

# SPTALON



## JUNE

### REFLECTING ON SENIOR MEMORIES

*Even with a tough 2020-2021 school year, seniors reminisce on times of joy from the past four years."*

### SUMMER DESTINATIONS

*Where is the SPHS community traveling this summer?*

### SHORTENED BASEBALL SEASON

*Varsity seniors apply what they have learned in to the last few games of the season.*



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## TALK TO US



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## COVER PHOTO

*Juniors Bridget Riddle and Caroline Bellotte jump off a private dock in the Community of Linstead just before Memorial Day. Summer break is just around the corner for many underclassmen, after a year of uncertainty, Maryland's COVID numbers are decreasing as more people get vaccinated, which means more time on the water with friends. Photo by Flynn Prengaman*

# SPORTS IN BRIEF



*The varsity girls lacrosse season is in full swing with eight games scheduled for their abbreviated season before June playoffs. The varsity team runs off the field at the Annapolis game on May 14, with a Falcon win against the Panthers.*

## VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

The girls varsity soccer team performed really well this fall. With a record of three wins, one tie and only one loss, they played hard to beat other schools and be one of the best teams in the county. All the games they played were close, but every victory was certainly earned. The season ended with a 3-1-1 record with wins against Southern, Annapolis and South River. A tie against Broadneck and one lost on April 6 against Arundel High School.

## VARSITY TENNIS

Severna Park High School is infamous for its varsity coed tennis team. This year, the team is back and better than ever, winning 5/5 of their games played so far continuing the undefeated streak of 167 matches won during the regular season which has been continued over a 12 year streak. The tennis team still has to play Broadneck (for a second time) and South River before playing at regionals and states. Spectators are allowed at the matches so don't forget to get out there and support your fellow Falcons.

## VARSITY FOOTBALL

The Falcons only played three games this year, finishing the season 3-0, with big road wins over North County High School and Northeast High School, followed by a home win over Chesapeake High School. Although their game against Glen Burnie High School was canceled, the Falcons played well this year winning by big margins over their opponents.

## UNIFIED BOCCE

The unified bocce team has had a strong start winning two game so far this seasons. Coach Nadine Hendler works with all the unified sports including bowling, tennis and bocce. Junior Delcan Fox said "we won against Broadneck...it's a lot of fun and it's my first season playing on unified sports, it's a really rewarding thing to do and to work with the ACC students."

## VARSITY BOYS LACROSSE

The boys varsity team has dominated the county games this season, winning all games by double digits -- including a 13-5 win to open the season against rival Broadneck. Their playoff chances look bright with regional quarter finals beginning June 7 and state finals slated for June 18 and 19 at Loyola University.



## REFLECTING ON GREAT MEMORIES AT SPHS

Seniors look back on their four years spent at SPHS.

*Ginger Harrison | Guest Writer*

Severna Park's class of 2021 is nearing their graduation at the end of May. There are only a few weeks left before students leave the Falcon nest and venture onto new experiences and make new memories. However, before seniors graduate, they wanted to share the memories they have created at SPHS.

Severna Park is a welcoming community and provides a number of opportunities to get involved in. Senior Jillian Murphy

said her best memory is "being on the girls basketball team," and that "[it] became like my second family my junior year."

Sports aren't the only way to make memories at Severna Park. Senior Ryan Davis said his favorite memory was "being a spotlight operator for 'Mamma Mia' [during] sophomore year." Along with knowledge, recollections are one of the most valuable, untouchable things to take away from your time in high school.

High school can be overwhelming at times

which makes it difficult to separate having fun with friends and studying for school. However, a good way to combine these tasks is to study with friends. Rebecca Cremmins said her favorite memory from Severna Park was "having study [sessions] for big tests."

A part of Severna Park High School that many students love is the helpful advice students willfully give to each other. Jackson Hanlon said his best advice for an underclassman is "to manage your time wisely" and

that will help to give you "the most enjoyable high school experience."

Similarly, Murphy said her best advice would be to "get to know yourself more than anyone else." Davis also added that his best advice for an underclassman would be to "avoid pandemics your senior year."

While most students are sad that their high school years are coming to an end, they're excited to start new adventures and make new memories going into the next chapter of their lives.



Seniors have finished at Severna Park High School, with four years, comes loads of memories. Quincey Chukow from the class of 2020 accepts his diploma from Principal Bathras at the drive up graduation last spring. For many students it is spending time with friends that has provided the most memorable experiences. "I've made my favorite memories with my friends because we always have fun together and just laugh about everything," senior Olivia Wright said. Photo by Maddy Fangio

# LIFTED COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Changing rules in Anne Arundel County are causing mixed reactions among students.

*Lilly Spilker | Guest Writer*

With mask restrictions being lifted in Maryland, Severna Park High School students are easing back into “normal” life.

Governor Larry Hogan lifted the mask mandate in Maryland on May 15, excluding hospitals, schools and public transit. “Anne Arundel County will follow the State’s decision regarding the lifting of the mask order,” County Executive Steuart Pittman said. Both Hogan and Pittman continue to emphasize the importance of getting vaccinated for Covid-19.

Sophomore Charlie Deegan works at Buddy’s Crabs & Ribs in Annapolis and has mixed emotions about the relaxed rules. “It’s nice to not wear a mask, especially because I work in a hot kitchen,” Deegan said. “But I’m worried that it might cause a spike in cases.”

Although the transition into a mask-less life is exciting, many people, with their long-term health in mind, are hesitant to leave masks behind. Along with hesitancy, there is confusion among many, as they are unsure if wearing a mask is still expected at different venues.

Freshman Ryn Feemster visited Giant Food this past weekend and was confused about the mask requirements. “I didn’t realize that people were allowed to opt out of wearing masks,” Feemster said. “It was a pretty weird experience seeing some people wearing masks and some not, especially after dealing with this pandemic for so long.”

The easing of restrictions in Maryland is also having a direct impact on Severna Park High School, with AACPS sports changing rules and easing regulations. Effective as of May 18, there is no longer a restricted number of fans admitted to sports games. Before, each AACPS athlete would receive two tickets for the guests of their choice, no exceptions. Open access to all spectators is a major step towards a pandemic-free life.



*Many businesses in Maryland have signs outside that say something along the lines of masks encouraged instead of the old masks required signs. There are still some places that require masks but they are becoming harder to find as time goes on.*  
*Photo by Julia Owens*

Senior Kaila Stasulli is a captain of the girls’ lacrosse team and is looking forward to the spring sports season becoming a bit more normal. “I was disappointed that our Senior Night had a limited number of fans because I wanted my whole family to be there,” Stasulli said. “But it’s really exciting that anyone can come to our games now. We missed out on a lacrosse season this year, so this is lifting a lot of our spirits.”

Fan-filled games are just one aspect of the new way of life in Maryland as Covid-19 cases decrease and the number of vaccinated people rise. Severna Park High School students are revisiting their normal habits as Covid-19 restrictions drift away.

Sophomore Kara Hartley recently spent time in downtown Annapolis and enjoyed a new glimpse of freedom due to the mask requirements being lifted. “Not wearing a mask will definitely take some getting used to,” Hartley said. “I just feel like it gives some hope that the pandemic will stop ruling our lives soon.”



## REASONS SEVERNA PARK STUDENTS ARE RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Severna Park High School's Class of 2023 returns in large numbers, but other schools don't follow suit.

*Johann Bacarisas / Guest Writer*

Students from Severna Park High School (SPHS) are returning to school in the midst of this year's pandemic, following the new hybrid learning model that has been implemented by Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS). However, the amount of students at SPHS that are returning to school via the hybrid model far exceeds the amount of students returning at other schools.

"We currently have a little over 1,000 hybrid students enrolled at SPHS," Principal Bathras said. "It is about 54% of our overall student population [and] about

50-55% for each grade level."

There are many reasons why students have chosen to return to school in-person, whether that be parental influence or personal choice. Sophomore Samuel Ackerman said that his parents made him choose the hybrid model.

Some students chose to return to school because the learning environment is better. "I found that the online learning format was too stale, and was a poor environment for both learning and daily life," sophomore Matt Bacho said.

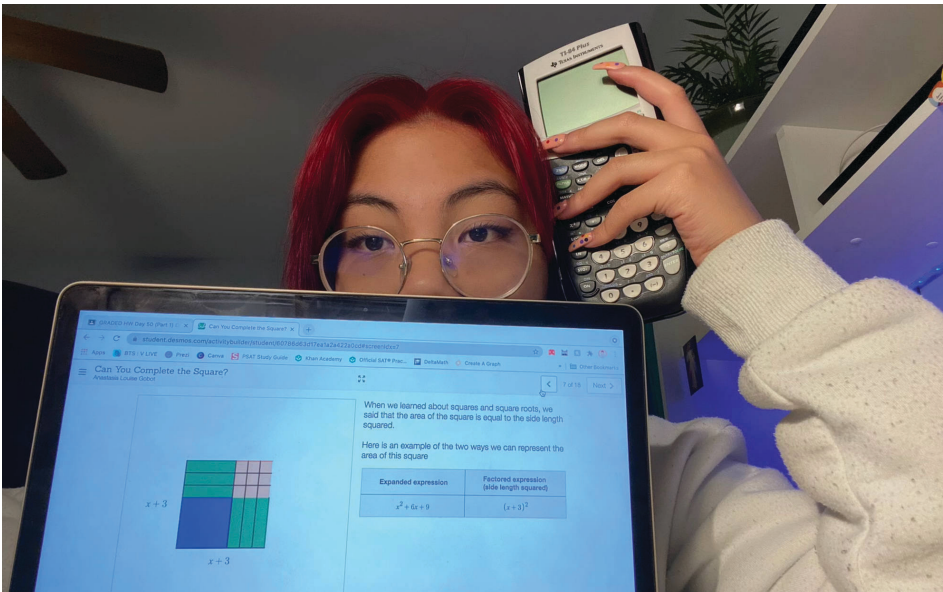
Bacho goes on to say that although he finds it "harder to get

motivated to go in person," but that in-person learning is "an overall positive" experience, compared to virtual learning.

Other reasons include grades or for a sense of normalcy. "I think more people from our school chose hybrid due to the nature of our school," sophomore James Fallon said. "In Severna Park High, a lot of kids strive to get Honor Roll or straight A's and many students think that going back to school will help them achieve that."

However, this large number of students returning in person could pose a problem with COVID-19 exposure and some students remain hesitant about returning to school. "I don't really feel safe going back to school," sophomore Anya Gobot said. "With the large population at the high school, I would think that statistically, at least one person could be a carrier. I don't want to take the risk."

While over 50% of Severna Park students are returning to in person learning, students from other schools may not be following suit. Old Mill High School sophomore Roey Sabasa said that he chose to stay virtual, as did many of his classmates. "Most of the students from my school choose to stay hybrid," Sabasa said. "Few to none chose hybrid learning."



This year, all students were issued Chromebooks regardless of hybrid or virtual students doing virtual learning. In the past, these Chromebooks were only used in school, but this year they were distributed to students who wished to have one at the beginning of online learning. Photo courtesy of Roey Sabasa, Anya Gobot

# SUMMER DESTINATIONS

With Covid-19 restrictions gradually becoming more relaxed, teachers and students alike have been able to plan more activities and family visits for the upcoming summer break.

Noel Castillo | Guest Writer

On June 18, summer vacation starts and students and teachers throughout Anne Arundel County will have a lot more freedom to leave their homes and enjoy a resemblance of normalcy.

As the abnormal 2021 school year draws to a close, many people are slowly transitioning from an educational mindset to those of uninterrupted relaxation. “I plan on going down to North Carolina with a few friends for a week,” senior Sophia Goumas said. “I also have a house in Lewes, Delaware that I plan on going to.”

People have learned to adapt and become flexible by finding healthy alternatives to maintain structure and balance in their lives. Because there are many businesses that have had to follow Covid restrictions, people have turned to nature and outdoor activities now more than ever to provide solace and opportunities to go outdoors. Nature provides many safe and fun activities including exploring with a small group of friends and family or spending some time alone participating in individual hobbies.

“I love to garden and make jewelry, so I hope I have some time to do that this summer,” science teacher Laura Greenlee said. “I would like to have some time to read some books this summer and try and get out on the Magothy



*A great amount of strange and unprecedented historical events have been observed through many cameras and lenses this year. Like the skies, the world around us is constantly changing and summer brings a newfound sense of opportunity and many memories that lie just beyond the horizon. Photo courtesy of Natalie Castillo.*

River to go kayaking and boating as much as possible.”

Greenlee also has exciting family plans that will take her through a few states and keep her busy for a large portion of the summer.

“My family will be driving to Savannah, Georgia, Siesta Key, Florida [and] Wake Forest, NC to visit family,” she said. “I will [also] be going to a concert at the Red Hat Amphitheater in Raleigh, NC to see Bare Naked Ladies, Gin Blossoms, and Toad the Wet Sprocket.”

Friends and family are always an integral part of summer vacation and since Covid restrictions are getting lighter, it is becoming much easier to see family who live in different states.

“I’m going to the Outer

Banks with my family,” sophomore Cameron Holly said. “I haven’t seen my dad’s side [of the family] in years so I am very excited.”

Many people are in similar situations about making plans to visit family. Sophomore Aidan Judge said he hasn’t planned anything out yet but his family has talked about going to Maine because “it’s a beautiful state” and he has family up there. Now that summer break is rapidly approaching, there will be an abundance of free time for people to reflect and enjoy the season.

“I definitely plan on visiting my friends and hanging out with them everyday,” Goumas said. “I would like this to be the best summer yet.”



## TAKING HIGH SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS INTO COLLEGE

How one SPHS couple prepares their relationship for college.

*Sydney Herz | Editor-in-Chief*

Many high school students take a tentative approach to dating in high school because they know that in four years, they will be heading off to college, possibly in different states. They would possibly be apart from one another and some may have no choice but to end their relationship. But what if that wasn't the only choice? What if it wasn't an all-or-nothing scenario?

One senior couple, Ethan

Gaige and Grace Knight have taken a contrasting approach in their evolving relationship. Meeting in 6th grade, they have been friends for a long time and began dating at the beginning of senior year. Knight is planning on attending Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) to get more credits for college and hopes to transfer the following year to either the University of Tampa or the University of Tennessee. Gaige plans to attend the University of Tampa in the fall for his freshman year of college.

"I did consider Tampa when Ethan went to visit but also because it's in Florida and it's a good size school for me," Knight said. "I'm still figuring out what I want to do but after AACC hopefully I will end up with him in Florida."

This isn't Knight's first high school relationship but is her strongest and most mature one. Gaige and Knight are best friends which is what makes their relationship successful. Not everyone is ready for a relationship in high school, especially

a serious one, but Knight gives some advice to those who want to be or are currently in a serious relationship in high school.

"My advice to you is to always communicate with each other, you should be each other's best friend," Knight said. "But don't let a relationship distract you from finding yourself and focusing on yourself because I learned that going through high school really allows you to do that."

As she has matured, Knight has realized that the adage that distance breaks people apart isn't true and that distance does not matter. She believes the only thing that matters is whether you see a future with that person you are pursuing a relationship with.

"It really depends on if you are dating for just high school fun or dating for a future with that person," Knight said. "As long as you are making an effort to see each other and find time to talk to each other everything will work out."



*Ethan Gaige and Grace Knight have been friends for seven years and plan to continue their relationship into the next four years during college. "Ethan is going to Tampa which is about a 14 hour drive from here or a two hour plane ride," Knight said. "We plan on staying together when he goes to [college]." Photo courtesy of Grace Knight.*



# NICK GARVEY GAINS TIKTOK NOTORIETY

Junior Nick Garvey has almost 115,000 followers on TikTok for doing the thing he loves the most: dancing.

*Julia Owens / Staff Writer*

Nick Garvey is a junior at SPHS with a growing following on TikTok. He started posting videos about a year ago and has gained some Internet attention.

When asked about what his content consists of Nick said, “my content is mostly about dancing, but I add other parts of my life too. Sometimes I’ll sing, speak out about issues and sometimes I’ll be Spiderman.”

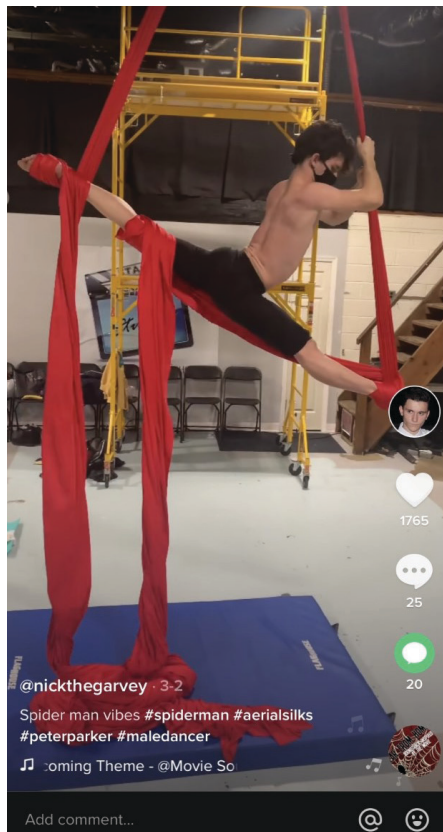
Garvey has been dancing for almost five years and mostly does ballet. However he also has a passion for acrobatics and contemporary dance. Some of his favorite dances “are a combination of all three.”

When it comes to his experience on TikTok he has gotten a lot of support, and he can’t speak for everyone on the app but he “generally gets really positive messages from people” about his content. In his eyes what is great about TikTok is that “you do what you want to do. TikTok is a place where you can be what you want to be.”

His number of followers has been steadily increasing, but for him it really isn’t about the numbers. Garvey said that

“no matter how big or small my following may be, I am always very grateful for those who are interested in what I do and those who support me in what I love.”

If you wish to learn more about Garvey or check out some of his content he can be found on both TikTok and Instagram under the username: @nickthegarvey.



Dancing is large part of Nick Garvey’s life, he currently has a large following on Tik Tok, he is a member of the Dance Company 2 at SPHS and also dances with a local company. In last year’s dance showcase, he danced in a jazz/theatre piece. Photos courtesy of Nick Garvey

## 2021 SUMMER FASHION FIX

A list of fashion trends and tips to upgrade your wardrobe this summer.

Anastasia Gobot | Staff Writer

### VIBRANT COLORS

One of the best additions to your summer wardrobe is bright, striking pieces. Colors like French blue, orange, and hot pink add a pop of color to an ensemble, turning a simple outfit into a fresh one. Pairing these colors with neutral-toned items makes them stand out even more.

### MONOCHROME OUTFITS

Even the lesser put-together outfits look good all in one color. Using a single color for your outfit not only unifies the pieces, but it's also really fun. Playing around with different shades, textures, and prints will elevate any monochrome outfit.

### BUTTON-UP SHIRTS

Button-up shirts are easily one of the most versatile pieces anyone could own, which is why they can be considered one of the basics. Coming in different sizes, colors, prints, and materials, you can style them with no issue at all. Use it as an open outer layer over a tank top or a graphic tee, a pop of color over a neutral outfit, or under a tuxedo to wear to McDonald's with your friends. The key is to pay attention to the silhouette, or shape, of the overall outfit. Different silhouettes flatter different body types. Oversized, short-sleeved button-ups are perfect for this summer.

### LONG SWEAT SHORTS & MOM/DAD SHORTS

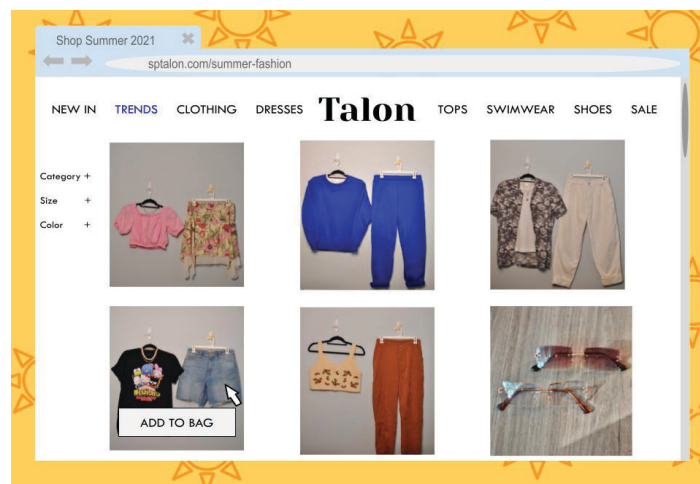
Finding the right shorts to wear during summer can be an absolute pain and when you do find the right ones, they might not be comfortable for you. Shorts like these are great additions to your wardrobe because not only are they breathable to have on, but they also provide modesty and comfort. They go with anything, so putting an outfit together with them is easy.

### KNITS & CROCHETS

Knits and crochets are extremely popular right now. Dresses, tops, bags, hats, and stuffed toys could all be made with your own hands. The possibilities are endless and you can style them any way you want.

### COLORFUL SUNGLASSES

Fun sunglasses are the perfect way to top any outfit. With so much variety, you can't go wrong. They add flair, they're fun, and you won't have to squint when you go outside. You can find the best pairs at thrift stores, on Amazon, or any second-hand website. It's important to remember that no matter how bland an outfit may seem, adding jewelry and accessories will completely upgrade it and help you feel confident in your style this summer.



Shopping for new clothes can be overwhelming if you don't know where to start. Using this as a styling guide can aid you in expanding your knowledge on the ever-changing trend cycle. Photo by Anastasia Gobot



# BETTER THAN NOTHING

With last season being canceled and this year being shortened, seniors reflect on their time on the varsity team and what baseball has taught them over the years.

*Sydney Herz | Editor-In-Chief*

The past year has been tough for everyone, but for SPHS spring baseball athletes it has been especially difficult. The pandemic completely cut the 2020 season, giving players limited time before senior year to play the sport they love. Luckily, the 2021 season was not canceled, but, it was cut in half which allowed the baseball athletes to at least get in some playing time before college.

While the year off was not ideal for most, it allowed ample time for practice, adjustments and improvement. Senior Drew Crowley used his time off for just that; he played ball for a local team and was able to prepare for the 2021 season as a catcher. Crowley, who has been playing baseball for 14 years, will not be continuing his baseball career in college, so this season, while shortened, is much better than no season at all.

"I am just happy to be playing after not playing last year," Crowley said.

Senior Jackson Merrill also took measures to prepare for his senior season, playing for the 5-Star

National team and training all summer. Merrill, who has been playing baseball since he was three years old, plans to continue his passion for the sport at the University of Kentucky. While he is excited to play for the Falcons for one more season, he feels the team was robbed the previous season.

"I'm grateful but I also feel we deserved more due to not having a season last year," Merrill said.

Through it all, both seniors have learned many valuable lessons from coaches, parents, teammates and personal experience which they will take into the next chapter of their lives.

"[It has taught me] to be a team player in all aspects of life, not just in the game," Merrill said. "[It has also taught me to] be the person who is there for others and helps when others are in a slump."

The spring sports teams received a surprise at the end of May when the MPSSAA approved the return of State Championships. This changed the schedule for spring sports, like baseball, when playoffs, region-

als and a state final were introduced. Region quarters are June 7 for varsity baseball with a state finals slated for Friday, June 18, the last day seniors are eligible for high school play.



*The past few seasons have thrown the SPHS baseball team quite a few curve balls, but senior Drew Crowley talks of some of the lessons he learned over the course of more than a decade of playing ball. "[Baseball] taught me how to deal with failure," Crowley said. Photo by Maddy Fangio*

Dear Falcons,

As we finish the end of this school year, we reflect on the roller-coaster ride we have taken together. Through it all, I always had confidence in each of our Falcons and the hard-working faculty/staff, that we would pull through this together and make it out safely to the other side. We started this school year in September 2020 in a full-time virtual learning environment, then made a switch to Hybrid-Virtual in March 2021, one year after the Covid-19 shutdown began in March 2020. One year has now passed, and you are one year older; you are also one year advanced in your grade level. The events that transpired over the year are not what we had hoped for, but it will always be memorable, nonetheless. Given the latter, thank you to everyone for showing such resilience, determination, patience, flexibility, and grace throughout this year's journey. Please know that SPHS faculty/staff, parents, and our entire school community acknowledge the wide range of emotions you experienced this school year. Like all things in life, this too shall pass. Just know the SPHS faculty/staff is always thinking of you, always there for you, and looks forward to (hopefully) a return to "normalcy" next school year 2021-2022. Please take time this summer to enjoy time with family and friends, getting back to a normal routine, and making sure you find time to relax and rejuvenate.

Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line.

Principal, Severna Park High School