

THE TALON

APRIL

CHICK-FIL-A

Get ready to say farewell to Severna Park's most beloved restaurant

FOOTBALL FUNDING

A poor performance record and low cumulative GPA is no longer acceptable

BATHRAS FOR GOVERNOR

Principal Bathras is preparing to run for the governor's office in November



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Cover Photo

Principal Bathras has recently announced his plan to run for governor alongside Assistant Principal Mr. Smith. He decided to run in 2018 because he felt it was the perfect time to change the lives of Marylanders. "Getting rid of pennies will be number one. I'm sick of Marylanders getting junk mail, so I'd also like to get rid of mailboxes by the end of 2019. I really think we can do it," Bathras said. Photo by Logan Williams



The boys lacrosse team is starting off the season strong, hungry for another state championship title. In 2016, the boys won their first state championship since 2010. "We're excited for this season because we have a good shot at winning states again," sophomore Cameron Bear said. Photo by Alison Edwards

NEWS IN BRIEF

MULCH SALE BECOMES YARD SALE

by Julia Myers | Staff Writer

In place of the annual mulch sale held by athletes every spring, SPHS will now hold a community yard sale in the parking lot of the school. Students will be given the opportunity to sell gently used clothes, toys or any other household items.

The change comes after mulch pre-sales have been wildly unsuccessful, and profits from the past few years have not been as high as projected.

The school hopes this change will draw more people to the event, thus increasing profits as well as publicity.

*Administration reserves the right to refuse the sale of any item deemed inappropriate.

BOYS V. GIRLS LACROSSE SCRIMMAGE

by Greer Long | Features Editor

The boys' and the girls' lacrosse teams will be having an organized scrimmage after school on April 15 on the main turf field. Admission will be free for SPHS students but \$20 for parents and students from other schools.

The SPHS athletic department has asked that you sit on the home side if you are rooting for the girls and the

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

- APRIL 6 *Improv night*
- APRIL 11 *End of third marking period, Two-hour early dismissal*
- APRIL 12 *End of third marking period, Two-hour early dismissal*
- APRIL 13 *Beginning of fourth marking period*
- APRIL 17 *Two-hour early dismissal*
- APRIL 20 *Report card distribution*
- APRIL 25 *PARCC testing begins*

away side if you are rooting for the boys. The game rules will be a mix between both sports, but girls will be required to wear full pads because of the contact. "I'm really excited to play the girls. It's different than anything we've done before," sophomore Mikie Harmeyer said.

PATRICK'S PENTHOUSE

What's really on the fourth floor?

by Rachel Lotlikar | Photo Editor

Since the new school's doors opened back in January 2017, mystery has surrounded the forbidden fourth floor. Many have speculated what could be up there. Guesses as to what could actually be behind the doors of the penthouse have ranged from a secret team swimming pool to the supply room for the rooftop garden. Junior eye witness Matthew Bateman said, "One time my friend Nate dared me to go up to the fourth floor. I opened the door at the top of the steps and I just couldn't believe what I saw. It was what I can only describe as a bachelor pad."

SPHS has had at least a dozen accounts of students going up to the fourth floor without permission and peeping on this elusive apartment.

Sophomore Hannah Hall said, "One time my friend had a broken ankle and we got to use the elevator...we accidentally ended up pressing the fourth floor button. It just felt so intrusive. There was a fireplace and jazz music playing. A man then walked out of a room in a red bathrobe with half of his face shaved. He did not seem happy to see us."

After further investigation, it turns out that this apartment is not home to just anyone, but our very own principal, Mr. Bathras.

"Of course I live here, where else would I go? Severna Park High School is my home and it always will be. Literally," Bathras said.

He says the benefits to living inside the school are endless. With the traffic that commonly surrounds the school every morning, Bathras finds that he saves more than just time every morning he comes down



The "electrical penthouse" is a mystery to students and teachers alike. It has been looming over the school since it's opening. "I wanted to go up there! I wanted to rule them all. I wanted to be the falcon perched on top, looking at its prey." Matthew Bateman said. Graphic by Rachel Lotlikar and Maddie Maier

the stairs from his penthouse. "It's good for the environment. I save money on gas without the commute and I'm not paying for the heating or water," he said.

But not everyone is enthusiastic about the principal's secret crib. Senior Keaton Bathras, Principal Bathras' nephew, shared his unhappiness about his uncle's new home. "We had our first Thanksgiving here this past fall. That was weird. When he invited us over and gave us the address to his new apartment, I thought it was a joke. I didn't think he'd actually live in the school."

The controversy about someone living inside a building has caused some students to riot. Junior Cece Streaker, has started the Squatter's Movement.

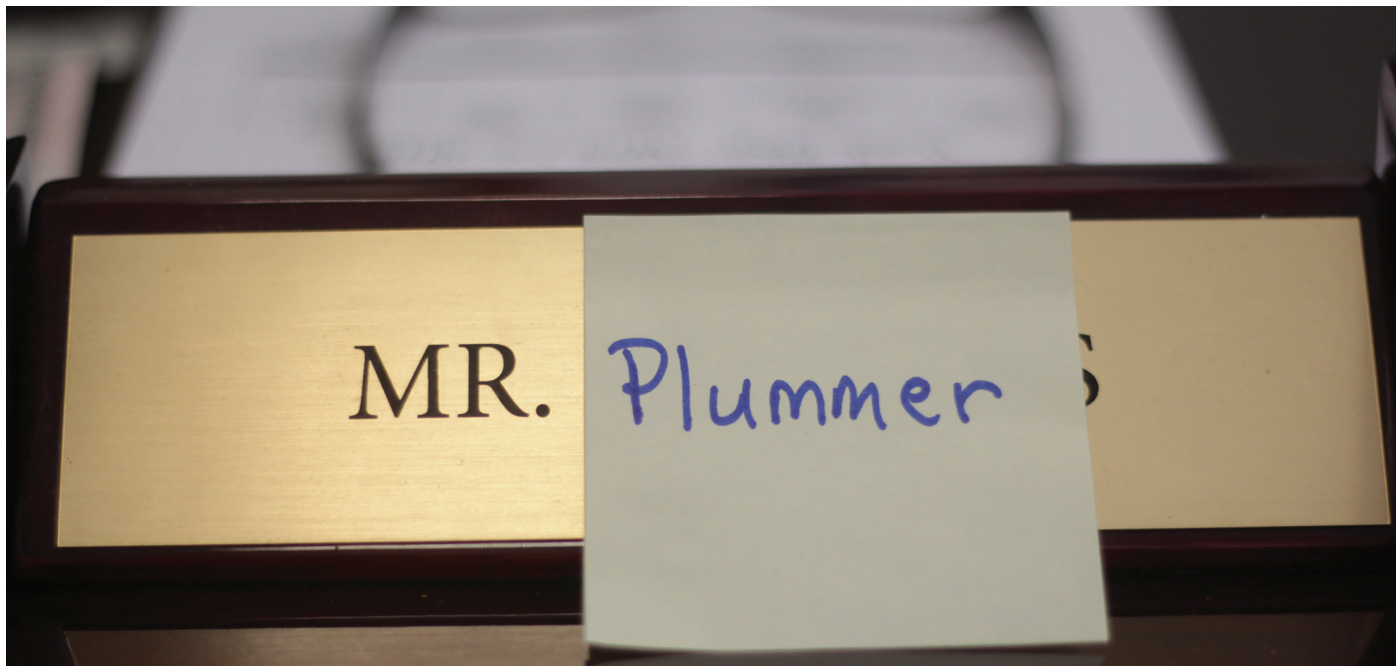
Students have started pitching tents inside the school to protest Bathras' unfair living situation. "It's ridiculous. The school can pay for him to live on the fourth floor, but they can't pay for better toilet paper? I'm sick of it," Streaker said.

See sptalon.com for more information about the Squatter's Movement.

NICK PLUMMER: UNDERCOVER BOSS

Students infiltrated by administrator.

by Julia Myers | Staff Writer



Nick Plummer takes on administrative duties while not in class, making calls and checking security cameras on a regular basis to keep everything in line. Upon receiving his assignment at SPHS, he never imagined that he would get so close to staff and dread leaving for a new position at a different school. "I am grateful for the people I've worked with the past few years, and am pleased over how much I was able to help this school and keep it safe," Plummer said. Photo by Rachel Lotlikar

It is no secret that senior Nick Plummer spends a great deal of his time with the administration. They were, after all, voted 'most likely to be seen together' in the yearbook. But how can the bond between middle-aged high school staff and a single teenage student be so strong?

The answer: Nick Plummer is not, in fact, a student enrolled at SPHS. He is an administrator, assigned as an undercover high school student in order to report on any shenanigans that may arise.

Plummer tends to blend in with students in appearance; walking down the halls, there would be no doubt that he is a regular 18-year-old, working to get into college and have a fun high school experience.

But at lunch, between classes, and after the final bell, this 'high school student' returns to his regular life: a man in his thirties focused on SPHS safety and security.

On a daily basis, he reports any misconduct that occurred during the school day and sorts out discrepancies within these walls. Plummer is the school's secret weapon, because even with 211 security cameras, blind spots can still exist.

"The thing is, nobody has ever questioned it," Plummer said, explaining that suspicions from students have never been an issue. This is his first undercover position, and he believes it has been a success.

Over the course of four years, Plummer has acquired intel and se-

crets from students and works with Principal Bathras, Officer Swartz and other key members of the SPHS administration to determine if there are any real dangers posed to the school.

As his four years come to an end, Plummer's position is compromised, and thus he believes that he will be given another assignment.

"My time at Severna Park has been great, and I can surely say that I feel I've made a difference here. Plus the administrators here are people I will call my friends for a lifetime," Plummer said.

Principal Bathras Set for Gubernatorial Run in 2018

Bathras announces run for Maryland office, releases platform and key issues. by Logan Williams & Carey Cameron



Bathras is ready to change Maryland for the better. For the past few years, he has been working with constituents directly on policies and legislation for when he is in office. "A tax break would be given to bald men, which is something I don't necessarily want, but thousands of Marylanders have been asking me to do it." Bathras said. Photos by Logan Williams

On April 1, 2018, Principal Patrick Bathras announced that he will be running for office, and will be touring the country to secure his seat as governor.

This has been in the works for decades, according to Bathras. "I actually wanted to be Severna Park High School's Principal to prepare myself to lead the state of Maryland. I really don't think the two positions will be that different," Bathras said.

Bathras chose to run in 2018 because he believes that it is the perfect time to truly change Maryland. His platform is full of projects that have been promised to citizens in the past, but have never come to fruition. "Getting rid of pennies will be

number one. I'm sick of Marylanders getting junk mail, so I'd also like to get rid of mailboxes by the end of 2019, I really think we can do it.

Fiscally, not much will be added, except for a few slight changes to our tax system that hopefully nobody will notice. "I'd like to see what I call a 'Vape Tax', which would be a tax increase on all vaporizers, including flash drives because of their resemblance to JUULs. A tax break would be given to bald men, which is something I don't necessarily want, but thousands of Marylanders have been asking me to do it," Bathras said.

Bathras also released his slogan, which is "Severna Park High

School is a public high school in the United States located in Severna Park, Maryland. It is a part of the Anne Arundel County Public Schools system. Its feeder school is Severna Park Middle School."

He chose this because it is short and sweet, and straight to the point. "I didn't want people to be confused about where Severna Park High School is. With all the 'fake news' out there, the Maryland people deserve the truth."

Further investigation from The Talon discovered that his slogan is actually just the excerpt of what Severna Park High School is on Wikipedia.

His pick for Lieutenant Gover-

nor is Assistant Principal Bill Smith, who plans on working directly with constituents. "In 2019, I will create a task force of highschoolers and middle schoolers to help me build a gondola over the Chesapeake Bay, which I've been told will aid in the process of cleaning it up. A project really close to home for me is something that will be unveiled in 2019, which I can't really talk about at this moment," Smith said.

After being pressed on the matter for a minute, Smith revealed to The Talon the project, providing us with dates, legal documents and photographs. "It's essentially a floating second level of the parking lot. We're working on how to actually get cars up there, but we'll see where the cards fall when we get there."

The student body is blissfully unaware of their principal running to be the leader of the entire state of

Maryland. When juniors Jack Hickman and Carolyn Hong were approached by The Talon about their opinion on his candidacy, they were somewhat confused. "Wait, that's a thing? Like that's actually happening?" asked Hong. After a lengthy explanation of Bathras' candidacy, each came to different ideas about his campaign. "Bathras is a man of the people. If he can break dance like he did at the end of the lip dub during every campaign stop, he will win, big time," Hickman said.

"I still don't get it. I have so many questions. First of all, why?" Hong asked. The Bathras campaign declined to comment.

Bathras does not plan to leave Severna Park for Annapolis any time soon. "The new school facility we have is so beautiful. I decided that if, sorry, when I win, Severna Park High School will become the Gov-

ernor's mansion," Bathras said. "I can't leave my Falcons and not continue the 'tradition of excellence.'"

When asked about his likely opponent, current Governor Larry Hogan, Bathras had some kind words to say. "I really respect Governor Hogan, but has he run a school of 2,000 students, with multiple lacrosse state championship titles? I don't think so," Bathras said.

Bathras hits the campaign trail this fall. "You can expect to see me canvassing later this year with a few other administrators. I'd tell you to get out and remember to vote, but I'm pretty confident that I'll win regardless," Bathras said.

"I'd like to see what I call a 'Vape Tax,' which would be a tax increase on all vaporizers, including flash drives because of their resemblance to JUULs."

PRINCIPAL BATHRAS



"Severna Park High School is a public high school in the United States located in Severna Park, Maryland. It is a part of the Anne Arundel County Public Schools system. Its feeder school is Severna Park Middle School."

PAID FOR BY PATRICK BATHRAS FOR MD GOVERNOR

Bathras is looking forward to running for office. He has already looked into creating bumper stickers, pins and posters. His slogan, which is the description of Severna Park High School from Wikipedia, can be seen on this bumper sticker. "I didn't want people to be confused about where Severna Park High School is. With all the 'fake news' out there, the Maryland people deserve the truth," Bathras said. Graphic by Logan Williams.

GOODBYE CHICK-FIL-A

The beloved Severna Park location leaves us after four and a half years.

by Carson Whitney | Staff Writer



It was announced that on May 2, 2018 the Chick-fil-A in Severna Park will be shutting down, and all its employees will relocate to the Pasadena location. The current location of Chick-fil-A will be turned into an extension of the Park and Ride that is located behind the Royal Farms.

High sales have caused the store to be understaffed and not live up to its required “second mile service,” leading to the merger of the two locations to better improve its quality. Students have been extremely disappointed with the news, going to the extreme of either boycotting Chick-fil-A altogether or attempting to keep the business alive themselves to show their loyalty. “I

am now making it my goal to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner there to save it. My family supports me and my friends are starting to join in,” junior Thomas Voisinet said.

Unlike Voisinet, junior Leah Campbell claims otherwise; “This is devastating to our community, so I will never step foot in another location again,” Campbell said.

Removing the beloved restaurant may appear as an outrageous act, but some employees could not be happier. The Severna Park location may seem to be a newer building, but in reality the soda towers never have the proper carbonation, the headsets don’t work and the tables are constantly breaking. “This location has been so run down I

Chick-fil-A sales have consistently declined over the past year. Patrons are turning to the Pasadena Crossroads location as the hospitality of the Severna Park location continues to decline. “I would go almost once a month, but lately I have been going daily as it better fits my personality,” junior Laura Folts said. Photo by Carson Whitney

can’t wait to get out of here,” Team Member Emily Comeau said.

The constant flow of people in and out of the restaurant has taken a toll, as repairs are unable to be completed due to the always-packed dining room. “We are making this choice to hopefully trick some people into not coming to Chick-fil-A, which will keep the amount of people manageable,” Manager Lindsay Rieter said.

THE HUNTER TWINS

by Greer Long | Features Editor **Mr. Hunter's shocking tell-all.**



It has recently been discovered that Mr. Hunter has an identical twin who helps him teach his classes. Some students found this news shocking, while others were not all that surprised. "I knew something was up when he wore a Washington Capitals jersey one class and a Pittsburgh Penguins jersey the next," sophomore Connor Garmey said. Photo by Rachel Lotlikar

During his 20 years of teaching at SPHS, Mr. Hunter has kept a big secret. It has recently been discovered that he has an identical twin brother, who teaches his government classes at least two days a week. The first person to realize something strange going on was sophomore Connor Garmey, who has had Mr. Hunter for both semesters. "I knew something was up when he wore a Washington Capitals jersey one class and a Pittsburgh Penguins jersey the next," Garmey said.

When Garmey told some friends about his theory, other people came forward and agreed with him. "I noticed that his clothing style would change. He would dress like a motorcycle rider one day and then preppy the next," sophomore

Kelly Kolbe said. As more and more people recognized these changes, students decided to confront Mr. Hunter. "When my students asked me why I seemed to have two different personalities, I didn't know what to say... I had to tell them the truth," Jeff Hunter said.

Jeff Hunter admitted that he has a twin brother named Steff that helps him teach classes. "Teaching stresses me out so I need to take a few days off during the week," Jeff Hunter said. They are both certified teachers, so Principal Bathras allows them to teach in a rotational system, switching off every few days.

The Hunter twins live in the same apartment building and enjoy walking their dogs, Barry and Joe. "Whichever one of us isn't teaching

that day brings the dogs to the dog park so they can get their playtime in," Steff Hunter said. The twins are very close, however the rivalry of their favorite hockey teams often causes problems. "Whenever the Capitals and Penguins face off we don't talk to each other for at least a week," Jeff Hunter said.

Although it seems strange to have two different teachers for the same class, students enjoy how it keeps things interesting. "It's fun to come to class wondering which teacher I'll have today," Kolbe said. Because the Hunter twins are identical, it is nearly impossible to tell who is who. "We give extra credit to the first student to guess which one of us is teaching that day," Jeff Hunter said.



SPHS OPENS UP PARKING

Underclassmen can now park on campus.

by Connor Killeen | Features Editor

Parking on campus has always been a senior privilege, until now. With the completion of the turf fields on March 1, the expansion of the parking lot and the new bus loop, there is now a parking surplus.

The SPHS administration has decided to leapfrog seniors next in line to receive parking passes and open the lot to all students.

“If you have a license and a pulse, you can park,” Principal Bathras said.

All current parking permits will be nullified on April 3, 2018.

It’s a policy the administration is calling ‘Come First, Park First.’ The program has been in the works for months, but it just now being put into action.

Many sophomores and juniors plan to arrive as early as 5:30 a.m. to secure a space. “I’ll do whatever it takes to park at the school,” newly-licensed sophomore Casey Fox said.

Many seniors, however, are furious at this development. “This is ridiculous, I can’t believe I have to compete with underclassmen to

park,” senior Clare Gentile said.

The influx of students parking at the school is predicted to decrease the amount of illegal on-street parking that occurs in neighborhoods adjacent to the school. “These kids always park on my lawn. I hate them. They ruin my tulips every spring. I can’t wait until they’re gone,” West Severna Park resident Joan Wakan-da said.

Only one thing is certain about this huge change: it is sure to shake up the school.

New expansions to the parking lot has allowed the administration to open parking to all. In the past it has only been available to seniors with internships, jobs or AACC classes. “If you have a license and a pulse, you can park,” Principal Bathras said. Photo courtesy of Anne Arundel County Board of Education

YEARBOOK IS GOING DIGITAL

Due to budget cuts, the yearbook will now be an online publication.

By Alena Carhart | Editor in Chief



At the start of the 2018-2019 school year, an online yearbook will be introduced in place of the hard copy book. George Arlotto, the superintendent of Anne Arundel schools, decided to cut high school publication's funding. All school-sponsored publications, including the newspaper, the yearbook and the literary magazine have had to raise funds through advertising and subscriptions.

It costs around \$120,000 to produce the award-winning book every year. Moving to a digital version will only cost around \$5,000 yearly.

"Although it is not your traditional yearbook, I believe it will be a worthwhile investment," Embers adviser Ms. Earhart said. "We also will still be able to send it to CSPA [the Columbia Scholastic Press Association] under the multimedia genre."

The perks of going digital include easier public access to save and share photos with their family and friends. "With just the click of a button, you can share the photos with your family," sports editor Colleen Bachosky said. "It will also allow you to share these memories on your social media accounts."

For the first time in SPS history, an online yearbook is being introduced. After George Arlotto cut Anne Arundel County publication's funding in the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, the yearbook staff decided to introduce an online book next year. "It is cost-effective and makes it easy to share the photos digitally," Embers adviser Mrs. Earhart said. Photo by Rachel Lotlikar

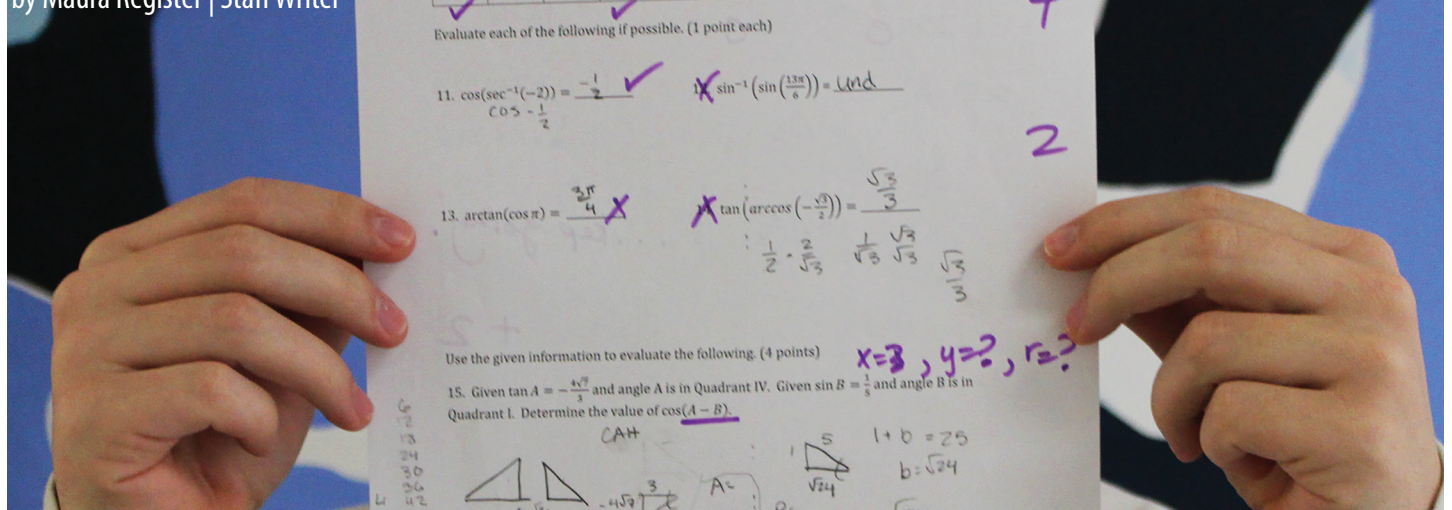
"Even though it is cheaper, I will miss the hard copy book. There are many positives of this but I will miss getting my yearbook signed by my friends and teachers," staff writer Julia Myers said.

Yearbooks will be able to be purchased online on the upcoming Embers website. Stay tuned for opportunities to pre-order.

THE END OF THE PITY FIFTY

A change to the grading policy at Severna Park.

by Maura Register | Staff Writer



What started as a policy to help save students' grades after failing tests has led to many relying on the "pity fifty" to stabilize their class score. Students choosing not to study for a test or midterm due to the security of being gifted an automatic 50 percent if they put in a "good faith effort" has led to a significant decrease in academic drive and motivation. "When I have to choose which tests to study for during finals week, I always make sure to calculate the lowest score I need in order to keep the grade I want in the class. If it is lower than a fifty percent, I move on to the next subject," senior Sydney McConkey said.

Many students have the mindset that it is pointless to study for a test anymore because it won't affect your grade with the pity fifty grading policy. "Who cares if I fail the test or classwork, I will immediately receive my 50 percent, and if it drops my grade I can always redo it after school,"

junior Caroline Patterson said.

With both teachers and parents complaining that the pity fifty and redo policy are not preparing their students for college or the real working world, Bathras has decided to remove the pity fifty, to help silence criticism. "It is finally time for our students to take responsibility for their failing grades and take action to fix them," Bathras said.

By removing this policy, it will help ensure that students at SPHS will be given a more realistic GPA and will be better prepared for their more challenging classes in the future "When applying to colleges I realized how inflated my GPA was due to the pity fifty. Instead of receiving my actual score, I was given a grade as if I knew half of the answers on a given test," senior Maeve Register said.

Many students are outraged and panicked by the sudden grading policy change. "Suck it up, buttercup," Bathras said. After multi-

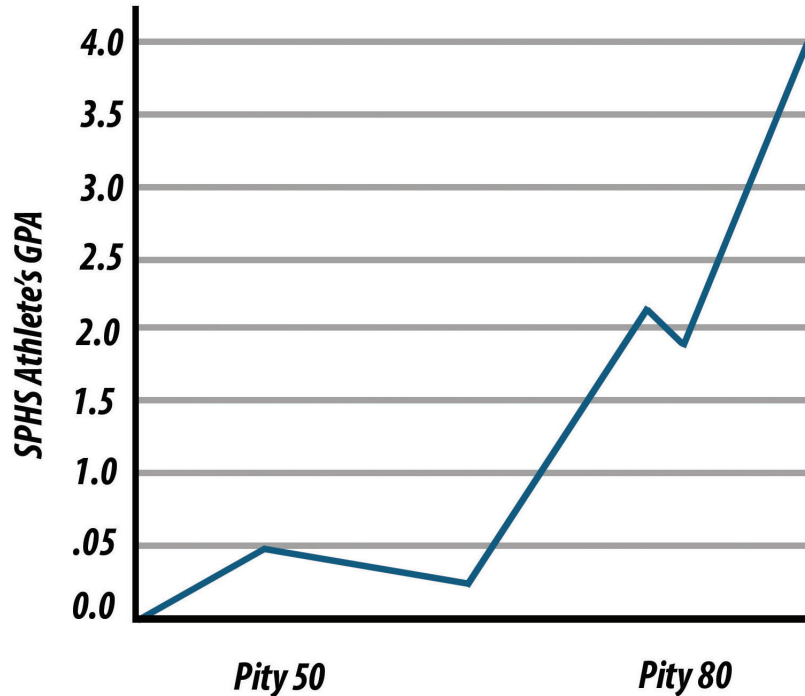
ple years of students relying on the pity fifty to help save their grades, Principal Bathras has finally pulled the plug on a policy that has gotten many students through high school.



The removal of the "pity fifty" is a sudden and drastic change for the students at Severna Park High School. "Cry me a river, build me a bridge and get over it. You will now receive the score that you earned," Principal Bathras said. Graphic by Logan Williams

The New SPHS Grading Policy

Staff Editorial



Student-athletes at SPHS are looking forward to their new GPAs. The Talon produced this line chart after hours of deliberation, predicting that athlete's GPAs will in fact go up after the implementation of the pity 80. "It is finally time for our students to take responsibility for their failing grades and take action to fix them," Bathras said. Graphic by Logan Williams

The recent change to the SPHS grading policy will no doubt ruffle feathers within our high school. However our view as staff of The Talon is that the removal of the pity fifty will change our school for the better.

Too long have the students of our school been sheltered from the real world of academia—and we believe it is finally time that our “tradition of excellence” gets taken up a notch.

Now, when SPHS graduates walk on to college campuses in the fall, they will no longer be faced with the harsh reality of being unprepared. Rather than skating by on a 4.0 based on lies, they will know that their 2.0 was truly earned.

The Talon supports Principal Bathras completely on his decision to change the grading policy. As an incredibly influential publication in

Severna Park it is The Talon's duty to propose one more change to the policy.

The removal of the pity fifty is a perfect concept with a flawed plan. There is one group of people that will be negatively targeted by this new policy: student athletes.

Student athletes, the backbone of SPHS, are required to maintain a GPA of 2.5 to be eligible to play, and there is no doubt that this policy will make it nearly impossible for them to achieve this goal.

The Talon staff has unanimously agreed, with absolutely no opposition from the community, that the only solution to this problem is to allow student athletes to continue to utilize the pity fifty policy. In fact, we are proposing the implementation of a pity eighty, exclusively for athletes.

We have submitted this to

Principal Bathras as a formal proposition. If you would like to support our cause, please visit sptalon.com to sign our letter to the administration.



FOOTBALL FUNDING CUT

Football's funding is going down in the dumps.

by Shelby Chasser | Sports Editor

In the past, all SPHS sports teams have been equally funded, with the money providing athletic equipment, uniforms and transportation for the participating athletes and coaches.

SPHS administration has recently rewritten this policy. It now states that starting in the upcoming 2018-2019 school year, "Sports programs will now be funded based on past performance and students academic performance." With the establishment of this new policy, the

football program's funding will be completely cut.

Last fall, the football team ended its season with a devastating record of only one win and nine losses. Many administrative authorities, players and fans were disappointed. The first game of this season, against North County High School, was the only game won this season.

Alongside the administration, some students on the team were very frustrated throughout the season, losing one game after another.

Some on the team believed that the fans were showing up only to be let down by halftime. "I felt bad watching my team get blown away on some games," senior Drew Betch said, "The fans must have been so sad because they basically came and paid to watch us lose."

The new policy states that "if a program fails to haul at least a 25 percent winning record, its funding will be reduced by 75 percent and given to those programs that exhibit over a 70 percent winning record."

Severna Park High School is installing a new program which cuts funds for poorly performing teams. This has hurt many student-athletes in the football program. "It sucks," senior Drew Betch said. Photo by Halle Neal



Dean Draughn is a slot receiver for the football team. His good looks couldn't save him this time. "He is a very handsome man. But unfortunately, his good looks couldn't blind the other team," senior Drew Betch said. Photo by Halle Neal



With a 1-9 record, the football program only demonstrated a 10 percent winning record, well below the amount the required in order to receive funding. Other programs which have achieved under the 25 percent marker include the varsity basketball team with a final record of 3-16.

The new policy also states that "Student academic performance must be above average in order to receive an appreciable amount of funding. The team GPA must be 3.2 or higher in order to receive funding from the county and school."

Although the basketball team did not reach the winning record requirement, they did much better when it came to academics. The basketball team had a cumulative GPA of 3.77 which is well above what is now required. The football team unfortunately produced a cumulative GPA of 2.3. With the combination of the football team's poor athletic record and school performance,

their funding will be cut entirely.

There are many programs that exceed these new requirements at SPHS, including the boys' lacrosse team. Since the lacrosse team meets the new requirements, they will be given the majority of the money which was formerly designated to the football team. The lacrosse team has already used some of the money left over from the fall season in which the team took a coach bus to a preseason scrimmage. Although many of the girls' teams meet these requirements as well, the boys' lacrosse team won states last year, and therefore they get priority in the money.

With the word spreading among the football team that their program will no longer be funded many athletes are enraged about the loss. "I may not be here next year, but watching a program I have been a part of for four years disappear is devastating," senior quarterback Josh Coffman said.

Although many members are upset, the team has not made any suggestions or ideas to come up with their own source of funding.

Not only were the teammates angry, but those who were avid fans were disappointed as well. "I went to most of the games, and they were fun to watch. It's upsetting but also understandable," junior Rose Singleton said.

This new program is meant to encourage student athletes to focus on academics and their teams. "How am I suppose to get good grades and concussions," Betch said.

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