spreads about Illinois Law Ending Cash Bail

by John Castle '25

A new law enacted in Illinois, titled the SAFE-T act, that takes effect on January 1 is resulting in misleading information and controversy to spread across social media with people naming the new policy "The Purge Law." Under the new law, Illinois citizens who are charged with a crime will not have to pay bail in order to be free until their trial. The law was implemented to ensure people will not be detained simply because they financially are unable to pay bond.

Bail in the United States refers to when a person in custody pays the court in order to be released from jail until the next court hearing. If they do return, they are given a refund of their money. If they are not able to pay the bail, the person is kept in custody. However at this stage of the judicial process, the accused culprit has only been arrested and charged, and has not been officially convicted of a crime. The SAFE-T act in Illinois is intended to make people of all socio-economic classes equal within the state's justice system. It is rooted in the idea that cash bail was criminalizing poverty and thousands of people were detained before being officially convicted.

The Illinois law also is intended to address racial disparities. Cook County Jail in Chicago is one of the largest pretrial detention centers in the country, with a population of more than 5,600 people, 74-percent of whom are Black. Additionally, the jail is situated in a county where 24 percent of Black residents live below the poverty line, the highest of any racial group.

Although it was originally given the name The Pretrial Fairness law, it now is titled The

SAFE-T Act (Safety, Accountability, Fairness, and Equity-To-day) and was signed into law by Governor J.B. Pritzker in 2021. However the elimination of cash bail is only one piece of the SAFE-T Act. Other measures the bill takes to change criminal justice in Illinois is expanding financial support and other services for victims of crime, increasing police oversight and accountability, and narrowing the felony murder law.

Once this policy was officially put on the schedule to be implemented in 2023, social media platforms such as TikTok blew up with conservative social activism pages spreading rumors and blowing the new law out of proportion. Frightened people saw the law as a loophole for convicted criminals to commit crimes without consequences until their next court date, hence the name "The Purge Law" in reference to the movie franchise which entails all laws being abolished for 12 hours in the United States. Misinformation spread on social media that people convicted of a crime will not have to pay bail and that these "criminals" will be allowed back into the public even if they are dangerous.

However, the 'SAFE-T Act' law only applies to those who are convicted of minor crimes or misdemeanors. What social media got wrong is that people who have committed violent or serious crimes won't get an option for bail at all. These dangerous criminals will be detained in custody until the next hearing, regardless of whether or not they could pay a bail. As an editorial in the Chicago Tribune explains, "Justice if you can afford it? That's not how our system is supposed to work, even though in many cases that tends to be the grim reality."





Compiled by Lizzy Hermosilla '23

## Senate Elections Worry Dems

by Alexis Booker '23

In the last national election in 2020, Democrats ended up with 50 out of 100 seats in the Senate, gaining a majority due to Vice President Kamala Harris who is responsible for breaking ties. With the 2022 midterms less than a week away, predictions have fluctuated between either party having the possibility of controlling the Senate. Democrats pulled slightly ahead during the late summer, but there has been a later shift that favors Republicans. Through this year, it will ultimately come down to key pieces of legislation and prominent Senate races that will decide the fate of congress for the rest of President Joe Biden's term.

In the first half of this year, progressives became disappointed with Democrats following their inability to pass a \$15 minimum wage and the Voting Rights Act, among other priorities. This dynamic quickly shifted, however, when the Democratic party became unified in response to Roe v. Wade being overturned by a Supreme Court decision on June 24. The ruling allows states to effectively ban access to abortion. Biden then continued to gain more traction with voters by exploring different solutions in response to the ruling, such as using Medicaid to cover abortions and federally protecting reproductive healthcare services. He has also continued efforts surrounding other issues such as lowering gas prices and opening applications for student loan forgiveness. Despite Biden's and other Democrats' efforts, however, inflation is the primary concern among most American voters. This concern ties in with Republicans' promise to address the economy should they control the Senate and House of Representatives.

There are key Senate races in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Nevada, and Wisconsin that will likely determine the Senate majority. The Pennsylvania race is extremely tight as Democratic candi-

date John Fetterman attempts to maintain his lead against Republican candidate Mehmet Oz among concerns about Fetterman's health as he recovers from a stroke he suffered in the spring.

Meanwhile, Georgia's race has become messy in light of Republican candidate Herschel Walker's controversies surrounding his past in paying for his former girlfriend's abortions, which he denies. Despite Walker's stumbles, his race against Democratic incumbent Senator Raphael Warnock falls within the margin of error as many Republican voters in Georgia state they care more about how Walker votes in the Senate than about his personal life.

Nevada's race could give Republicans another opportunity to flip a seat in their favor. Republican candidate Adam Laxalt is pulling ahead of Democratic incumbent Catherine Cortez Masto. By narrowing in on crime and inflation, Laxalt has appealed to new audiences who are concerned with issues that Democrats have struggled to address.

Incumbent Senator Ron Johnson and leading Democratic candidate Mandela Barnes in Wisconsin currently have competing leads against one another in polls, with Johnson slightly favored to keep his position in the Senate. This is likely because his platform primarily addresses crime, a popular subject amongst Wisconsin voters. The race in Wisconsin is crucial to Democrats holding onto control of the Senate, and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders is rallying college students in Wisconsin on November 4 and 5 to vote.

Just a few short months ago, Democrats had a strong chance at maintaining control of the Senate, but uncertainty is creeping in due to mixed signals in key swing states. At this point in time, there is no concrete prediction to be made on which party will control the Senate following election day on November 8.

## Democrats Still Expected To Lose the House

by Matt Kauffman '23

As the 2022 midterm elections approach, Democrats face the possibility of losing control of the House of Representatives. They currently hold an eight seat lead in the House after Republican Sarah Palin lost in a special election in Alaska to Democrat Mary Peltola. Currently, 220 House seats are Democratic, 212 are Republican, and three are vacant.

The Democrats' chances to remain in control of Congress rose after a string of legislative victories by the party, primarily the Inflation Reduction Act, which contained provisions for investing in clean energy and reducing Medicare costs. President Joe Biden's approval rating, which dipped into the thirties over the summer, now resides at above 42 percent according to FiveThirtyEight's estimations.

The Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade, in addition to the influx of election-denying Republican candidates in many congressional elections, may play into the Democrats' improved chances. However, history indicates that Democrats and their supporters should not become too optimistic. In nearly every midterm election since 1954, the party in control of the

White House has lost Congressional seats (the two exceptions are the Clinton administration in 1998 and the Bush administration in 2002).

Because of smaller, gerrymandered districts, the House is often prone to more partisan candidates in both parties winning office. This phenomenon explains in large part why some Republican candidates with extreme views still will be victorious. Some Republicans like Texas' Dan Crenshaw, however, have expressed concern that some of the rhetoric is going too far and is imploring the party to appeal to more than just the loudest parts of their base. "They don't write any actual legislation, they won't negotiate anything," Crenshaw said. "It's just fire and brimstone all of the time. You're incentivized by extra clicks, and you get extra clicks by engaging in rank dishonesty and conspiracy."

Another undercurrent that emphasizes the immense significance of these elections is the sheer amount of election deniers or conspiracists on the ballots. According to a poll of House candidates conducted by FiveThirtyEight, 117 "election deniers" and seven "election doubters" are poised to win seats in solid red districts. This number encompasses the majority of projected

Republican seats, with only 77 GOP candidates "fully" accepting the results of the 2020 presidential election.

Republicans may also benefit from new voting districts, such as in southern Texas where Trump-backed political rookie Monica de la Cruz will face off against progressive Democrat Michelle Vallejo in a newly drawn district that is expected to boost Republican chances. De la Cruz also looks to benefit from recent trends in which Hispanic voters, particularly non-college educated males, are gravitating away from Democrats and towards Republicans. "I think that there are several Hispanic candidates, as well as a diverse set of candidates in the Republican Party, that are reflecting the fabric of America," de la Cruz said. "We have six excellent Hispanic candidates, most of which are bilingual, who are a reflection of their community, and at the end of the day, sharing the true values of Hispanics."

Although the initial predictions of "Red Wave" may have waned, the nature of the congressional districts minimizes the negative effect for Republicans of extreme rhetoric and the overturning of Roe v. Wade. The Economist forecasts just a 28 percent chance that the Democrats keep control of the House.

## What Does The FBI's Raid on Trumps Mar-a-Lago Property Mean for Him?

by Declan Rooney '25

**Q: Why did the FBI raid Mar-a-Lago?**

A: The FBI raided Mar-a-Lago because former President Trump may have violated the Espionage Act by moving classified documents from the White House to his private residence.

**Q: What is the Espionage Act?**

A: The Espionage Act of 1917 was part of the National Government's effort to contain criticism of the war effort during World War I. The law prevents anybody from "gathering, transmitting, or losing of national defense information" in section 793, which is what the Department of Justice (DOJ) claims Trump violated.

**Q: What was in the documents the FBI was looking for?**

A: In the search warrant, the



Palm Beach police stand outside Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence as the FBI prepares to search for documents.

DOJ instructs the FBI to look for documents pertaining to, "communications, in any form, regarding the retrieval, storage, or transmission of national defense information or classified material" and "any evidence of the knowing alteration, destruction, or concealment of any govern-

ment and/or Presidential Records." Specifically, it has been confirmed that some of these documents were about the nuclear capabilities of another country.

**Q: What is a Special Master and why did Trump's defense request one?**

A: A Special Master is an

official appointed by a Judge to make sure judicial orders are followed or, in this case, to review evidence and make recommendations to the judge as to the disposition of the matter. Trump requested a special master

**Q: What did the FBI actually find in Mar-a-Lago?**

A: The FBI searched the entirety of Trump's mansion including his private safe. They found boxes of both personal documents and dozens of empty folders marked classified. On top of this they found 42 empty folders marked "Return to Staff Secretary/Military [sic] Aide." Only Trump knows where the contents of these folders are.

**Q: What could happen if Trump is found guilty?**

A: The Espionage Act states that "To convey information with the intent to interfere with the operation or success of the armed forces of the United States or to promote its enemies' success. This was punishable by death or imprisonment for not more than 30 years or both." That being said, most legal experts estimate that Trump would receive 10 or fewer years in prison if found guilty.

November 4, 2022

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The Warrior serves as Sherwood's primary news source, receiving numerous state and national honors over the 45 years it has been in circulation. With a staff of over 40 students under the guidance of Peter Huck, The Warrior keeps the Sherwood community informed about local and national events. All opinion articles represent the viewpoint of the writer, and the unsigned staff editorial solely reflects the opinions of the newspaper staff.



Nicholas Schade '23

## More Languages Needed at Sherwood

by Cliff Vacin '25

Growing up in a mainly Russian-speaking household, I was lucky to pick up enough lingo to understand a good amount of the language. However, I want to learn more Russian and have the ability to speak it. My mother suggested that I learn Russian online on an app like Duolingo, but the site only teaches the very basics. Everything else, such as Rosetta Stone, which usually costs \$299, requires a fee. My family is too busy to teach me the general rules of the language. Well, like my native Spanish and French-speaking classmates, I could always try to learn it at school, right?

While MCPS lists a half-dozen languages in its course bulletin, Sherwood only offers the standard Spanish and French. The limited choices hurt students who want to learn a language other than one of the traditional Ro-

mance languages. Sherwood once offered Latin and more recently Italian, German, and ASL. However, those classes dropped from Sherwood's courses because the enrollment numbers in these language classes were small. Enrollment may have been an issue in the past, but how will Sherwood know if enough students are interested in languages if they are not offered as options on the course registration cards? Maybe the interest is there, just as it is at other high schools.

Whitman has Arabic, Chinese, French, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, and ASL. Whitman's course bulletin notes that Arabic, Chinese, and Japanese are recognized as "Critical Languages" by U.S. federal departments and agencies. Whitman's bulletin also points out that colleges and employers look favorably upon those candidates

that are proficient or fluent in languages other than English. Whitman clearly has made it a priority to offer language classes.

An obvious step is to actually see if current students at Sherwood will sign up for languages such as ASL or Chinese if offered to them. Times are changing and young people may want to learn the language that their family has learned or a language that may overall be helpful to their future prospects. In addition, students might simply want to study another language just to learn something totally new; for example, non-Western languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian that each use different scripts. Sherwood students get to choose from a wide variety of classes in other subjects; they should be able to choose from a wide variety of language classes, too.

## Biden's College Loan Forgiveness Doesn't Address Root Problems

by Tatiana Rodriguez '23

During President Joe Biden's presidential campaign, he promised student loan debt relief and followed through this past August with a plan that forgave up to \$10,000 in college loans for an individual and up to \$20,000 for recipients of Pell Grants (a government loan program for those with exceptional financial need). Borrowers are eligible for the relief if their annual individual income is less than \$150,000 or family income is less than \$250,000. The Biden administration initially estimated that 43 million Americans would qualify for the debt relief. In late September, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that the Biden plan would cost \$400 bil-

lion. However, this plan could be put on hold as lawsuits by about dozen Republican-led states are forming against it.

Biden's student loan forgiveness has brought joy to millions of Americans because they will finally be released from some of the financial burdens of higher education. Although this brings relief to many students, the program is not a permanent solution for the increasing costs of higher education. The students who are still paying off student loans will reap the benefits of this plan, while some of those who have already finished repaying their loans are upset that they will not benefit from Biden's action. Even though people who have already paid off their student loans will

not benefit, another group that also will not get help or relief are the generations of future students who still will face the tremendous financial costs of attaining a college degree.

Right now, the average total cost for a four-year public college for an in-state student is \$102,828 and \$173,684 for out-of-state students. The dramatic difference between in-state and out-of-state students for the same school needs to be decreased as out-of-state students are paying more than \$70,000 for the same education and most likely have to pay more additionally when it comes to transportation and living costs. The expense of higher education demotivates many students from attending the college of their first

choice or even being able to attend college at all to receive the education they deserve.

The expensive costs of higher education should be addressed more by Biden and other political leaders as it is the root cause of high student loan debt, especially for minority and first generation college students. These students usually have little to no idea how to get through the college process, let alone handle the amount of costs without falling deeply into debt. To prevent these expensive costs of higher education and particularly for out of state students, the federal government could set up a subsidy program that gives public colleges and universities grants which they use to lower college tuition for out of

state students. Additionally, if a student does still have to take out loans, their repayments could be based on the graduate's income as well as interest rates on these loans could be lowered to make it easier to pay off.

Although Biden's loan forgiveness plan will help most students who have student loan debt right now, there is still the need for a longer-term solution for the expensive costs of higher education. In order to help with a longer term solution, schools should share more information about scholarships and how to minimize costs of college education along with a subsidy program. The goal should be to help college students to not go into debt in the first place.



The Warrior Tackles Skewed Perceptions that Cause

Misrepresentation of Black Communities

## Doll Portrays Inspiring Story

by Timaya Pulliam '23

A number of companies that market to children and their families reflect historical and current struggles to represent the black community. This often appears to the public and consumers that a company is inclusive and diverse. When a company depicts one side of a story only through hardships, however, then the story is misrepresentative and stereotypical.

Mattel, the company that owns the American Girl doll franchise, has in the past mischaracterized African-American history as one of only trauma and hardship. But recently, the representation of the black community portrayed by the American Girl franchise has changed with the introduction of a new, history-based American Girl doll, sharing talents and experiences not often acknowledged in stories about black history. Claudie Wells, the new American Girl doll, is situated in the Harlem Renaissance (1919-1937), a revival when black people from all over the world joined together in Harlem, New York to celebrate their culture, instill pride, and discover new possibilities for their community within art, music, and literature. Claudie Wells showcases positivity in black culture, as well as the history that is not as known and recognized as it should be.

Representation in dolls has been shown through the historical lens of black people living, fighting, and struggling. These representations include Cecile Rey (now discontinued), who lived

through the Yellow Fever contagious disease rampaging through New Orleans, Louisiana in 1853, and Addy Walker, who fled from slavery in 1864. The doll Melody Ellison sang, as she had to fight against injustices and segregation, and for civil rights in 1964. These dolls taught me and girls like me that black girls are strong and can overcome obstacles and hardships. However, black girls are much more than that. Black girls are intelligent. Black girls are creative. Black girls are ambitious. Black people have many more talents that must be portrayed, so little black girls develop high self-esteem. That is the long overdue benefit when it comes to the creation of the Claudie Wells doll.

Claudie Wells grows up through the Harlem Renaissance observing people throughout her community with diverse gifts, but Claudie does not know what her own gift is. She must search to find her true love and talent among other people that already know their strengths. Not only does Claudie provide a fun and inspiring story, but she provides insight into real life, then and now for young girls who look to see themselves in the dolls and other toys that they play with. The new doll also shows a rich and joyous piece of history that is often missing from textbooks. Though there is much more work to be done to provide better representation for young black girls, the new Claudie Wells American Girl doll is a step forward.

## Assigned Books Not Telling the Full Story

by Perri Williams '23

It is important for all people to have role models in their lives. It does not matter if those role models are fictional characters or historical figures. However, positive role models are lacking for African American students, specifically in many of the books that are assigned in English classes from the MCPS curriculum.

MCPS provides teachers with curriculum guides divided into units, along with a list of approved books that correspond with each unit. From this list teachers decide which books they think best fits the instructional plans and learning objectives, among other considerations. Many of the novels that teachers select to assign are arguably interesting and fit the unit's goals. The books also often showcase a range of plots with a diversity of characters. Unfortunately, the African American protagonists and other characters regularly face the same conflicts centered around racial injustices, inequities, and violence. Such novels collectively lead to a recurring stereotype about African Americans and their lives, both today and in the past. Therefore, there is a desperate need for positive reinforcement via alternative stories with African American characters that do not revolve solely around the lack of justice that African Americans get from the justice system, and how a lot of times they are treated poorly. It is time to move away from such stereotypical narratives.

Some of the assigned books in Sherwood English classes are ones that primarily are centered

around police brutality and injustices in the criminal justice system. *All American Boys* by Brendan Kiely and Jason Reynolds is taught in 9th grade and gives the perspective of a young white boy who witnesses the police brutality of a boy that he goes to school with while also giving the perspective of the black boy during and after his conflict with the police. *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead, which is an option for 11th grade, tells the story about a boy who is wrongly accused of a crime and sent to a state reform school where he is violently abused. Similarly, Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, an option in AP Lit, explores the generational legacy of racial brutality at a notorious prison camp in Mississippi. Finally, there is *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, which has been taught in 9th grade, and follows teenager Starr Carter who lives in a rough neighborhood but goes to an upper class private school, when she witnesses her childhood best friend being killed by the police and her two worlds collide.

It can be assumed that teachers are picking these titles because issues within the justice system are very prevalent in today's society. There are both benefits and disadvantages to reading books of this sort. Students can become more politically and socially aware, allowing them to have impactful conversations in the classroom. However, too many of these stories over the years have perpetuated dangerous stereotypes for both black and white students alike. Specifically

for black students, it reiterates the thought that they should fear first responders and that the only stories about people who look like them derive from those specific and relatively uncommon experiences. But there are a variety of topics and issues that are faced by all ethnic groups.

It would be more beneficial for students to read books that highlight black history and positive black experiences. That way students aren't reading stories that harp on the negatives to interest the reader. *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett focuses on identical twins that run away; both girls are black but lighter skinned. The twins separate and live totally different lives as one marries a black man while the other one lives her life as white-passing. This book tells the stories of black protagonists that still struggle with the issue of race but in a way that tells alternative stories to police brutality. The book *Black Buck* by Mateo Askaripour is about a 20 year old black man that is living under the poverty line during the 1930s, and addresses capitalism and white supremacy in America.

The solution is that teachers should talk to each other about what books they will be reading with their classes and why. If teachers that teach different grades are communicating with one another, it is less likely that over four years students will read books in their English classes that address the same topics. This would end the current cycle of students who end up reading books that address the same stereotypical racial issues.



### Books Lack LGBTQ+ Content

by Gabi Admi '23

The MCPS English Curriculum provides a diverse selection of books that explore important topics such as racism, immigration, and mental health, but they are lacking an important piece of history and culture: LGBTQ+. To give you a broader sense of how outrageous this is, MCPS has approved about 200 books for high school English teachers to teach, but only a few of those books involve LGBTQ+ themes. Within my entire K-12 experience, I have not been assigned to read a single book containing LGBTQ+ material.

For LGBTQ+ students to be comfortable in their sexuality and their environment, it's important for them to feel represented. There is no excuse for the lack of representation; a wide variety of books exist with LGBTQ+ themes or elements that are informative and well-written, such as *The Henna Wars* by Adiba Jaigirdar and *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson. MCPS just hasn't approved them. It is important to note that LGBTQ+ books shouldn't just be read by high schoolers, but by kids of all ages. If MCPS wants its students to feel safe and understood and to start to remove stigmas and stereotypes from a young age, it is important that students read about the LGBTQ+ community to better understand the experiences of their peers or themselves.

### Clickbait Fuels Discrimination

by Audrey Farris '25

In October, Twitter exploded over an article by The Daily Caller stating that MCPS saw a 528-percent increase in students struggling with gender identity over the past two years. The article was written based on information shared by an assistant principal at Quince Orchard High School via a photo on Twitter that showed that in 2019, 35 students indicated they identified as non-binary, and in 2021, 239 students. This data was collected from 423 intake forms that were given to students by their counselors when the students came to them stating that they were having issues with their gender identity. After The Daily Caller article was shared among numerous online accounts, the Washington Examiner wrote an article titled "Forty-five percent of Montgomery County students identified as nonbinary in survey."

News outlets are creating bait-y and blatantly false headlines that give the alt-right Twitter world more misinformation to support their discriminatory views. It was evident that many online commentators didn't even read the Washington Examiner article, where the first paragraph states that 45 percent of 423 students with gender-identity conflict self-reported on intake forms as non-binary. That is very different from claiming that 45 percent of all MCPS students reported as non-binary.

### Give Seniors a Break

by Cailin Russell '23

For many students, the first quarter of senior year is the most stressful time of their high school career. In addition to their usual workload, seniors are completing and submitting their college applications, many of which are due November 1 for Early Action deadlines. Seniors should be excused from homework assignments and tests for the last two weeks of October so that they can focus more time on college applications.

Along with college applications, seniors are trying to stay on top of homework and studying for AP/Honors classes. Many seniors are also working after school to earn more money for college, while others are continuing with sports and extracurriculars. Since students are unsure if the colleges to which they are applying will even consider their senior year grades, it becomes frustrating and less motivating for seniors to complete homework and study for tests when they know college applications are the main priority in the beginning of the school year. Both MCPS and Sherwood constantly communicate to students how important it is to take care of their mental health and well-being, and having no homework and tests the last two weeks of October would ease the stress on seniors for college applications and allow them more time to put their best foot forward.



TEACHERS ARE CRUCIAL TO SOCIETY, BUT THEY ARE CURRENTLY OVERWORKED AND UNDERAPPRECIATED ...

## Public's Confidence in Schools Takes a Tumble

by Solaiman K Hassanin '23

Today, public education increasingly is a center of controversy. A recent Gallup poll found that 70 percent of Americans have “some” to “very little” confidence in public schools, compared to 28 percent who said they have a “great deal” to “quite a lot” of confidence in schools. The Gallup poll also demonstrated a stark difference alongside political lines, with 51 percent of Democrats saying they have at least some confidence in the public educational system, compared to 30 percent of Republicans answering that they are at least somewhat satisfied with the public education system. Parents themselves responded with overall positivity, with 80 percent of respondents being at least somewhat satisfied with their child's K-12 education, and 32 percent of which responded that they are completely satisfied.

Recently, public controversy on education has become intensely politicized. Critical Race Theory, for example, has remained a troubling topic between

those like Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin who say that it is too divisive, and those who argue that the United States has troubling aspects of its past that must be addressed. Comparatively, Florida's “Don't Say Gay” bill sparked a showdown between Walt Disney and the State of Florida.

Despite such highly publicized controversies, Democrats and Republicans alike primarily expressed agitation on curriculum issues; amongst the main concerns were outdated curriculums, poor academic-performance ranking compared to other countries, lack of basic teaching, and lack of life skill education. Just 4 percent of Gallup respondents listed gender issues as a concern, while 3 percent listed critical race theory as a concern. It is unclear if a survey can definitively cast away prevalent concerns represented throughout national media, but the numbers do seem to suggest that there are bigger issues in education, such as understaffing or a lack of adequate resources, which trouble the everyday person.

## Number of Education Majors Sees Large Decline

by Alex Braun '23

The problem of teacher shortages across the country was magnified by the large number of teachers quitting or retiring early because of the Covid-19 pandemic, but the lack of teachers will continue as a result of decreasing enrollment in teacher preparation programs.

A report published by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) in Spring of 2022 found that between the 2008-2009 school year and 2018-2019 school year, the number of students enrolled in teacher education programs nationwide dropped by more than a third. The study found that in the 2018-2019 school year, fewer than 90,000 undergraduate degrees in education were granted.

The AACTE report specifies which subject areas are being hit the hardest by the decline in students in

teaching programs and reported that there is a 4-percent decrease in special education training, a 27-percent decrease in scientific and math training, and a 44-percent reduction in world language training.

The decline has only gotten worse since the pandemic hit. Prospective educators have been scared off by the challenges that teachers have faced since the pandemic struck, as well as by an increasingly hostile political and cultural environment towards public education. One of the more obvious factors that affect how many people choose to pursue education is the salary. An analysis by the Economic Policy Institute found that on average teachers earn 23.5 percent less than comparable college graduates. Even with the many benefits that come with a teaching profession, like union support, health insurance, and retirement plans, the wage gap is simply too much for many prospective educators.

# Teachers In CRISIS



## Political Pressure Builds on What Teachers Assign

by Genevieve Mayle '23

Increasing controversy over the books taught in English classes has caused tensions between teachers and school districts. Books that focus on race, sexual orientation, gender identity, and include LGBTQ+ characters are getting disproportionately targeted and banned in schools. This rising controversy has triggered some school districts to contend that flags and objects of any kind that display Black Lives Matter (BLM) and LGBTQ+ symbols should be banned as well.

Teachers and district-level curriculum specialists specifically pick out books included in school libraries and English curriculums. Book bans override these selections, the organization PEN America claims, as a “result of parent or community challenges, administrative decisions, or in response to direct or threatened action by lawmakers or other governmental officials.” Teachers, like third-grade Florida teacher Cassandra Oetinger-Kenski, are being told to “yank” books that are not “in compliance” with state laws. Under such pressure, Oetinger-Kenski told the Washington Post, “I would strongly consider leaving.” Former Pennsylvania English teacher Katherine Semisch stated in the same article that she be-

lieves the intention of the bans is to frighten teachers and librarians into self-censorship.

Sherwood English teacher Christopher Goodrich believes book censorship is “centered around a definition of identity that people do not like,” and that it is “a sad state of powerlessness from people who want to impose their morality on the public.”

Book censorship discussions have begun to spread to classroom displays. The Kettle Moraine School District in Wisconsin has prohibited teachers from “displaying political or religious messages in their classrooms or on their person, including gay pride flags and Black Lives Matter and We Back the Badge signs. Staff also may not say in emails what their preferred pronouns are,” reported The Associated Press.

Sherwood social studies teacher Joshua Kinnetz, who displays a number of flags/banners in his classroom including ones for BLM and Pride, says that his priority as an educator is to provide a safe environment to learn. “LGBTQ+ and African Americans are marginalized groups in our country. When a place feels unsafe, learning is hindered. It's important to me that I let them know that I stand with them in solidarity and that my classroom is a safe place.”

## Sherwood Staff Cuts Leaves Teachers Struggling

by Sydney Wiser '23

Before the 2022-2023 school year, Sherwood lost two dozen staff members, leaving many classes overcrowded and many teachers overwhelmed. Some teachers left on their own while others were involuntarily transferred.

Transfers are common within the teaching profession and are often a result of reduced enrollment or staffing needs at other schools. Typically, MCPS makes determinations about staffing numbers for departments based on the projected enrollments in courses. If they determine that staff members need to be cut in a department, the teachers who have worked the shortest length of time in MCPS are chosen to be transferred. Teachers who are involuntarily transferred are guaranteed a job within MCPS.

However, what was unusual about last year's transfer process was the number of teachers who were involuntarily transferred and the short notice some were given prior to the 2022-2023 school year. Some transfers occurred as late as August 2022 according to Elected Faculty Representative (EFR) Caitlin Thompson, who is one of the two teachers responsible for representing teachers in Sherwood's leadership meetings.

“Normally, transfers happen in March. Teachers who are leaving have lots of time to plan and prepare for a new school. Teachers who are filling in for them have lots of time to plan and prepare to teach new content,” explained Thompson. “This year, no one had that time. Teachers got new classes a week before the school year began. That's really stressful.”

The Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA), which acts as the Montgomery County teacher's union, also expressed frustrations about the timing of the transfers as it violated policies in the MCPS teacher's agreement. Teachers were supposed to be notified by their principals about their transfers no later than February 28 and the MCEA was supposed to have

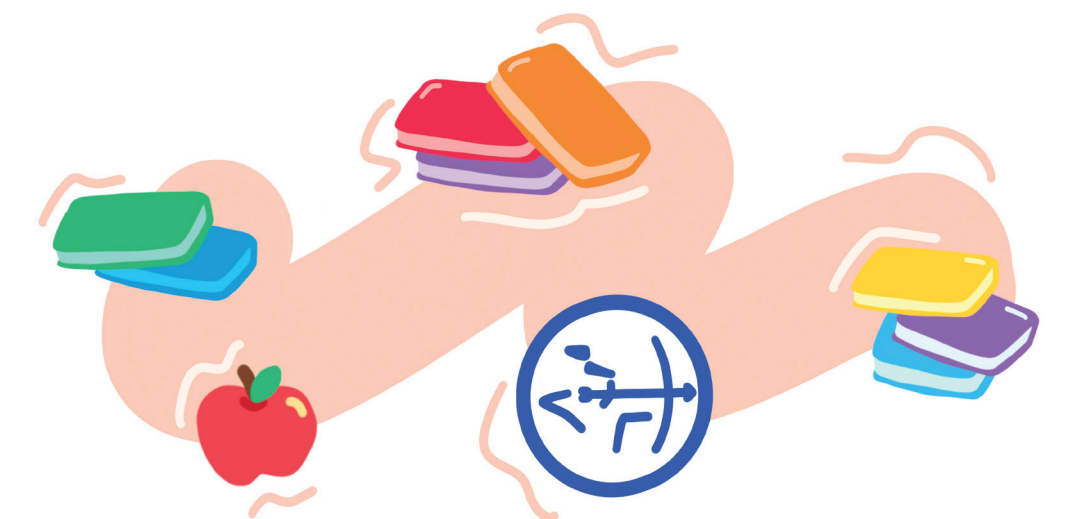
been sent a list of the staff members who were going to be transferred by the third Friday in March.

As a result of these staff cuts at Sherwood, class sizes have grown this school year. Some elective classes have 40 to 50 students in one period. Theater 1 and Advanced Theater classes were merged into one class with 45 students. Show Choir, which is a merging of four classes (Chorus 1, Chorus 2, Jazz Choir, Show Choir), has 51 students. Such large classes make it difficult for teachers to focus on individual students and make grading and providing tailored feedback take longer.

Choir teacher Johnathan Dunn explained that Chorus 1 and 2 were entry-level choruses to help students prepare for higher-level choruses like Chamber Singers, Show Choir, and Jazz Choir. Without these introductory classes, students with different levels of musical experience are mixed together and the director is responsible for tailoring class content to meet the needs of students with a wide scope of abilities.

Another effect of these larger classes is that fewer elective classes can be offered now that elective teachers need larger numbers of students to express interest. “If we only get 20 kids to sign up for a class, that class might not happen because we are supposed to be serving classes of 35,” said Thompson, who teaches AP Human Geography. “For teachers, it can mean losing a beloved elective class ... I would be devastated if [AP Human Geography] didn't run, but I know that with these new class size requirements, that's always a possibility.” Popular electives like AP Music Theory and AP Comparative Government were lost this year due to the smaller Sherwood student population and the larger class sizes.

As teachers navigate through short-notice transfers, large class sizes, and loss of electives, Thompson encourages students to be empathetic towards their teachers who have experienced a difficult past year. “Please try to show your teachers some grace; everyone is doing their best.”



## School Districts Struggle with Teacher Shortage

by Cheikh Lo '24

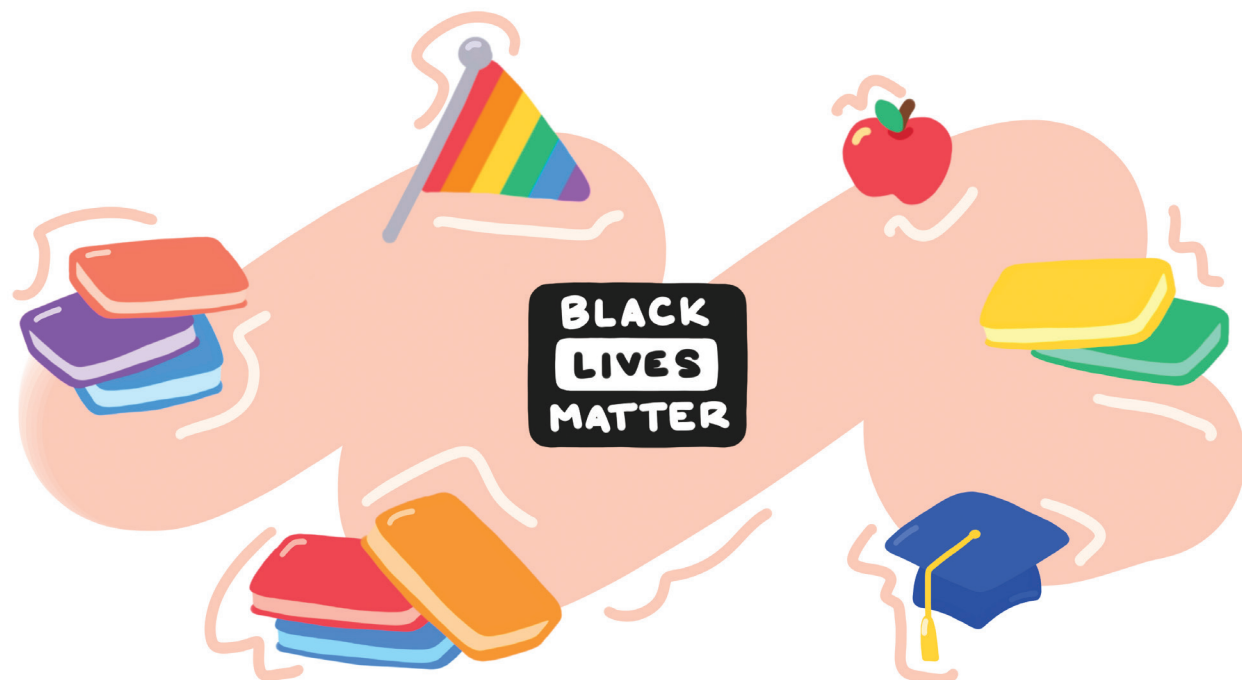
The coronavirus pandemic accelerated a national teacher shortage across the United States with some regions of the country struggling more than others. As teacher vacancies are increasing, many school districts reported throughout the summer that they are unable to find and hire qualified teachers for this current school year.

Leading into the school year, many districts, including MCPS, scrambled to hire teachers to fill needed positions. According to the New York Times, some large districts were trying to fill as many as 1,000 teaching positions. State and district-level reports from across the United States revealed staffing gaps remained wide open as summer wended rapidly to a close. Particular areas of need for teachers included special education and math.

On the homepage of its website, MCPS has kept a running tab of its efforts to fill teaching positions. Currently, a prominent box on the page proclaims: “Apply today so that you can be part of one of the

best school systems in the nation! MCPS Now 99% Staffed for 2022-2023 We still have open positions.” The Washington Post reported that right before the school year started, MCPS was struggling to find teachers to fill about 500 teacher and support staff vacancies. Even so, MCPS is planning on maintaining its class sizes of approximately 32 students per class in most high schools.

According to the publication The Hill, pandemic stress led to a significant number of teachers taking early retirement. An ongoing reason for the lack of teachers is low paying wages, especially in certain states and in many rural areas. As a result of such factors, The Hill stated that fewer undergraduates are pursuing education degrees. The Washington Post also reports that teachers feel unsatisfied with the lack of credit their job is given, which is another potential reason for the teacher shortage. A more recent reason for teachers leaving the profession, according to the Washington Post, is that teachers in some parts of the country are facing political pressure about what they are permitted to teach and say about social issues.





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

## **(not) exactly news**

by Ella Scher '23

### **Junior Noticeably Frustrated That Their Mental Health Is Improving**

An anonymous Sherwood junior has recently been incredulous and irritated at the fact that taking walks, not scrolling on their phone for 10 hours a day, and actually cleaning their depression room has actively improved their mental state. "It's annoying, not because I don't like getting better, but I hate the fact that every single trusted individual in my life has given me this advice and now I'm proving them right. It makes me want to—" Visibly frustrated, the student immediately pulled out their phone and started listening to "Happy" by Pharrell Williams. (An effort, no doubt, to correlate negative emotions with one of the worst pop songs ever made for a self-Pavlovian result.)

"Anyhow, my grades have been improving, I feel happier and more fulfilled, and some days I actually think optimistically about the sixty years of slaving away under capitalism I have ahead of me," reported the junior. Further questions proved that no, the SSRIs prescribed had nothing to do with this, and the recent interest in the gym was unrelated to the extremely attractive OneLife instructors.

### **Seniors Wish Parents Had Forced Them To Do Sports Or Something**

As the deadline for college applications races closer, seniors at Sherwood are becoming increasingly concerned for the state of their extracurricular activities. Status: little to none. With the student athletes at leisure, basking in their vocal commitments and shiny Instagram posts, the plebeians have plenty of time to panic over the deplorable lack of volunteer work, charity efforts, and leadership skills displayed in their applications.

"At Good Counsel, they send them to Africa to build houses," one senior complained, not wanting to give their name in case they sounded callous about others' suffering. "Here, we just try not to make eye contact with the homeless people on the median of 108. I haven't even, like spent 8 years of my life playing the violin!" This terrible consequence of impending college rejections can be directly attributed to every single parent who didn't force their children to play piano/tennis/shuffleboard for ten years.

Now what are these seniors supposed to do? Make up fake clubs that they created? It's true, Sherwood parents have a lot to learn, and a lot more guilt-tripping to do so the future generations can get both the extracurricular and a free Common App essay on trauma in a two-for-one deal. Thanks a lot, Mom and Dad!

### **England's First POC Prime Minister Offers Uniqueness and Diversity**

After the lettuce won against the disgraced Liz Truss (Yet another woman in office screwing everything up!) England replaced her with Rishi Sunak, the hardworking yet humble son of immigrant parents. Only 42 years old, he and his wife are on the lower end of British wealth, with a combined fortune of only \$730 million. Petty change in comparison to the other, far more politically active and influential Brits--they're only the 222nd richest people in England.

Sunak, who eked his humble living through hard work, dedication, and marrying an extremely rich heiress, offers a fresh perspective to the country which for so long has survived off of the parasitic wealth of the ultra-rich and the nobility.

Though Sunak himself has come under fire for some 'tasteless' comments he made about his less financially fortunate acquaintances, he assures his loyal voters that he does not, even a little bit, hate poor people with a burning passion. Sunak has also vehemently denied the silly and baseless rumors that he has created taxes for ordinary Britons to avoid paying approximately 20 million on the 1.7 billion shareholding stake he and his wife own in tech company Infosys.

Sunak is a shining example that through hard work, internalized racism, and nauseating classicism, anyone with enough money and general aesthetic appeal can get elected as long as they're not as horrible as the previous prime minister.

Here's hoping he makes it at least 46 days.

## Abnormal Advice: Resurrections

by Ben Schoenberg '24

**Dear Benjamin,**

Help! I'm in quite a pickle. I like this person, but they go to Blake. My friends and I all go to Sherwood, but I met this person at a game and I REALLY like them. None of their friends like me either though...it's like real life Romeo and Juliet...but I don't want us to die!! What do I do?

- Call me Leonardo DiCaprio

**Dear Leonardo DiCaprio,**

Just like William Shakespeare once said, "These violent delights have violent ends and in their triumph die, like fire and powder which, as they kiss, consume."



Now I don't really know what that means and I'm too lazy to look it up, but I assume it's relevant to your current situation. If I remember the story correctly, all you gotta do is run away to the woods with this person and get love potions mixed up or something. Watch out though because

there will be weird hockey fairies that will interfere with your romantic escapades. But it's okay because a guy with a donkey head will perform a play for you and all will end well for you and your partner from Blake. I don't really remember anyone dying in that story.



**Dear Benjamin,**

I'm suuuper stressed with college applications. They're due and I'm panicking! Should I scrap everything and not go to college? Living in my parent's basement seems like a pretty good option at this point.

- Every Senior

**Dear Every Senior,**

Not going to college seems like the smartest decision to make. No one said anything about having to live in your parent's basement,

though. Surprisingly, millions of Americans everyday don't live in their parents homes and aren't in college. Rich people such as Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, and Bruce Wayne are successful while living in their own homes. Bruce Wayne has been parent-less for most of his life and he runs a successful business making money and even has time to volunteer in an anti-crime program at night, all while not being in college. So if Bruce Wayne can do it, so can you!

**Dear Benjamin,**

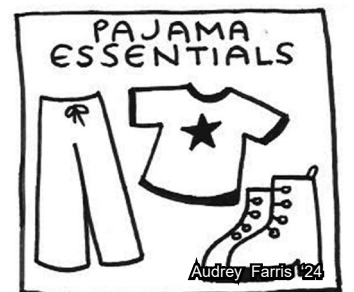
I met this new guy and he's everything I've ever wanted in a boyfriend. But a major red flag: he says he sleeps with socks on. Atrocious. I don't want to break up with him, but I don't think I could live with that. What should I do?

- Sock Girl

**Dear Sock Girl,**

Sleeping with socks on is absolutely revolting, I gagged just thinking about the idea. I completely understand why it has affected your relationship; everyone knows feet need to be covered in the presence of others, but it baffles me that he has the audacity to bring socks into the bedroom. That is why the only option left is to let him know that you've started wearing shoes while you sleep. I know it is blasphemy but

by wearing shoes, preferably nice ones, you would be able to make him reflect upon his bad decision.



## **PDA Elimination Policy**

**Dear Sherwood community,**

**Starting November 5, 2022, Sherwood will be implementing measures to decrease and eventually eradicate the various forms of Public Displays of Affection (PDA) that have been plaguing the school grounds. To effectively prevent students from engaging in this kind of inappropriate behavior between class periods, administration will deploy POLICE (People Opposing Love In Controlled Environments), a group of student volunteers that specializes in disrupting inappropriate student interactions.**

**When POLICE are deployed during their designated operational times they will approach the couples and disrupt their activity. Once separated, the students individually will be brought to a school conference room to fill out PDA report forms, followed by a call home to a parent or guardian.**

**Administration is committed to act timely in order to respond to the continuing incidents of PDA that plague the school. Whether it occurs in the various locker banks throughout the school, on stairwells, or in the middle of busy hallways, PDA reflects poorly upon the Sherwood community. The POLICE will be on the front-lines in the battle against Public Displays of Affection.**

## School Offers New Wilderness Therapy Trip

by Cliff Vacin '25

After complaints from Sherwood students and the SGA about the lack of general field trips, the school administration intervened to create a new “adventure abroad” field trip that is planned to take place in early December. The week-long Wilderness Therapy camp in Summersville, West Virginia is open to students in all levels, and all it requires is a signed waiver and payment for a bus trip.

Some parents were left scratching their heads as to why their children received an invitation to the camp and others did not, especially since the practice of wilderness therapy is considered by some experts to be harmful to kids and a questionable way to correct misbehavior. “I really don’t get why they think it’s alright to call kids ‘juvenile’ in the letter I got,” said parent Nelson Figgletton in response to his son James receiving an invitation to the camp. “Billy might make some bad choices from time to time but what teen doesn’t? My son is not a delinquent, and I don’t know why this school is trying to get me to send him to seven days in the wild.”

On the hand, a number of parents seemed enthusiastic about the adventure abroad, as it seemed



Students on the trip will carry backpacks weighing over 50 pounds.

like an inexpensive way to send their children to a camp. “I think this is a great idea, actually,” said Monika Haggins, a proud mother of three Sherwood students. “My oldest is a huge troublemaker, skipping class to go to the local 7/11 every day. I need him out of my hair for a couple of days.”

Typically at these camps, counseling is combined with events in nature like hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, and backpacking, in which doing these strenuous events are supposed to limit distractions. Wilderness therapy camps are often advertised with the intention of helping teens with such issues as laziness and chronic sleeping, vaping and other unhealthy habits, and gaming addiction. Adolescents at the camp stop “cold tur-

key” from doing such behaviors.

The school administration is fully aware of the concerns from a few parents, but dismisses them. “We believe this field trip is an excellent option,” said the assistant principal who is coordinating the event. “It is not mandated, and this should be the absolute best option for parents with students who need to focus away from misbehavior and towards survival in the wild.”

But in spite of the administration insisting that the field trip was optional, some of the parents have felt pressured to send their kids to this camp. And reportedly, at least one teacher passed out fliers about the camp to certain students in her class and proudly told them, “you’ve earned this vacation.”

## Students Unionize Against Work

by Jordan Costolo '25

A small but very vocal minority of students have banded together to fight back against the teachers of Sherwood. Inspired by the recent efforts of workers to unionize at massive corporations such as Apple, Amazon, and Starbucks, junior Jackson Shun created the Fellowship of Students in Solidarity (FSS). The FSS is demanding that students receive no more than 20 minutes of homework total per night, as well as that students receive a guaranteed five-minute break period in the precise middle of each class period.

“This is an accumulation of all kinds of problems this school has,” said Shun. “The workload is just too much for the average student. It’s gotten to the point where even the people that get copied off can’t keep up. The overworking of students must not continue!”

Demands for less homework and mental wellness breaks have only angered the faculty more, to the point in which teachers have threatened to give lower grades to students affiliated with the FSS. In response, the FSS has resorted to meeting secretly in bathrooms, which have become safe havens because of the recently installed doors.

Many students whole-heartedly believe that the work they are doing with the FSS is benefiting the school. “It’s bad here,” said freshman Zach Richards. “If we don’t turn in work by a certain date they will fail us. People think that Apple’s child workers are suffering, but what about us?”

Veteran math teacher Henderson Sheets is not sympathetic to the students’ complaints. “I’m tired of these slackers whining about getting 20 math questions per night, and not knowing the meaning of self-discipline,” said Sheets. “So what if we give a quiz at the end of the week? We are just trying to prepare students for a higher education”. The math department recently met to discuss doubling down on rigor and eliminating all make-up quizzes.

Sherwood’s administration will support the teachers and does not plan on negotiating with the FCC. As a result, Shun threatened a strike and has gained the signatures of more than 950 students who have promised to participate in the Hallway March, a protest of walking the hallways during classes. “I’m hopeful that this method of ignoring authority will get the school’s attention,” said Shun, who claimed that this approach will get students already skipping classes to join the cause.

### Across

1. A popular doughnut
11. The last name of the gubernatorial democratic candidate
12. The month before this one
16. A new Superhero movie starring the Rock Black \_\_\_\_
17. Get this to protect yourself from getting Covid-19!
18. Do, re, etc
20. A female pronoun
21. What you do with leaves in the fall
24. The last name of the lead character in the Halloween franchise
26. The top predator
27. Your arm or leg
30. Name of pattern often used for flannels
31. A female deer
32. Who did Sherwood play for the HOCO football game?
34. The superego, ego, etc
35. What horses eat
36. A spooky weather phenomena
37. One of the songs Show Choir is performing at their concert “\_\_\_\_ Medley”
40. Apple, pecan, pumpkin, etc
41. The amount of food you have on Thanksgiving
43. An unlucky animal on

### Halloween

44. The opposite of the truth
45. Thanksgiving is \_\_\_\_!
46. A horror film starring Lupita Nyong’o
49. What seniors are stressing about doing for college
52. You must be 18 years of \_\_\_\_ to vote
53. One of the love interests in the school musical Legally Blonde
54. Past tense of eat
55. A caramel and chocolate Halloween candy.

### Down

1. Emergency Medical Technicians
2. The opposite of yes
3. \_\_\_\_ and fro
4. Equal Rights Amendment
5. The first name of the man who was kicked out of the YouTube Channel “The Try Guys” \_\_\_\_ Fulmer
6. What do you do when you throw?
7. The current month
8. Spooky, eerie, etc
9. \_\_\_\_ Martens
10. Trick or \_\_\_\_?
13. The initials of the lead actor in the newly released movie *Bones and All*
14. What journalists must be wary of
15. A French preposition
18. The leaf on the Canadi-

- an flag
19. The furniture store where college students shop
21. The genre of Drake’s newest album
22. The name of a Taylor Swift’s duet off of her album *Folklore*
23. The name of Taylor Swift’s latest album
25. To \_\_\_\_ their own
28. \_\_\_\_ Rings show how

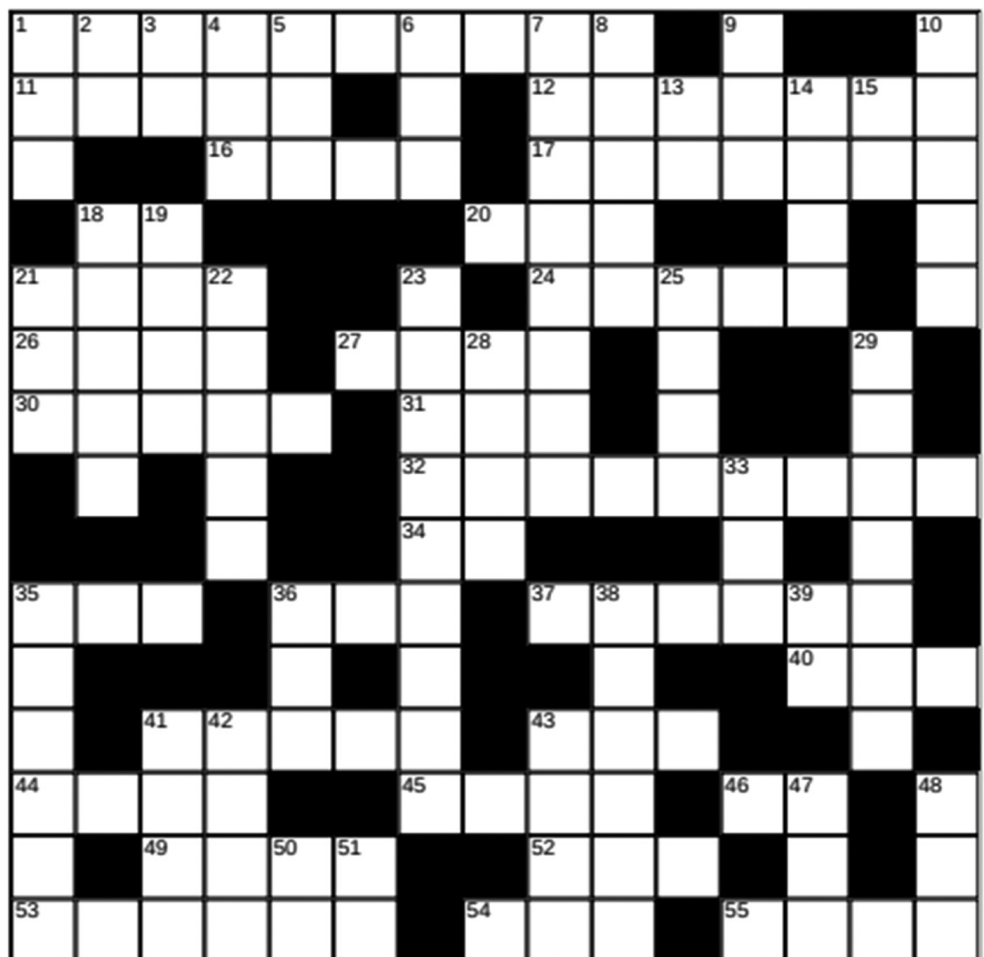
- you’re feeling
29. The zodiac sign from mid October to November
33. An exclamation of an awe
35. The Legend of Sleepy \_\_\_\_
36. The Food and Drug Administration
38. The color of a pumpkin
39. Operation (abb.)
41. The only thing to \_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_ itself

42. A sports channel
43. What you wear in colder weather
47. Texas Chain \_\_\_\_ Massacre
48. The last name of the Republican gubernatorial candidate
50. Physical Education
51. Senior (abb.)

Visit [thewarrioronline.com](http://thewarrioronline.com) for answers.

## Falling Into a New School Year

by Sydney Wiser, Naomi Bang, Lauren Frank '23, and Ben Schoenberg '24





Junior Ben Schoenberg, seniors Ricky Pepper, Jordan Goodman, Mia Rohan, and sophomores Ellie Schwam, Robyn Oberholzer rehearse their lines in act two, as their characters celebrate their first ever legal victory.

## Legally Blonde Tackled by Theater Program

by Aidan Therrien '23

This year, Sherwood's theater program is taking on a challenge as Director Elizabeth Kominski and the cast will be presenting *Legally Blonde*, a 2001 film that was turned into a Broadway musical. Containing complicated choreography, large sets, difficult music for the pit, and some of the most daunting vocal parts on Broadway, *Legally Blonde* is a lot to tackle. The musical runs November 17-20 in the Ertzman Theater; tickets can be purchased online.

The show follows the story of Elle Woods, a fashion student at a West Coast school. After Woods gets dumped by her boyfriend citing that he "needs someone serious," she decides to leave everything behind and follow him across the country to Harvard Law School in hopes to win back his love.

Kominski said that seniors in the theater program pushed for *Legally Blonde*, and believes

a cast who is passionate about a show will perform it better. Between stage moves for leads and large dance breaks, such as the end of "What You Want," planning choreography is a daunting task. Helpfully, there is a student putting it together. "Clara Cundick has stepped up as the choreographer for the more difficult dances. Her ability to teach and lead the students has been phenomenal," said Kominski.

*Legally Blonde* has a large and complex set with many moving parts, but with the help of set designer Sarah Breeden and the stage crew, that will not be a problem. The show also includes two dogs, Bruiser and Rufus, played by live dogs, Littles Bayma and Jack Jack Kominski, dogs from the cast and the director.

Elle is the single-cast lead role played by senior Mia Rohan. "The whole role is physically and emotionally exhausting, especially 'So Much Better,' one of the biggest belts on Broadway," said Rohan, who has been pay-

ing keen attention to her vocal health.

Senior Jordan Goodman will play Emmett, a student at Harvard and Elle's love interest. Warner, the man who left Elle, will be double cast as junior Ben Schoenberg and freshman Eli Goodman. Callahan, the creepy professor, will be double cast as senior Ricky Pepper and junior Ryan Augustino. While Jordan Goodman and Schoenberg are veterans, *Legally Blonde* will be Pepper's and Eli Goodman's first theater production.

The show will also have a live pit orchestra of student musicians who play underneath the stage to supply the show's soundtrack, consisting of various horns, strings, and rhythm section instruments. The musicians meet multiple times a week to rehearse the songs for the show. Sherwood has strong musicians, made up of experienced students this year, making it possible to choose a musical with a difficult soundtrack.

## VFX Artists Shine Spotlight on Difficult Working Conditions

by Dasun Panapitiya '24

War are not VFX.

From the computer-generated Na'vi in James Cameron's *Avatar* to nearly every scene in Anthony and Joe Russo's *Avengers: Endgame*, visual effects (VFX) have garnered a reputation for contributing to box-office hits in modern entertainment. With history spanning back to the 1800s, VFX have been used in films and other mediums to create scenes that are impossible to do using practical effects. The most prominent example of VFX, computer-generated imagery (CGI), started being used in the late 1900s with films like *Westworld* and *Star Wars*. Now more than ever, CGI is being used in every medium of entertainment, from movies to video games. However, with the growth of VFX, comes controversy.

The impacts of VFX on the history of film are vast. Ever since movies like *Jurassic Park* came out, many directors have stated that they felt pressured to create similar types of blockbusters that focus on creating an experience for the viewer, rather than the story element of the movie. VFX only intensified this pressure as they allowed for more unrealistic things to happen. However, with CGI being cheaper to use compared to practical effects, filmmakers were able to replace expensive models and animatronics to save money in the budget.

VFX has improved in recent years, and has been used a lot more. The entertainment company Marvel Studios is a major player in the VFX area with consistent use of CGI in its movies and TV shows. According to the VFX company Industrial Light & Magic, only 80 out of more than 2,700 scenes in *Avengers: Infinity*

Recently, however, Marvel Studios has been caught in a controversy about its VFX and the people who work on it. With time constraints placed on finishing a Marvel movie they have been forced to work longer and harder. Director Taika Waititi recently made negative comments about the CGI in his own movie, *Thor: Love and Thunder*. Waititi is receiving backlash over these comments, as they came at a time when VFX artists have started speaking out about poor working conditions and the exploitation of Marvel Studios

"Working on Marvel projects ends up being incredibly stressful, and this is a widely known issue throughout the VFX industry; it's not specific to any one VFX house," said an anonymous VFX artist who has worked on Marvel Projects.

Marvel also has a history of not paying VFX studios and artists enough for the time they spend doing these large-scale scenes. Money can mean everything for a VFX studio. The Oscar-winning VFX studio, Rhythm & Hues, filed for bankruptcy in 2013 and had to lay off almost 200 workers. Even recently, Moving Picture Company, the studio that worked on the 6th highest-grossing film, *Spider-man: No Way Home*, announced it was going to freeze pay rises for their workers through 2022. While no action has been taken yet, the internet has begun a movement to support the large-scale unionization of the VFX industry. With the support of the internet, many more VFX artists will start to speak out and perhaps eventually start to take action in order to get better working conditions.

## Black Adam Collapses under the Weight of Its Own Expectations

by Connor Pugh '24

The 2008 release of *Iron Man* marked the beginning of what would become 14 long years of near complete domination of the film industry by superhero films, and shows little sign of stopping anytime soon. Warner Bros. arrived late to the superhero film scene, releasing the first film in the DCEU (DC Extended Universe), *Man of Steel* in 2013, after its main competitor Marvel Studios already completed "Phase one" of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) with the release of *The Avengers* a year before. Now there are 29 films and eight shows in the MCU, with at least two films coming out every year to continuous commercial success. In this situation of superhero movie oversaturation, DC released *Black Adam* on October 21, a film its main star Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson promises will change the hierarchy of power in the DCEU and be something to remember for years to come.

To stand out amidst the abundance of superhero movies, *Black*

*Adam* had to live up to the promises it set for itself and exceed expectations. There has to be a reason for people to come back to the film; a reason for someone to pick out *Black Adam* among the sea of mediocrity and be able to say that it did something unique. Unfortunately, *Black Adam* fails to live up to its own promises, delivering a profoundly lukewarm experience that is never abhorrently bad, but struggles to create a memorable experience and break free from the clichés that define the modern superhero movie.

*Black Adam* tells the story of Teth-Adam (Dwayne Johnson), a slave who lived 5,000 years ago in the fictional civilization of Khandaq and was given godlike powers to free his people from a tyrannical king before never being heard from again. Now in the present day, when the modern country of Khandaq is under the control of a military organization called the Intergang, Teth-Adam is freed from a mysterious imprisonment by Adrianna Tomaz (Sarah Shahi) and immediately begins killing everyone. Teth-Ad-

am's quick work of Intergang catches the attention of the Justice Society, and a team of the superheroes—Doctor Fate (Pierce Brosnan), Atom Smasher (Noah Centineo), Cyclone (Quintessa Swindell), and Hawkman (Aldis Hodge)—is assembled to stop Teth-Adam before he causes great harm to innocent people.

The setting of *Black Adam* is one of its weakest aspects, a crude amalgamation of Middle Eastern stereotypes to create a color palette that entirely consists of browns and yellows, with maybe an occasional red thrown in for pizzazz. Most of the story is instead told through the characters, as the conflict between Teth-Adam and the Justice Society becomes an allegory for imperialism and what happens when the people in power determine what is good and bad. Unfortunately, instead of developing these themes in any meaningful way, the Justice Society and Teth-Adam settle their differences in a hand-wavy fashion after a couple fights and team up to battle with the generic third-act villain and save the day.



There were many moments in the film that proved *Black Adam* had the capability to tell a mature and thoughtful story, even if it wouldn't have been very subtle. It could've given a reason for someone to come back and watch the movie again, or at the very least want to stick with the DCEU and see what it can do with future films and narratives. Nevertheless *Black Adam* focused more on what other superhero films were

doing and emulating the tried and true formula instead of trying to do what it could do that other superhero films cannot. *Black Adam* had a lot of potential to be more than just an average superhero movie, but instead it resigned itself to the fate of forgettable dullness.

**Grade: C-**



## A Romance Veiled in Mystery

by Liam Trump '24

On a South Korean mountaintop, two detectives are scaling its side, intent on surveying the scene of a new presumed murder. Reaching the summit and nearly out of breath, Hae-joon (Park Hae-il) and his partner Soo-wan (Go Kyung-pyo) make it upon the crime scene. The camera cuts to a wide shot as the detectives stand atop overlooking the evidence. At the base, a dead man lies, with none the wiser of whether this was an accident or if something much more sinister was afoot. Taken aback by the odd circumstances, the detectives weigh out their options of suspects and come to the conclusion that there is only one: the now widowed Seo-rae (Tang Wei).

Park Chan-wook's latest film *Decision to Leave* is a strikingly unique take on the traditional mystery narrative. Through dynamic cinematography, breakneck pacing, and an engaging score, Chan-wook weaves together a story brimming with originality and creativity.

The main storyline follows Hae-joon as he attempts to solve a murder case, the only known suspect being the victim's wife Seo-rae, a Chinese immigrant who was seemingly abused both physically and psychologically by her late husband. The two of them eventually fall in love, but their bond becomes increasingly strained as the investigation continues.

Hae-il and Wei present this unorthodox romance with performances that come across as

almost effortless. Their relationship is very well written as Hae-il nails his role as a man in over his head; shown immediately as the youngest inspector in Busan's police department. Wei, on the other hand, brings about a different side of their relationship, hiding her true emotions in many scenes and shrouding her intentions in mystery which adds a nice contrast to Hae-il's more simplistic character.

Jumping from flashbacks to montages to the current story, Chan-wook keeps the main narrative from becoming stale. The camera always seems to be moving, allowing for fluid scenes that make great use of the thrilling set pieces. Along with that, both the licensed songs and the music scored for the film add to the overall entertainment value and heighten the tone of whichever sequence they're placed in. With a story as layered as the one in *Decision to Leave*, a lot of care needs to be put into the presentation, which the entire crew, from cinematographer Ji-yong Kim to composer Yeong-wook Jo, handled with competence.

While it doesn't have quite as much stylistic excess as Chan-wook's previous movies such as *Oldboy* or *The Handmaiden*, *Decision to Leave* still provides a fascinating look into deception as it relates to romantic relationships. A lot of the film's influence can be pointed to older Hitchcock films, but with a modern setting, *Decision to Leave* becomes a whodunit unlike any other.

**Grade: A**

## Chainsaw Man Starts Off Strong

by Genevieve Mayle '23

After its opening episodes, *Chainsaw Man* has set the stage to become one of the most watchable dark fantasy anime of the season. MAPPA, a renowned Japanese animation studio famous for animating *Jujutsu Kaisen* and *Attack on Titan: The Final Season*, has decided to take on recreating this famed manga, which had won the Harvey Award (one of the oldest and most prestigious awards for comics) two years straight.

The author of the manga *Chainsaw Man*, Tatsuki Fujimoto, is known by his fans to be a cinephile who loves including movie references throughout his work. In fact, there are many movie references incorporated into the anime intro of *Chainsaw Man*. Here are a few some viewers might have missed: *Pulp Fiction*, *Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood*, *Don't Look Up*, and *Fight Club*.

Based on the first three episodes, it seems that MAPPA is mostly staying true to Fujimoto's original work. However, the sequence of events in the anime does slightly differ from the manga. The first episode's opening scene depicts an ominous-looking door at the end of an alley with no context, which appears

in the manga's 38th chapter. The purpose of the scene in the manga is meant to set up a plot twist. It's evident that MAPPA chose to include the scene to develop a suspenseful and foreboding tone. Unfortunately for anime-only watchers, the relevance of the door will most likely not be revealed in the near future. In addition, the anime glosses over a scene in chapter two of the manga where Denji encounters the Muscle Devil. The devil takes control of a little girl's body to manipulate Denji into letting his guard down and ends up breaking Denji's arm in the process. MAPPA's exclusion of this scene from the anime is likely meant to improve the fluency of events in the anime, though many manga readers might believe that the exclusion of this scene downplays Denji's struggle to not trust devils. A valid concern is that the fast pace of the anime will end up in the exclusion of other—possibly important—scenes.

Despite some concerns of how the show differs from the original manga, the anime accurately depicts the characters and provides entertaining episodes regardless of whether viewers already know the narrative of *Chainsaw Man*.

**Grade: A-**

# Winter Calender

## Movies

### *The Fabelmans* (November 6)

Serving as a pseudo biopic to director Steven Spielberg, *The Fabelmans* follows young Sammy Fabelman (Gabriel LaBelle) as he falls in love with cinema. Set in a post-World War II Arizona, the film will be a window into Spielberg's first steps as a filmmaker.

### *Avatar: The Way of the Water* (December 16)

Releasing 13 years after the original *Avatar*, James Cameron's long awaited sequel has Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) and Neytiri (Zoe Saldana) start a family on Pandora. With familiar enemies returning, Jake, Neytiri, and the rest of the Na'vi army will have to defend their planet and way of life.

### *Babylon* (December 23)

Clocking in at 3 hours, Damien Chazelle's latest film will chronicle the transition from silent to sound films. The rise and fall story promises to be a tale filled with outsized ambition and outrageous excess to illustrate the true nature of 1920s Hollywood.

## Albums

### Joji - *Smithereens* (November 4)

Joji's third studio album *Smithereens* will be available on November 4. The album is predicted to follow a similar sound fans have come to love from his previous releases.

### Caitlin Rose - *Cazimi* (November 18)

Country singer Caitlin Rose returns after ten years with *Cazimi*. The album will be released on November 18 and is expected to explore the diverse sound of country combined with a more radio-pop-esque sound.

### Weezer - *SZNZ: Winter* (December 21)

*SZNZ: Winter* is the fourth and final EP in the "SZNZ" series of releases over the past year. The EP is said to incorporate a classic indie-rock sound with a more mellow feel, which contrasts the other *SZNZ* EPs.

## Concerts

### Dayglow (November 18)

Indie-pop band Dayglow is going to be playing at the 9:30 club on November 14. Known for songs like "Can I Call You Tonight?" and "Hot Rod," Dayglow will be certain to provide an energetic and exciting concert experience. Tickets are still available for purchase through Ticketmaster or via the 9:30 club's website.

### MÅNESKIN (December 5)

Italian rock band Måneskin, known for winning the international songwriting competition Eurovision in 2021, will be playing at The Anthem on December 5. Tickets are still available for purchase through Ticketmaster or via The Anthem's website.

### Modest Mouse (December 20)

Popular 2010s rock band Modest Mouse will be touring throughout November and December, and will be playing at the 9:30 club on December 20. Tickets are still available for purchase through Ticketmaster or via the 9:30 club's website.

November 4, 2022

## Colleen Hoover Does It Again

by Maggie Reese '24

As TikTok has become increasingly influential, the #booktok subculture emerged in recent years. Colleen Hoover became a TikTok sensation with more than one billion tags that laid the path for her to become a #1 New York Times bestseller with a Goodreads award-winning book with over a million reviews. As Hoover's 2016 book *It Ends with Us* climbed the bestseller list in 2020, readers continuously begged for more and practically forced Hoover to write a sequel. Her new novel *It Starts with Us* tells fan favorite Atlas's side of the story from his perspective and shares what comes next in this long-anticipated sequel to *It Ends with Us*.

Hoover's 2016 novel concludes with promising a happy, stable ending between two tortured souls. Lily remains strong and decides to divorce Ryle, breaking the never ending cycle of abuse (hence "it ends with us"). The alternating chapters told by Atlas and Lily in *It Starts with Us* shows the aftermath of domestic violence. There's an underlying intensity and realism, especially in the depiction of Lily and Atlas's emotional conflicts and conversation with each other. The tone is honest and from the heart.

Presently in the narrative of *It Starts with Us*, Lily runs her flower shop while Ryle continues his career as a surgeon, as they now co-parent their daughter, Emerson. Lily refuses to permit Emerson to stay overnight at the house of her abusive ex-husband until Emerson is old enough to talk "so she can tell me if something happens." Although craving full custody, Lily is reluctant to fight for it in court because that would become expensive, start drama, and possibly a physical fight. When Lily runs into Atlas, a childhood

friend who also came from an abusive family, she hopes their friendship can blossom into love. Atlas, who is single and owns a restaurant, feels the same way.

Although Lily is divorced, she isn't exactly free. She plans out her dates with Atlas very carefully to avoid confrontation with Ryle. Behind his veneer of civility, jealousy and resentment simmer in her ex-husband. Meanwhile, Atlas's mother returns to his life with jaw-dropping news. It demonstrates that Atlas is proof that no matter the turmoil people are experiencing, it is still possible to treat those around you with care and respect.

As Lily struggles between childcare, breastfeeding, and trying to find time for herself while also owning her own business, she still finds time to share romantic moments with Atlas that are even sweeter for their genuineness in her otherwise difficult times. There are moments of awkwardness and sincerity as Lily juggles the realities of motherhood with a romance that makes her feel 16 again. This journey is masterfully peppered with flashes of fear and anxiety prompted by Ryle's behavior, which is still as unpredictable as ever.

As the sequel wasn't certainly necessary as the ending to *It Ends With Us* left readers imagining their own ending for the heartbreaking novel the eagerly awaited *It Starts with Us* will not disappoint Hoover's fans and lives up to their high expectations. Packed with riveting drama and painful truths, the novel powerfully illustrates the devastation of abuse and the strength of its survivors. Through unbearable tension contrasted with gleams of hope, Hoover beautifully captures the heartbreak and joy of starting over.

**Grade: A-**



## Scratch Kitchen & Bistro Serves the Community

by Naomi Bang '23

Scratch Kitchen & Bistro is a small business serving fresh, locally sourced ingredients, making it the perfect spot for your next Sunday brunch. Located at 18062 Georgia Ave in the shopping strip just behind Popeyes, the cafe and bistro recently had their grand opening with an added lunch menu along with their repertoire of breakfast dishes.

Upon walking in, customers are greeted by a clean, farmhouse-style set up. A pastry case displays a variety of baked goods and an open drink cooler features their orange juice and yogurt parfaits alongside standard fountain drinks. An outdoor patio provides ample seating—perfect for the upcoming fall weather—and I was able to share a meal there with my family of six.

Following the concept of a scratch kitchen, which only serves customers with fresh ingredients, their all-day breakfast menu is loaded with fluffy eggs straight from Brookville's Bel-

la Vita Farm. The bagel and lox features smoked salmon served on a toasted bagel from Ize's Deli & Bagelry in Rockville Pike, and another nice addition is a self-serve coffee bar featuring Mayorga coffee from their Rockville facility.

The only downside of using all fresh ingredients is a higher price point, though the \$6 orange juice (squeezed right behind the counter) is still worth giving a try. The most expensive dish is Angie's "Lobstah" roll on the lunch menu for \$27, but there are some cheaper options like The Single Hander breakfast sandwich for \$7.

Several dishes come with lightly seasoned, rosemary home fries that are just the right amount of flavorful, and the turkey bacon balances a crispy yet tender texture. The pancakes were a bit dense and without anything else to break up the dish, it was difficult to finish. Overall, the food maintains restaurant quality while being reminiscent of home-cooked meals.

Scratch Kitchen & Bistro also has a powerful story that will have you cheering for their success. Owner Bernadette Rousseau planned to lease the space for her daughter Angelina as the two of them shared a strong passion for cooking. But after her daughter's sudden passing on February 1, the same day Rousseau received the keys for the lease, she delayed opening for funeral preparations. Rousseau ultimately decided to open the restaurant and carry on her daughter's dream. Despite the personal loss, Rousseau decided to make the most of her situation and support the community by creating jobs to encourage entrepreneurship and by sourcing locally.

Scratch Kitchen & Bistro is definitely worth giving a try, even with the higher price points since the extra expense goes toward quality sourced food. Rather than grabbing a quick bite at any of the other numerous chain franchises in Olney, "go local" at a restaurant that is boldly offering something fresh.

## Taylor Swift's New Album Depicts Journey through Terrors and Sweet Dreams

by Lauren Frank '23

On October 21, Taylor Swift crashed Spotify with the release of her 10th studio album *Midnights*. If one new album wasn't already surprising enough, Swift announced the release of seven more songs, *Midnights (3am edition)*, after she released the original tracklist. Within hours, Swift's album became the most streamed album on Spotify in one day, reaching the number one spot on Apple Music's top albums chart, and top spots globally. Unlike her last two studio albums, *Evermore* and *Folklore*, featuring an alternative folk/indie style, the new album features synth-pop elements and hip-hop rhythms. *Midnights* is undeniably comparable in sound and style to previous albums *Lover* and *1989*.

The album gained a great deal of attention weeks before its release, in large part due to Swift's active fan base on social media. On TikTok, Swift revealed each song title of the album in a



series "Midnights Mayhem With Me," causing fans to speculate on the meaning behind each song.

One of these trending songs, "Anti-Hero," is depressingly honest but tuneful. The song resonates with listeners because of its raw and relatable message. Swift openly touches on her battle with self-image, including her struggles with insecurity, feeling broken, and falling apart when

trying to appreciate herself. The line "It's me, hi / I'm the problem, it's me" gives meaning to the title and Swift essentially depicts herself as her worst enemy.

"Lavender Haze" explores the feeling of falling in love and having an all-encompassing and genuine relationship with a special someone, referring to her relationship with actor Joe Alwyn. The song dives into the public's

desire to weigh in on their relationship, and Swift's wish to stay in this "lavender haze," instead of committing to marriage. The song title refers to this coined 1950's phrase of being in love, and cherishing the genuine relationship. Swift mentions her disregard for the public's thoughts, saying "I'm damned if I do give a damn what people say / the 1950s s--t they want from me / I just wanna stay in that lavender haze."

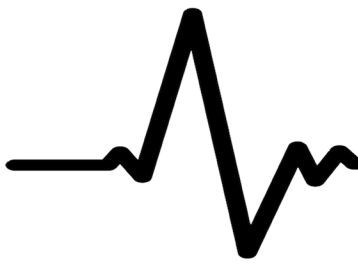
Tearjerker ballad "Bigger Than The Whole Sky" deeply touches listeners and illustrates the grief after a premature loss. Some believe the song is referring to a miscarriage, as shown in the lyric "You were more than just a short time ... I'm never gonna meet / What could've been, would've been." The song has brought immense comfort and validation to those suffering with pregnancy loss as it captures everything they feel going through this difficult time.

While the album as a whole is worth the massive hype, a few

songs certainly fall short. For one, "Snow by the Beach" features popular singer Lana Del Rey and incorporates a beautiful and melodic sound throughout. However, listeners complained that they couldn't hear Del Rey, as her background vocals were buried under the excessive production. Instead she was left whispering harmonies, rather than having her own featured verse. It was a let down for listeners to see Del Rey featured on the track, but barely audible in the song.

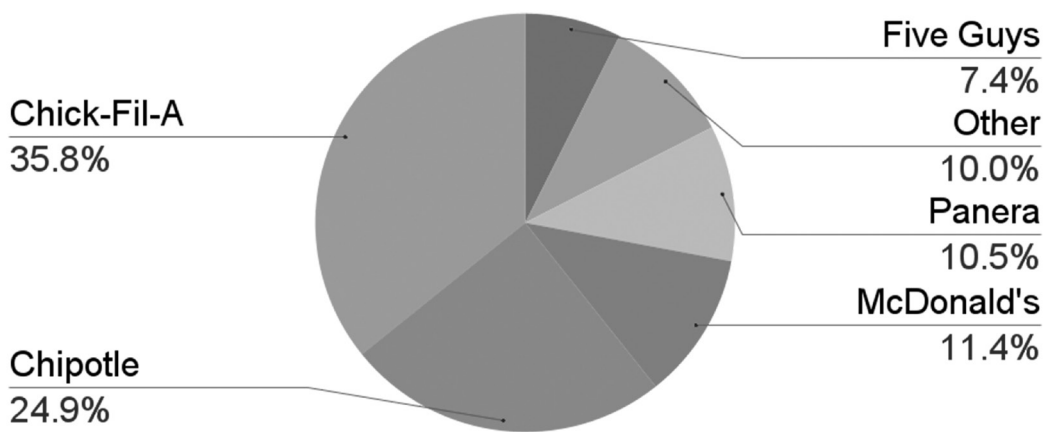
From the melodious instrumentals and vocals to the hard-hitting and gritty lyrics, this album without a doubt is a listener's paradise. Taylor Swift is truly a musical "mastermind," laying the groundwork for each of her songs, so fans can piece together its meaningful story. Swift never fails to leave fans eager for more music.

**Grade: A-**



## The Pulse

### What fast food place is your go-to in Olney?



### Are there any chain restaurants you wish Olney had? If so, why?

“Potbelly. I love Potbelly, as they make high quality sandwiches. I also always used to get Potbelly after the airport, making it a nostalgic food.”  
-Matteo Rosenberg '23

“Probably a Dairy Queen. Their blizzards are AMAZING and would be great during the summer since Olney only has a few places to get ice cream.”  
-Helynn Van Petten '24

“In-N-Out Burger. I know they are only on the West Coast to keep their food fresh, but if they ever extend out east we need to get one.”  
-Logan Fecko '23

“Panda Express because it is very different compared to other food, it is reasonably priced, and it would get lots of business.”  
-Katlyn Taylor '24

### If you have been to the Olney Farmers Market, which vendor is your favorite, and why?

“My favorite food vendors are the churro and empanada tents. They make delicious food that tastes like it is straight from the oven.”  
-June Dorsam '23

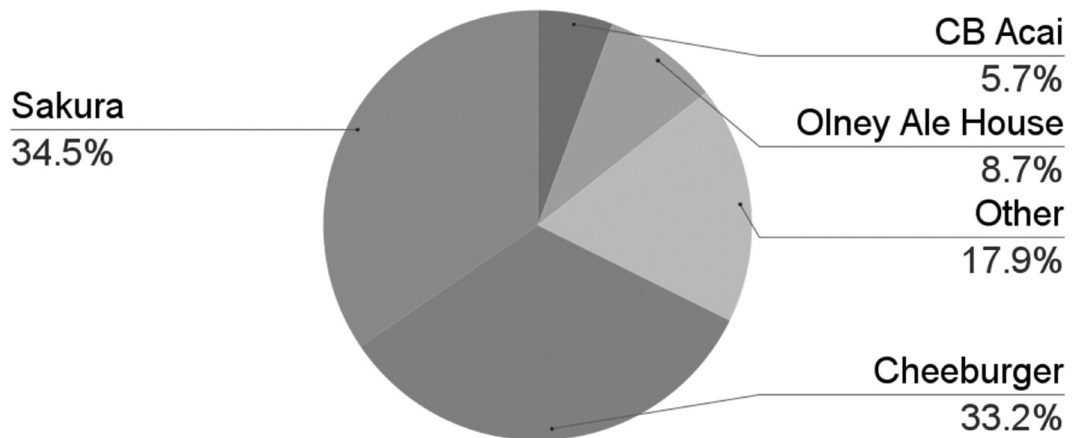
“I really like the family stand that sells Banh Mis. They have such good comfort food.”  
-Arya Sharma '23

“The one that sells Vietnamese spring rolls because they are so good and we dont have many Asian restaurants [in Olney].”  
-Ruth Fishman '23

“The churro vendor because they are so delicious and never get old no matter how many times I eat them.”  
-Avery Moxley '23

“The coffee stand. It has great, local coffee that is affordable.”  
-Chloe Patil '23

### What former Olney-area restaurant do you miss the most?



### What is your favorite Olney-area restaurant, and why?

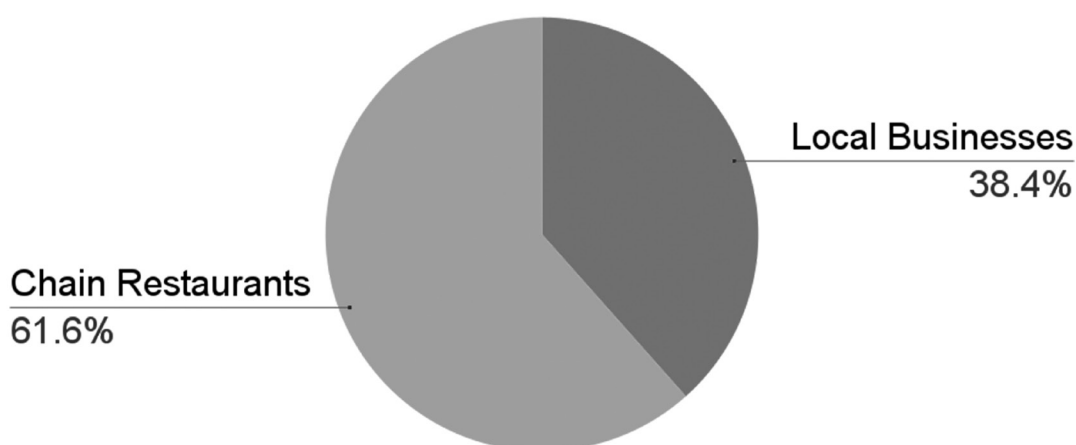
“My favorite place is Sol Azteca, because I like the cuisine and the variety of menu options available. It's close to home, the inside is beautiful, and the service has always been good.”  
-Catherine Gomes '26

“Pho & Grill Olney is my favorite Olney-area restaurant because it has great and fresh Vietnamese food I can easily access.”  
-Safiya Alam '23

“Probably Panera because it's a nice place to meet up with friends and it's relatively cheap.”  
-Mary Crompton '23

“My favorite restaurant is Playa Bowls because I love their acai bowls and smoothies.”  
-Selina Ayoub '24

### Does your family tend to support chain restaurants or local businesses more often?





## Boys Soccer Exits Early in Playoffs Sherwood Golf Places Second

by Kobi Gyan '24

After losing their last two games of the season to Springbrook and Magruder as well as seeing their starting goalie, senior captain Carter Braun, go down with a broken hand, boys soccer looked to regain their mid-season winning form in their first-round playoff game against Wheaton at home on October 26. In a rematch against Wheaton, whom the Warriors previously beat 3-0 on October 3, Sherwood came out on top 3-1 to advance and play Einstein in the second round on October 29 at home.

The Warriors were greatly tested by the Einstein Titans during the regular season, facing one of the tougher teams in the county. Although the Warriors squeaked out a 2-1 win in the September 29 game, the Warriors fell in overtime to the Titans 2-1 in the second round of the playoffs. Off the jump Einstein took a 1-0 lead over the Warriors, scoring a quick goal within the first ten minutes of the game. Although the teams had similar possession, Einstein clearly had the momentum for a majority of the first half. It seemed as if the Titans would run away with the game until senior Brian Llaguri was fouled in the box to earn a penalty kick that he converted himself to tie the game at 1-1 before halftime. De-



Senior striker Brian Llaguri shoots against Wheaton in the first round.

spite strong opportunities created by the Warriors, the second half resulted in a stalemate that sent the game into overtime. Near the end of the first 10-minute overtime period, Einstein's striker hit a screamer of a shot from outside the box to break the hearts of the Warriors and end their season.

"We gave it our all, but didn't come out with the result we wanted," said senior center back Sean Lopes. Injuries were a significant factor in the loss to Einstein as the "team was very banged up and were missing a lot of players," said Lopes.

Before losing to Springbrook 2-0 and then 2-1 in overtime to Magruder to end the regular season, the Warriors were rolling with a six-game winning streak

during their overall 6-4-2 regular season that included dominant performances against Blake, Paint Branch, and Wheaton. The injury suffered by Braun in a practice a week before playoffs risked shaking the confidence of the team, but senior Bryce Heinbuch stepped in and junior midfielder Astawaye Seyoum was "confident that the next man up would do his job to win games."

The Warriors knew they could not underestimate the Knights in order to pull out the win. "We had to dominate the game from the first to last minute," said captain Paul Papadimitris. The Warriors were successful in their efforts and scored three goals in the first fifteen minutes to secure their win.

by Thomas Fenner '24

After a dominant regular season for the Warriors, the Sherwood golf team traveled to the University of Maryland to compete in the 2022 MPSSAA Finals Tournament. Spanning from Monday to Wednesday last week, the Warriors challenged talented teams from all over the state.

The teams hard work yielded an impressive performance, as Sherwood finished second in the tournament just behind River Hill from Howard County. The team stayed steadily in second place throughout the entire tournament. Stellar senior performances at the top of the standings from Bryan Kim and Theo Mavrikes on the final day helped the Warriors secure their spot in second. The tournament was two rounds total. Kim shot 67 both rounds, finishing as runner-up behind River Hill's Benjamin Siriboury. Mavrikes shot 77-76 for 13th place. Senior Drew Stahley shot a 77-80 for 20th place. Finally, senior Tyler Lynch shot 77-83 for 28th place.

"Obviously, the goal individually and for the team was to win the state title, but overall I think it was a really great season with lots to be proud of," said Kim. "We were able to win the district's tournament for the first time ever and being the second-best team in

the state is a very big accomplishment."

Kim has been a star for the Warriors all season long. He was a leader for the group and provided the team with consistent outings throughout the Fall. With his strong performance in the tournament, he finishes his senior season and will now look forward to his future playing at Duke University. Kim leaves Sherwood as one of the better athletes in the school's history.

The Warriors finish the season with an overall record of 14-4-2. The Warriors ended their season on fire with first place finishes in four of their last five matches. Sherwood had all the confidence going into the state tournament, but the putts just simply didn't fall. However, it was apparent that the hard work and discipline the team put in all season aided them in such a high pressure competition. The Warriors fought off the nerves and put together a great team outing wrapping up their season with a top three finish on the biggest stage.

After one of the most successful finishes in team history, the team is losing a large amount of talent. But Coach Nakamura surely will be able to develop the skill sets of the younger players with the goal of finally achieving the lofty goal of winning a State Championship.

## Imbalances in College Football Are Getting Worse

by Noah Bair '24

For years, debates have been ongoing whether college athletes should be paid similarly to professional athletes. With some top professional athletes earning almost half a billion dollars over the lifetime of their contracts, college athletes increasingly felt that they were not being fairly compensated for their work. In the Supreme Court case *NCAA v. Alston* (2021), the judges determined in a unanimous decision that since colleges earn enormous sums of revenue from college athletics, the athletes are entitled to profit as well. The dramatic result of this decision is that it is intensifying the massive divide between the best of the best football teams in the NCAA and everybody else.

On July 1 of last year, the NCAA passed a policy that allows college athletes to earn money by participating in deals that involve their name, image, and likeness (NIL). This established the first system for collegiate players to earn money in amounts never before seen in non-professional sports, and was the spark that led to college sports becoming a completely different game.

In the first year of NIL deals, college athletes have earned a combined \$917 million across all sports. It is projected that in the second year, the deals would earn over \$1.14 billion. Top earners have gotten more than a million dollars from NIL, with University of Alabama QB Bryce Young topping the list with \$3.3 million



Kenny McIntosh runs the ball during the Georgia v. Samford game, in a 33-0 win for the Georgia Bulldogs.

earned already, and he's only in his junior year.

With NIL deals not only bringing revenue to the players but also the schools, colleges have an increased incentive to recruit players who they know will bring in money from boosters and sponsors to go towards NIL deals. Boosters typically give more money to programs who have well-known players who establish their popularity through NIL deals. Current high school quarterback Arch Manning, nephew of NFL legends Eli and Peyton Manning, committed to the University of Texas in June of this year. It was revealed earlier this month that the school spent more than a quarter of a million dollars on his visits to the school.

Through the NIL system, big schools with money to spend,

such as Texas and Alabama, will thrive as they will have the revenue to recruit the very best players along with the promise that those players also will make big bucks. Essentially, there will come a point in college football where the best teams will all be in two or three conferences, and the other conferences will not stand a chance because they will be getting significantly less revenue, and no recruits will want to come to their school.

To counteract this imbalance, the College Football Playoff Committee announced this month that the playoff would be expanding from 4 teams to 12 teams in 2026. Half of those 12 teams will be conference champions, which guarantees that a team from Group of 5 conference will be in the playoff against Power 5 con-

ference winners and runner-ups. Power 5 conferences are the five best conferences in college football, made up of 64 of the best teams. The last 38 national champions have all been from Power 5 conferences. Group of 5 teams are from the next five best conferences, and a Power 5 team has not won a national championship since BYU in 1984.

The only non-Power 5 team to make the CFP in its 8 years in existence was undefeated Cincinnati, who lost 27-6 to top ranked Alabama in 2021. Group of 5 teams have continuously been left out of the top 4 teams because of the doubt that they can compete with top programs like Alabama or Georgia. With a new guaranteed spot to a Group of 5 team starting in 2026, teams like Cincinnati that run through their easy

conference schedule will be able to have a chance to stack up with Power 5 mighty programs.

Not only is there going to be change in how the CFP works, but conference realignment is also rumored to occur in the next two years. With Texas and Oklahoma, two of the best powerhouses in the nation, leaving the Big 12 for the SEC, their former conference will have to acquire new teams to keep up their place as one of the top 5 conferences in college football. They will be getting BYU, UCF, Houston, and Cincinnati from the American Athletic Conference, a Group of 5 conference.

Sparked by Texas and Oklahoma's moves, UCLA and USC are leaving the PAC-12 for the Big 10 at the end of the 2024 season. Essentially, there will be a point in college football where the best teams will all be in two or three conferences, and the other conferences will not stand a chance because they will be getting significantly less revenue and no recruits will want to join their school.

To prevent this effect where the "rich get richer" in college football, the NCAA has debated over whether or not to hire a "commissioner" of college football to oversee all conference moves and NIL deals and recruitment deals. Either way, college football is moving towards a reality where the best teams will all have the best players, who will be earning millions of dollars, while playing the other best teams in the nation, who will all reside in their conference.

## Sherwood Celebrates Legends from the Past 2022 Hall of Fame Inductees

by Aviv Klayman '24

Ever since its creation in 2009, Sherwood's Athletic Hall of Fame (HOF) has celebrated some of the best student athletes, coaches, and community members to ever play in the blue and white. Thus far there have been five different HOF classes, with the most recent being the class of 2022.

The HOF is separated into four categories of players, coaches, teams, and special contributors. Every few years, the selection committee, composed of Physical Education Resource Teacher Marc Thomas, Athletic Director Jason Woodward, and 12-15 former teachers, coaches, and community members vote on each category for past Warriors that had demonstrated their excellence on and off the field.

In this year's class, 20 athletes, one coach, two teams, and one special contributor were recognized for their accomplishments. "Sherwood is over 100 years old and there is a very rich history of athletics," said Thomas. "There have been a lot of amazing athletes, coaches, teams, and contributors that have walked the halls of this school. Honoring them and their accomplishments is a way to say thank you as well as recognize some of the proud history of the school."

Thomas gave the example of Alex Holston, who graduated in 2013, as the type of Sherwood great deserving of a spot in the school's HOF "Alex Holston may be the single greatest athlete to ever attend Sherwood," said Thomas. Holston led the Warriors to three State Championships in volleyball while setting multiple records before going on to an outstanding collegiate career at the University of Florida.

Deontay Twyman is another

<b>Players:</b>	
Danny Gaither (1970)	Andy Lowy (2007)
Joe McGirr (1984)	Katie Obal MacTaggart (2007)
David Backus (1989)	Deontay Twyman (2007)
Tim Rivenbark (1989)	Dana Ward (2007)
Greg Davies (1998)	Steven Gamble (2009)
Eddie Beccles (2001)	Solomon Haile (2009)
Nic Towson (2003)	Zack Splain (2009)
Michael Rollings (2005)	Taylor Stockinger (2009)
Ben Everett (2006)	Tomi Adewole (2010)
Andrew Hoffmaster (2007)	Alex Holston (2013)
<b>Coaches:</b>	
Al Thomas (2004 - 2008)	
<b>Teams:</b>	
Girls Volleyball (2010-2012)	Football (2008)
<b>Special Contributors:</b>	
Donny Lethbridge	

2022 inductee who could make a claim for being Sherwood's most accomplished athlete and one of the best to ever play in all of MCPS. Twyman, who graduated in 2007, was an unbelievable athlete in football and basketball and earned All-Met honors in both sports. He led the Warriors to two football State Championship finals, winning one, and a basketball State Championship. Twyman decided to commit to basketball and originally attended Ball State University but transferred to Polk State Community College as a sophomore. For his last two years of eligibility, he moved again to Quinnipiac University where he was a starter.

Another example of a Hall of Famer is Dana Ward, who graduated in 2007, and was a phenomenal athlete in volleyball and primarily softball. As a batter,

Ward had a career batting average of .408, but what she really shined at was pitching. Over her three years as the starting pitcher, she faced around 1,300 batters, who only averaged a measly .081 batting average against her. She had 12 one-hitter games and 20 no-hitter games. Ward went on to play softball for Shippensburg University, and in 2015, she was named Montgomery County Softball Player of the Decade.

The athletic Hall of Fame helps tie in the past of the school's athletics to the present. "It brings back and recognizes former teams and players that have done outstanding jobs for Sherwood both athletically and within the community, [and] it gives them the recognition they deserve when they were here as students," explained Woodward.

## Perspective NCAA Strives To Rethink Amateurism

by Evan Joseph '23

The founders of the NCAA defined amateur college athletes as students who participated in athletics solely for their own enjoyment and development of their mental and physical skills. In the beginning, they did not even foresee athletic scholarships for athletes in their plan. The NCAA stood behind its enforcement of amateurism since it was first established more than a century ago, but now collegiate sports are undergoing an unprecedented number of changes after abandoning one of their long-standing policies. One of these changes results in college athletes being permitted to receive compensation for their name, image, and likeness (NIL), providing them with opportunities like endorsements and sponsorships that they previously would be punished by the NCAA for accepting.

This was made possible in June of 2021 when the Supreme Court ruled unanimously against the NCAA in the case *NCAA v. Alston*, deciding the NCAA could no longer restrict the education-related payment of student-athletes. The decision led the NCAA to defer to state laws on NIL. The change has benefited many, but the NCAA missed out on implementing policies key to the success of NIL which could lead to disaster.

For the NCAA to remain successful, it must preserve a competitive atmosphere across all sports to maximize its entertainment value and profit. This competitive atmosphere has been

put at risk due to NIL promoting a "pay for play" like culture, causing a favorable advantage for bigger schools when recruiting due to their access to large groups of supporters with deep pockets known as collectives. These collectives are mostly companies whose founders are alumni of whichever college they are supporting and use their companies to provide financial compensation to college athletes in exchange for use of their name, image, and likeness.

Since larger schools continue to be able to offer more to student-athletes, the disadvantage for smaller schools with fewer resources worsens. The bad part about this is that as the gap in talent between schools grows, the quality of entertainment suffers. Last May, the NCAA attempted to crack down on this and level the playing field by releasing new guidelines classifying collectives as boosters (which are prohibited by NCAA already). The problem with this is many legal experts question the NCAA's ability to levy sanctions in this area and believe it would violate antitrust law yet again. If this were to happen, the problem would only become worse as schools across the country see that the NCAA can not hold them back from using their resources.

Although people's lives have been improved through the allowance of NIL deals for college athletes, the NCAA could face further exploitation if it is not able to prevent unfair recruiting practices from bigger colleges with more resources.

## Reigning State Champion Prioritizes Academics in Choosing College

by Lizzy Hermosilla '23

Senior Lilia Atanda has made waves in the world of both high school diving and national diving competitions. The two-time state champion who is looking to put another title under her belt for the 2022 season has committed to the University of Chicago to continue her diving and academic career.

As a freshman, Atanda became the first Sherwood girls diver to win the state championship, and then she won states again as a junior defending her title after the Covid-19 virtual year. In 2020, as a freshman, she also won a regional title and broke the previous Sherwood diving record of 384 with a score of 406 and then re-broke her own record the following season as a junior with a score of 426. Outside of high school diving, she has qualified for USA Nationals on 1 and 3 meter springboard twice, and won the 2021 title of AAU 3 meter springboard and platform champion.

An athlete of Atanda's caliber has the potential and promise



Senior Lilia Atanda executes a forward one and a half in the pike position at a national diving competition. Provided by Lilia Atanda

to commit to some of the best Division I athletic programs in the country, but she made the choice to commit to Division III athletics at the University of Chicago and plans to major in mathematics. "School has always been my number one priority," said Atanda. The University of Chicago is ranked 6th in national universities by U.S. News and World Rankings and with an acceptance rate of only six percent, it is one of the most selective colleges in the na-

tion. The admissions process for a Division III athletic commitment is slightly different than a Division I athletic commitment. Atanda still had to apply and be accepted on her own merit but her chances of admission increased as a recruited athlete. Atanda fell in love with not only the University of Chicago's picturesque campus that looks like it comes straight out of Harry Potter, but she also liked the team and coaches when

she visited on her recruiting trip this April. "Everyone was incredibly welcoming," said Atanda, "I [also] love the coach so much ... and I believe I will improve so much with her."

Atanda's family is no stranger to the world of collegiate athletes. Her brother committed to Brown University to continue his soccer career, and is set to graduate in the spring of 2024. Both of her parents were also collegiate athletes. Her mom was a

Division I swimmer at the University of Maine at Orono and her father was a member of a two time NCAA men's soccer championship team at the University of Virginia.

Her parents were big motivators for her to pursue a collegiate diving career, but her brother achieving his dream of a collegiate soccer career was even more important to Atanda's success. "My older brother's decision to play Division I Soccer at Brown created an idol for me to look up to," said Atanda, "I have always been on a similar path as my brother and ... him playing soccer at Brown made me realize that I can achieve my goals [as well]."

Atanda is excited for her next four years at the University of Chicago and hopes to qualify for an NCAA Division III national championship. She is looking forward to her collegiate career, and feels prepared after she endured six years of stressful competition. Atanda shows great promise and her career at the University of Chicago will be nothing short of exceptional.



# Warriors Bounce Back with Three Consecutive Wins

by Carter Braun '23

After getting shutout against Northwest on October 7, the Warriors did not hang their heads. They responded with three straight wins against strong opponents and have put themselves in a strong position to return to the regional final for the second straight year. The Warriors defeated the 0-9 Northwood Gladiators last night in the first round of the State Championships in a game they were heavily expected to win.

In early October, the Warriors had high hopes carrying a three-game win streak heading into Germantown to take on Northwest, but those aspirations were quickly crushed, losing 24-0 in a game that reads as closer than it actually was.

The next week did not get any easier as the then undefeated Blair Blazers visited Sherwood with the intention to make the Warriors lose their second consecutive game, something that has not happened dating back



Senior linebacker Dylan Landis leads the Warriors out onto the field for their match-up against Magruder.

to last year. The game was close throughout, but the Warriors found themselves with a double digit lead with only five minutes remaining. However, Blair scored a touchdown to cut the Sherwoods lead down to six, and quickly got the ball back needing a touchdown and extra point to win the game.

"We knew it was up to the

defense to win," said senior outside linebacker Kosta Ferentinos. "And after what felt like an eternity, we forced them to a 4th down and 3 in our red zone." On fourth down, Blair called a running back screen, but Ferentinos sniffed it out, and he brought the runner down short of the line to gain, clinching the game and giving the Warriors a hard-fought

28-22 victory.

With this emotional win spoiling Blair's perfect season, the Warriors refused to show complacency. "We knew we needed to have a short memory," senior captain and lineman Asa Virga noted. "Our mentality when we lose is 'onto the next one,' and that mentality had to be the same when we won. Rather than cel-

ebrating too long on the win vs. Blair, our minds shifted to Paint Branch and we started focusing on them."

They traveled to Burtsonville on October 21 to take on Paint Branch, a school known for having a strong football program and who entered the game with a 5-2 record. The Warriors' focus and determination paid off with a 45-32 win against the Panthers. Senior quarterback Amari Allen threw for two touchdowns and added an additional two running on the ground, adding to his spectacular second half of the season.

A 38-0 blowout victory over Magruder on senior night in the season finale gave the Warriors a record of 7-2 on the year, and the #1 seed in their region. With their victory against Northwood the Warriors will have a game against the winner of the Springbrook vs. Kennedy game, two opponents that should struggle to compete against a Warriors team that has been trending in the right direction since their wake-up call against Northwest on October 7.

## Volleyball Excited for Playoff Comeback

by Maggie Reese '24

After two early victories, girls volleyball then went up against two powerhouses and lost in straight sets to Urbana and 3-1 against Churchill. However, there still were promising signs that the Warriors would have a strong season that propelled them into the playoffs and they finished their regular season with a 11-3 record, with the only other loss coming on October 18 away at undefeated Magruder.

"I'd say at the beginning of our season, our dynamic struggled because there were a lot of new players joining the team," explained senior Meghan Wessling. "Despite that, it quickly changed and we easily got acquainted with each other on and off the court which really helped our team grow. Presently, we work really well together and help to lift each other up, and continue to motivate each of us to keep going."

The Warriors fought hard on October 18 against Magruder in five sets that went 25-18, 23-25, 22-25, 25-19, and finally ending 13-15 in the tie-breaker. "Despite the hard loss, overall I believe that we played well as a team which at this time of year we know this will only help us when heading into playoffs," expressed senior Gabbi Casaus about playing one of the best teams in the state of Maryland.

The Warriors rebounded from the loss to Magruder by winning their last few games against Northwood, Blake, and Walter Johnson. Their record earned them a first round bye and the Warriors will play the winner of Blair vs Paint Branch this upcoming Monday at home in the regional semifinal. Sherwood previously beat Blair on October 18 in a 3-0 match, as well as beat Paint Branch 3-0 on September



Senior Audrey Strosnider serves in a victory over Blake on October 21.

29. The Warriors are led by seniors which include Wessling, Casaus, Audrey Strosnider, Renita Bankole-Gibson, and libero Camryn Lineberger, who is committed to Greensboro College in Division III. But, don't let junior Savannah Weismen sneak under your radar. With powerful serve receives and hits, she is definitely a player to keep an eye on in the

playoffs and next season.

While the Warriors start their playoffs with a bye and have had a week of practice to build up and strengthen skills, team dynamics need to continue to grow in order for Sherwood to make it again into the state playoff rounds, where last year they lost to eventual 4A champion Arundel in the semi finals.

## Seasons in Summary

### Varsity Football:

7-2 Record Reg. Season  
Beat Northwood Last Night  
in the Regional Quarterfinals

Will Play Winner of Springbrook  
v. Paint Branch next Friday 11/11

### Boys Varsity Soccer:

6-4-2 Record Reg. Season  
Won 3-1 vs Wheaton  
in the Regional Quarterfinals

Lost 2-1 vs Einstein in  
The Regional Semifinals

### Girls Varsity Soccer:

5-7 Record Reg. Season  
Lost 2-1 vs Wheaton  
in the Regional Quarterfinals

### Girls Varsity Volleyball:

11-3 Record Reg. Season  
Faces Winner of Blair v. Paint Branch  
on 11/7 in the Regional Semifinals

### Varsity Field Hockey:

3-8 Record Reg. Season  
Won 8-0 v. Paint Branch in the  
Regional Semifinals

Played Blake in the Regional  
Final Wednesday 11/2.

### Varsity Golf:

12-4-2 Reg. Season  
Placed Second as a team in the  
4A/3A State Championship

Senior Bryan Kim placed second  
Individually in States as well.

### Cross Country:

3-2 Record Reg. Season  
State Championships on Saturday  
11/12, in Parkton, MD