

THE TALON

April



APRIL

A SO-FISH-DICATED MASCOT

SPHS adapts a new mascot for the 2022-2023 school year.

THIS LITTLE PIGGY RAN TO THE BANK

SPHS Library to hold pig races for fundraising

SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

Next school year, football games will be held on the weekend.



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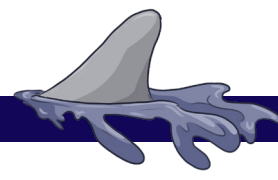
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COVER PHOTO

To aid students in their learning, SPHS has decided to install a shark tank in the courtyard and the faculty is anxiously waiting its implemetation. "I am looking forward to the tank being the visual focal point of our school," Principal Bathras said. Photo by Flynn Prengaman. Graphic by Maya Jones. For more on sharks and to request a name for our new mascot, read "Installing a Baby Shark Tank to Promote Better Learning" by Ginger Harrison on page 7.

NEWS IN BRIEF



As of Feb. 30, the B&A trail will undergo a massive overhaul of its pathway. Though the 13 mile long trail is made completely of asphalt, the recent surge in favor of brick pathways has persuaded the trail committee to re-do the entire trail in brick. The pattern will be diagonal, feature three inches between each brick to promote greenery growth and is now available to be booked for photo shoots. Photo by Sarah Sternhagen

Due to the overgrown grass on the girls softball field, also used by marching band, the school has decided to avoid extra lawn maintenance costs with a new, animal friendly service. The Kinder Farm Park goats will be the new lawn mowing employees of SPHS and will trim the field, and get their lunch at the same time. Photo by Sarah Sternhagen



With the recent creation of the SPHS Ping-Pong club the administration has taken notice of the new and popular sport. They've unanimously decided to contribute a massive amount of prize money for the club to use in their first full ping pong tournament, on the next National Ping-Pong Day. The total amount of money awarded for first place will be \$5,000 and second place will receive \$5 and third will receive \$3. Photo by Audrey Devine

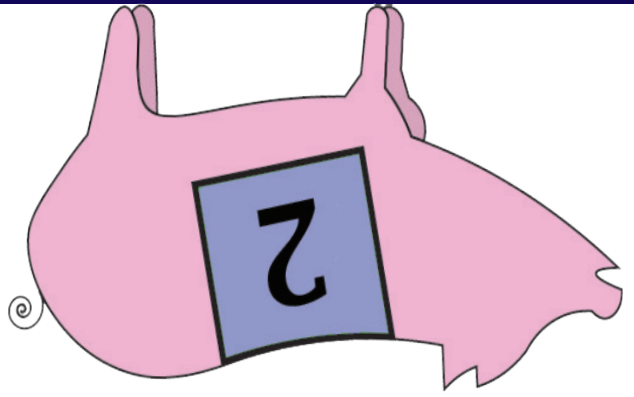


THE PIG RACE

The newest fundraising idea.

Sarah Sternhagen | Staff Writer

Many people are already placing their wagers for the races. Each competitor has been assigned a number, with their statistics and name already visible to the public. But all the pigs are training their little legs to go as fast as possible in the race. And as Margaret Stroble said, "We can't wait to see how the races turn out." A sentiment shared by all of SPHS. Graphics by Sarah Sternhagen



Fundraising is a common activity for schools to raise money for their favorite activities. But with so many competing ideas and incentives to get patrons to donate, plus the wide variety of groups to donate to, it can get quite competitive. That's why this year, the SPHS library has come up with a brand new idea to bring in donations for the school library: a pig race.

Hosted by Kinder Farm Park, the race will take place on April 31 and cost \$3.99 per ticket. That's not the only opportunity spectators will have to donate, though. Participants can place wagers on which pig will win will also be accepted without a payment cap. All wagered money will be donated, but for each \$10 wagered on the winning pig, the person who placed it will receive three minutes with the winning pig for a photo shoot. Pig-sized accessories will also be available for the photo shoot.

The donations will be

primarily used to pay for new books coming into the library in the fourth quarter. They include, but are not limited to, "The Three Ninja Pigs," "If You Give a Pig a Pancake" and an author-signed copy of "Charlotte's Web."

One of the school library assistants, Margaret Stroble said, "We've been hoping to expand our catalog of pig themed books, since they're in such high demand. And now the pig races will bring even more interest."

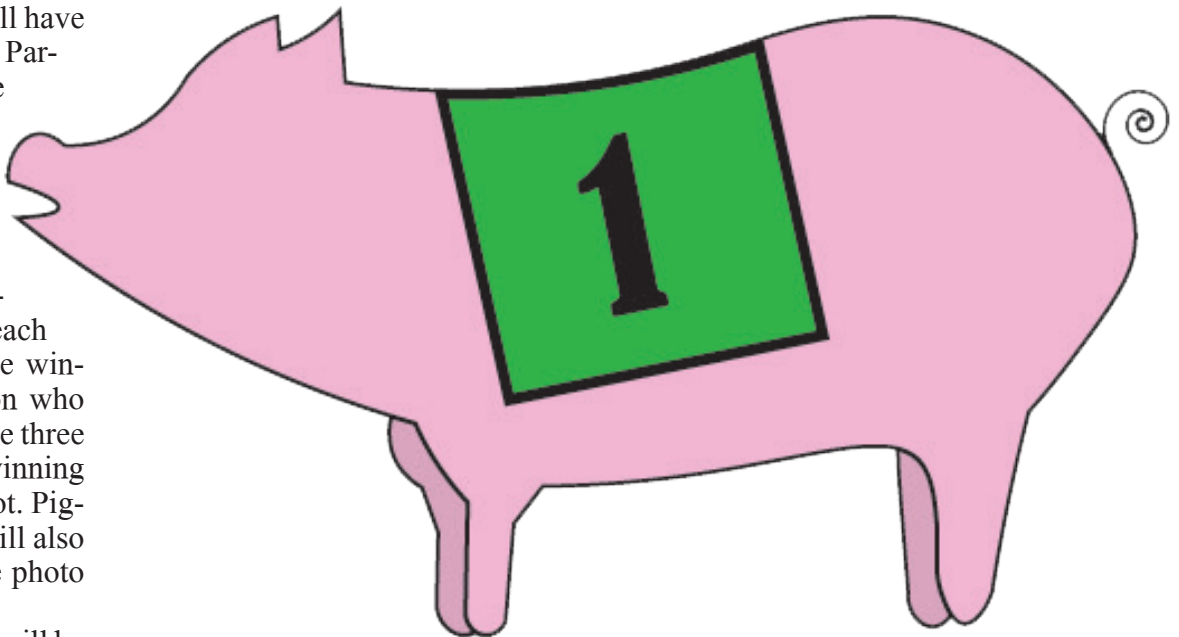
The pool for the race is already open. So

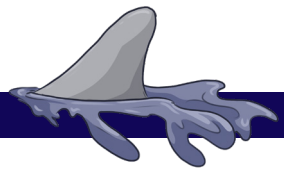
far Miss Piggy is the favorite to win with nearly \$500 already wagered on her. An odd choice considering her former career in show business and not as a racer. It must be her stellar personality. However, Miss Piggy might be upstaged by Peppa, who is following closely with a total of \$450. And though Peppa's more attuned to the TV screen, her fans can't wait to see her.

However, in recent news, an under-pig may be rising in Hogwarts. Despite little evidence of any supernatural abilities he's

amassed a major following in the past week. The total wager on Hogwarts sits at a respectable \$300, but there is plenty of time for him to catch up to the leaders.

Whatever the pigs raise, it is already looking like it will be a great contribution to the SPHS library. With many books already set to be ordered with the giant check, students cannot wait to get their hands on the pig race-funded literature. Hopefully it will become a favorite tradition of Severna Park.



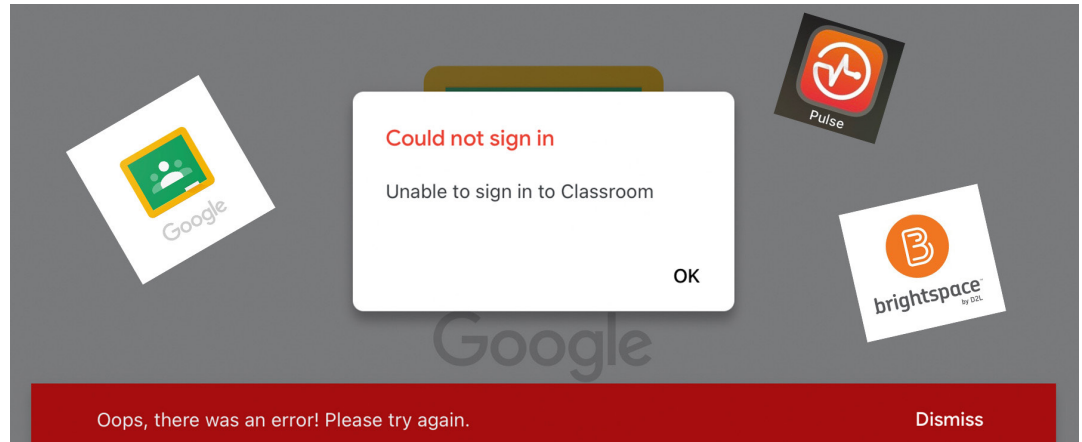


GOING BACK TO GOOGLE CLASSROOM

After more than a semester of struggling with Brightspace, the Board of Education made the decision to switch back to Google Classroom.

Julia Owens | Managing Editor

The Board of Education voted 7-2 in favor of bringing back Google Classroom. This is good news for many teachers and students alike at SPHS, but unfortunately it will not be in effect until next fall. Photo by Julia Owens



After a semester of dealing with Brightspace, the AACPS Board of Education decided to switch back to Google Classroom starting in the fall 2022. Many students and teachers are thrilled with this news. Google Classroom was what the school community got comfortable with during online learning and most were sad to see it go. Brightspace was a very different system with an app that was glitchy at best and failing at its worst.

History teacher Mark Haring was asked about how he felt about the change and he said “I was just starting to get used to Brightspace, but I am happy to be going back

to Google Classroom.”

Many of the administrators agree with the decision. Assistant Principal Staci Cassarino said “I know a lot of the teachers and staff including me are happy about the switchback.” Assistant Principal Lindsay Abruzzo agreed by saying, “I think the Board of Education made the right decision to switch back to Google Classroom.”

After the Board of Education heard the teacher’s outcry for the platform to get switched back, they held a meeting to decide on what to do. After a town hall meeting back in January, the Board decided that they would bring it to a vote. On Feb. 23 there was a

voting meeting held and the decision to switch back to Google Classroom passed. This was passed just a week after the mandatory mask decision was overturned.

After months of using the frustrating system that is Brightspace, English teacher Jessica Holman said, “I am so glad they are deciding to switch back, things will be so much easier that way.”

Some teachers like Maria Buhler brought a different perspective to the argument. Buhler said, “With being new to teaching at the school, I am fine with Brightspace and it’s a little frustrating that I am going to have to learn to use Google Classroom now.”

There was so much time and training that was put into having teachers learn to use Brightspace, still many teachers struggled with it. Nadine Henderler said “I originally was in support of Brightspace, but after this last semester I am happy to see it go.”

The consensus at SPHS is that Google Classroom was easier to use. Brightspace is a full learning management system (LMS) and many of teachers that needed those features were using Canvas before the original switchover. With the recent ruling to switch back, it looks like things are going to be fairly back to normal next year.

SPHS IS INSTALLING A BABY SHARK TANK TO PROMOTE BETTER LEARNING

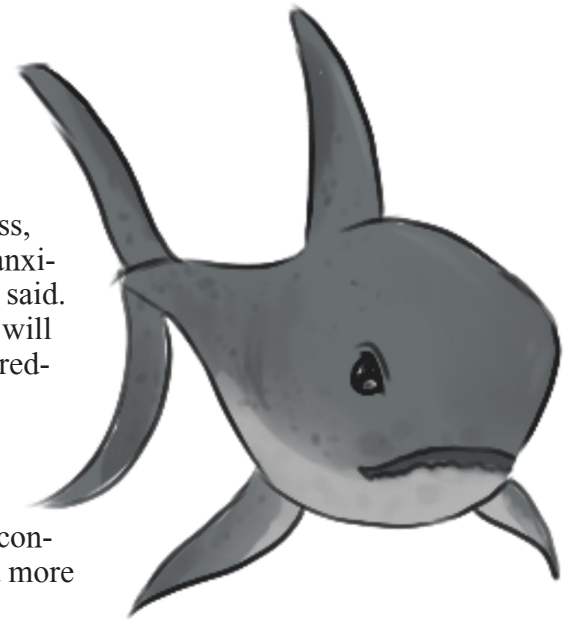
This new decision that the administration just made sounds crazy at first, but there are many positive benefits that come into effect.



*Ginger Harrison | Online Editor
Graphics by Maya Jones*

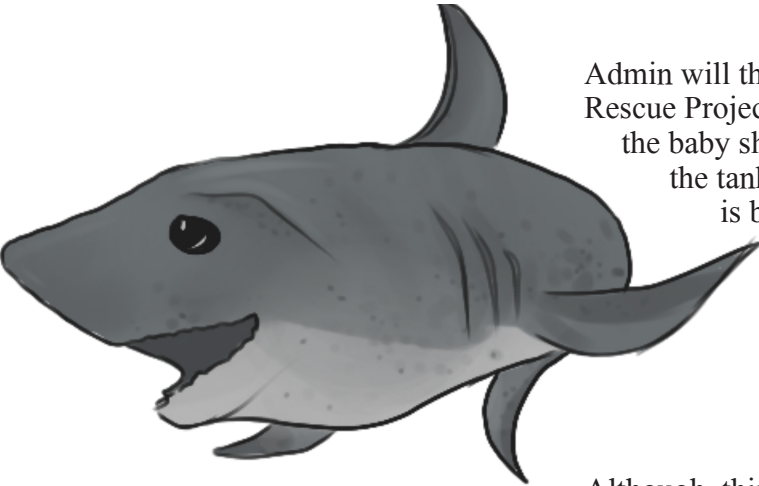


Severna Park High School voted to install an in-school baby shark tank in hopes of restoring student's love for education. With a survey that was sent out to students over Thanksgiving break, administration discovered that students weren't finding day-to-day school enjoyable and were instead getting extremely stressed regularly. Along with other administrators, Principal Bathras announced recently that SPHS will be installing a baby shark tank in the actual building. "Research shows that a shark tank will reduce levels of stress, improve sleep quality, lower blood pressure and heart rate, decrease anxiety, improve focus and creativity and have a calming effect," Bathras said. Severna Park's principal also claims that installing a baby shark tank will leave a stellar reputation for the school as well. "A shark is an apex predator who dominates the ocean. Like the shark, SPHS is known to be the same in terms of academics, athletics, performing arts and pretty much everything we do...As Falcons, we encourage our students to take on learning and life in the same way." Although installing a baby shark tank sounds like an extraordinarily crazy idea, Bathras is confident that the focal point will leave students feeling less stressed and more excited to go to SPHS on a daily basis.

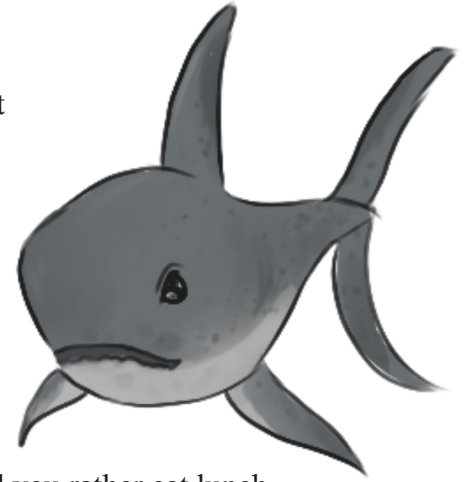


It's no secret that some students are less than excited to attend school every morning. School can be exhausting, mentally draining and leave students feeling unmotivated to learn. Although, now that SPHS will have a shark tank, student's mindsets will definitely be altered and uplifted for the better. Since this decision is fairly new, the tank installation won't actually start until the middle of May.





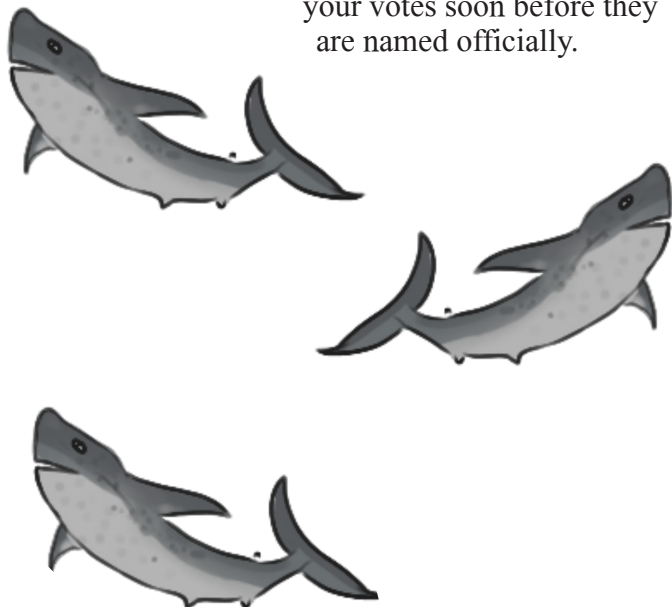
Admin will then work with The Shark Rescue Project of America to transport the baby sharks comfortably into the tank. Unfortunately, there is bad news for students who eat regularly in the courtyard because the tank will be installed in the courtyard next to the cafeteria.



Although, thinking realistically, would you rather eat lunch in the courtyard or get to say that your high school has a big baby shark tank in the middle of it? SPHS is known for being over the top and this decision just might make headlines in larger-owned newspapers such as “USA Today,” “The New York Times” and “The Wall Street Journal.”

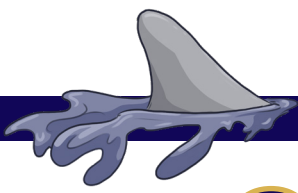
Since SPHS is adopting the baby sharks in May, administration is trying their best to make the school a comfortable new home for these creatures. By doing so and by trying to encourage student involvement, there will be a name contest for the sharks. Check out the school newspaper’s online website sptalon.com to enter in your suggestions for names.

There will be three sharks so choose your names wisely. Who doesn’t want bragging rights to say that you named the sharks that live in your high school? This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity so cast your votes soon before they are named officially.



VOTE ON THE NEW SHARK’S NAME BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE, OR VOTING ON THE TALON WEBSITE.





FEATURES

OUT OF BREATH TO EASY TRIP

All staircases in SPHS will be switched to escalators during the 2022 summer break.

Zoe Philip | Staff

Have you or your friends ever struggled with climbing the many flights of stairs currently at Severna Park High School? Well, Principal Bathras has heard students and teachers alike voicing their concerns for quite some time, and has decided to make a change on it. Although he is still looking for companies to complete the job, he is planning on having most staircases turned into escalators during the 2022 summer break. There are still some complications present with how to complete the construction, as many of the staircases at present are too close on top of each other to put the proper electric equipment into place, but Bathras plans on leaving some as they are for students who are uncomfortable with the escalators being installed. If construction cannot be completed on schedule, students will be expected to take the three present elevators in the

Staircases such as the one shown here will be altered into escalators during the 2022 summer break. There will be strict rules and regulations put into place to ensure the safety of students and staff. With some of the staircases remaining as they are, students will have the option to avoid the new escalators if they so choose. "There is literally no need for that many stairs, too many for me," said senior Julia Owens. Photo by Zoe Philip

building to their designated classes as needed.

When questioned on the problem of class size and the elevator capacity, Bathras refused to give any statement, wanting to wait until he is more sure about the timeframe for construction and how it will affect summer school schedules.

Although start times are still going to be pushed to 8:30 AM as previously decided, students can arrive as early as 7:45 AM to get to their classes on time, and a signup sheet is being created to help keep everything organized. There will be strict rules put in place to prevent any kind of injury occurring from this new development. During the

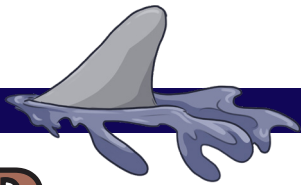


next few advisory periods there will be multiple safety videos shown to ensure all students are kept safe while adjusting to the technology that will be present. There is also the potential to lose escalator privileges, if found to be endangering other students or themselves while ascending them.

Students who violate these stated rules will be given a neon yellow lanyard they have to wear so teachers know they have broken the

rules and are on probation until further notice. Time necessary to wear the lanyard will vary depending on the severity of the rules being broken.

With many months of planning and scheduling ahead, it is hoped that students will be able to use this new technology in the upcoming 2022-2023 school year, with elevators being in place for use if necessary.



SENIOR ROAD TRIP

Seniors take a road trip to New Jersey on their ditch day.

Sydney Herz | Editor-In-Chief

There are so many perks of being a senior: partial schedule, parking passes, prom, graduation, getting out of school a month early and of course getting ready for college. However, what many seniors and faculty don't talk about is the senior ditch day that traditionally takes place towards the end of the year. To relieve some stress, students collectively skip school. At many other schools, this day is nothing more than a nice day for seniors to sleep in and maybe catch up on some work or hang with

friends. But for SPHS, the senior class has much more in store for their day out of the classroom.

Seniors rent a bus or two, depending on how many students decide to attend, and ride up the coast to Hoboken, New Jersey. The day begins with the senior class president driving the bus, followed by the vice president if another bus is needed. This three hour drive is only the beginning.

"We all drive together and get fake tans and get the full experience," senior class recording secretary Lily Becker said. "It's good preparation for one of

the themes for senior week: Jersey shore."

Depending on the weather, the plans may need to be altered. For example, if it is a warmer day, seniors spend their day on the beach getting real tans. However, this does not give the same effect as fake tans for the Jersey shore theme, so usually seniors just stick to tradition. Students spend the entire day together and since it is only one day out from school, most teachers don't even notice, especially since the majority of the Class of 2022 skip school for Blue Angels or have a partial schedule anyways.

This very well-kept secret has been going on for decades. SPHS teacher Valerie Earhart reminisces on her senior ditch day back when she was a senior.

"I remember taking off the day before prom, but my parents wouldn't write an excused note for me, so I couldn't make up the work," Earhart said. "I got my nails done, so whatever. I still turned out to be a responsible adult."

Not only do teachers barely notice the entire class of

2022 missing from their classes, but they truly understand the importance of this day to the wellbeing of these future members of society.

"Everyone deserves a mental health day, you have the rest of your life to work, to be responsible (aka -- go to school/work)," Earhart said. "So, in my opinion if you are on top of your work (and on track to graduating), it's OK in my book."

As if this day couldn't get any better, since most seniors are 18, chaperones are not necessary. Senior week comes in the following months and chaperones aren't always requested there, so if parents give their child the OK to go, it is seen as a test run for senior week and then college.

While prom and graduation are seen as many seniors' favorite memories of high school, this gives upcoming seniors something to look forward to. Half the fun is the surprise and secret of it all, so make sure to keep it on the down-low, as this is the first time there has been a release of this long-kept secret road trip.



In the past, senior ditch day has been a secretive event for the seniors to enjoy their final days together as a senior class. This year, it's all out in the open. "The senior class ditch day occurs on May 8 this year," senior class adviser Nadine Hender said. "It's been happening for years, but since Covid-19 took it away last year, seniors are going all out this year."
Graphic by Maya Jones



EDITORIAL CARTOON



The marching band to provide soothing music to golf team.

Maya Jones | Graphics Editor

Marching band member Bobbi Taylor is excited for this new marching band opportunity, saying “We only got to play at football games, but now we can play even more.” The entire Severna Park marching band will be musically supporting our Severna Park golf team.

SENIOR DESTINATIONS!
DON'T BE LEFT OUT! SENIOR DESTINATIONS ARE BEING COLLECTED

GO TO THE CLASS OF 2022 BRIGHTSPACE FOR MORE INFO

SUPPORT THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER ONLINE FUNDRAISERS

SUPPORT THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

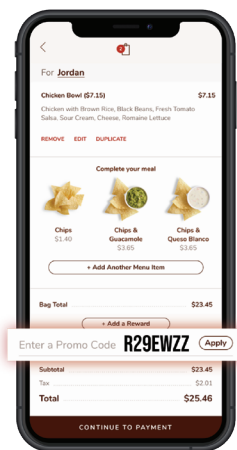
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APRIL 27 ~ 5-9 PM ~ SEVERNA PARK



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- 3 Build your order with all your faves.
- 4 Once you're ready to place your order, input your unique online fundraiser code in the “**Enter a Promo Code**” section. Don't forget to click “**Apply**.”
PROMO CODE: R29EWZZ
- 5 Provide payment information and submit your order for pickup (not delivery).
Reminder, pickup must be within the hours of your scheduled fundraiser.



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Once you apply your fundraiser code, your cart will show “Fundraiser” and an amount of \$0.01. Don't panic — this is totally normal and how we track the code in our system.



SAY GOODBYE TO FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Moving forward, Severna Park's football games will now be held on Saturdays.

Lilly Spilker | Sports Editor

During the fall, Friday night football games under the lights are a treasured event for many Severna Park residents, drawing in many fans of all ages. It is always a fun atmosphere, under the lights with loud music, cheerleaders, the SPHS marching band, and a big crowd cheering on their home team, including the rowdy student section. Students look forward to these Friday night games all week, and kick off their weekends supporting the Falcons.

However, Friday night football is devastatingly being taken away from Severna Park High School. Partnering with the Greater Severna Park Council and Severna Park High School leadership, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education has decided to ban all football games on Friday nights. The games will be held on Saturday afternoons, typically at 2 PM. This decision was almost entirely made based on the complaints from Severna Park residents in nearby neighborhoods. It was argued that results of the new stadium being built disrupted peace in typically quiet communities. People complained that the lights on the field brought an unpleasant brightness to their homes. Additionally, noise was a major issue that many discussed. The zealous announcers, energetic crowds, powerful music and rowdy marching band upset many people. This led to many complaints.

Almost all Severna Park



For years, members of the Severna Park community have enjoyed attending Friday night football games and supporting the Falcons. Some of this fun has been taken away as Severna Park's games are set to take place on Saturday afternoons next season. "Everyone is really sad about not having football games on Friday nights anymore," junior Charlie Deegan said. "With this change, a lot of students will also have to adjust to not having the fall weekends that they are used to."

students are upset with this major change. "I think it's pretty ridiculous that they are moving football games to Saturdays," junior football player Kevin Bredeck said. "Games have always been on Friday nights and it should stay that way. Now no one will go."

Something that is upsetting many is the idea of losing the whole experience that comes with Friday night football. "Football games are always so fun because you get to be with all your friends and everyone is cheering on the team together, so there's a sense of school pride that comes with it," junior Karli Kirchenheiter said. "And a lot of people get together on Friday nights after the game but I guess that will all be

different next season."

It's not just fans who will miss the rowdy atmosphere, the players agree. "Playing under the lights with a stadium full of people cheering the team on makes me more excited to play," Bredeck said. "The spirit of fans set the tone and motivate us. I can't imagine playing all our games at a quiet stadium in the middle of the day."

The football season will not be the same next year without the "Friday Night Lights" experience, but Severna Park students will try to make the best out of this unfortunate situation.

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