

THE TALON

MAY

LESSONS FROM HIGH SCHOOL

What lessons have the Talon editing staff learned this school year?

SENIOR DESTINATIONS

Where is the 2018 class headed after graduation?

MILITARY SENIORS

Who is the military calling and which academy will they be attending?



the senior issue

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DISTRIBUTION Staff members typically distribute 400 papers to our student body. Magazines are available to pick up in the hallways, the main office and throughout the English department. Subscribers may pay \$25 to have the publication mailed to their home. **OPINIONS** Views expressed in The Talon do not reflect those of the Severna Park High School administration or the Anne Arundel County Public School Board of Education. Signed columns or reviews represent only the opinion of the author. **EDITORIALS** The Talon's editorials will reflect a consensus of the members of the student editorial board. The subjects of the editorials will be determined by a discussion of the editorial board. The editorial board, which consists of the staff's student editors, will determine the content, including all unsigned editorials. Editorial ideas may be submitted to the editorial board by all members of the staff. Editorials should be sent to thespatalon@gmail.com or dropped off in the publication lab, 245, during school hours. We will not publish any material for which there is evidence that the author is using the paper for inappropriate personal gain.

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INSIDE MAY

PAGE 4 - Promposals

PAGE 6 - Prom spending

PAGE 7 - Lessons from high school

PAGE 8 - Lessons from the Talon

PAGE 9 - Graduation preparation

PAGE 10 - College advice

PAGE 11 - College advice, continued

PAGE 12 - Under the radar

PAGE 13 - Where do you see yourself?

PAGE 14 - Senior letters

PAGE 15 - Senior letters, continued

PAGE 16 - Senior destinations

PAGE 17 - Senior destinations, continued

PAGE 18 - Senior destinations, continued

PAGE 19 - Senior destinations, continued

PAGE 20 - Military seniors

PAGE 22 - Dean Draughn

PAGE 23 - Jacy Kuhlman

TALK TO US



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Cover Photo

As their high school careers come to a close, the soon-to-be graduates are looking forward to graduation day. After four years of late nights doing homework, taking AP tests and applying to colleges, it is finally time to say farewell. "I ate lunch in the college career center every single day through December, and I spent the whole time poring over and revising applications," senior Matt Hall said. Graphic by Rachel Lotlikar and Amelia Rozear



NEWS IN BRIEF

by Greer Long | Features Editor

GRADUATION REHEARSAL

Graduation rehearsal is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22. All seniors are required to report to the cafeteria at 2:15 p.m. The actual commencement will take place at University of Maryland, Baltimore County on Tuesday, May 29 at 10 a.m. Doors will open at 9 a.m. and all guests are to be seated by 9:45 a.m. Each senior will receive five tickets at rehearsal, but students may inquire through their classmates for extra tickets if needed. The graduates will wear navy blue academic gowns and mortarboards for men and gold for women, respectively.

CAPPIES GALA

The annual Cappies Gala will take place on May 20 at the Baltimore Hippodrome. It gives schools the chance to compete for awards such as "Best Orchestra" and "Best Ensemble," along with individual awards including "Best Female Actress in a Musical." "The gala is a celebration of full-length high school productions that occurred throughout the year. In the Baltimore chapter, all schools have the opportunity to perform in a professional space, which is the Baltimore Hippodrome" Cappies Chair, Andrew Parr said.

Every year, the Severna Park stage company attends the Cappies Gala at the Baltimore Hippodrome. Last year, "School of Rock" received 14 nominations and won three awards including "Best Ensemble in a Musical" awarded to the "Students of Horace Green." "It was nice meeting so many people from other schools and seeing them all come together to cheer one another on when they won awards," senior Grace Atkinson said. Photo courtesy of Myra Carhart

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

MAY 11 Interims sent home

MAY 12 Cappies rehearsal

MAY 12 Prom

MAY 17 SP Cares tech rehearsal

MAY 18 SP Cares

MAY 20 Cappies Gala

MAY 22 Graduation rehearsal

MAY 23 Thespian induction

MAY 24 Last day for graduating seniors

MAY 25 & 26 Varsity track & field state championship

MAY 28 Memorial Day: all schools closed

MAY 29 SPHS graduation

PERFECT PROMPOSALS

Seniors are asking their dates to prom in flamboyant ways.

by Carson Whitney | Staff Writer

In preparation for prom, seniors will attempt to find a date through promposals.

These are typically funny puns about what their date likes, balloons and streamers, or even just a sign to ask in a creative way.

One of the most popular promposal is getting dates with their favorite food and making up a creative pun about it.

Whether the promposal is flashy and requires month of preparation, or is just a random idea, seniors are excited for the opportunity to finally ask their dates, and, mostly importantly, go to prom and party with their high school friends one last time.



Junior Matthew Bateman asked senior Ella Collings to prom during Rock and Roll. Members of the cast had PROM written on their chests. Photo courtesy of Ella Collings



Senior Connor Becker surprised senior Kelly Kazmarek by writing PROM in lights outside her home, he even had her favorite song playing in the background. Photo courtesy of Connor Becker



Senior Bobby Ruppert and Maddie Lenhart are very close friends. Ruppert asked Lenhart after school with a car themed pun. "I can't wait for a great night," Lenhart said. Photo courtesy of Maddie Lenhart



Senior Jessica Giblin and senior Timmy Lentz are excited to be able to go together, as bocce inspire their great friendship, Giblin asked Lentz during a bocce match. Photo courtesy of Jessica Giblin



Senior Andrew Kilenstein and junior Emme Ray have a strong relationship and they became closer during this school year. Kilenstein asked Ray with a picture collage in her room. "I was surprised to come home to this from school. I can't wait to have a fun night with Andrew," Ray said. Photo courtesy of Emma Ray



Junior Cam Caouette and senior Selah Tatem's friendship is very well-known. Caouette asked Tatem in his house after school. Photo courtesy of Cam Caouette.



Senior Joseph Johns and junior Maria Still are two years into a relationship. Johns asked Still to prom by ringing on her doorbell. "I rang the doorbell, and I had my friends line up," Johns said. Photo courtesy of Joseph Johns



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BREAK THE BANK OR BANG FOR YOUR BUCK?

**Seniors tally up
their receipts for
their big night.**

by Julia Myers | Staff Writer



Senior Maeve Register choose a light blue dress, exposed back and rhinestone belt for her prom attire. Women posted on a FaceBook group their prom dress choice to avoid duplicates at the event. Photo courtesy of Maeve Register

Over the next few months, seniors will reap the benefits of four years of hard work at SPHS. As early as freshman year, students begin looking ahead to graduation and prom. While some seniors are scrambling to get their prom plans together, others have been prepared for months and are excited to see all of their planning followed through.

Despite the enthusiasm and excitement people feel toward prom, expenses add up quickly; between dresses and tuxedos, corsages and boutonnieres, limos or party buses and promposals, financial

difficulties may arise. Plus, seniors are looking to save for Senior Week and summer vacation to try to make their time before heading to college the best that it can be.

Maeve Register spent \$475 on her dress, plus an estimated \$200 on alterations at Synchronicity. This cost, plus the cost of a limo, roughly \$1200, leaves Register with an expensive senior prom. "I fell in love with my dress the moment I tried it on, and even though the cost wasn't ideal, there wasn't anything else I could picture myself wearing," she said. To lower this cost, Register is going with a large group of friends in order to decrease the cost of the limo per person, and her parents are covering part of the expenses.

On the flip side of the coin, Madison Dearborn found a \$50 dress, plus \$19 shoes and a \$20 necklace. This brings Dearborn's total to \$89, and in addition to keeping her spending low on her outfit, she is driving herself and her date. "Some people spend hundreds on their dress, but that wasn't what I was looking for," she said. She initially found her dress on Black Friday but couldn't purchase it then, so in the following weeks, she searched for it and eventually found the same dress that had caught her eye in November for an ideal price.

In the middle of these approaches is Caitlin Frank, who also bought her dress from Synchronicity. However, Frank's dress was only \$300, and she is also sharing a limo with 15 of her friends, in order to decrease costs. While she didn't



Maeve Register prepares for prom by trying on her Synchronicity dress. Despite the price, she felt that no other dresses measured up to this one. "Prom is a once in a lifetime thing so I figured I should just go all out," Register said. Photo courtesy of Maeve Register

stick to a tight budget, Frank did not want to go overboard and thus did her best to keep costs manageable.

Ticket costs are covered for SPHS students by class dues paid over the course of high school, but should students ask an underclassmen or person from another school, tickets for outside dates are \$60 this year. All in all, whether on a more structured budget or a more extensive price range, students are conscious of their spending for their perfect night under the stars at the BWI Airport Marriott Hotel.

WHAT I LEARNED IN HIGH SCHOOL

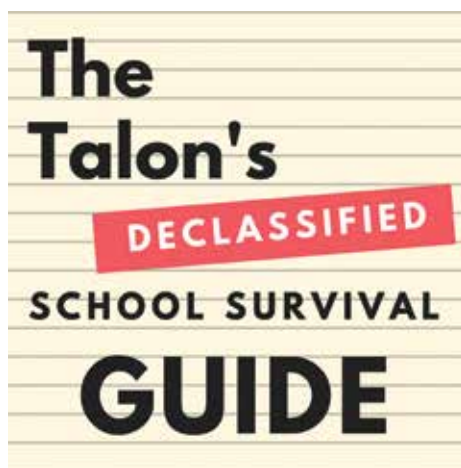
Tips and strategies for speeches and interviews.

Graphic and Article by Logan Williams | News & Opinion Editor

As my final year at SPHS comes to a close, I cannot help but feel like an old man, eager to share his knowledge with the rest of the world. Giving speeches and interviews are two of the more important events throughout your career as a student at SPHS, so I figured I would share what I remember to help some of you out.

SPEECHES

It's your sophomore year, and speeches are coming up. You are probably thinking, "Oh no! What am I going to even talk about? Should I play it safe and talk about something everyone agrees with, like prohibiting animal testing? Or should I risk it all and talk about GMO's?" In my speech, I talked about gun control, which has been an incredibly contentious issue these past few years. If I were you, I would talk about something you already know a lot about. While it could be fun learning something completely new, if you already have deep convictions, talk about them. When giving your speech, make sure you have it memorized. Play it safe and have some note cards with key words for each section of the speech to remind yourself to stay on track. There is nothing worse than forgetting what you are talking about mid-sentence, especially in front of an audience of people you like (or dislike). If you are going to talk about something that will anger people, try to diffuse that tension with some humor. I had a slideshow playing behind me as I spoke, with a bunch of photos of



bald eagles and guns, just to really drive home those good ole 'Merica vibes.

INTERVIEWS

Want that sweet and boujee job at Boho Nation, but are afraid that your interview's gonna flop? Follow these steps and you will be on the right track to hanging up cardigans and faux-crystal necklaces while yearning for Brusters in no time. Let's be real here, if it is already your junior year and you do not have the bag secured, it's time for you to get a job. The interview process at school will help you immensely. In class, you will learn all the tips and tricks for nailing your interview. Your teachers will try their hardest to make you succeed and leave a lasting impression on your interviewer. The day after your interview you'll hear people talking about the one kid who shook the house down and somehow landed an actual job during this pretend interview. You want to be that person.

Come prepared; bring your resume, a business card (if you have one), and a smile.

PREPARATION

In the days leading up to your interview, watch some boring Wiki-How videos on Youtube on how to impress your interviewer and get the job. Force yourself to sit through the animations; it will pay off later. Know your strengths and weaknesses going into it, and you'll be fine. Buzzwords like reliable, punctual, and dedicated are good ones to use when describing yourself. Throw in the word "humble" at the end if you feel too braggish. When it comes to your resume, make sure that your name is spelled right and your email isn't kawaiiwolfxD@rocketmail.com. Don't wear a tuxedo or a ball gown either. Dress in something comfortable and light to avoid looking like a tomato while talking to your interviewer. Practice your handshake with a friend; it should be strong, but not Hulk Hogan strong. You want them to think, "Wow, this kid's got a nice handshake," and not "Wow, that made me uncomfortable."

Hopefully these tips will prove useful to you. At the end of the day, high school is a small and insignificant part of your life and if you mess it up, nobody is going to care after you graduate. But you should still take these assignments to heart, as they will better prepare you for being an adult. Take these things seriously and they will for sure help you out in the long run.

WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THE TALON

Editors weigh in on what they learned from being on staff

by Alena Carhart | Editor in Chief



When you join a publication, you expect to learn about writing and design. Aside from the technical aspects of creating a newspaper you learn a lot of valuable lessons.

Communication:

We learned that communication among the staff is an essential to creating a cohesive environment and a functioning paper. If you forget to tell someone to do something then it can throw off the functionality of the staff. It is also important to tell people when they do a good job or give constructive criticism so the staff improves.

Journalism may not be your career path:

Sometimes you take the class with the intent of becoming a journalist, but end up changing your mind, which is okay. Throughout the class, you acquire a ton of skills such as design, advertising, writ-

ing etc. that you may end up using in other career paths. Within our senior staff, people are planning to major in music management, advertising, broadcast journalism, photo/art, criminal justice, law, business administration and psychology.

You cannot please everyone:

When you are in power, no matter how hard you try, someone will disagree with you. You can include everyone in the decision making process to make sure everyone is heard but in the end majority rules. Though we cannot please everyone ranging from our staff to the avid readers, we try our best.

Be open to opposing views:

The paper is compiled of several different people from many social groups. Though there is an array of contrasting opinions, as long

Being on a publication teaches you a lot of lifelong skills. The Talon staff is composed of 16 writers, eight of them are seniors. Current seniors pose in their college attire on college decision day. "I liked getting to work together to accomplish something," Rachael Crumbaker said. Photo by Valerie Earhart

as you listen to everyone then you will make friends. We may all participate in different things ranging from music to sports, but this class is our sanctuary where we can openly be ourselves.

Nobody is perfect:

Everyone makes mistakes and that is a fact of life. Whether you are in a position of power or not, you will mess up. It is how you fix those mistakes that matters. Our whole staff has come together after mess ups, bonded over them and strived to improve so that the paper gets better each issue.

WHAT TO DO BEFORE YOU GRADUATE

How to make these last few weeks as a senior memorable.

by Maura Register | Staff Writer

With graduation approaching for the class of 2018, many seniors are left feeling nervous and unprepared for the next chapter of their life. With many choosing to attend a university in the fall, the majority will leave Severna Park in order to further their education. So the only question left is, what should seniors do before graduation on May 29th?

With many seniors choosing to partake in high school varsity sports, they were left with a limited amount of free time due to games and practices. After having such a strict schedule throughout her four years due to field hockey, senior Ashley Bellotte is thrilled to be able to experience new things this summer. "I feel it is important to spend time with both your friends and family before you leave in the fall. One of my most memorable experiences was taking a road trip with my family to Elon, NC. It not only brought us closer together but I had so much fun. I would totally recommend doing that before you graduate."

In addition to spending quality time with her family and friends while also travelling, senior Sydney McConkey plans on going outside of her comfort zone in these last few weeks. "My goal throughout the rest of April and May is to attend a school event that I haven't been to yet. I hope to at least make it to one baseball and softball game to help support the Falcons."

With a limited amount of time left with teachers that she has had for multiple years, senior Maddie White plans on expressing her appreciation for all the hard work they have put in throughout her years at SPHS. "I believe that before you graduate high school you should thank everyone that has helped you.



I plan on individually thanking all the teachers, coaches and role models that have helped me get to where I am now."

As seniors' time at SPHS slowly comes to a close at this is a time to spend with your family and friends, express your appreciation and travel before everyone is departing this fall.

Ashley Bellotte, a Senior at Severna Park High School took a family trip to the beach. While on spring break she was able to hang out with her family while relaxing before the end of her high school career. "Even though I am really excited to go to College in the fall, I loved spending time with my family," Bellotte said. Photo by Ashley Bellotte.

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THE INSIDER KNOWLEDGE ON APPLYING TO COLLEGE

The ins and outs of the college application process.

by Rachel Lotlikar | Photos Editor

Most juniors can only think about one thing when May rolls around: senior year. It is the end of required full schedules, the start of taking classes at the community college, internships and parking on school grounds. Sadly, however, the stress of college applications will surely sour the first few months of senior year for any unprepared soul. Do not fret. Here are the answers to commonly asked questions about the college application process.

Q: How do recommendations work?

A: The process starts much earlier than you would think. First, you are going to have to fight your way through an ocean of students all searching for recommenders. To secure your spot with your teachers or coaches, ask them before this school year ends if they will be able to write you a letter of recommendation. Keep up with them once senior year starts to ensure that everything gets submitted on time. And don't forget how many letters these people have to write! Make sure you thank them and keep them updated on the status of your admissions.

Q: How many schools should I apply to?

A: There is no exact number of schools that every senior should apply to. There are three things to weigh when deciding: cost of application, how difficult the schools are to get into and your confidence level. If you have the grades to get in to most places, but not the test scores, go ahead and apply to more than a few places. If you are someone who has had a rough time with grades and don't know if you'll get in to just anywhere, apply to as many places as you feel you need to. However, if you are someone who has great grades and an amazing resume, consider saving your parents the money and apply to a handful of schools with a wide range of acceptance rates. For the average applicant, it's nice to have a safety, a mid-range and a dream school.

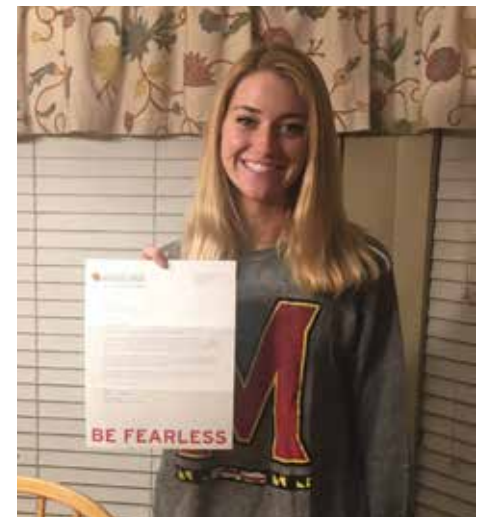
Q: What should I write about for my Common App essay?

A: You've probably heard this again and again from your English teachers and guest speakers, but you need to write about what makes you uniquely you. Whether it is an experience where you were traumatized in a comical way or how you changed through volunteer work, you want to explain how you will be a solid choice and successful in

Not everyone has to deal with face to face judgment from their admissions officer. For Jake Wernecke, getting into college has been a three ring circus. "...sometimes I auditioned for two schools in one weekend. It's an amazing process and I've learned so much from it, but it was one of the hardest things about the [...] process for me," Wernecke said. Photo courtesy of Jake Wernecke.



Some students aren't aware of how lengthy the application process can be when they first begin. Gillian Eitel realized that getting everything over with can make things easier in the long run. "There's really no way to make it less confusing, but it feels so good when all your applications are done," Eitel said. Photo courtesy of Gillian Eitel.



college. If you've had a slip on your permanent record or your grades haven't always been up to par, your college essay is the place to explain yourself. If you talk about anything negative in your life, try to show how you've grown from that experience. The admissions officers don't want to read something that's very obviously just a pity party.

Q: How should I deal with rejection?

A: It's never easy to hear the words "We regret to inform you." Remember when getting denied from a school that college acceptance does not measure your worth. There are millions of small details that could influence an admissions officer. It could be as simple as being two points away from what they considered an acceptable SAT score or as arbitrary as having a bias against people with your first name. Even if you get the "we are unable to offer you admission" notice, remember that not only do we live next to Anne Arundel Community College, the best community college in Maryland with amazing transfer programs, but also that there is so much more to life than college. With the amount of technology we have today, as long as you seek out answers, you will always be furthering your education. You don't need to do exactly what everyone else

around you is doing to live a full and successful life.

It may seem hectic, but with the proper preparation, you'll be able to continue your education close to home or on the other side of the globe. Good luck class of 2019, we're all rooting for you.

Kids often forget the importance of the application as a whole. Seniors stressed long and hard over their SAT and ACT scores and then found that they were not all that mattered. "Your test scores aren't the only thing that matters. It was my letters of recommendation and my essay that made my application stand out," Winship said. Photo courtesy of Ally Winship.



Going the extra mile and submitting many applications can be hard, but having a lot of schools to fall back on is much more comforting than depending on only a couple of colleges to let you in. Senior Caitlin Frank applied to 11 different colleges after spending all summer working on the pre-application process. "It was really hard to apply [...] even after I did all that work because I was so busy with school, work, and sports," Frank said. Photo courtesy of Caitlin Frank.



(Above) Everyone wishes they had 20/20 hindsight. Drew Jeffries had a tough time applying due to all the things no one told him would be so overwhelming. "Don't procrastinate. Get everything turned in and done way ahead of the deadline," Jeffries advises upcoming seniors. Photo courtesy of Drew Jeffries. (Left) Senior year did not start as the downhill ride TV and movies made it out to be. Applying to colleges can be a stressful time for any high school senior. "Applying to college was definitely more than I anticipated. I found myself procrastinating which left me sitting at my computer submitting literally minutes before the early action deadline," Keefe said. Photo courtesy of Julia Keefe.



UNDER THE RADAR

by Rachael Crumbaker | Media Manager

A spectacular senior that deserves the spotlight.

With just under 500 students in the senior class, it would be impossible to keep track of each and every one. However, some seniors have been truly remarkable. These students have proven that success in school is more than just grades; high school is what you make of it, and these experiences will shape you for the rest of your life.

Andreanna Roros is one student who balances her schoolwork with an impressive amount of extracurricular activities. Roros, President of the Key Club, divides her time among three internships and several honor societies. As for her Key Club duties, "I am responsible for leading meetings, making agendas, seeking out new community service opportunities, staying in contact with our lieutenant governor as well as our school advisers, attending Divisional Council meetings and Kiwanis meetings," Roros said. The Severna Park Kiwanis club is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving communities, and recently honored Roros as Severna Park's "Outstanding Club President and Distinguished President."

If you have seen a flyer hanging up in the hallway, there is a good chance Andreanna was behind it. Key Club is in charge of events such as Paint Night, the Prom Fashion Show and Harvest for the Hungry.

Outside of school, Roros spends the majority of her days interning. "I was Volunteer Coordinator for the William Paca House in Annapolis, and was a Museum Intern at Historic London Town and Gardens in Edgewater," Roros said.



With so many opportunities around the school, SPHS students are setting high standards on college applications. Community service, extracurricular activities and internships have been instrumental in shaping seniors before they continue on to bigger things. "Although stressful at times, it not only shows that I was a well-rounded student in high school, but I have also learned amazing time management skills," senior Andreanna Roros said. Photo courtesy of Andreanna Roros

This semester, she turned her focus toward education. "I took another internship at St. Martins in the Field as an educator. I help the children at the after-school programs with homework, supervise their activities, and help them stay busy," Roros said.

For Roros, helping others in any way she can has been a full-time job. "Although stressful at times, it not only shows that I was a well-round-

ed student in high school, but I have also learned amazing time management skills. The community service and leadership projects I have participated in are things I hope to continue in college." As for college, Roros is ready to kick back a little now that her hard work has paid off. "My goal is to have a more fun and balanced social life," Roros said.

10 YEARS FROM NOW

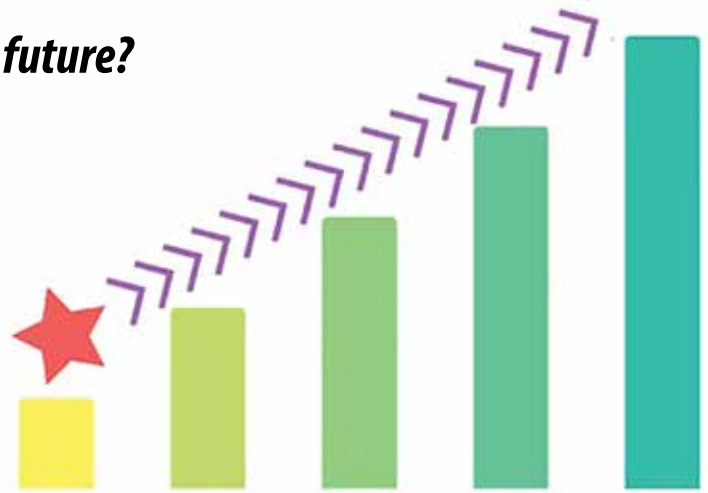
by Connor Killeen | Features Editor

The skys the limit for these seniors who think about their futures after high school. Graphic by Connor Killeen.

Where do seniors see themselves in the future?

Jenna Farrell:

Farrell is passionate about nature and the environment. “I want to be a marine biology helicopter pilot with my own show on Shark Week,” said Farrell. In between annual Shark Weeks, Farrell plans to be a farmer. “I want to grow almonds, potatoes, blueberries, and herbs,” said Farrell, “I want lots of animals too, but no cows, they take up too much room and I don’t want to see them die (slaughtered for meat).” Her farm location has yet to be decided but she is considering Colorado, California, and Italy.



Drew Betch:

This fall, Betch will be headed to Lynn College, north of Boca Raton, Florida. He will bring his lacrosse talents to the fields of the university. At school Betch hopes to major in criminal justice. “Oh God, I have no clue what things will be like in ten years but I’m excited,” Betch said. After graduating, Betch hopes to work at the National Security Agency in Fort Meade, Maryland as an intelligence analyst. The job entails receiving and interpreting classified information sensitive to national security. “I don’t want to be an attorney, but the subject of crime and cyber security has always been interesting to me.” After his days at the NSA, Betch would like to be the proprietor of the Severna Park Kohls and give out Kohl’s cash to kids.

Rachel Lotlikar:

Throughout high school Lotlikar has been involved in many theater productions. Her cinematic accolades range far and wide. Recently, she directed a One Act play that was showcased at the county theater festival; consulted as shot photographer in a short film; and wrote a 10 page screenplay for her college applications. This March, Lotlikar was accepted to the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). Ten years in the future, Lotlikar hopes to have an internship within the film industry. Lotlikar dreams of eventually becoming a professional screenwriter or director/filmmaker. “There aren’t enough women or people of color in Hollywood. I hope I can be a part of that change one day.”

Chase Hoenscheid:

Ten years from now Hoenscheid wants to have founded his own business. He’s not sure what he’ll be selling but is confident it will be successful. Hoenscheid’s independent spirit drives him to want to work for himself. “I make my own rules and play my own game,” Hoenscheid said jokingly. He will pursue a business degree from the College of Charleston this fall.

Abby McGuire:

McGuire will be attending the Coast Guard Academy this fall. She plans to attend for four years and then serve for at least five. McGuire then hopes to become a pilot and may attend flight school while she is at the Academy. “The Coast Guard has a high job satisfaction rate, so I might stay for awhile,” said McGuire.

Advice from Seniors

Class of 2018's parting words.

Graphics by Alena Carhart

Dear my future sisters,

This past fall, we had to say goodbye to our favorite part of our four years. Although it ended on a less than desirable note, the seniors wouldn't trade this experience for the world. The Severna Park field hockey family is the biggest, and most unique that we have ever been a part of. Over these past four years, we made closer relationships than we ever thought possible. These girls are more than friends, they're sisters.

However, it is not our time anymore. It is up to you to continue this amazing legacy. This is the most special program that you could ever be a part of. Don't take it for granted. Don't let the traditions die. The legacy of this program is the basis of its huge success, so keeping it alive is paramount.

Never be embarrassed to be a Severna Park field hockey player. People may try to wear you down, but wear your jersey with pride. No

matter what the outcome for the next season is, do everything the same way you learned.

To the incoming seniors, this is your time. You never know how it will end, so savor every moment like it's your last. Don't take anything for granted. Lead by example. You are the future.

As for the cheers: scream them with pride to keep the Falcon spirit alive.

Love, Severna Park Field Hockey Seniors of Fall 2017



Dear Future SPHS Upperclassmen,

If you are reading this letter, then congrats! You've already read more of The Talon than I ever did in four years of high school (no offense to the wonderful writers and editors of our school magazine, keep up the good work!). Jokes aside, I will always simultaneously treasure and dread my high school memories in a type of bittersweet soliloquy. I've met new people and lost close friends; I have branched out and tried new things that I thought impossible in my freshman year, and yet also made many questionable associations and decisions. Suffice it to say, I've seen the good and the bad

of high school and want to let any students who may be experiencing the latter that the bad isn't so bad in the end.

A famous IG philosopher once said "If it rains look for rainbows, if it's dark look for stars, dude." Not only is it an inevitable part of high school, but of life as well that stuff happens. Friends will come to brighten our lives, and sometimes they may leave behind only clouds and feelings of darkness. Things we thought were cool to be a part of in our freshman and sophomore years may be looked back upon with disdain and cringing by senior year,

and trust me I know that through personal experience. In short, my point is that things change, and sometimes that change sucks. But with change, good or bad, comes growth, which is more often than not positive. You will learn from your mistakes, and even if you didn't do anything wrong you will develop as a person from what others may do to you. The present is temporary, but the culmination of your past is forever and rarely bad as a whole.

Hope this helps, Beau Giebels



Dear Younger Self,

I am a senior and I have just completed my whole four years in high school. I have had a great time there. This was during the time that I wanted to be in acting.

My acting teacher, Ms. Germanos, is really nice. She's in charge of the Severna Park Thespian Group at the school. The Thespian Group performs Rock and Roll Revivals and other music shows. I really liked performing in those shows with my cast friends. My mother was also a parent helper in some of

the show times. After the shows, my parents congratulate me for doing a great job.

More than halfway through my high school year, there was a new high school building being planned. The new school was finished in January 2017. Now, it's where the football field used to be and the football field is where the old school was. The old school used to have two floors but the new school here has three floors along with a workers floor that students are not allowed

in. I really miss the old school. I thought the hallways and rooms were wonderful. I miss the stage where I did some of the shows. Although, I do like the new stage better than the old one.

Soon this year, I will be going to Anne Arundel Community College. I've already had two tours there and from what I saw, it's a really great place to learn. I hope I get a good career job soon and I hope high school will be great for you too.

Love, Thomas Donegan

Dear my former self,

As June 11, 1992 saw the first Nissan Altima roll off the assembly line in Nissan's manufacturing plant in Smyrna, Tennessee, the Nissan Motor Company celebrated the introduction to what would change the standards of mid-sized sedans. The following thousand Altimas were hardy celebrated, as the excitement that comes with making something new diminishes when it enters routine. The following thousand Altimas are probably rotting in a scrapyard now. But one of those following thousand Altimas was bought by two newlyweds in 1993, and passed from mom to dad to son

to daughter. He's adorable because he's ugly, he has personality because he's old, and he now has a name. Everyone around me, from friends to youth group leaders to the car dealer my mom bought her Civic from, now refer to him as Shepard. The coffee stains on his rear view mirror have remained there for months because I can see better with them there. They reflect all the memories I have begun to associate with that car, memories that I would otherwise never remember existed. I see eight-year-old Emily as her dad let her sit in the passenger seat and move the shifter, I see an even

younger Emily writing her name in the cloth on the door because she was excited she learned how to write her own title, I watch in humor as 14-year-old Emily sits next to her brother while she desperately tries to learn the secrets of manual transmissions. People laugh at me for being so obsessed with a car that needs repairs almost as often as he needs his gas tank filled. But after driving Shepard for the majority of my high school career, I'm realizing that it's not as much about the car as it is the life the car remembers.

Love, Senior Year Emily

DEAR SENIORS.

This is not going to be a letter where I pat myself on the back for the work that I've done for this paper. As much as I'd like to, I cannot take credit for what is on the next three pages (not to mention the fact that harassing my peers on Facebook is not necessarily something I would like to commend myself for).

Every year, as the April Fool's issue comes and goes and it becomes time to work on May, there always seems to be a new kind of pressure put on the staff.

Mrs. Earhart's enthusiasm from previous years rang in my ears as I first sat down to put pen to paper nearly two months ago: "This is the issue that people will keep forever."

I can't deny that part of me hoped this wasn't true; there's bound to be mistakes in the magazine and it makes my stomach turn to think that people will always be looking at where we used the wrong verb tense or made a ridiculous spelling error.

Everything seemed so frighteningly permanent. At least if we spelled someone's name wrong in any other issue, the mistake would eventually disappear into the ether (unread, ripped apart and scattered around the hallways like some sort of weird confetti).

This issue is the only one that has potential to actually be read by people other than Mr. Bathras, and I should be excited that all of the work put forward by our staff will finally be acknowledged. But I can't help but feel like it would be much easier if no one noticed. How could I ever move on from the mistakes I've made when they glare at me in black and white every time I open an issue of the Talon?

As we move on to the next stage of our lives, it might feel like every decision we make from this moment on is so infinite—choosing a college might feel like you're drawing a blueprint for the rest of your life. This is the "Senior Destinations" page after all; you can't even say "destinations" without eternity lingering in your mouth.

I'm here to tell you straight from the source, however, that this title is just a formality. Think of it more as the "Senior Layover" page—some people stay for 20 minutes, some people an hour and some people cancel their connecting flight and sit tight for awhile. What I'm trying to say is simple: what happens next year doesn't have to be your destination if you don't want it to be.

Now without further ado, it is my greatest pleasure to reveal the Talon's annual Senior Destinations page. I hope you love it as much as I do.

Good luck and keep traveling,

Marley Kitterer
EDITOR IN CHIEF

MARYLAND

Anne Arundel Community College

Nicholas Anderson
Charles Bachmann
Nicholas Barrett
Victoria Bellotte
Cole Boswell
Chloe Cocco
Candace Cohen
Thomas Derry
Alison Edwards
Isabella Hahn
Gabrielle Horne
Brooke Johnson
Delaney Johnson
Amanda Kelley
Chloe Kramer
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Alexis Loewen
Mya Mastalski
Viktorria McCormick
Sierra Mullen
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Mark Nobilio
Stephanie Ours
Alyssa Panzer
Matthew Pawlikowski
Jacob Rohrbach
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Rachel Savani
Nicholas Seabolt
Mary Seeley
Abigail Smith
Avery Washburn
Eric Willner
Hayden Willner
Matthew Zaloudek

Bowie State University

Mya Wilson

Johns Hopkins University

Zachary Souders

Loyola University Maryland

Brooke Carson
Layla Horeff
Reid Hussey
Kathleen Perrot

University of Maryland, College Park

Noah Anderson
Abigail Becker
Lucas Bloom
Carson Brinegar
Joshua Choi
Dominic Cipriano
Joshua Coffman
Katherine Crawford
Scott Davis
Benjamin Dearing
Hannah Drilling
Gillian Eitel
Daniel Fernandez
Jonathan Garcia-Ventura
Beau Giebels
Nigel Good
Samantha Hampson
Carson Hoover
Katherine Jager
Joseph Johns
Jacqueline Juergensen
Emma Kearney
Elizabeth Keller
Molly Maranto
Nolan Marks
Amod Mathur
Sydney McConkey
Kody Milton
Jillian Parisi
Rachael Peters
William Reed
Maura Register
Emily Russell
Chloe Salkeld
Jacob Staples
Anna Stevens
Tara Strasser
Tacy Surret
Theodore Tagle
Miles Varn
Elizabeth Westbrook
Madeline White
Lane Williamson
Emma Witham
John Wright

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Victoria Ambler
Maxwell Boettinger
Jacob Briganti
Jack Burnett
Louis Cannon
Alexandra Herschelman
Zena Jang
Kaitlynn Lilly
Jenna Morreale
Hugh O'Connor
Daniel Saenz
Jack Thomas
Rachel Wesley

Maryland Institute College of Art

Victoria Gehring
Rachel Lotlikar

McDaniel College

Mitchell Clokey
John Compere
Drew Jeffries
Raquel Sobczak

Morgan State University

Dwayne Hopkins

Towson University

Grace Appel
Ariyana Byrd
Cameron Clark
Alise Cornelius
Ethan Davis
Brandon Hsu
Maile Johnson
Grady Kershaw
Madeline Maier
Taylor Manley
Paige Marshall
Caitlin Meleney
Morgan Mennell
Adam Meyer
Heidi Meyers
Miles Michalski
Matthew Noguera
Lauren Prigg
Britni Sipple
Tara Sullivan
Kiera Williams
Logan Williams
Grace Williamson
Garrett Wood
Megan Young

Community College of Baltimore

County, Catonsville
Marissa Heuer

Community College of Baltimore

County, Essex
Peyton Apruzzese

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Emilee Hardesty

Frostburg State University

Casey Swartz

Goucher College

Skylar Kucker

Salisbury University

Catherine Cambon
Mackenzie Clayton
Hailey Cressotti
Madison Dearbon
Nicole Demchuk
Jack Finnerin
Ava Fratus
Kenzie Fulton
Ryan Hickman
Nicholas Horgan
Samuel Keeler
Andrew Kilchenstein
Matthew Kilchenstein
Maci McCubbin
Danielle Pendergast
Nicholas Plummer
Lillian Reynolds
Kathryn Sovers
Kassandra Ventrudo

University of Maryland Fire and

Rescue Institute

Robert Cleckner

Washington College

Devyn Daugherty
Jessica Giblin

St. John's College

Genevieve DeMajistre

St. Mary's College of Maryland

Keaton Bathras
Spencer Gretz
Erin Krauss
Ian Musser
Victoria Richard
David Sykes

Stevenson University

Summer Tambascio
Eric Williams

OUT OF STATE

ALABAMA

Auburn University
Paige Cummings
Maryellen Myers

University of Alabama
Garrett Andrews
Ryen Dill
Jake Harrell
Brady Wachs

DELAWARE

Delaware College of Art and Design
Kavan Bailey

University of Delaware
Alena Carhart
Joshua Lyon
Andreanna Roros
Jeremy Stevens

LOUISIANA

Louisiana State University
Jake Huber

NEW JERSEY

Rider University
Sarah Gellert

RHODE ISLAND

University of Rhode Island
Clare Gentile

ARIZONA

Arizona State University
Christian Isham
Mallory Martel

Northern Arizona University
Nadia Putnam

FLORIDA

Eckerd College
Lauren Blejski

Florida International University
Audrey Long

Florida Southern College
Rachael Crumbaker

Jacksonville University
Tyler Murphy

Lynn University
Andrew Betch

Stetson University
Caroline Goodman

University of Florida
Jenna Kasten

University of South Florida
Kennedy Purcell

University of Tampa
Colleen Bachkosky
Luke Roche
Sydney Wallace

SOUTH CAROLINA

Clemson University
Andrew Belloff
Jenna Farrell
Meghan Kraft

Coastal Carolina University
Griffin Bathras
Christiana Bulgin

College of Charleston
Lauren Foster
Chase Hoenscheid

University of South Carolina
Ashley Bellotte
Waleed Hassan
Michael Moore
Lucas Moran
Catherine Russell

CALIFORNIA

San Diego State University
Lucy McKnight

University of California, Santa Barbara
Maximillian Dunoyer

University of California, San Diego
Benjamin Talcovitz

University of San Diego
Jake Larson

Westmont College
John Kiser

GEORGIA

Savannah College of Art and Design
Grace Adams

University of Georgia
Hans Hansen
Suzanne Mangano

MASSACHUSETTS

Endicott College
Jacy Kuhlman

Northeastern University
Rachel Kalafos

Olin College
Melanie Zito

University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Katherine Ernest

Williams College
Lucas Tolley

Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Sarah DeMaio

COLORADO

Colorado Christian University
Chase Johnson

Colorado School of Mines
Jack Goode

University of Colorado Boulder
Abigail Lizewski
Halle Neal

INDIANA

Indiana University
Olivia Hubbart

Purdue University
Andrew Prodehl

University of Notre Dame
Celia Krohn

MICHIGAN

Michigan State University
Mathew Hall

University of Michigan
Benjamin Luke

OHIO

Baldwin Wallace University
Bianca Radice

Case Western Reserve University
Abigail Haste
Zahin Islam

Ohio State University
Maxim Murphy

University of Dayton
Ryan Nelson
Sarah Turk

TENNESSEE

Belmont University
Julia Brierley

University of Tennessee
Haley Gosewich
Gabrielle Higgins
Hannah Nicholson
Selah Tatem

CONNECTICUT

Trinity College
Elizabeth T. Kiely

Yale University
Clifford Jamieson

KENTUCKY

University of Kentucky
Madeline Fox
Mallory Glatz

MISSISSIPPI

University of Mississippi
Grace Cleary
Alaina Zborai

NORTH CAROLINA

Davidson College
Jonah Lane

East Carolina University
Madison Jones
Sawyer Phillips

Elon University
Leah Cooper
Danielle Schall
Jenna Taylor

North Carolina State University
Emily Summers

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Isabel Kintzley

University of North Carolina, Charlotte
Kayla Lawhorn

Wake Forest University
Ella Collings



52 PERCENT OF FEATURED SENIORS ARE ATTENDING OUT OF STATE SCHOOLS

86 PERCENT OF FEATURED SENIORS ARE ATTENDING A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

TEXAS

Tarleton State University
Kaitlyn Schuck

UTAH

University of Utah
Elizabeth Hines

VERMONT

University of Vermont
James Burton
Lucas Marcoon

VIRGINIA

Bridgewater College
Tiara Madera
College of William and Mary
Erin Diehl
Hollins University
Hannah Ko
James Madison University
Riley Leeds
Maeve Register
Julia Roy
Liberty University
Adam Giard
Lynchburg College
Katherine Hines
Northern Virginia Community College
Naimahya Boyd
Old Dominion University
Stephanie Anna
Rachel Lewis
Krystal Outing
Randolph College
Alexander Kulvivat
Roanoke College
Mason Kelly
Sam Kriel
Shenadoah Conservatory
Heather Jones
Virginia Commonwealth University
Julia Keefe
Virginia Tech
Brian Albert
Connor Becker
David Ellwood
Caitlin Frank
Samantha Hartman
Sarah Hoch
Jared Mann
Abigail Miller
Mika Naylor
Sarah Piccoli
Benjamin Podlich

WEST VIRGINIA

Marshall University
Abigail Jones
West Virginia University
Casey Clements
Mary Fontaine
Ryan VanVeelen
West Virginia Wesleyan University
Grace Atkinson

WISCONSIN

Lakeland University
Harry Tompkins
Marquette University
Megan Peters
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Ryan Bloom
Kendall Casper
Casey O'Connor

MILITARY

United States Army
Grayson Gallagher
United States Coast Guard
Jonathan Edmonston
Ryan Sheerin
United States Coast Guard Academy
Abigail McGuire
United States Marine Corps
Brenton Cameron
Colin Meehan
United States Military Academy, West Point
Dominic Crino
Dean Draughn
United States Naval Academy
Lauren Breitingner
Emma Brindley
Chase Cope
Ian Dennis
Kevin Kobosko

ABROAD

Arkansas State University, Mexico Campus
Andres Ramirez
University of Edinburgh
Graham Roeger

NEW YORK

Binghamton University
Ally Winship
Clarkson University
Evan Yeigh
Fordham University
Ethan Coughlin
Hofstra University
Olivia Carhart
Ithaca College
Kyra Feick
Tyler Lewin
Mary Riley
New York University
Sophia Gordon
Jacob Werneck
Pace University
Sean Engelfried
Parsons School of Design
Duncan Williams
SUNY Maritime
Robert Williams
St. Lawrence University
AJ Dykstra
Syracuse University
Bianca Timmer
University of Rochester
Rose Smith

PENNSYLVANIA

Bryn Mawr College
Emma Askren
Elizabeth A. Kiely
Drexel University
Noah Foxson
La Salle University
Kelli Kazmerak
Lehigh University
Henry McGrath
Pennsylvania State University
Cullen Figlioli
George Leshner
Adam Levin
Hannah Sloat
Grace Staples
Anthony Weyant
St. Joseph's University
Megan Brannen
Susquehanna University
Elise Fonseca
Temple University
Maxley Kittiver
Griffin O'Neill
Riley Rubiano
University of Pittsburgh
Stanley Galloway
Hannah Moore
Ryan Muldoon
Villanova University
Mallary Sellars
Widener University
Matthew Verni
Wilkes University
Jessica Smith
York College
Chloe MacDonald

WASHINGTON, D.C.

American University
Cedar Williams
George Washington University
Emily O'Brien
Lexi Ordakowski
Victor Urrutia



03 PERCENT OF FEATURED SENIORS ARE JOINING THE MILITARY OR ATTENDING A MILITARY ACADEMY

006 PERCENT OF FEATURED SENIORS ARE GOING ABROAD

MILITARY SENIORS

Well-rounded seniors Ian Dennis and Emma Brindley have used both their athletic and academic skills to make it into one of the top military schools in the country.

by Carey Cameron | Staff Writer

Ian Dennis is attending the Naval Academy in the fall for rowing. He received a special award of congressional recognition from both local and national representatives. Photo courtesy of Ian Dennis



IAN DENNIS

Where are you planning on attending college, and why did you choose to go there?

"Next year I am going to Navy for heavyweight crew. Serving in the military has always been a goal of mine and Navy is one of the best ways to do so. I know a lot of graduates in the area who helped steer me in the right direction throughout the admissions process. I am really looking forward to getting started at the academy."

What are some of your interests?

"Crew and unified sports are a big part of my life now, and I have learned many lessons and made lots of friends from both."

What do you want to study in college and why?

"I'm not quite sure what I will study next year, but I am interested in engineering or even Chinese."

ABIGAIL MCGUIRE

What do you want to study in college and why?

"I'm going to major in management. Then I kind of want to go to flight school. In the Coast Guard they fly bigger cargo planes and helicopters."

Do you think the Coast Guard will be a career for you?

"I hope so. I feel like I will, but who knows."

Where are you planning on attending college, and why did you choose to go there?

"I'm going to the Coast Guard Academy. I really liked it. I liked the mission, the adventure, and what comes afterwards."





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**FROM THE OFFICERS, BROTHERS, and SISTERS OF
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What are some of your interests?

"I play soccer pretty competitively. I'll be playing soccer for the Academy. This year I assistant coached a girl's basketball team and that was pretty fun."

EMMA BRINDLEY

What academic subjects interest you and why?

"I love STEM academics because there is always more to learn and discover, but there is a finite answer to each equation or question. I also had an internship at Walter Reed Medical Center and Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab this past year. In college I plan on studying chemistry or applied mathematics."

What are some of your interests?

"My interests are mainly focused on tennis and my family and friends. I participate in NHS and the high school tennis team."



Where are you planning on attending college, and why did you choose to go there?

"I will be attending Naval Academy. I chose Naval Academy because I liked the school's strong academics and structure. I also knew that I wanted to join the military and follow the tradition of service my parents started."

Emma Brindley is one of five Severna Park students admitted into the Naval Academy this year. She wanted to attend due to its great academic and military reputation. Photo courtesy of Emma Brindley.

Dean Draughn

A remarkable athlete due to his outstanding leadership and conditioning.

by Colin DeFeo | Media Manager

In Severna Park, it is common to start playing lacrosse at a very young age, but Senior Dean Draughn is different, "I was introduced to lacrosse in 7th grade when I moved to Maryland, and I was quick to pick up the game," Draughn said. After only two years of playing lacrosse, Draughn tried out for the SPHS boys lacrosse team as a freshman. After his junior varsity season ended, Draughn was pulled up to be on varsity for the playoffs. Since then he has been an outstanding varsity athlete.

Growing as a player throughout his high school lacrosse career, Draughn has improved as a player and a leader, "I committed to Army in October of my senior year," Draughn said. Deciding on a school was not very tough for Draughn, considering he was not only looking for a school with good athletics but a school with great academ-

ics as well, "I chose Army because it felt like the right option for me being able to receive a great education, and to be able to play lacrosse," Draughn said. Playing at Army is a large commitment because after the four years of education and lacrosse, athletes must serve in the United States Army for four years. Serving the nation does not seem to bother Draughn at all. Instead, it seems like an opportunity for him, "I also chose Army because of the opportunity to serve my country," Draughn said.

Athletics at SPHS is a long standing tradition that is significant to students, staff and the community. Being an athlete at SPHS takes leadership, "Being a leader on a sports team is a great responsibility. I believe if you lead by strong example and have the will to win, then your teammates will buy in and you will be successful," Draughn said.

Due to great coaching, talent and teamwork, the boys lacrosse team has been very successful and recently won back to back state championship titles. "My favorite part about being an athlete at Severna Park is being part of a group of boys who all have similar goals and are motivated to achieve them," Draughn said.

Leaving after four years with countless memories will be tough especially because of the life-long bonds that have been created through lacrosse. "Being an athlete these past years at Severna Park has created many opportunities for me, as well as opened a social gateway for me. I have met some of my best friends through sports and will hold on to those friendships throughout my life," Draughn said. "My favorite memory as a Falcon athlete was winning back to back 3a/4a Maryland Lacrosse State Championships."



Senior Dean Draughn is fighting for the win against Spalding. Draughn has had a fantastic career as a falcon over the past four years. "Being a leader on a sports team is a big responsibility," Draughn said. Photos by Shelby Chasser

Jacy Kuhlman

Taking on three sports, Kuhlman is an intense athlete.

by Shelby Chasser | Sports Editor

Imagine your parents handing you ice skates at the age of two years old, telling you to go out in the rink and have fun. This is exactly what happened to Jacy Kuhlman, a current senior. About one year after being introduced to skating, she joined her first hockey team at the old Benfield Pines Ice Rink (now the Benfield Sportscenter). Ever since, she has been playing hockey and competing on the ice.

During her first semester of junior year, Kuhlman was homeschooled because she was playing for the Philadelphia Junior Flyers, which required traveling to practice three nights a week to Philadelphia, PA. "It was difficult to manage school with the travel, so it was the best option," Kuhlman added. She came back to school second semester of her junior year because the end of the season did not require as much travel. Currently, she is a member of the Pittsburgh Penguins Elite U19 team. They practice at UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex which is located in Cranberry Township, PA. "Hockey has been a part of my life for so long, and I still love the game as much as I did when I was three," Kuhlman said. Hockey has taken her to Canada, Michigan, New York and other areas in order to compete in tournaments.

Kuhlman's team has won multiple tournaments and games including Fire on Ice, a tournament in Rochester, NY, which allowed them to advance to nationals.

Not only does Kuhlman participate on a competitive hockey team, but she also has been participating



Jacy Kuhlman is currently a member of the Pittsburgh Penguins Elite U19 team and goes to CrossFit almost every day. Last year she won the high school fitness testing. "I am always learning something new and that is what keeps it fun and exciting," Kuhlman said. Photo courtesy of Jacy Kuhlman

in CrossFit since the age of 15 and recently started Olympic weightlifting. CrossFit is an intense fitness regimen that incorporates high intensity functional movements that constantly vary. In a CrossFit workout, exercises range from gymnastic movements (e.g., pull ups) to cardio (e.g., running, rowing).

"Every day in CrossFit there is a new workout with a different task and movement so it is not repetitive and boring," Kuhlman said, "CrossFit has given me the opportunity to significantly improve my strength and conditioning for hockey, which has also taught me a lot about myself." She goes to Old Line CrossFit located in Millersville, and goes six or seven days a week for about two

to five hours each time.

In CrossFit, Kuhlman has qualified to compete in the Granite Games, a competition where athletes compete for CrossFit events, at St. Cloud University in Minnesota. She also won the SPHS fitness challenge in 2017.

Both hockey and CrossFit have been a huge part of her life for a long time. "I love hockey because once I am on the ice, I forget about any other distractions outside of the rink, and I just have one thing to focus on," she said, "And CrossFit is a place where I can always depend on relieving stress, keeping things simple and just have fun with people who also love to work out."



Congratulations Talon Readers!
One quarter of you will graduate within the next year.

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