

# the TALON

APRIL



## **LATE GRADUATION**

*The class of 2021 will have to stay in school until June next year.*

## **BEE INVASION**

*The lockers at SPHS are overridden with bees.*

## **FLYING WITH THE FALCONS**

*A brand new reality show will feature our very own Falcons.*

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## TALK TO US



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## COVER PHOTO

Throughout high school, every student looks forward to getting out of class early and having their last day of school a month before the underclassmen. Starting with the class of 2021, seniors will be required to stay for the entirety of the school year because administrators fear the junior class will lose focus without the guidance of their superiors. "I wish the class of 2021 luck because that is a fat L," senior Campbell Haney said. Graphic by Natalie Castillo.

## A Mural Compass

by Natalie Castillo | Graphics Editor

SPHS's National Art Honor Society has been leading various art projects around the school. The newest project, a mural of the social studies teachers, will soon be added to the walls of SPHS. "When the social studies teachers got wind of this project, they enthusiastically volunteered to do the painting themselves," Dattelbaum said. Since the social studies department is split between the second and third floor, the mural is going to be on the wall of the split landing for all of the departments to enjoy. These teachers are hoping to leave a lasting impression on the walls of SPHS. "As long as I bear a distinct resemblance to Scarlett Johansson, I wouldn't mind," Thersea Goldberg said. The mural is expected to be finished by May 1, just in time for AP testing to start.



Art teacher Suzanne Dattelbaum spends hours after school every week working with NAHS to create interactive works of art for the building. The newest project, a mural of the social studies teachers that they paint themselves, will soon be added to the walls of SPHS. "When the social studies teachers got wind of this project, they enthusiastically volunteered to do the painting themselves," Dattelbaum said. Photo by Katherine Esposito.

## No More Mandatory Gym

by Julia Owens | Staff Writer

The Board of Education recently overturned the policy that forces students to complete one credit of gym. The investigative division at the Board of Education found that mandatory physical education classes were becoming obsolete. Some students enjoy running around for an hour and a half every other day, but some would rather spend their time catching up on schoolwork. On the other hand, many of the gym teachers believe that a mistake was made by removing that policy. "Most kids won't exercise if they aren't forced to," Nadine Hendler said.



Physical Education classes will no longer be a graduation requirement starting with the class of 2021. Previously, students have been required to have one full credit of physical education by the end of their senior year. "High school students should be able to decide whether or not they take gym class," Mark Haring said. Photo by Connor Killeen.



# GOLD DIGGER

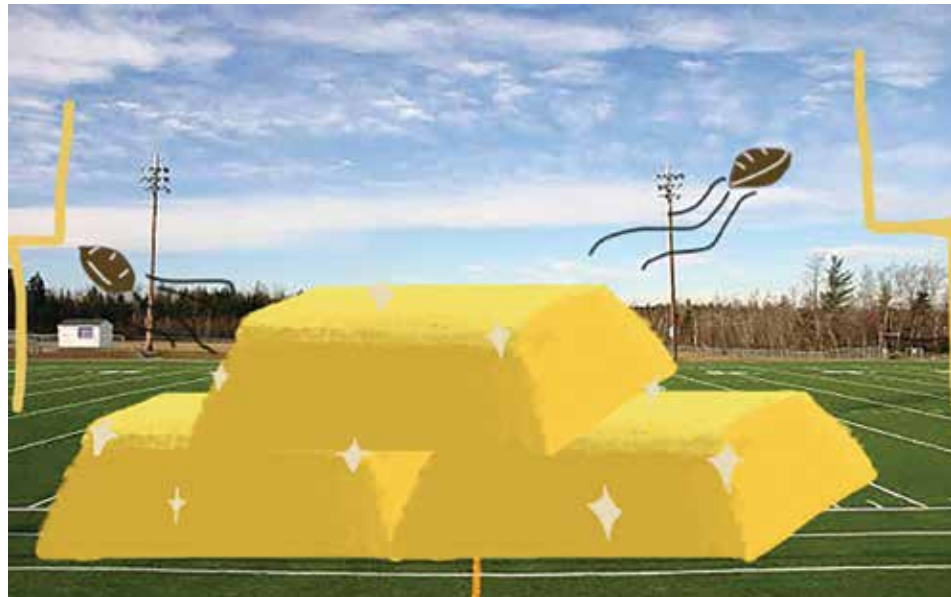
SPHS's football field has a big secret lying below its grassy turf.

by Sydney Herz | Staff Writer

Severna Park's football seasons haven't been spectacular for the past few years, and we might be closer than ever to figuring out why in recent months there's been increased speculation of a top secret conspiracy hiding below the lines of the field: a gold mine.

This speculation of a gold mine, has been around for years according to alumni, "We've always had gold under the football field even when I attended SPHS" library assistant Peggy Stroble said. One might ask how she is sure that it really exists, but Stroble experienced this conspiracy first hand when she was a student at SPHS. "I remember coming to school really early to run on the track when I saw some men digging the field up" Stroble said. "They were using a metal detector and a gold pan to strain the dirt. When they saw me they took off running."

The gold has also been linked to our football team's poor performance over the past few seasons. "The gold's magnetic pull seems to pull them down to the ground," Stroble said. "I think that is why they get tackled so easily. Schools including Meade and Broadneck have become aware of our gold mine which may be a threat at football games. Senior



The gold was discovered in 1958 under the football field when the old building was being torn down. The football team has been pinned down to the ground more times than they'd like in the past seasons due to the gold's magnetic pull. "We've always had gold under the football field even when I attended SPHS" librarian Margaret Stroble said. Graphic by Natalie Castillo.

cheerleader Parker Cross sees the gold's effects at the games. "The police are at every game to guard the gold in the end zone" Cross said. The school has been keeping this secret for over 50 years, but teachers who have been at SPHS for a long time such as Timothy Dunbar remember the origins of the gold ore. "They originally found it when they built the bomb shelter in 1958," Dunbar said.

There are some signs within our school grounds that the construction workers weren't so good at hiding the gold from the student body. One of the main clues can be seen from the layout of the tennis courts. "There's seven courts and then there's a space, and then there's an eighth one,"

Dunbar said.

Not only do the tennis courts give away the site of the gold, but so does the mysterious location of the press box for the football field. "The press box is usually at the 50 yard line. It was originally between the forty and the thirty," Dunbar said. "That was where they were doing the land surveying and then they moved it back to where it was after they got their information."

So next time you're out for a stroll by the school, look at the tennis courts or the press box. Try and see if you can spot the clues that make the construction of the sports arenas just a tad bit revealing to the hidden treasure lying beneath them.

# Severna Park Academy

SPHS is giving students the chance to stay for a fifth year.

by Colin DeFeo | Sports Editor

During the annual AACPS Board of Education meeting, members proposed a new idea that at first seemed outlandish and comical. The proposal held that a county school would house students for an extra year to increase profit and achieve ultimate athletic and academic success. At first the board dismissed this unprecedented idea, but with multiple follow up meetings and heavy consideration, the board decided to proceed. After much deliberation, they decided to select SPHS as the trial school due to its safe environment and brand new building. After an uphill battle with the county council, AACPS secured the approval for SPHS to offer 500 spots for students in the county to stay on campus for a fifth year. The

blueprints for this structure have already been approved, and the construction process is set to take place June 1. The online application process will be extremely competitive considering the high demand to graduate from SPHS.

The tuition is projected to be around \$30,000 for the year due to room and board fees and the meal plan offered in the cafeteria. "Once I saw this in the news I immediately knew I needed to do another year at SPHS and I am willing to pay the \$30,000," sophomore Logan Heydt said.

Some students have high hopes to potentially play sports at the next level, and this fifth year could make or break that dream. "I need another year to be able to grow and get big to have a shot at playing in the

NHL," junior Durham Butcher said.

Prep school isn't a new idea, as there are many elite prep schools around the nation that send kids to big-time universities for a variety of sports and academics. "Last year our goalie Shane Carr went to prep school to prepare to play lacrosse at the University of Michigan," senior Casey Fox said. "I need this extra year to get the most looks I can from top-tier schools."

The teaching staff was just as shocked about the news as the rest of the community; there hasn't been a public school in Maryland to board students since the early 1900s. "It will definitely be an adjustment for the teachers but I feel like we have some of the greatest teachers in the country so this change is possible and doable," Dr. Barbara Segnatelli said.

With sports out of the discussion, there are many other things about this preparatory year that will benefit the student body. "If I get another year to sing and act on stage, I will only get better and get calls from at least five of the eight Ivy Leagues to perform in their choirs," senior Lacey Ordakowski said.

Due to the large hallway widths in the new building, some are considering creating new classrooms out of this unused space. "This probably the reason we got a new school in the first place," senior Eric Bloom said. Photo by Colin DeFeo.





# Bees?

That's right, SPHS is overridden with bees.

by Matt Mangano | Features Editor

The halls of SPHS are filled with a plethora of sounds; from laughs among friends to a steady stampede of hurrying students, there is always plenty to hear if you keep your ears open. Next time you are walking down the halls, keep an ear close to the locker-lined walls and you may hear a less-than-pleasant surprise that sounds like *buzz buzz buzz*. It has been recently discovered that millions of bees live in colonies inside of the ziptied lockers. Yes, you read that right. Bees.

The discovery occurred last week when senior Kylie Brewis was at Rock 'n' Roll rehearsal when she heard the buzzing coming from a locker in the first floor music hall. Naturally curious, Brewis opened the locker, accidentally releasing hundreds of bees into the school after hours. "The bees were everywhere; I still have nightmares about it," she said. Brewis refused to answer further questioning, clearly due to the trauma of the incident. Luckily by the next morning, all loose bees were accounted for and the school operated as normal.

The lockers at SPHS are notoriously underused by the student body. Whether this is because of inconvenience or simply laziness is unimportant, but the lack of usage has turned the dark lockers into the perfect place for bees to build hives and thrive inside of them. Many have speculated how the bees got into the lockers in the first place. One theory created by senior Jake Shirey is that a queen bee has been trapped in a locker ever since the school was built three years ago. Pheromones that are released by the queen attract drone and worker bees so they can build a hive around her and begin a new colony. "This whole bee situation is absolutely absurd and frankly makes no logical sense from a scientific standpoint, so I figure the 'Trapped-Queen Theory' is as good as any right now," Shirey said. Others theorize that a troubled student or employee converted the lockers into hives for a failed science project or simply to wreak havoc on the population of SPHS. Whatever the case, the bees in question have officially been declared a crisis by SGA and all students with bee allergies have been

warned to stay home until further notice. "It is extremely important that we keep our students safe. Millions of honey bees pose a serious risk to anyone with a bee allergy and they have to stay home," SGA President Jared Smith said.

Honey bees are an endangered species, making their removal from the school especially difficult due to countless pieces of legislation that protect them from harm. This has created a whole new slew of problems for the school about the course of action they are to take. Most people simply want the bees gone, while others have decided that we should capitalize on this odd occurrence. These bee lovers suggest that we convert the third floor science hall into a fully operating apiary and harvest the honey that the bees produce in lockers. A group of protesters led by senior Sabina Khan have started a movement to "Save the Bees" following in the footsteps of other protests seen across the world in recent years. "Anomalies such as Colony Collapse Disorder have put honey bees at a very high risk of extinction in the United States," Khan said.



"Here at SPHS we need to do our part and keep these bees safe." Another group has begun a counterprotest in favor of tearing down the brand new school in order to exterminate the bees once and for all. "Obviously we don't have the funding for that, so we will have to

look elsewhere for a solution," Smith said.

That leaves us here, an entire high school in a stalemate with millions of bees. While the school is working to solve this problem, bee sure to be wary of the bees.

Bees flood out of an open locker. No other lockers have been open due to fear of SPHS being completely overrun with bees. "In all my years, I've never seen anything like this before," senior Jake Shirey said. Photo by KC Galloway.

## NEW AACPS SAFETY DRILLS

All the new procedures and drills the county is enacting to keep you safe.

by Connor Killeen | Editor-in-Chief

**C**limate change, uncontrollable forest fires, global pandemics. These are scary times we live in. Here are some new drills published by AACPS to keep students and staff safe from school-wide emergencies and natural disasters.

**Bear Attack:** AACPS considers the threshold of one bear to 3000 Maryland residents, “extremely hazardous.” The latest bear census data shows that the Maryland blackbear population has climbed to 2,000 individuals this spring, and though no bear has been spotted in Severna Park in over 50 years, the administration is taking no chances. Officer Swartz will be issuing each student bear spray this spring (the peak of bear attack season) that they will be required to carry on their person at all times, while on campus. “Really the thing to remember here is that you just have to be a little bit faster than the slowest person in your class, and you’ll be fine,” Swartz advised.

**Severn River Tsunami:** New geological activity has been discovered in the Severn River basin. Recent tectonic movement has caused the San Andreas fault to relocate to the Round Bay dock, scientist are still scrambling for the cause of this and are urging people to stay away. The Severn River is projected to be deeper than the Mariana Trench in just five years, and AACPS is preparing for tsunamis caused by the trench. In the event of a giant sea swell, all students will be instructed to run to the mechanical penthouse and wait there until the surge recedes. The fourth floor can only fit 50 occupants, so it will be first come first serve. “I can’t swim so this is extra scary for me,” senior Elle Carson said.

**Violent Coughing Drill:** If a student coughs for longer than 30 seconds at one time all other students must put on N95 masks and be sent home for the remainder of the school day to prevent the spread of disease. Critics have been calling these methods “extreme” and “ineffective,” but the SPHS administration refuses to put anyone at risk. “I really don’t mind leaving early, school’s not real,” senior Toni Fiocco-Mizer said.



**Bee Release:** After the reports of bees living in the lockers of SPHS many experts are predicting that bee populations could grow exponentially in the spring months, putting SPHS in grave danger. In the meantime, the bees are running a muck in the school cafeteria having raided the kitchens and built hives in the vending machines. “It’s not a matter of if there will be a swarm, it’s a matter of when,” long term calculus substitute Jack Logansmith said. “If the hives get overpopulated with bees, and they will, run for your life.” Logansmith is an avid beekeeper and manages over 100 hives on his estate. Read all about the ins-and-outs of beekeeping on pages 6 and 7.

## Flying with the Falcons

An up-and-coming reality show will feature SPHS students.

by Greer Long | Editor-in-Chief

Despite the small size and dense population, Severna Park is a town full of drama and scandal. In order to keep up with the local gossip, parkies may find themselves surrounded by rumors and false news. To prevent this word-on-the-street information from circulating and keep residents up to date, a riveting new TV show is soon to be aired on national television. “Flying With the Falcons” will feature a handful of SPHS’s most talented students, giving the world a taste of what it is like to truly be a Falcon.

The project began in early February when Principal Bathras was approached by award-winning TV producer Ms. Holly Wood who was looking to encompass Severna Park’s wild culture into a reality show. “He heard about our school’s sports teams and high test scores and wanted to delve deeper into the matter,” Bathras said. Like any good school principal, Bathras accepted the offer to film a TV show here at SPHS in exchange for the construction of a third turf field. “The show will highlight our outstanding student body and give us the opportunity to have a more distinctive athletic program with the addition of the new turf,” Bathras said.

Because every gripping reality TV show needs its stars, “Flying With the Falcons” pro-



Graphic by Greer Long

ducers have already selected three students who impressed them with their top-notch theatrics. Seniors Lauren Aguilar and Becca White and junior Jake Gelfand are looking forward to being the main personalities in the show. “I’m simply better than everyone else who wanted the part and that’s why I’m the star,” White said. For the rest of the gang, being in the spotlight will be something new to them, but they are ready to show the world how great Severna Park really is. “Being on TV is going to be so awesome, I can’t wait to show off my cross country skills,” Gelfand said. When informed that the show has nothing to do with running, Gelfand threw his microphone on the ground and sprinted away from the interview.

Much to the producers’

chagrin, Aguilar’s main priority is using her anticipated fame to promote herself on the app TikTok. “I didn’t really want to do the show in the first place, but then I realized it will help kickstart my TikTok career,” Aguilar said. Gelfand has also cited fame as part of his motivation for joining the “Flying With the Falcons” cast, as the cross country team hopes to partner with companies to acquire free products. “My team and I are trying

to get sponsored by Nike to get the brand new running shorts. They’re the shortest ones Nike has ever made,” Gelfand said.

Although “Flying With the Falcons” has not aired yet, some costar rivalries already seem to be brewing. “These other cast members better not pray on my downfall because I’m here for the spotlight and only the spotlight,” Aguilar said. Ever since starring in Rock ‘n’ Roll Revival last year, White has been hooked on that exhilarating taste of fame. “I honestly feel bad for all of the talentless people who aren’t me,” she said. White’s words of wisdom encourage everyone to try their best, no matter how mediocre they are. “Maybe you’ll make it one day sweetie,” White said.



## SPHS BLOCKS Minecraft

The school's biggest distraction will be stripped from all SPHS computers.

by Bella Boettinger | Staff Writer



Minecraft has been worshipped by SPHS students for quite some time. The free online game is always there to distract and ease the mind of stressed students. "It's my favorite computer game, it's a shame I won't be able to mine with my friends anymore," junior Darius Eggleston said. Photo by Bella Boettinger.

As soon as students start their day, they dread the long hours ahead of them. The only thing that keeps these students sane are their thoughts of mining for the rarest of resources, such as virtual diamonds and emeralds. However, the administration has decided that Minecraft should be slashed from the school computers so students can stay focused on schoolwork without any disruptions. With the implementation of this policy, school will never be the same without the exhilarating thrills of Minecraft. "It's an outrage, an abomination of a regulation," junior Dagn Bowman said.

Teachers all over the school have long been enraged as students progressively improve the worlds they design from scratch. "It's disrespectful when students play Minecraft in class. It shows a lack of motivation and teachers remember the students that do it," business teacher Gerald Wilson said.

Instead of scolding them, these teachers should be proud

of their students' creations in the world of Minecraft. "I think co-founding a Minecraft village with my classmates has been a true reflection of my academic experience. It is truly heartbreaking that such a staple of education must be extinguished," junior Mudit Mathur said. For many of the students in AP classes that are taking on a great deal of stress, Minecraft is their only escape. High school students need challenging games that allow imagination and creativity, and Cool Math Games cannot provide our future scholars with the same freedoms that Minecraft does. "Throughout my last three years at SPHS, I've never found myself able to express my originality better than when I'm playing Minecraft. There is something indescribable that no club, no sport, no extra curricular can provide; Minecraft is a part of me," junior Myles Quinones said.

Later this April, many students will be participating in a Minecraft protest. At this protest, students are planning to show up with "Bring Back Minecraft" posters. They ask that the Board of Education repeal the Minecraft ban. SPHS Minecraft enthusiasts are requesting all students to participate to show the school how important Minecraft is to them and their classmates.

Throughout high school, every student looks forward to their senior year. At SPHS, seniors get out of class early, and their last day of school is a month before the underclassmen. However, starting with the class of 2021, seniors will be required to stay for the entirety of the year because administrators fear the junior class will go astray without the guidance of their superiors.

## Early Graduation Cancelled

The class of 2021 will have to stay in school until June.

by Sophie Krejci | Staff Writer

Current juniors graduating as the class of 2021 are absolutely outraged. The class feels that it's a sacred tradition to leave early, a policy that if violated could cause irreversible damage to students' learning experiences. Some students are so ruffled by this change that for the benefit of their sanity, they've decided to ignore it. "I will be skipping the last two months of school," junior Mackenzie Young said. Many juniors feel as if they have lost some of the independence they gain when they become a senior. Another junior, Fatorma Bolay III feels that he has lost a part of himself. "I feel like my dog is walking me instead of me walking my dog," Bolay said. As a junior, I feel that the new policy will prevent me from continuing my learning experience. Such a dramatic change in my life might cause trauma for many years to follow. Overall, the underclassmen are distraught by this heartbreaking news.

Famous spiritual turtle,



Juniors Daniel Key, Anna Lou Mariner, Edie Deegan and Molly Bearisto sit studying in misery together. All classes after the graduates of 2020 are now required to stay until June instead of having an early graduation. "I will never get over this," Deegan said. Photo by Sophie Krejci.

Master Oogway, from "Kung Fu Panda" known for his guidance. "You must continue your journey without me, you must believe," Oogway said. Many seniors pass their knowledge onto those in years below them as they leave their high school career behind. The graduating class of 2020 will be the last year who needs to complete this ritual, as the newest rising seniors will be here to help the struggling juniors until the end. Senior Campbell Haney has some words of wisdom for her junior friends. "I wish the class of 2021 luck, because that is a fat L," Haney said. While the current

seniors feel for the rising underclassmen, it isn't something they can fix and can only pray for their young friends.

If you or another loved one is still an underclassmen, please visit the College and Career Center to sign the petition for keeping early graduation. Together, we can get enough signatures to bring the Board of Education to their senses. This is bigger than just the class of 2021, our underclassmen need to save all future graduates from an extra month of learning.



## SPHS Strange Addictions

Students reveal their unique obsessions.

by Amanda Vu | Opinions Editor



Senior Jack Maloy wears his silky smooth Teletubby apparel. Maloy started cosplaying as a Teletubby ever since he first started watching the show. "A Teletubbies suit is something to be revered, so yes, I commence a complex ritual every time I put it on," Maloy said. Graphic by Amanda Vu.

### Cosmic Cosplay

Everyone has their favorite TV show, and for senior Jack Maloy, the Teletubbies show is everything. After watching the first episode, Maloy instantly became hooked. "It was truly an incredible experience," Maloy said. A big fan of the stunning cinematography and "mythical creatures from a forgotten time," as he described, Maloy now embraces his role as a purple Teletubby. However, being a Teletubby isn't easy work. "You've got to understand that they're highly intelligent beings with extensive knowledge of the cosmos," Maloy said. Maloy's joy comes from the great esteem that comes with being a Teletubby. "Am I a highly intelligent being? Not at all. But can I pretend to be one? There's the money," Maloy remarked. Assuming the role of a purple Teletubby for four years now, Maloy now feels as though he has manifested into his truest form. "I would call my usual self a cosplay. When I'm not a teletubby, I'm cosplaying as a human named Jack Maloy," Maloy said. For Maloy, being a Teletubby means fulfilling a wish granted to him from the cosmos.

### Potato Power

In the fresh produce section of Giant, you can often find senior Sarah Jeffers examining the variety of spuds lining the shelves. Due to their unique shapes, intriguing shades and hardy nature, Jeffers has always had a special connection with potatoes. "I just think their hidden beauty is underappreciated and underrepresented, even in the media and grocery ads. I wish to change that," Jeffers said. Being a proud mother of more than 14 potatoes, Jeffers prides herself in taking adequate care of what she calls her "little tater tots." You can find Jeffers taking her potatoes on a walk, to the grocery store or to family and friend gatherings. However, her favorite activity is to take them to Kinder Farm Park, where they can interact with other plants and animals. "Like humans, potatoes long for company. Socializing gives them a chance to grow into mature vegetables," Jeffers said. In the future, Jeffers hopes to adopt more potatoes to contribute to her growing vegetable collection.

### Revin' into Reverse

Shift gears. Look back. Press the pedal. Reverse park. Senior Chase Campbell can do this in her sleep. After having to retake Driver's Ed due to a small car accident, Campbell feels twice as educated in driving as her peers. "That second go-round really strengthened my driving knowledge and made me more comfortable with my car while it was getting fixed," Campbell said. If the opportunity presents itself, Campbell will put the car in reverse and seamlessly back into a parking space. "It's become second nature for me. I could do it with my eyes closed. In fact, I have," Campbell said. Taking this skill with her everywhere she drives, her favorite spots to park are the side of highways, on the beach or by bus stops. "I like to practice sometimes by parking in uncommon spots so that I'm prepared for any scenario," Campbell said. Although her friends have stopped carpooling with her, Campbell is determined to become the best reverse parker in the county.

### Shop 'til You Drop

Whether it be shoes, shirts or freshly woven tophats, senior Gordon Mutch is always on the lookout for new trends. When the fanny pack resurfaced in 2018, he bought as many styles as he could find. "A good fanny pack goes with any outfit and really accentuates the hips," Mutch said.

His favorite fanny pack is one with Dolly Parton's face painted on the front pocket, which is displayed on a rotating glass in Mutch's closet. "I had to outbid an old woman to get ahold of it. In the end, it only cost \$340, a great price for such a unique item," Mutch remarked. While shopping, Mutch brings extra credit cards in his vintage Louis Vuitton wallet just in case. "You can never be too prepared, especially when the chip reader annoyingly malfunctions and declines most of the cards," Mutch said. The growing concerns from his family and friends only fuel his passion. "Honestly, I just buy more things to flex on them," Mutch said.



Senior Chase Campbell loves taking long drives to unknown destinations. Last summer, Campbell drove to Ocean City and received a personally signed autograph from a local policeman. "When I came back to my car, there it was, a piece of paper with his signature on it. It was such a nice surprise," Campbell said. Graphic by Amanda Vu.



# In With the Old, Out With the New

Coming in the fall of 2020, jousting is to be a new fan-favorite around Severna Park.

by Nick Ivey | Staff Writer

**W**elcome to Maryland! The state that is known for those famous blue crabs, the Baltimore Ravens and the Chesapeake Bay. However, something we aren't known for is our state sport: jousting. And, in staying true to our Maryland culture, Severna Park High School is instating jousting as the newest school sport.

Students have long been lobbying for such an addition to the athletics of SPHS, or rather the addition of a sport that calls back to a simpler time. A time when one would be able to run around in a full metal suit and not be called "weird" or "a crackhead." Whatever the reason may be, students are ecstatic that this state favorite sport is here.

The school jousting team will have both an indoor and outdoor seasons, with indoor practices being held in the gymnasium, while outdoor practices will be held at Kinder Farm Park. Indoor home meets will occur in the gymnasium as well, but outdoor home meets will take place on the football field, with special accomoda-

tions.

Principal Bathras has authorized the creation of new stables to house horses in the grass area near the northern staircase behind the school. The stables will have six separate stalls, one for each horse. These will actually be created in collaboration with PLTW students as a part of a student ser-

vice learning project. "I think it's really a great opportunity for kids to get out there and get stuff done for once," local Bob Shewbridge said.

However, some feel as if this new athletic addition is a bit too dangerous. "Personally, I wouldn't want to be in a big metal suit, charging towards another student in a big met-



al suit, holding sharp wooden poles. But whatever floats your boat, I guess" junior Ben Sur-osky said. Student safety seems trivial at best when compared to the exhilaration induced by jousting.

Adding to the excitement are the new uniforms created for the teams. Their white and blue uniforms with golden accents, stacked on the gleaming steel arm and leg protectors, stay relevant to SPHS pride, yet still call back to the origins of jousting. They were created with help from Under Armour, a long-time sponsor of Severna Park Athletics.

Regardless of the risks posed, SPHS is going through with the plan to incorporate jousting into the athletics department. Although no other schools have yet committed to creating jousting teams, high hopes still remain that they'll soon join in on the new craze.

**RIGHT**—The new protective equipment required by the AJA (American Jousting Association) looks sleek and stylish on the Falcons. Uniforms in years prior consisted of unattractive and inflexible metal suits. "Back in my day, jousting was never about looking good; it was always about fighting your hardest," jousting expert King Arthur said. Graphic by Natalie Castillo.

**LEFT**—The boys lacrosse team is hoping to better prepare for the season by participating in indoor jousting in the winter. For the past few years, SPHS students have been hoping for the addition of a new sport. "The team's goal for the upcoming season is to win the state championship," senior Casey Fox said. Photo courtesy of Connor Panebianco.





# TALON PETS

