

# THE SPTALON APRIL

He's Back

### BATHRAS IS BACK

The retired principal will make a return to SPHS this semester.

### NO MORE REDOS

Students will lose the opportunity to improve original test scores.

### NEW MASCOT

Say goodbye to the Falcon in 2023.

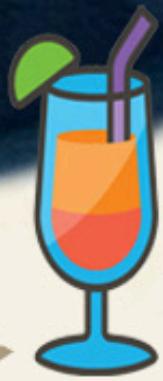
### NO OUTSIDE PROM DATES

Only Severna Park seniors can attend prom this year.

SEVERNA PARK HIGH  
60 ROBINSON ROAD  
SEVERNA PARK, MD 21146

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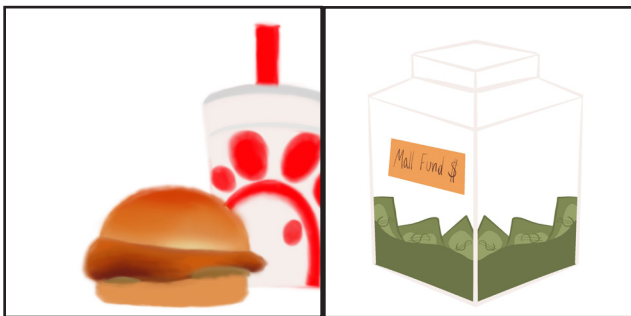
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**WHO WE ARE** The Talon is the principle news publication and public forum of Severna Park High School, which is located on 60 Robinson Road, Severna Park, Maryland 21146. Phone: 410-544-0900 **ASSOCIATIONS** The Talon is a member of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and Quill & Scroll International Journalism Association. It has won Gold and Silver Medals from CSPA. **DISTRIBUTION** Staff members typically distribute 400 papers to the 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. PDF copies of The Talon are found under Past Print at [www.sptalon.com](http://www.sptalon.com). **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 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 [thesptalon@gmail.com](mailto:thesptalon@gmail.com) or dropped off in the publication lab, 245, during school hours. No material will be published for which there is evidence that the author is using the paper for inappropriate personal gain. **ADVERTISING** Any student, parent, staff member or organization will be allowed to purchase ads. Non-students, businesses or any person not currently attending or related to an attending student may purchase ads, but the publication asks that those ads be business-related ads or be used to congratulate student or school successes. No ads will be placed in any publication until payment is made. Any business wishing to advertise in The Talon must meet district guidelines for obscene or offensive material. All copy or art will be judged by these standards. Any ad found to be in violation must be changed or it will not be published. The publication reserves the right to refuse any ad that is libelous, illegal, obscene, irresponsible, inappropriate or in poor taste. The publication also reserves the right to edit any ad before publication to ensure the standards and quality of the product. The publication may limit the number of type styles offered to ad customers and set guidelines for format and style. The publication reserves the right to edit all submitted copy or photographs. **BYLINES** All articles, graphics, photos, art, columns, pages, reviews, and other material creatively conceived, with the exception of staff editorials, mug shots and cut-outs will be bylined with the producer's name. All bylined writers will be held accountable for their work. When more than one person has contributed creatively to a piece of work, any person who has contributed to the work must be bylined as a producer.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



**FOOD COURT** and the Arundel Mills Mall in order to gain back money they lost during quarantine. Billy Bob, head coordinator of the food court, said "We're so excited to make a quick buck off of hungry high school students!" **GRAPHICS BY MADELYNNE EARHART**

**NO MORE GYM UNIFORMS** Following students complaints about uncomfortable and ill-fitting gym uniforms, the SPHS administration has decided to change their gym uniform policy. Katarina Patzkowski, a senior, talked to administration about gym uniforms after she was denied from

wearing a comfortable alternative. After many months of debate, administration has rewritten the syllabus to allow students to wear anything that they can comfortably move in during gym classes. "These shorts are too tight," Patzkowski said. **PHOTO BY: ABIGAIL CHASE**



**MUSIC DEPARTMENT BUDGET CUT** On Feb. 17, a stunning decision was made by the school to cut the budget of the school's music department entirely. This would completely eliminate all music classes and after school programs by the end of the school year. School officials have yet to say why the decision was made. Music students are outraged by this action. "I have no idea where this is gonna go, I just want this to be over," junior and jazz member Caleb Rassofsky said. **PHOTO BY KAYLEE WINTERS**

**FRONT PAGE CAPTION:** Mr. Bathras retired to the south in December, but after four months is ready to return to the

Falcon's nest. "I missed the school and the faculty, and Ms. Abruzzo didn't seem to mind," Bathras said. **PHOTO GRAPHIC BY MADELYNNE EARHART**

# SPHS Eliminates Test Redos

Say goodbye to the trusty redo as AACPS reevaluates the policy in time for fourth quarter.

BY LINE >>  
LILLY SPILKER  
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

CAPTION: Since middle school, Severna Park High School students have always been able to redo tests and assignments, redeeming poor scores. This opportunity will shortly be taken away from students and they will be forced to adjust to this new policy. "I don't think it's fair at all that they're getting rid of redos, especially so suddenly," senior Meghan West said. PHOTO BY LILLY SPILKER

Starting on Tuesday, April 11, the first day back from spring break, Severna Park High School will begin a new grading policy. There will no longer be any more test corrections, redos or other mastery opportunities. Administrators observed local private schools like the Severn School and Archbishop Spalding High School who do not allow redos, and learned that many of their students tend to have a better mindset about studying and working hard to understand class material the first time around.

"The redo policy has been a long debated topic throughout the years at SPHS and in the county as a whole," Assistant Testing

*"We knew that students would be upset to lose their redo opportunities, but there are numerous long-term positive outcomes of this change that influenced our choice..."*

ASSISTANT TESTING COORDINATOR DEBRA HOWARD

Coordinator Debra Howard said. "It was a very tough decision that was made by the administration along with the department heads. Both sides of this debate were very heavily contested until a final verdict was reached. That decision was that the opportunity for students to redo assignments and assessments or to better their original score in any way, was completely eliminated."

The AACPS Grading Regulation was standardized during the 2016-2017 school year to ensure that each student in the county had equal opportunities to master content and maximize their grades. Most teachers at Severna Park provide their students with three redos per quarter, and after a redo, the higher grade is taken of the two scores. Students often depend on redos to help bring their grades up, but will not be able to do so after spring break.

"I don't fully depend on being able to redo tests, but they have been really helpful for me throughout high school, to have as a back-up option, especially for tougher AP classes like Calculus," senior Meghan West said. "I'm graduating soon enough so I'm not too worried about the new grading policies, but it would

< Back Assignment Details  
for Madeline Goger

## Assignment Details

Due: Fri Dec 2 A

**Unit 4 Test** 35 of 34

AP Calculus AB S1 Assessments

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Teacher Comment

Score earned on the redo, original score was:  
24/35

be nice to have redos as an option to bring my grades up at the end of the semester. If I were an underclassman looking ahead to the rest of

high school without redos, I would be pretty stressed."

Just about every SPHS student is in full disagreement with the elimination of redos, but there's not much they can do to change it.

"We knew that students would be upset to lose their redo opportunities, but there are numerous long-term positive outcomes of this change that influenced our choice," Howard said. "Most importantly, we have the students' education in mind. Many teachers and some parents have noticed that their students do not bother studying for a test the first time especially if they don't know the content, or they procrastinate and put little effort into class assignments, with plans to redo it later. We want to force students away from this reactive mindset, and teach them proactive study habits while enforcing positive attitudes about knowledge demonstration. Teachers will be providing students with more help and reteaching opportunities during Falcon Block, so that they can be better prepared the first time."

It will certainly be tough for some students to adjust to school without redos, but maybe it could really help them in the long run.

# PARKING GARAGE ADDED FOR ADDITIONAL PARKING

A 25,000 square foot parking garage will be added by fall 2023 to provide additional parking for seniors and juniors for the 2023-2024 school year.

Throughout the past few months, there have been several complaints from multiple groups of people regarding the parking situation at Severna Park High School. A 25,000 square foot parking garage will be added to the senior parking lot closest to the athletics complex. The parking garage will be two stories, with the bottom level reserved for senior students and the top level for any other students with a driver's license.

There were many reasons for this installment, the most prominent of which being students parking outside West Severna Park houses. This has caused many problems in the neighborhood including road blockages from cars parked on both sides of the road.

The construction of the parking garage will start June 29th, 2023, and will be completed before the 2023-2024 school year. The parking garage will benefit the residents of West Severna Park as well as the parents of junior students who can now park in the school parking garage.

The added parking space in the parking garage will also benefit seniors who struggle to find parking in the morning. The parking lot has proven to be too small. There have also been multiple car accidents caused by the crowded lot. Seniors who have had no parking spots available and have been forced to park either on the grass in the schoolyard or in closeby neighborhoods.

"It is very frustrating getting to school on time in the morning and seeing every parking spot taken," senior Charlie Deegan said. "There have been times where I have been forced to park in the neighbor-

hood across from the school because of the limited number of parking spots. The school should have accounted for the class sizes when building the parking lot and I believe this parking garage will be a great idea for the school and solve many current problems."

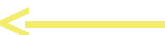
Next year's seniors will hopefully avoid the parking problem altogether, making for a more convenient and ultimately less stressful year for the class of 2024 and all the graduating classes that follow. Students will be able to apply for parking passes starting August 21st, top-level passes will be given to juniors with their driver's licenses, and bottom-level or lot passes will be given to seniors. If students have no dues owed to the school and pay a fee



of \$15, they will receive a fall 2023 parking pass that expires at the end of the first semester. The addition of the parking garage will be an all-around benefit to the school and will cause less stress in the mornings for parents and students.

<< BY LINE  
EVAN SOUDER  
STAFF WRITER

CAPTION: The parking garage will be added above the senior parking lot closest to the athletic complex, as shown by the image here. The garage will add additional parking for juniors and as well as seniors, who have expressed interest in additional parking. "The parking garage will be very helpful to the incoming seniors who want to get in and out of the parking lot efficiently," senior Charlie Deegan said, who has been affected by the small outdated parking lot throughout the course of the year. GRAPHIC BY: GWWO ARCHITECTS



# CURRENT SHARKS BECOME PATRIOTS

ShIPLEY'S CHOICE, the neighborhood located 10 minutes away from Old Mill High School and 15 minutes away from Severna Park High School, decided to make an easier commute for the class of 2025 and beyond.

<<BY LINE  
MEGHAN DEFEO  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
EDITOR

CAPTION: After years of Shipley's Choice being known for feeding into a top 1 percent ranked school in the state of Maryland, this will change quickly after the graduates in the class of 2024 head out. Shipley's kids will now see their future in the top 64 percentile rather than the top 1 percentile.  
GRAPHICS BY  
BRENDAN DENNIS

Shipley's Choice Elementary School was founded in 1988 in Millersville, Maryland. Shipley's is the first Anne Arundel County school to be named a Blue Ribbon school twice. Looking at a map, Old Mill High school is located in Millersville, Maryland 21108.



Severna Park is located in Severna Park, Maryland, 21146. The AACPS Board of Education (BOE) has decided to create a simpler and more practical commute for kids and families who live in Shipley's.

As of now there is a neighborhood across from Shipley's called Shipley's Crossing. Why have Shipley's Crossing feed into Old Mill while Shipley's is fed into the Severna Park schools? This does not seem fair for kids who have to drive all the way down Benfield Road stuck in traffic each morning while the others from Shipley's Crossing have a simple route to school onto Veterans Highway. "I feel this is a better way for kids to get to school more efficiently, yet if all of my siblings had gone to Severna Park first I would feel left out," senior Lola Blumenberg said.

This could be a negative aspect for the younger kids that have looked up to each of their siblings walking across the stage getting their diplomas from Severna Park, while the youngest in the family graduates as a Patriot (Old Mill mascot).

"My parents have lived in Shipley's for 27 years and have been familiar with going to Severna Park for everything including sporting events, dinners, award ceremonies, gatherings, grocery shopping and much more. It would definitely be a transition stopping at Walmart on the way home from school for groceries instead of our local Safeway, but I think the change could be exciting," senior Karli Kirchenheiter said.

Many families could look forward

to this change and have positive outlooks on trying new places to eat, stores, shops and a new school in general. Shipley's would be making a big transition from blue and gold to blue and red. This might be difficult for families who deck out their houses with gold and blue in representation for their kids' futures which is a common recurrence for many.

For many families who take pride in the Baltimore football team the Ravens who would they now be cheering on at all sporting events...the Patriots? It is very common to have a strong hatred for anything slightly related to the New England Patriots football team and this will be very challenging to overcome for some. Not only does Old Mill represent a different kind of Patriot, but they wear the same colors and have similar chants to the despised football team.

"My family loves the Ravens and rooting for the Patriots might be tough, especially for my dad since he has a very strong hatred towards them. My brother's friend also played for the Ravens, and I think he would get upset," freshman Connor Lamo said.

So to those who are rooting for the Falcons, look forward to making the big transition of becoming a Patriots fan.

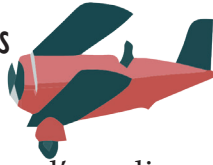
Looking to purchase some Patriots gear for family? Check out this link.



\*sponsored by the OMHS PTA

# Bathras returns to SPHS

After a delay on his home in Florida, Bathras has returned to spend the rest of the year helping out Principal Abruzzo



He's Back

**D**uring the most recent staff meeting here at SPHS it was revealed that former principal Patrick Bathras will be returning to our school for the remainder of the school year.

"We're happy to have Mr. Bathras come back in an advisory role." Principal Lindsay Abruzzo said. "He's very excited to see the school again and can't wait to reconnect with all the staff and students who've missed him.

We're planning a big welcome back, so make sure you show your school spirit."

Due to an unfortunate water main break in Bathras' new home in Florida, the neighborhood's

sediment was becoming too soft. When the ground is so oversaturated with hundreds of gallons of water it will start caving into itself and sinking, thus causing sinkholes. Several dangerous sinkholes were forming in the roads and under houses, one even forming in Bathras' backyard near his shed.

So, he and his neighbors had to be evacuated for their safety while the issue was being fixed. It would unfortunately last several months to make sure all the foundations are strong and secure, as well as allowing the ground to properly dry and resolidify.

Hearing of his misfortune, current Principal Lindsay Abruzzo has invited Bathras back to work here at Severna Park for the rest of the year. He will be arriving in mid April and be working until June 16.

Unfortunately, due to his rapid move we were unable to get a proper statement. "He seems very excited to be coming back to see everyone. He's thrilled to hear how all of our unity strategies have improved our school spirit," part-time secretary Veronica Mellstrom said, who had taken Bathras' calls during the paper transfer process.

"I heard it from my neighbor who's on the school's staff, it's so crazy that he's coming back. I thought for sure he'd be gone for good shame about his house," freshmen Margo Witherferd said.

He may also be helping out with other teachers during class periods or in the attendance office so make sure you say hello when you see him.

"If you see Mr. Bathras in the halls, make sure to say hello and welcome him back, it'll be a great trip down memory lane for him and many students," Abruzzo said.

<<BY LINE  
KATE KEELER  
STAFF WRITER

CAPTION: The school will have a big welcome for Patrick Bathras when he returns to SPHS in an advisory role. Students and staff are eagerly waiting for his arrival. "I can't wait for Mr. Bathras to see how much the students have grown in such a short amount of time," Principal Lindsay Abruzzo said. PHOTO BY: NOEL CASTILLO GRAPHICS BY: MADELYNNE EARHART



# Introducing Hallway Lanes

Starting April 11, all hallways will feature fast, slow and turn lanes.

<< BY LINE  
COOPER POWELL  
NEWS EDITOR

CAPTION: Lately, crowded hallways have posed a number of issues for students at SPHS. So much so that students created an online petition and social media movement to get administration to address the problems. "I can't tell you the amount of times I've run into someone when turning into a new hall," Dickson said, "I've also gotten smushed in crowded stairwells, don't recommend it!" GRAPHIC BY: MADELYNNE EARHART

School hallways—they should get us from Point A to Point B, with a few minutes in between classes to socialize, refill water bottles and use the bathroom. The last thing a person needs to worry about is getting stuck behind slow walkers or running into someone during their short breaks. However, that's become quite a problem in recent years. Thankfully, the administration has an innovative solution.

"This problem has been ignored for far too long and we will not let it stand," senior Tatum Sale said, the 2023 class president and a leader of the hall safety movement. "Administration has the opportunity to address our concerns and make SPHS a better place for everyone moving forward."

The movement garnered attention when Sale and a group of her friends shared a change.org petition link on social media for administration to take hallway safety measures and it has gained just over its 1,000 signature goal. "I signed the petition because hallway problems always make me late to class," senior Tyler Dickson said. "I'm either stuck behind a group of slow walkers or bumping into people at hallway intersections. It's frustrating."

Students have also voiced concerns about difficulty making left turns and overcrowded stairwells. Sale gathered a group of supporters and SGA officers to meet with the administration on February 29. After much discussion, administrators were able to settle on an idea: hallway lanes.

"Effective post-spring break, all school hallways will have newly-painted lanes—fast, slow and turn lanes," Principal Lindsay Abruzzo proudly said. "More information will soon follow including a school-wide assembly to discuss the change and a letter sent home to parents."

Abruzzo hopes this will be one of the first of many changes she makes that benefits students during her time as principal. "The administration's goal with this change and any change we make is to do

what's best for the students. That's what it's all about [...] The hallway lanes will ensure a safer environment and assist students with getting to class on time," Abruzzo said.

The hallways will be divided down the middle by a solid white line, with students always traveling on the right side of the divider so as to avoid oncoming traffic. Each half of the hallway will be further divided into halves by a dotted white line. The right side of the dotted line will feature a slow lane and the left side will be a fast lane.

"Getting lanes in the hallway was our main goal when collaborating with administrators," Sale said, "But what I'm most excited for is the turn lanes."

Besides the traditional lanes, hallway intersections and areas near stairwells will have turn lanes. This will assist with the inability students have to figure out how to navigate traffic-packed areas of the school. Students can look forward to lanes when they return from spring break on April 11.

"I can't wait to see the students' ideas become a reality. This is a huge step in bettering our school. Principal Abruzzo has made so much progress so far, and while this is one of the first changes she oversees at SPHS, it definitely won't be the



# TWO TECH CREDITS ARE REQUIRED TO GRADUATE IN SEVERNA PARK

Starting in the 2023-2024 school year, students are required to complete two tech credits.

Starting in the 2023-2024 school year, two tech credits will be needed to graduate instead of one. This new requirement is being implemented for all students, upcoming and current. For the upperclassman, this change has significant effects.

"The worst part about it is that instead of having three periods per day I'll have to stay longer to fulfill my missing tech requirement," junior Beckett Payne said. This may be the case for other current juniors in a similar situation.

"Juniors such as myself who have already completed tech classes shouldn't have to mend their schedules next year to accommodate a new requirement that came about when we are about to become seniors," Payne said.

The freshmen aren't the only ones affected by the new requirement. For seniors, juniors and sophomores, tech classes will be added to their schedules to fulfill the requirement.

"Since the requirements changed, classes will be greatly affected because now more students will need to take these classes that already have 30 plus students," Payne said.

Freshman Isabel Luznik shares Payne's opinion. "Before I can worry about the subjects I want to take in order to create a nice resume for my future career, I have to take these tech credits and I don't need that for my future career, so it's a huge waste of time for me," Luznik said.

Tech is not every student's interest. Regardless of this fact, tech requirements for students will still change to include more tech classes throughout students' SPHS careers. "If someone wants to do something with tech in the future, they can take more tech credits but for someone who doesn't, this is a waste of time and it's taking away from what they actually want to do," Luznik said.

Some students view the change doing more harm than good. Many would

prefer if everything returned to what it was previously.

"I understand one tech credit being required but two tech credits is overboard," Luznik said. The previous requirement for tech is more popular than the newly adjusted one. "I think everything is good right now. I think there should only be one tech credit," Luznik said.

However, the old system before the requirements changed was not unflawed. With the new requirement, changes to the overall department might be seen in the near future.

"I think the only change that needs to be made is what counts towards your general tech credit versus what doesn't," freshman Payton Gerwig said.

Changing schedules for students already in SPHS has other effects than eliminating other classes. It messes with the schedules of students who have already planned what classes they need.

"I had a full laid-out plan and now I have to throw an extra tech credit in there. It's uprooting my entire plan especially if it follows the same format as the first tech credit did," Gerwig said.

Despite the annoyances associated with changes to tech requirements, they are here to stay. "This change will probably stick around for a while so we might as well embrace it head-on with a positive attitude," Payne said. The new tech requirements will be seen by all students in the upcoming school year.

BY LINE >>  
ELSA WEBSTER  
STAFF WRITER



CAPTION: Tech hallway in SPHS, where starting in the 2023-2024 school year two tech requirements will now be needed to graduate. "The tech hallway and classrooms are going to get a lot more crowded now that starting next year all grades will have tech classes," Beckett Payne said. GRAPHIC BY: MADELYNNE EARHART





# Say Hello to the New Mascot!

SPHS is changing their mascot to a crab, after generous donation from local seafood distributor.

BY LINE >>  
SARAH  
STERNHAGEN  
CO-EDITOR IN  
CHIEF

CAPTION: The distinct red-shelled crab will be the new face of SPHS. Though there was some debate over whether to use a red or a blue crab, ultimately, the more eye-catching was chosen. "I think the red crab is a bit more recognizable. Not that we don't love blue crabs, we do, but red helps distinguish it a bit more from the old logo." Kristina Testerman said.  
GRAPHIC BY SARAH STERNHAGEN

Starting next year SPHS will no longer be the home of the Falcons, but instead the home of the Crab. The decision was made last year after the school district received a generous donation of money from Shellfish Incorporated, in exchange for changing one school mascot to Maryland's favorite shellfish, the crab. SPHS was the chosen school, the deciding factor being the swimming pool on the roof of the school being available for live crab performances, should it be approved by the administration.

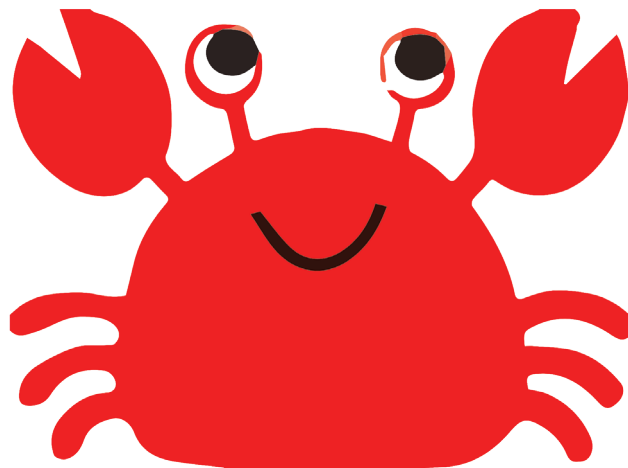
"We're very happy to be working with the school district," Shellfish Incorporated said. "The crab is an obvious mascot to have for a Maryland school and we are more than happy to help make it a reality."

Of course, in order to celebrate the new mascot, the administration has planned a great big welcome party for when the school indoctrinates the new mascot. There will be a school wide assembly where each student will be given crab legs and Old Bay to eat while the new mascot performs on stage. The costume will have all ten legs and walk, not on its

hind legs, but the traditional way crabs walk.

"I can't wait for the assembly, it'll be tons of fun, everyone getting together to celebrate the new mascot," senior Kristina Testerman said. "I'm especially excited for the name voting. It'll make the mascot feel more like ours."

During the assem-



bly students will vote for the new mascot's name. There will be five options and each one will have a bucket that students will throw the shells of their eaten crab legs into for the name they want. For those allergic or otherwise unable to eat crab, fake crab meat and shells will be provided.

Students have mixed feelings about changing the mascot. Some are happy that the old, obviously stolen from the Atlanta Falcons school logo will

be changed to something more unique. While others are sad that the school's entire theme will be based around a completely different animal. The school will be going from an above land animal, to an under-the-sea creature.

"I'm glad we're getting a more Maryland-like mascot for the school," Bleu Krab said. "It'll be a bit sad to see the Falcon go, but I think the new mascot is the best one they could've chosen."

With the induction of a ten-legged mascot on the horizon, the school is more than excited for the change. Along with the new spirit wear that will be made and the re-doing of almost

all of the school's memorabilia, there is a fish tank-planned for the main office. Who knows, the school may be the literal home of the mascot too.



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# COFFEE & CLASSES

The “grande” opening is coming Fall 2023.



Already a favored place to visit by students, the Severna Park High School library may gain popularity starting next year. In an effort to keep students awake during school hours and encourage them to read more, plans are set to start renovating the upstairs loft on the third floor this summer to make room for the school’s very own café.

“It won’t be a full blown establishment, just something like a Starbucks in a Barnes & Noble,” new school librarian Ms. Lopez said. “I’m still working on the name.”

The Class of 2024 will be the first to be given an opportunity to earn personal money during school hours. Only seniors will be able to work and manage the

café alongside Ms. Lopez. Application forms are likely to be available in the beginning of June and training will start early August.

“I’m super excited to start this thing next year. I already have lots of ideas about what to put on the menu and what it would look like. I’m especially excited to work with the seniors,” Lopez said. “I used to help run a family café back when I lived in Sedona, Arizona, so I have plenty of experience.”

Many teachers and staff members have expressed their excitement. No longer will they, nor their students, have to make an extra stop on the way to school so early in the morning. However, it is not clear how long the establishment will stay.

“Part of the reason why it’ll be so small is because it may only be temporary. Principal Abruzzo was generous enough to see how it would go,” Lopez said.

The menu is currently being processed and decided on by staff through polls, but the definite menu items so far include frappuccinos, iced teas, espressos, brewed coffees and smoothies. Breakfast sandwiches, bagels, parfaits, pastries and other sweets are also likely to be made options.

The Falcon Fuel cart headed by ACC students will still run every morning when doors open next year, but the new café will be open at 7 a.m. to allow staff members to get first pick. It will also be open during all lunches to give students more food options.

“Yes, seniors that get the job will have to get to school earlier than their peers,” Lopez said. “I never said it would be easy, just that it would be fun.”



<< BY LINE  
ANASTASIA GOBOT  
OPINIONS EDITOR

CAPTION: A mini café will be built this summer in the school library. It will provide money-earning opportunities for seniors as well as delicious menu items students can opt for over cafeteria food. The consequences of this opening are yet to unfold.  
GRAPHICS BY ANASTASIA GOBOT



# No Outside Prom Dates

How are Severna Park students reacting to the news that they are forbidden to bring outside prom dates?

BY LINE >>  
STELLA BORDONE  
STAFF WRITER

With prom season upon us, SPHS seniors could not be more excited. From finding the perfect dress, to getting a date and choosing the photoshoot location, preparation goes into this special night. Prom is a night you will remember for the rest of your lives. It represents the four tough years you went through with your best friends—all the studying, the tests, the long hours in school—all worth it for you to be together, celebrating before graduation. Of course

*“If we allow people to bring outside dates, it lowers the chance of actual SPHS seniors getting a ticket. We have a specific capacity for our venue, and if we allow outside dates, it will unfortunately exceed that number.”*

PRINCIPAL LINDSAY ABRUZZO

you want to be with that special someone at prom. But what happens if your significant other attends another school?

“With all the seniors we have in the 2023 class, it is hard to meet everyone’s desires,” Principal Abruzzo said. “If

we allow people to bring outside dates, it lowers the chance of actual SPHS seniors getting a ticket. We have a specific capacity for our venue, and if we allow outside dates, it will unfortunately exceed that number.”

Emily Ranaghan and boyfriend Braylon Sims, who attends Mount Saint Joseph High School in Baltimore were really excited to have a prom together.

“I was so angered to find out that SPHS admin once again banned outside dates,” Ranaghan said. “Senior year is supposed to be the most memorable year of high school, yet the admin didn’t allow us to experience homecoming and now prom, just because our dates go to a different school.”

Keegan Davis, a senior at SPHS, who is dating Maeve Garcia, a senior at Spalding, is discouraged about this news, yet hopeful that the rules are different at Spalding. “It’s always fun to have her come to our school and experience a dance not at Spalding,” Davis said. “Especially since this is our last dance for high school, I was really looking forward to having her there. Hopefully I will be able to go to her prom instead,” Davis said.

CAPTION: Senior Samantha Koppe is bummed that her boyfriend Koen Glick, who attends Towson University, is not allowed to go to prom. “I really wanted Koen to be there for my prom,” Koppe said. “I am glad I went to his prom last year, but I was really looking forward to being with him, since I do not get the chance to see him as much as I would like.”  
PHOTO BY:  
SAMANTHA KOPPE

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# THERE'S A POOL OF STRAWBERRY MILK UNDER THE SCHOOL!

The mysterious journey throughout the strawberry milk facility in the basement.

BY LINE >>  
MIA TOCCO  
STAFF WRITER

CAPTION: Students at Severna Park love strawberry milk; little do they know, it is produced right under the school in a hidden factory. Upon investigation, the whole operation has been revealed GRAPHICS BY: MIA TOCCO

Students have always wondered where the strawberry milk that is served in the cafeteria comes from, so I asked around. Some students told me they didn't know or that it came from a farm far away; however, a local expert on milk, junior Ben Peterson said otherwise.

"Yes, so, it is true that there is a secret facility under the school. I found it one day when I was in physics class and was not horsing around in the classroom. When I pressed a secret button on the side of the labstation, there, before my very eyes, the top of the table lifted up to reveal a spiral staircase," Peterson said.

After closely listening to Peterson's account, I decided to investigate. During Falcon Block I found myself in Mr. Witmer's room, the location of the secret staircase. After finding and pressing the secret button, just like Peterson said, the staircase revealed itself.

After a flight or two worth of stairs, I found myself in the facility. I wandered around and then encountered the lunch-ladies mixing the milk. The strawberry milk is produced by pink cows and once extracted from the cows, it is placed into a giant vat to be ultra-pasteurized.

I asked one of the lunch-ladies tending to the cows where her supervisor was. She led me to an office. It was a dark room, and inside there was a mysterious figure sitting at a desk. He introduced himself as Sven Svederson, a businessman from

Sweden. Svederson said he "Want(s) to provide the best strawberry milk for everyone in America and the best place to start is at Severna Park." Upon further questioning he told me that pink cows are native to Severna Park; however, have become endangered due to residential sprawl. Svederson is on a mission to find all remaining pink cows and rescue them. He keeps them in an artificial field underneath the school. Everything from natural sounds to sunlight is all automated through his advanced Swedish technology.

After speaking with Svederson, I went back to the surface in search of Peterson. I told him about my discoveries and he told me "I knew it, I will visit them soon to take care of the cows with the lunch-ladies."

As I was leaving to get strawberry milk from the cafeteria, Peterson tipped me off again and told me that there is a chocolate milk factory on the roof and that I should explore it soon. He did not elaborate further and walked away into the distance. I have decided that the strawberry milk provided at school

is very ethically sourced and encourages preservation of local wildlife.

