



F  
E  
B  
R  
U  
A  
R  
Y

FEBRUARY

**VALENTINE'S DAY**  
Advice on gifts, love and how to spend the day happily.

**POLAR BEAR PLUNGE**  
Students plunge in support of Maryland Special Olympics.

**WINTER SPORTS UPDATE**  
See how the winter sport teams are doing.

**MS. PARKS FEATURE**  
Learn about the new RNR director in this interview.

SEVERNA PARK HIGH  
60 ROBINSON ROAD  
SEVERNA PARK, MD 21146

← VOLUME 63  
ISSUE 4 →

← SPTALON.COM →



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE	3
2023 SCRUB BASKETBALL CHAMPION PREDICTIONS	4
WINTER SPORTS MID-SEASON UPDATE	5
VALENTINE'S DAY FEATURES	6
VALENTINE'S DAY FEATURES (CONT.)	7
SENIORS' LEADERSHIP PROJECT RECAPS	8
THE NEWEST FACE OF THE SPHS DRAMA PROGRAM	9
TEACHER FEATURES VOL. 2   TENURES	10
LANGUAGE LEARNING MADE EASY	11

**EDITOR IN CHIEFS:** LILLY SPILKER & SARAH STERNHAGEN

**FEATURES EDITOR:** NOEL CASTILLO

**OPINIONS EDITOR:** ANASTASIA GOBOT

**ONLINE/SOCIAL MEDIA:** MEGHAN DEFEO

**GRAPHIC/PHOTO:** MADELYNNE EARHART

**STAFF:** COLTEN BILLINGS, STELLA BORDONE, ABIGAIL CHASE, MADI HOLDEN,

KATE KEELER, SOPHIA MILLER, COOPER

POWELL, EVAN SOUDER, MIA TOCCO,

ELSA WEBSTER

**ADVISER:** MRS. VALERIE EARHART

**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



**GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM**  
The girls basketball teams headed to the University of Maryland court to practice with the Terps before their game against Ohio State University. "Our basketball team goes to watch the University of Mary-

land practice every year," said senior Lilly Spilker said. "It's a really cool experience getting an inside look at the college practice." PHOTO BY MARCELLA DESANTIS

**BLANKETS FOR KIDS**  
Leadership seniors Ashley Falk and Johnny Kraft visited the Annapolis chapter of the non-profit organization Project Linus to deliver fabric and blankets created by their team of Leadership students. The group worked for three months gathering donations, personally crafting tie blankets

and collecting fabric to donate to Project Linus. PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHNNY KRAFT



**LINDA'S LEGACY**  
Giving Back Linda's Legacy (GBLL) is a nonprofit organization donating goods to those in need in Anne Arundel County. As active members of their community, seniors Anna Williams and Irum Malik knew they would make a great team

to help support the cause. "When we reached out to Linda's Legacy," Williams said, "I immediately felt the gratitude and support from the organization. Knowing your community is behind you and so determined to see you succeed is a really great feeling." PHOTO BY IRUM MALIK



**FRONT PAGE CAPTION:** On Feb. 2, 85 Severna Park High School students raised more than \$16,000 for the Maryland Special Olympics at the Polar Bear

Plunge. Plunging at Sandy Point, junior Alyssa Chase and senior Caroline Bresson bravely endured the cold water for charity. PHOTO BY MADELYNNE EARHART

# Polar Bear Plunge

## Students splash into icy water!

BY LINE >>  
SARAH STERNHAGEN  
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

Every year, schools and organizations raise money for the Special Olympics of Maryland through the Polar Bear Plunge. On Feb. 2 SPHS students plunged into the cold water off Sandy Point State Park for the fundraiser, and in total they raised more than \$16,000 for Maryland Special Olympics.

"I always look forward to it every year and I'm so excited to [have done] it again," senior Brendan Dennis said.

Severna Park High School has been

*"We're really proud to be able to give back to such a worthy cause...It's really near and dear to my heart just providing these opportunities for inclusion."*

ELIZABETH MEADOWS

doing the plunge for 14 years, Key Club and SGA recruit and publicize the event across all grades. While the public plunge took place on Saturday, Feb. 4, SPHS partnered with the Cool Schools challenge and plunged earlier in the week on Thursday. There were 85 students from SPHS at the plunge this year along with the teachers who all plunged and fund raised in support of the Special Olympics of Maryland.

"There are booths that reinforce the purpose and the importance of the Special Olympics and how events like this allow our Special Olympic athletes to travel, to have the tools that they need for training and to hold and attend sporting events," teacher and Key Club



co-adviser Teresa Stahl said.

The Polar Bear Plunge has raised over \$3 million this year for the Special Olympics of Maryland and it's been doing that for all 14 years of its annual plunges. This year the goal is \$3.5 million, and to date, the cause has raised

over \$3.48 million.

"We're really proud to be able to give back to such a worthy cause," teacher and Key Club co-adviser Elizabeth Meadows said. "It's really near and dear to my heart just providing these opportunities for inclusion."

More than ever, SPHS is aware of how actions and words can impact those around us. The people at the Special Olympics of Maryland represent an ideal we all want to live up to, inclusivity, kindness and support for every-

one regardless of their abilities. This is not support that should be conditional only to this one time of the year, nor when we see it being broken, but it should be continuous and constant for our fellow students, friends, peers and people.

"I hope that the students take away a sense of philanthropy," Stahl said. "And that even though they're teenagers, they can still do something to make a change in this world."

CAPTION: A fun tradition for students at the Plunge is, if the weather is nice, to swim out far enough to high five the lifeguards posted at the end of the plunge zone. "It's a fun bonding experience," senior Brendan Dennis said. Many kids will often jump in the water more than once. It's a good thing there's hot cocoa ready for the students when they come out of the water. PHOTO BY MADELYNNE EARHART



### DRIVE WITH TOPZ

We offer MVA certified courses for drivers education, driver improvement, and DWI/DUI alcohol and drug education.

INFO@TOPZTIPZDEMD.COM  
410.582.6007  
MILLERSVILLE, MARYLAND

**START  
LEARNING TO  
DRIVE TODAY**

ZERO ACCIDENT RATE  
WE'RE NEVER LATE  
PRICE PROMISE  
TRUE PROFESSIONALS  
WE WORK AROUND



FLOWCODE  
PRIVACY.FLOWCODE.COM



# 2023 Scrub Basketball Champion Predictions

Who has the best shot at winning the entire league?



CAPTION: After an intense game against the Cavs, Magic took the win. "It was a tough game," senior Liam Hagerly said, "But I knew our boys would pull out a win. We have great chemistry, a lot of fun, and the eye black definitely helped." PHOTO COURTESY OF NICK PATRICK

Scrub basketball, a rec basketball league, is a very popular extracurricular activity during the winter for students. It allows students to play stress-free, fun basketball games on the weekends without commitment. There are over 30 boys teams for the 2023 season, and six girls teams. Competitiveness is through the roof, with updates of rankings for the boys scrub coming out each week.

Senior Joshua Hong is a major asset to the scrub league. Being the Severna Park boys basketball manager for most of his high school career, he found a new love in the scrub leagues. "I coach and help rank the teams," Hong said. "I like scrub because the boys get an opportunity to go out and play, and as a coach I get to develop boys into men." Hong keeps the game entertaining and engaging, making scrub that much more fun.

The Instagram account @scrub\_basketball, run by seniors Brooks Harris and Hong, is very active. Interviews with the players and play by play commentary is a popular thing that can be found on the account. For four weeks straight now, the Raptors have secured the number one spot, with an overall record of six wins and zero losses so far. Other teams like the Suns, Grizzlies, Yellow Hornets and Rockets are threats to the league, staying in the top 10 or higher each week.

"Since I was a freshman, scrub has always been competitive," senior Jake Daniels, a member of the Raptors, said. "Now that I am a senior, it is a lot more intense because it is our last year and everyone wants to win."

Daniels is very confident his team will go all the way. "We have talent from the freshman all the way to the seniors and a lot of brother chemistry including my younger brother and the Warren family. Our talent and chemistry doesn't compare to any other team."

Girls scrub rankings are changing constantly, with teams being neck and neck. As of right now, the Boyle/Berardino team are the first place holders. Senior Emma Boyle, a team member on the Boyle/Berardino team, has high hopes for her scrub team this year. "I think our team has been playing very well this year," Boyle said. "We have a lot of fun together, even though we've had our losses. I think our team can come together and work to win the championship, although it will be difficult with the talent this year."

The Blumenberg/DeFeo team hold the second place title as of right now, and are confident in their ability to win the whole league. "I think my team is doing really well so far because of how close and dedicated we are," senior Samantha Koppe said. "I think we have a great shot at winning the entire thing because of our team dynamic and passion."

Although students are known for their competitiveness with one another, the only thing that matters is that everyone has fun. Check updates on @scrub\_basketball to see new rankings of the week, and which team becomes the 2023 scrub champions.



<< BY LINE  
STELLA BORDONE  
STAFF WRITER



# Winter Sports Mid-Season Update

Take a look how Severna Park's varsity sports are doing.

BY LINE >>  
LILLY SPILKER  
CO-EDITOR IN  
CHIEF

CAPTIONS: Junior Camyrn Carr and seniors Katie Griffith and Rylan McDonald at the AACPS Invitation at the PG County Sports Plex on Jan. 24. Carr finished 10th in the girls high jump, McDonald placed 9th and Griffith placed 8th in the 500 meter dash.

The club Severna Park ice hockey team won the 2022 MSHL Eastern Conference Championship, and they hope to have the same success this year. With a strong winning record late in the season, they are excited for what their future holds this winter. "We only have two games left this season and hope to play well through the playoffs," senior Jake Ciuba said. PHOTO COURTESY OF JAKE CIUBA

**A** ACPS winter sports are halfway through, as tryouts started on Nov. 15 and playoffs will begin in late February. SPHS teams have made many accomplishments this winter, and hope to carry their continuous hard work into the upcoming playoffs.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL** holds an overall record of 10-3, including respectable wins against Old Mill, Roland Park and Broadneck. The girls basketball program won the regional championship in 2020, and hopes to have similar success this season. There is some tough competition in the county with powerhouses like Glen Burnie and South River, but the Falcons can also hold their own.

**BOYS BASKETBALL** team is adjusting to their first season without the recently retired Coach Pellicani, and is currently standing with a 5-7 record, but they are not a team to be counted out. With some young leadership on the rise, they are working hard to make a splash in the county. Looking ahead to the rest of the season, some of their remaining competition includes Broadneck, Southern and Annapolis.

**COMPETITIVE CHEER** had one competition on Sat., Jan. 15, which they placed in, and they have another competition in February. These competitions provide essential practice for the team, helping to prepare them for counties on Thurs., Jan. 26. If the Falcons score in the top eight in their division, they will advance to the semi finals.

**CO-ED SWIMMING** team has only lost one meet this season, and it was to Broadneck. The team placed second in county championships on Feb. 3. Regional championships are after counties, and the top three in each event at regionals make it to the state championship.

**BOYS INDOOR TRACK** has had success in their meets so far this year, and plans to keep working hard throughout the season. "Although we're still recovering from losing some of our top guys who graduated last year, a lot of the younger



guys have stepped up to encourage our team as a whole," senior Liam Hagerty said.

**GIRLS INDOOR TRACK** has the same determined mindset this season, already having two records break so far. Some of our runners attend showcases while others do inter-county meets. The success of the track team will be more evident once county, regional and state championships occur.

Unified Sports are typically very talented and successful, and currently, **UNIFIED BOWLING** team is ranked in first place. The Falcons placed first in their first match and second in their second match. They hope to be as successful as our unified tennis team was this fall, taking home a gold medal from the state championship.

The **WRESTLING** team also hopes for a successful outcome this winter, after Patrick Ellis won a state title last year. It looks like the wrestlers are doing well with high hopes of thriving at the county, regional and state tournaments. Some SPHS standouts that are projected to go far include Jake Fritz (182), Bobby Howe (160), Nate Kohler (152) and Michael Queen (120).

The club **ICE HOCKEY** team has thrived this season, with an 8-1 record. "Hockey is going very well, better than we expected at the beginning of the year," senior Jake Ciuba said. "Our only loss was a tough one to Spalding. We're hoping to finish the season strong and carry that momentum into the playoffs. We lost a lot of senior talent last year but we have a ton of freshmen and sophomores stepping up, which is great for years down the road."



# The (Love) Doctor Is In!

Sophomore Owen Cress shares all on “Dr. Love,” a school personality rising in popularity.

BY LINE >>  
ANASTASIA GOBOT  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Students are abuzz with the Instagram sensation “Dr. Love,” whose odd ideas answer the seemingly endless questions of Cupid-shot students. The student behind this pseudonym is none other than sophomore Owen Cress. His Instagram account @dr.lovesphs, has over half a thousand followers and counting. Ten to 20 questions are sent in every week. If you look through his account, you will find that these numbers are not surprising; this doctor is none like any other.

“I’m really happy with the character of Dr. Love. He’s altruistic, but kinda sleazy, making for an entertaining storytelling perspective. People really like hearing what Dr. Love has to say about their love lives, and I’m a fan of creative literature, so I’m more than happy to write a funny paragraph or two. I’m super proud of what Dr. Love is to so many people,” Cress said. “Dr. Love handles the trivial, but complex and humorous topic of high school romance.

What makes Dr. Love so interesting is the character behind Dr. Love. Why does he think like that? Why would he recommend an air fryer to someone with a broken heart? It’s casual, level-headed advice that becomes something totally backward, and all you can think is, ‘What kind of moron would think of that?’ And the answer is ‘What other moron than the Doc?’” Cress said.

Dr. Love was born on Valentine’s Day last year, when Cress was a freshman. Unbeknown to him, his plot to get a kick out of his friends by calling himself a “love doctor” would eventually lead him on a

path of new interests and rising fame.

“I took a pair of my sister’s cheesy heart glasses and told my friends I was Dr. Love. My friends eventually had the idea to make crappy Valentine’s Day cards, [that said] ‘Call Dr. Love!’ with my phone number that we spread as much as we could. People started calling Dr. Love and I found that I had a passion for helping people and goofy comedy,” Cress said.

With such an interesting persona to play, it may be difficult to keep up the act for as long as he has. Unless, he doesn’t have to play anyone. When asked about whether or not Dr. Love is a character or simply another name for Cress, he answered with an honest “I don’t know.”

Cress is very extroverted, and that attitude really bleeds into the optimism of Dr. Love’s advice and humor. “I like to think that Dr. Love is a separate persona but my friends could tell you sometimes it’s hard to differentiate,” Cress said.

Cress himself isn’t the only thing Dr. Love likes to pull inspiration from. To answer the questions he receives with humor, he looks to stand-up comedy, “The Simpsons,” as well as newspaper comics like “Calvin and Hobbes” and “Foxtrot” for guidance.

CAPTION:  
Sophomore Owen Cress shares goofy love advice on Instagram @dr.lovesphs under the name, Dr. Love. He took advantage of his popularity and led a charity event earlier this school year to donate money to House of Ruth. “Comedy is the backbone of Dr. Love, and it’s one of my goals to inform high schoolers that they shouldn’t take high school relationships too seriously,” Cress said. PHOTO COURTESY OF OWEN CRESS



## Valentine's Day Ideas

The best gifts to give your friends for the Valentine's Day

### Friends:

- ♥ Chocolate and treats
- ♥ Gift card to the store
- ♥ Necklaces, bracelets, and other jewelry
- ♥ A nice smelling candle
- ♥ Skincare items

### Family:

- ♥ A nice book
- ♥ A handwritten letter that they can use as a reminder today, free hugs
- ♥ Breakfast in bed
- ♥ Picture frame with a photo
- ♥ Mugs

### Significant Others:

- ♥ A hand written letter
- ♥ Flowers
- ♥ Framed picture
- ♥ A nice date to a restaurant
- ♥ Giant stuffed teddy bear
- ♥ Chocolates in a box

SPTALON.COM



Go to **SPTALON.COM** to read the full article

BY LIN  
MADI F  
STAFF V



# FALCONS FOR LOVE

Learn about One Love and healthy relationship habits just in time for Valentine's Day.

One Love is a foundation well known across the country, and it has made its own impact here. Students learn about One Love in health class, but the club, led by adviser Nadine

Hendler and president Abby Reed, helps students dive deeper into information about unhealthy vs. healthy relationships.

"One Love Foundation is described as 'a national non-profit organization with the goal of ending relationship abuse,'" Reed said. "The goal is to 'empower young people with the tools and resources they need to see the signs of healthy and unhealthy relationships and bring life-saving prevention education to their communities.'" One Love is the national leader in preventing relationship abuse and violence.

To honor the memory of Yeardeley Love, the One Love Foundation was created in 2010 by her mother and sister. Love was a senior lacrosse player at the University of Virginia, and just weeks before graduation, she was killed by her ex-boyfriend. Love's death was extremely tragic and unnecessary, but her loss has been used to bring light to others.

The One Love Foundation provides opportunities for everyone to learn,

teach and take action regarding healthy relationships. Falcons For Love does the same. It provides students with crucial information such as the signs of unhealthy vs. healthy relationships. Ten signs of a



<< BY LINE  
LILLY SPILKER  
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

CAPTION: The One Love Foundation was created in 2010, to advocate about the importance of healthy relationships. Severna Park has its very own Falcons For Love club that works to spread awareness. PHOTO BY NADINE HENDLER



healthy relationship are comfortable pace, trust, honesty, independence, respect, equality, kindness, taking responsibilities, healthy conflict and fun. Ten signs of an unhealthy relationship are intensity, possessiveness, manipulation, isolation, sabotage, belittling, guilt, volatility, deflecting responsibility and betrayal.

"We have a chapter at our high school called Falcons For Love, and we have meetings 1-2 times a month, host events/fundraisers and sell merchandise throughout the year to support the foundation," Reed said. "Our main goal is to educate young people in our community about the importance of healthy relationships. This includes more than just romantic relationships, but works to spread awareness about unhealthy relationships, and all other relationships."

People are often taught that love is a natural feeling, but there is so much to be learned about love, many things that people don't know. As Valentine's Day approaches this year, take a moment to reflect on all of the relationships in your life. You can connect to the One Love Foundation at their website [joinonelove.org](http://joinonelove.org) and through their social media platforms. You can connect to Severna Park High School's Falcons For Love by attending meetings in Ms. Hendler's room, visiting their social media sites @falconsforlove, and by contacting club leaders.

Valentine's  
Gift  
Ideas

to get your loved  
season of love.

other assorted

your favorite store  
necklets, earrings or

g candle  
(Face masks)

book full of pass-  
(I'll do the dishes  
, no fighting day)  
d/Make dinner  
with a family

ner:  
n love letter

e of the two of you  
their favorite

eddy bear  
n heart box

E ^^  
GOLDEN  
WRITER



# SENIOR'S LEADERSHIP PROJECT RECAPS

Take a look at how senior leadership students have made an impact on the school and community through their chosen project.

Every year senior leadership students are given the opportunity to select and design their own project with a partner for their final leadership project. This task has underclassmen as part of their team as well. It provides a way for students to give back to the world as well as help to encourage being role models for those younger than them.

This year many projects were successful in their goals and made a serious impact. "The name of our project is Birthdays in a Box. Our goals were to raise \$300, make 20 birthday cards and assemble 20 birthday boxes to deliver to a local homeless shelter for children to open on their birthdays. We completed all of our goals and we were able to drop off the boxes at Sarah's House shelter in Fort Meade," senior Ally Weaver said.

Many projects also ended up exceeding their expectations. The project Blood Buds, run by Ashlyn Morris and Paige Davis is an example of this. "The Red Cross gave us a donor pledge sheet and said we had to get at least 30 signatures on it before we could host the drive and we ended up doubling that goal and got almost 70 signatures," Morris said.

Another example of a project that soared over the quota was Falcon for St. Jude run by seniors Mad-

dy Goger and Katie Griffith. "Our three goals were to raise at least \$250, send at least 150 digital cards, and hold a card making event. We achieved all of our goals, raising \$310 and sending 201 cards to the kids at St. Jude," Griffith said.

The projects were not only a great success in the act of giving but also in what it taught the students about determination and leadership along the way. "I learned how to communicate with big businesses because we had to ask around for a venue plus get the Red



Cross to partner with us," Morris said. Another thing students learned about was effective communication skills. "Through our project, I have learned the importance of communication as a leader," Griffith said.

Senior Peter Davids, a part of the project Oyster Hoisters, reflected on the partner aspect. "From

this project you learn how to work cohesively with a partner and how to lead others in an effective manner," Davids said.

Many students also made lasting memories with group members. "My favorite memory from our project was holding our card making event. It was a great way for people to come together and make special cards to bring a smile to children with critical illnesses," Griffith said. "My favorite memory was making the cards with the rest of my group in Falcon Block," senior Sean Sullivan said.

Overall, the Leadership Institution has provided an outlet and guidelines for students to become more involved and how to give back. "Anyone can make a difference in their community and for a large organization," Griffith said.



BY LINE >>  
SOPHIA MILLER  
STAFF WRITER

CAPTION: One student leadership project, led by Paige Davis and Ashlyn Morris, was a blood drive hosted at the school. "I learned a lot about blood donations and transfusions and how what we did saved almost 80 lives," senior Ashlyn Morris said. They were two of many seniors who completed their final leadership projects. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ASHLYN MORRIS



# THE NEWEST FACE OF THE SPHS DRAMA PROGRAM

A look into this year's RNR with Ms. Parks, the newest director.

It's that time of the year. Students from all over SPHS join together for one big music celebration. That's right, Rock 'n Rock Revival is back this season with a new director running it all. Karah Parks took over the SPHS drama program in December after Angela Germanos, the previous director retired. RNR XXXIV is the first production Parks is in charge of. Parks has already made her mark on the drama program, changing a few traditions from past years. Parks said "...we've made

what I liked and what I didn't like in my experience as a student, so I let that and the feedback from current students and staff inform my decisions as director of the program now."

It's hard to imagine what directing a show would look like if



*“It's been really fun having so much creative freedom and getting to run the show I've been so passionate about for years and years...”*  
MS. PARKS

the show shorter [reducing 40 songs to 30 songs], we've added a senior song and because of the amount of songs we are doing the teacher number [is] right at the beginning of intermission in order to feature more students."

Students are ecstatic for more changes to come, but Parks is even more excited than the average RNR participant.

"[I'm so excited for] so many things! It's been really fun having so much creative freedom and getting to run the show I've been so passionate about for years and years," Parks said. "But my favorite part is always tech week, when everyone gets to see the show almost all the way put together. It's so exciting!"

Parks may be new to directing, but make no mistake, she is not new to theatre. "I'm super familiar with theatre and I'm super familiar with the program here at SPHS, so I know the way it's been done. I know

one did not have prior experience being in a show. The phrase, "It takes one to know one" really comes into play when it comes to theatre students, or even fine art students in general. It's a very welcoming group, but may be a hard group to understand through the show tunes.

Parks' one encouraging message to this year's RNR cast: "I love you, I'm already proud of you, thank you for letting me be your director, you are going to be AMAZING!! Sorry, that's technically four things but they add up to one big thing I think!" Parks said.



BY LINE >>  
MADELYNNE  
EARHART  
PHOTO AND  
GRAPHIC EDITOR

CAPTION: This year, the theme for Rock 'n Roll will be "RNR XXXIV Goes to the Movies." It will feature songs that are associated with popular movies. As exciting as the whole thing is, it's not all rainbows and unicorns for the new director. One can only imagine how the transition might be for a teacher halfway through the year. "It's going pretty well! It's really crazy, but I'm having fun," Parks said. GRAPHICS BY MADELYNNE EARHART





# TEACHER FEATURES VOL. 2 | TENURES

The inside scoop from teachers who have worked at SPSHS for decades.

As of late, many teachers have either retired or moved to a new job. This year alone, teachers like Angela Germanos, Mr. Bathras, Dr. Jones and Dr. Segnatelli retired after teaching for a good chunk of their lives. Current special educator and math teacher Arthur Boorman, who arrived the same year as Germanos, Dr. Segnatelli and one year before Valerie Earhart, has expressed a desire to retire from teaching next year after his current advisory class graduates.

Boorman currently runs the Science Fiction Club on Fridays during Falcon Block as well as after school. "Fandom has been a huge part of my life for decades and I've always felt like there's more I can give," Boorman said. He is worried that the club might not be able to find a replacement before he leaves. "I'm really glad I never got to a point where I was saying, 'oh god I have to go into work...I came to the realization that if I didn't get certain things done, I wouldn't feel good about that. There are other things I want to do. There are other goals I want to pursue that are going to need my full effort and to be blunt, I'm reaching a point where I don't have many years left and I want to get certain things done before I die. I definitely feel like I've accomplished a lot here, but like I said there's still goals I have. I am marginally involved in running conventions. I volunteer a lot, I do a little bit of the management, I sit a disk here and there," Boorman said. "I want to get involved more that way, that's one of the things I want to do."

Timothy Dunbar, who teaches AP Human Geography and has taught every core social studies subject, has one of the longest tenures at school, 40 years. Geography, a course that is no longer taught in its original form, was exchanged for U.S. Government and Politics during Dunbar's career. He even remained in college for six years because he changed his major while he figured out what he wanted to do. "I came here in 1983 actually, the year they changed this school from a three-year

high school (10, 11, 12) to a four-year high school (9, 10, 11, 12)," Dunbar said. "They moved the junior highs and turned them into middle schools. They started that 40 years ago."

"I'm not the longest tenured teacher in the school, nor am I the teacher with the most years in the county," Dunbar said. "Robertson has 41 years and [Brad] Hill has 43 years in the county."

Dr. Elaine Robertson was inspired to become a teacher because she knew



that she could make an impact on someone's life. She currently teaches Standard Geometry. "In the past, the math classes that I have taught [are] Algebra I, Standard and Honor Algebra II, Trigonometry, Standard and

Honor Pre-Calculus, Analytic Geometry, Consumer Math, Probability and Statistics and Fundamental Math. When I began at Severna Park, they needed a teacher to teach the classes for Probability and Statistics," Robertson said.

Dunbar and Robertson have been around long enough for about 10 different principals and many other changes at the school. They have also been around since the beginning of our current elementary, middle and high school format.

"My first year teaching was the first year that this school had a ninth grade. I would teach five or six classes of geography for the first semester and five or six the second semester," Dunbar said.

<< BY LINE  
NOEL CASTILLO  
FEATURES EDITOR

CAPTION: Arthur Boorman was in the military service before becoming a teacher, thus why he makes sure he is always prepared in case things go awry at work. Dr. Robertson has been teaching for 41 years, has seen several principals come and go, and the move to the new building that happened in 2017. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NOEL CASTILLO AND MADELYNNE EARHART



"TEACHER FEATURE"  
CONTINUED ON SPTALON.COM

SPTALON.COM

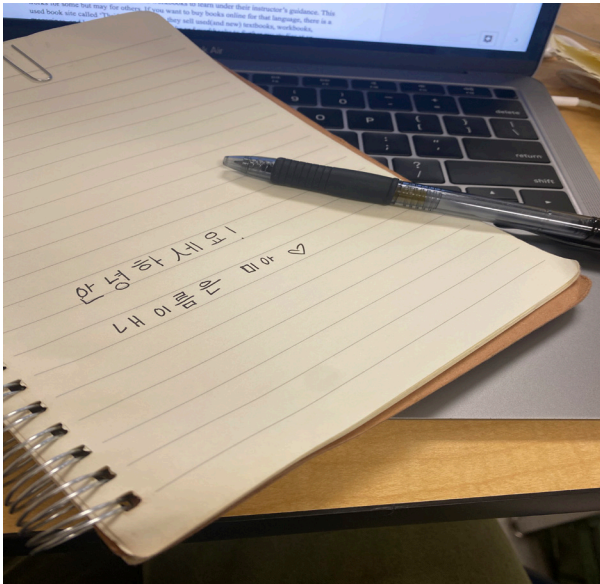


# LANGUAGE LEARNING MADE EASY

Take away the difficulty and focus on learning efficiently.

BY LINE >>  
MIA TOCCO  
STAFF WRITER

CAPTION: A picture of Korean writing on a notebook directly translated to "Hello! My name is Mia." The Korean alphabet or Hangul is simple as it only consists of 24 characters, and all the words are in a consonant-vowel-consonant format. Because of this, some names and cities from Latin languages cannot be translated to the Korean alphabet. PHOTO BY MIA TOCCO



Learning a new language is a daunting task. Whether you want to learn to talk with your family, for school, just for fun, or for an upcoming trip, motivation will go a long way towards encouraging your studies.

Personally, I need motivation to start something new. Once I have the motivation, it's smooth sailing from there. If you are having trouble curating motivation, I recommend thinking about the pros of learning your preferred language and how it will affect your everyday life as well as those around you. I motivated myself into learning languages to achieve goals, talk with others and pass the time.

A challenge you might face while trying to absorb a language is finding resources to practice. A quick Google or YouTube search might include the basics such as numbers, the alphabet and greetings. However, if you want to go one step further, I recommend a language-learning resource. These resources could include language learning services such as Duolingo, Rosetta Stone and Babbel. The latter of these two, however, are paid services, so if you don't want to invest in language courses, Duolingo is a good option.

One thing that most language learning apps lack is interaction with actual people that speak that language. I have

found an app called HelloTalk, which connects you to people around the globe that are wishing to learn new languages. You can see the languages others can speak and send them a message.

At school, students use textbooks and workbooks to learn under their instructor's guidance. This works for some, but may not for others. If you want to buy books Online for a language, there is a used-book site called ThriftBooks where they sell used and new textbooks, workbooks, magazines and books. I have bought textbooks and workbooks to further my studies at an affordable price. With ThriftBooks, an item originally priced at \$150 could be sold for \$15. While they were slightly used, all the pages were still intact and I enjoyed reading through the previous readers' studies.

An additional option is taking an actual language course in person. Many courses are offered at AACC, and as of January-February 2023, they are free for all high school students who sign the ECAP application form. All you have to pay for are books and dues. If you enjoy working with an instructor and taking classes, alternate courses might be a viable option.

As I am learning a language, writing notes is crucial for memorization. I use a website/app called Notion to organize my thoughts. It is free and a great space to organize an intuitive learning experience. You can write notes, create to-dos, make a calendar and more. I use Notion to organize my language notes and to set reminders for what I need to practice throughout the week.

Through these simple methods, I have reached communication levels in many languages. Initially, it may seem difficult, but time, practice and motivation will go a long way.





**RYOBI** 18V **ONE+**

The RYOBI 18V ONE+ System features over 280 innovative product solutions powered by the same battery, giving you The Power To Do More.

@ryobitoolsusa



ryobitools.com

Exclusively at

