

# The SPTALON

October



## WHO ROCKS THE HOUSE? THE CHEER TEAM ROCKS THE HOUSE!

*The cheer team has undergone some recent changes.. Read more on page 4.*

## TASTE TEST

*What do students think about the cafeteria food? What do the lunch staff think about the cafeteria food? Read more on page 8.*

## THE LOVE LETTER

*Dr. Love is back with more advice. This season, he gives advice on how to break up with your significant other! Read more on page 11.*

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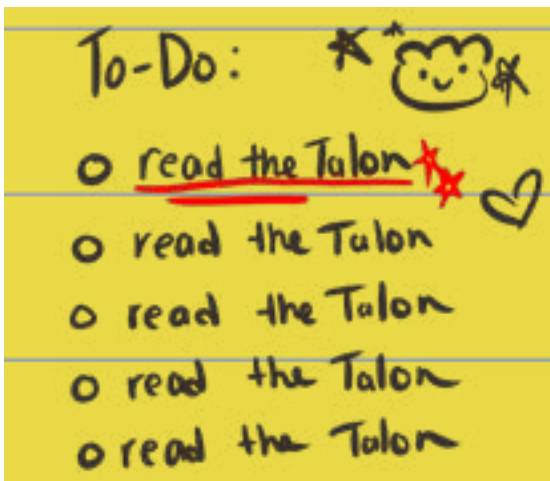
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SEVERNA PARK HIGH  
60 ROBINSON ROAD  
SEVERNA PARK, MD 21146

FRONT PAGE CAPTION: The varsity cheer team in formation at the Sept. 15 football game against Annapolis at Roberts Field. Photo taken by Mia Tocco

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



At the PTXC mmet in Pennsylvania on Sept. 9, the boys varsity cross country team placed 6th. Taylor Jarvis was the MVP of the meet, coming in first with a time of 17:04. "I don't really do it for myself, I do it for everyone else," Jarvis said. From left to right: Stephen Nunn junior, Dylan Newhard junior, Ty Miller sopho-

more, Ryan Crowley senior, Leo Havens junior, Caden Laz-zor junior, Cooper Alahverdian junior, Taylor Jarvis senior. Photo taken by: Josh Alcombright

On Sept. 8, Annapolis Junior Rowing (AJR) practiced a front end pick drill. AJR is based in Annapolis and comprised of students from all over Maryland. Freshman Cormac Fitzgerald, a rower from Ireland moved to Maryland and joined AJR to continue his rowing career. Photo taken by: Tristan Alcott



The Post-It-Note art show is an annual event hosted by Ms. Dattelbaum. This year, the Post-It-Note art show is anticipated to take place in early November. The National Art Honor Society (NAHS) is also planning two paint nights sometimes in December, for adults and kids alike. Photo taken by: Charlotte Anderson

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# The Future of IMP Courses in Maryland

## NEWS

*A closer look at CTE and graduation requirements.*

Samantha Polk | Staff Writer

TOP: In Mr. Slack's room there are screen printing materials used to create the school shop merchandise. Photos taken by: Samantha Polk

The landscape of Career Technology Education (CTE) is undergoing significant revisions in Maryland, particularly in how it integrates into the Maryland Blueprint for Education. At the heart of this transformation are the IMP (Interactive Media Production) courses, which have raised important questions regarding their role in students' education and if it should be considered a technology graduation requirement. Direct insights will also be provided by school officials, Mr. Bernstein and Mr. Slack, to shed light on the current state of IMP courses.

One of the critical issues surrounding IMP courses is their compatibility with graduation requirements. The current stance, as articulated by MSDE, is that even if an IMP course is used to fulfill graduation requirements, it cannot also be applied within a pathway. This no

“double-dipping” policy raises concerns and impacts how students plan their coursework.

“We feel like the IMP courses give students a huge opportunity to learn many aspects of design and delivery using indus-

side of the classroom” Bernstein said.

To set the stage, it's crucial to understand that IMP courses focus primarily on the design and development of media using specific software programs. They do not offer a



try-standard equipment and programs along with providing them with the opportunity to take certifications they can use out-

broad range of technology education, which leads to a pressing question: should IMP courses count as tech credit for graduation requirements?

According to officials from the CTE office and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), IMP courses are being positioned as a pathway for students to attain industry certifications. These certifications can prove valuable in related career fields, aligning



with the evolving curriculum requirements set forth by MSDE. Soon, there will be a strong push for students to enroll in specific pathways and pursue certifications.

“The county has put a huge investment into our schools' IMP program, and the equipment/experiences students will get when in the program are truly amazing and will help them as they move forwards towards a career,” Slack said.

The future of IMP courses in Maryland is at a crossroads. These courses offer students valuable skills and certifications but face challenges regarding their role in fulfilling graduation requirements and pathways. As the state's education system continues to evolve, it will be interesting to see how IMP courses adapt to meet the changing needs of students and the job market.



# Who Runs The House? The Cheer Team Runs The House

## SPORTS

*A look into the cheer program at Severna Park High School.*

Elsa Webster | Opinions Editor

Severna Park High School is known for many things, some of them being sports such as cross country and lacrosse. But there is a SPHS sport that often goes under the radar, cheer.

“For years I feel like cheer has gone unnoticed a little, but this year we’re getting more involved and making our presence known,” senior Sydney Henson said.

The cheer team at SPHS has undergone some changes in the past year and starting this season. One being the new coach, Ms. Brooke Glasgow.

“I think cheer at Severna Park has gotten a lot better. Last winter we got a new coach and she has been amazing, she’s done so much for the team and she’s really brought it all together and made it kind of one big program. So I think that’s a really important thing,” Claire Procida, senior and captain of the varsity cheer team said. These changes to coaching added to the presence of SPHS cheer teams as a sport.

“That’s definitely changed Severna Park cheer in a lot of people’s eyes and I feel like we’re more known now,” Procida said.

Just like other sports, there is preparation and practice that goes into making the cheer season successful.

“A lot of preparation goes into the cheer season, we get together over the summer multiple times to work out as a team and make sure that all of us are staying in shape for the upcoming season,” Henson said.

Another aspect of cheer that goes unnoticed is the physical commitment that goes into the sport.

“Most people don’t realize how much effort and strength goes into the sport, being thrown in the air and

hoping someone catches you, the amount of injuries, and how dangerous this sport actually is,” Henson said.

In addition to people not realizing how dangerous cheer can be. Some may not even consider cheer a sport.

“Most people don’t really think it’s a sport as much because it really doesn’t look like it if you aren’t on the team because you’re like ‘Oh it’s just a bunch of girls standing there and waving pom poms,’” freshman Kenzie Glasgow said, “but it’s a lot more than that and it requires a lot of teamwork like any other sport and we have to work really hard and be super strong to learn all the skills we’re doing like flipping and stunting and stuff and it just takes a lot of practice and effort.”

The cheer teams, in addition to having their own competitions, cheer for other sports teams at our school such as football and basketball.

“So basically, we are there to raise school spirit and we cheer for football mostly and basketball in the winter and we hype up the crowd and we just stand there, we yell, we jump up and down, we do cheers, we do fun stunts and we basically are trying to raise everybody’s spirit and make everybody happier and have everybody also be cheering with us,” Glasgow said.

Competitions for cheer have not started yet, but preparations are well underway. And just like any other sport, the 2023-2024 season will have its differences between the upcoming season and the last.

“I think this season will be a little harder than winter was last year only because we have so many new faces but I’m excited. I’m proud of them. I think they’re all doing amazing. Think we’ll just have to see how it goes,” Procida said.

Molly Egolf, Sydney Henson, Zana Saab, Claire Procida and Lily Naggy practicing at cheer practice. “We have to practice every day after school. We have a two and a half hour practice and most Saturdays as well. And we practice game day stunts and we learn a bunch of cheers for game day,” said Kenzie Glasgow. Photo taken by Elsa Webster



The Severna Park Varsity cheer team at the football game on Thursday, Sept. 14. Photo taken by: Elsa Webster



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UPLOAD PHOTOS



# Unified Tennis Empowers All Students

## SPORTS

*Some insight into the world of Unified Tennis.*

Chris Benjamin | Staff Writer

If you've ever looked into the various sports options available at Severna Park High School, it is highly possible that you've stumbled across the roster of Unified sports and wondered what that entails. The Unified sports program is an association whose goal is to connect students without disabilities with those who have them through the means of competitive sports. Severna Park High School has proudly embraced this program and hosts a variety of unified sports such as bocce, bowling and most notably tennis, which started its season early this fall.

Severna Park High School won a gold medal at last year's state championship and are going into this year's season as returning victors.

"It was a lot of fun and I hope we can do it again this year," senior

Jude Lascola said. Although it's great that our school performs skillfully on the court there is more to the unified tennis experience than just the competitive aspect, it is also a way to make new friends.

Head Coach Nadine Hendler has been coaching Unified tennis for nine years, she believes that it is an opportunity to meet people who you wouldn't normally interact with, "You meet people that you may not have otherwise," Hendler said.

Although our school has found great success in the competitive aspect of the sports, students are also benefiting from team building and socialization.

A major goal of Unified tennis is taking down any barriers that may exist between students with learning disabilities and those without. It provides

students with the chance to interact and communicate with their fellow students that they may not get to see very often during the school day due to different class structure.

When asked why they feel it's important to have Unified sports at our school, students feel it is a way to increase the confidence of students with disabilities to pursue any dreams they have.

"It empowers those with special needs and encourages them to do the things they love," senior Avery Landis said. Lascola thinks it's a great way to have fun that is inclusive to everyone. "It allows everyone to play regardless of their skill level and we are all able to have fun," Lascola said.

There is no doubt that Unified sports, specifically tennis, has grown significantly in popularity

in recent years as students are becoming more and more aware of what it actually is and represents. It has gotten so popular that Hendler has found herself in a situation where she now has to reject some students' applications due to limited space on the team.

"Such a large number of people wanted to join, and I felt bad that I couldn't accept all of them," Hendler said. Although there is a chance you won't make the team both students and coaches alike recommend showing up to try outs and giving it your all. It's a place where, "you can learn about others" Hendler said. "You make friendships that continue even after."



LEFT: Senior Samuel Gillespie and Junior Sophia Procaccini are seen practicing on our home court in preparation for their upcoming match. RIGHT: Sophomore Declan Laughlin and Senior Luke Whitlock are playing a friendly match against Freshman Mattie Butcher and Junior Hasting Fava to improve their teamwork on the court. Photos taken by: Chris Benjamin



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# Meet the Clubinsons

## FEATURES

*Utilizing Falcon Block as a tool to explore the building and its myriad of differing clubs is one of the most rewarding decisions a student can make.*

Noel Castillo | Editor in Chief

The Class of 2023 seniors' last day was May 25. New club officers replace the old senior officers; even the newspaper and yearbook publication lab houses new editors and staff for their respective classes. This year, SPHS is offering upwards of 70 clubs, extracurriculars and honor societies to help students feel that they belong somewhere. Most clubs and their room numbers can be found on the school website under the "Students" tab.

The French Club meets every first Thursday of the month. It is held in Marie Auchincloss' room at the end of the world language hallway in room 267 and sees an entirely new roster of officers. Among them, the new president is senior Evan Reaser.

"Nora Bodkin is the vice president, Summer Whitney is the treasurer, Ellie Chung is the Secretary and Tadhg Cronin is the general officer," Reaser said. "I will run the meetings and basically manage everything put into it. We meet every first Thursday, so we have to prepare food, we have to have activities and slides. We really want to keep ahead of our work so we plan."

The newly-founded Vocabulary Club is geared towards fun wordplay activities and is located in Melissa Bertinatti's room 308. The officers, Gavin Morris and Tommy Miller,

created the club out of "an interest and enjoyment in vocabulary plus just wanting to make a fun club."

"We were just very interested in vocabulary and wanted to start a club for the leadership experience and fun so Tommy and I figured we could just make some fun club and now here we are... The main responsibility is the meeting planning and activities, we haven't had a ton of meeting yet since the club is new but finding time to work together with Tommy to plan fun activities and stuff so everyone has fun, but there may be more stuff as we have more meetings since our club is so new," Morris said.

The Student Government Association(SGA) meets in Christine Bowman's room 210. "We're making posters, planning a pep rally, spirit week

videos, spreadsheets like crazy. We made four in one day with Google Sheets," seniors Jessica Alden and Ella Fleureton said.

The SGA is a great opportunity to participate in your grade's events or simply hang out, as sophomore Arlee Ullrich has. "I'm not really in SGA, I'm just here because I didn't know where else to go," Ullrich said. I am enjoying SGA a lot because my best friend is in here."

The same can be said for nearly any club, aside from when officer meetings occur. The seniors' Class President, Rory Jenkins, recounts his favorite moments serving the student body for the past three years and how his leadership role has evolved over time.

"As a sophomore, I focused on using my leadership position to or-

ganize fundraising events for foundations such as the SPCA and United Help Ukraine. My duties as president junior year expanded to including class events as well as choosing a location for prom. Going into senior year, I began my duties in the summer by planning the first class event: senior sunrise. Now, I am working alongside my other class officers to plan class and school events to create

RIGHT: Students like Jeremy Richter and Nate Kohler board a CAT South bus for alternative classes. BELOW: French club attendees(left to right: Tristan Alcott, Ian Ireland, Shubh Agnihotri, Claire Gray, and Mia Tocco complete arts and crafts activities. "Last year we had Bastille Day, cake, arts and crafts, croissants and a crepe day; good French cuisine and culture," French club president Evan Reaser said. "In my junior year, we had a Galette de Rois, a Three King's Day celebration and we'll recreate it this year. It was very fun." Photos taken by Noel Castillo



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**ANNE AR**  
**COMMUNIT**

*CLASS RECOMMEN*

- Japanese
- Korean
- Elementary Urdu
- Metal Art Fabrication
- Popular Culture in America
- Fund of Oral Communication
- Interior Design
- Intro to Drone Technology
- Emergency Medical Tech
- Game History
- Introduction to Archaeology
- Ceramics 1
- Web Design 1
- Digital Forensics 1

### TOP 20 CLUBS TO CHECK OUT THIS FALL

- |                |                  |                |                      |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. FRENCH CLUB | 6. JAM LAND      | 11. SGA        | 16. ENTREPRENEURSHIP |
| 2. SCI-FI CLUB | 7. WISHING CRANE | 12. KEY CLUB   | 17. POWER LIFTING    |
| 3. PING PONG   | 8. ROBOTICS      | 13. ONE LOVE   | 18. SKILLS USA       |
| 4. NAHS        | 9. IMPULSE       | 14. SWIFTIES   | 19. 24 CLUB          |
| 5. RHO KAPPA   | 10. ESPORTS CLUB | 15. STAGE CREW | 20. MEDICAL YOUTH    |



se of community. The  
st aspect of my leader-  
position as a senior is  
ing all aspects of the  
class prom,” Jenkins

Regarding SGA ac-  
es, officers and mem-  
are planning to outdo  
selves from previous  
. Some of the officers’  
members’ favorite mo-  
s:  
“I like teacher ap-  
tation lunches because  
to hang out with my

teachers and eat good food.  
It feels very personal, I like  
it.” Fleureton said. “Come  
to a meeting and come  
check it out.”

“I liked the pep rally  
last year because I had a  
walkie talkie, it had a mic  
attached, I felt like a spy.”  
treasurer Maimouna Sall  
said.

“I liked the men-  
tal health week last year  
because it was fun getting  
to make the videos,” Sarah  
Nkole said.

**TO GET STARTED IN THE ECAP PROGRAM, FOLLOW THESE STEPS:**

- Enroll at AACC
  - Once accepted, browse classes and register.
  - Fill out the ECAP form
- For this step, you will need assistance from your counselor for your transcript, along with their signature.
- Send the signed ECAP form to cashiersoffice@aacc.edu for free classes and sometimes books
  - Prepare and attend class.
- \*students must have a minimum of a 2.0 GPA and have to be 16 and above*



**FOUNDATIONS**

- JPN-111
- KOR-111
- URD-111
- ART-138
- AMS-121
- COM-111
- ACH-100
- UAS-111
- EMT-105
- ART-158
- ANT-123
- ART-145
- ART-170
- CTS-170

# School-School Balance

## FEATURES

*While taking high school classes, you can take college courses.*

Mia Tocco | Photo and Graphics Editor

**H**elpful Tips for taking ECAP courses at AACC, taking these courses in your junior or senior year can give you jump start as you begin your college journey, and are paid for by AACPS, so it is free for you:

1. “Take separate time from working on college classes from doing your high school work, doing this makes it much easier to focus on classes you enjoy and separate your workload.” *John Reed*
2. “Make sure you take notes during class and revisit them when studying at home because college classes are structured differently than the high school ones.” *Nathan Taylor*
3. “You should read the syllabus.” *Alyssa Gore-Chung*
4. Canvas releases class information three days before your class begins so you should check beforehand and come prepared to class

after reading the syllabus.

Due to only being recently introduced, free enrollment at Anne Arundel Community College(AACC) is accessible through the Early College Acceptance Program or ECAP. While the ECAP program has been enacted for a while, now it is extremely accessible for high school students because the county pays for enrollment and resources for accredited courses.

Many seniors this year have taken advantage of free college courses for a variety of reasons. Alyssa Gore-Chung is taking a Korean class at AACC because she “wanted to learn something that the [high]school didn’t offer,” Nathan Taylor said he was taking AACC classes because he “wanted to get a sense for what college classes would be like

in the future.”

Taking courses at AACC while in high school doesn’t only look good on college applications, but it also provides experience and gives students the chance to get used to the college atmosphere.

Even though juggling both high school and college courses might be difficult, some students thrive. Taylor says he “likes[s] that the classes at AACC are offered for free and can give college credit.” John Reed enjoys taking classes because, “it’s close to home and that it’s easy to find classes that work in with my high school and sport schedules.”

Getting started with ECAP applications might

be difficult to manage however, counselors and teachers are always a good resource. Gore-Chung and Reed found out about the program from their family while Vivian Lee found out about the ECAP program, “from my business teacher.”

BELOW: As of last December, Anne Arundel Community College(AACC) classes and resources are free for any high school students of Anne Arundel County who are over the age of 16. This year, students are taking advantage of it. Maneuvering application and enrollment can seem complicated but with a helping hand, you can be set on the right track. Photo taken by Mia Tocco



# Taste Test

## FEATURES

*Student opinions on school lunch.*

Claire Gray | Staff Writer

The school cafeteria has a variety of meals each day for students to choose from. But what's worth buying? After interviewing students, the most popular and least popular foods became clear, as well as what they think is missing from the menu and more.

Associate of School nutrition, Brenda Hohman works in the cafeteria. Her favorite menu items are the teriyaki chicken and Korean meatballs.

The kids' favorites are "probably Bosco sticks, which are the pizza sticks, stuffed crust pizza, I think chicken teriyaki, meatballs too," Hohman said.

In reality, the most popular food is tacos, which made it on everyone's top three cafeteria foods list; people also seem to prefer the chips as opposed to the tortilla, which often gets thrown away.

"It's gotta be in the bag, gotta roll the sides down and crunch the chips," William Smith, assistant principal said.

Other top foods were fried chicken and waffles, teriyaki chicken and potatoes. The alfredo was commonly deemed as the worst, along with the corndogs. Contrary to Hohman's prediction, the Korean meatballs are the most unpopular.

In response to suggesting what to add to the menu, both freshman Leif Michelen and senior Ava Diedrich responded with cheeseburgers. Both sophomore Demetrious Jones and Michelsen agreed that alfredo is the worst, while junior Ryleigh Smith and Diedrich said chocolate milk is the best. Students know the school food pretty well and despite being eaten by hundreds of kids each day, the average rating of

the cafeteria food is a 2 out of 10 for these students. Students have various complaints about the food they're served including the type, taste and validity of the food.

The serving size was also mentioned as an issue. "I don't think it's fair that an elementary schooler would get the same amount of food as a junior," Michelsen said. Allowing kids to ask for how much food they'd like in a serving would save money for some, and reduce waste from others. And although many items are on the menu, some are more common than others and someone's favorite meal may be out of the loop for months.

"The food manufacturers sometimes don't have what's supposed to be on the menu," Hohman said, which is most likely the reason for the disappearance of some meals.

Hohman and the rest of the cafeteria staff here really care about the students and want the best food for everyone.

"I would like to see it go back to normal to where we had the full salad bar, the full salad bar and a-la-carte," Hohman said.

They'd like kids to have as many options as they'd like, and try to modify foods or get them off the menu if they're not a fan favorite.

"If we find that you guys don't like a certain thing we try to change it to what you guys like," Hohman said.

Although they have limited choices, they can only serve what they are provided. More important than the food is making sure to appreciate the lunch ladies.



LEFT: The cafeteria food line before lunch: The school cafeteria has a variety of meals each day for students to choose from, but what's worth buying? After interviewing students, the most popular and least popular foods became clear, as well as what they think is missing from the menu and more. RIGHT: The cafeteria's chicken with rice. Photos taken by: Claire Gray

### RATE YOUR LUNCH

#### LEIF MICHELSEN, 9

OVERALL FOOD: Average-1

FAVORITE: Top 3-Taco, grab n go, teriyaki chicken

LEAST FAVORITE: Worst-Alfredo, pizza, meatballs

ADD ON: cheeseburger

Milk-no milk, juice

#### DEMETRIOUS JONES. 10

OVERALL FOOD: Average-1

FAVORITE: Top 3-Potatoes, tacos, mac n cheese

LEAST FAVORITE: Worst-Alfredo

ADD ON: pancakes

Milk-strawberry

#### RYLEIGH SMITH, 11

OVERALL FOOD: Average, 4

FAVORITE: Top 3-Pizza, tacos, mac n cheese

LEAST FAVORITE: Worst-Korean meatballs

ADD ON: pasta

Milk-chocolate

#### AVA DIEDRICH, 12

OVERALL FOOD: Average, 3

FAVORITE: Top 3-chicken and waffles, meatballs and tacos

LEAST FAVORITE: Worst-Corndogs

ADD ON: cheeseburgers

Milk-chocolate

#### MR. SMITH, STAFF

FAVORITE: Tacos, in the bag, roll the sides down, crunch the chips





# To Bee or Not to Bee?

## FEATURES

*Phillip Cygan does an exclusive, insightful interview dedicated to the complicated aid of his beekeeping business.*

Lillith Vice | Staff Writer

Phillip Cygan is a new engineering and design teacher at Severna Park High School. He's been teaching at AACPS for about roughly six years, previously as an algebra teacher.

He graduated from Penn State with a masters degree in mathematics. So as you can imagine he's a very well accomplished busy man. But despite his seemingly stressful teaching job and the all too real responsibilities of being a father to a seven month old infant, his responses in the interview insinuate his beekeeping business as a more peaceful hobby rather than another chore.

He did admit that his wife was technically the founder of the Cygan Family Bee Business. But over time he became more of the maintenance man, taking care of the bees themselves. He explained that growing up his dad had bees in the house, giving him a bit of an advantage for us non-bee people, but also making him an expert in explaining the logistics of this particular matter.

The most important part of bee keeping is managing them. These insects are dangerous and can hurt you easily. Normally, bee stings are not toxic, and will only cause local swelling and pain, but to people who are allergic to bees, it can be far more dangerous and even lethal. An allergic reaction from a bee sting can look like hives, itching, swelling, and flustered or pale skin. However it can also look like shortness of breath, swelling of the throat and tongue, and a weak or rapid pulse. About 2 million people in the United States are allergic to bees, about 3-4% of those people being

deadly allergic.

"It's crucial to keep the bees calm and happy, so as to make sure they don't sting you, obviously," Cygan said. He notes that anyone with bees should be stung at least once before to know how it feels and be prepared, also to do it around another person and preferably a trained medical professional in case anything goes wrong. But they try to avoid bee stings at all costs due to the fact that using their stingers often kills them.

Bees produce a venom called apitoxin, this is what causes the sting to linger and ache long after you've already had the initial sting. However, since their stingers are also vital organs attached to their abdomens, they will almost always die after stinging something. Cygan uses his smoker to prevent the bees from getting too upset. The smoker is a metal contraption with usually three compartments (the more compartments the more effective). The smoker consists of burlap, pine needles, wood pellets, twigs, or cardboard and are usually sold ranging between \$20-\$30. Another major piece of beekeeping equipment is a bee suit. Bee suits are required to have deep pockets, suitable for carrying lots of beekeeping equipment, some form of ventilation, and breathable fabric that will also protect you from getting stung. Modern suits consist of full body overalls, a hooded veil, and gloves. Suits are quite a bit more pricey than a smoker, prices ranging from between around \$50- \$250.

Aside from most of the equipment, compartmentalizing is also a very important part of beekeeping. Did you know that if



In this we can see the clearly very hard working bees collect- ing honey from their columns to provide for their young. "Towards the end of summer early fall is when the babies start hatching, meaning the bees must work extra hard to provide for their young larvae." Cygan said. This photo of lavender can demonstrate the process of manual sam- pling. These bees will collect pollen from flowers and convert it to honey by using its second stomach to process the pollen into honey. Photos taken by: Phillip Cygan



your honey crystallizes, you can return it back to its natural form by simply warming it up? Keeping it in an air tight sealed container is the best option, often mason jars or glass jars, but really any plastic container would work as well. The Cygan family uses glass mason jars, partially for functionality and

partially for aesthetics. The glass jars help to make sure temperature is evenly distributed throughout the entirety of the container, and it is sealed in an airtight lid so as to keep out any pests or insects that may be interested in some free local honey.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

# Connecting Through Postcards

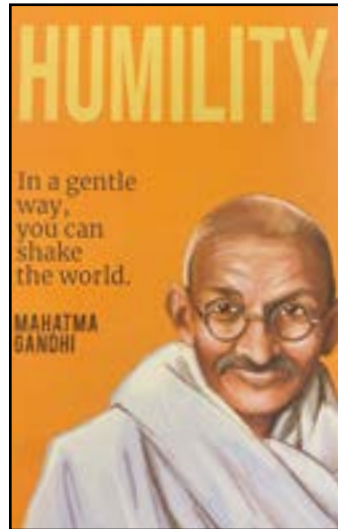
## FEATURES

*Social Studies teacher, Patrick McDougal, started building his connection with his students over the summer using postcards*

Anna Reilly | Staff Writer

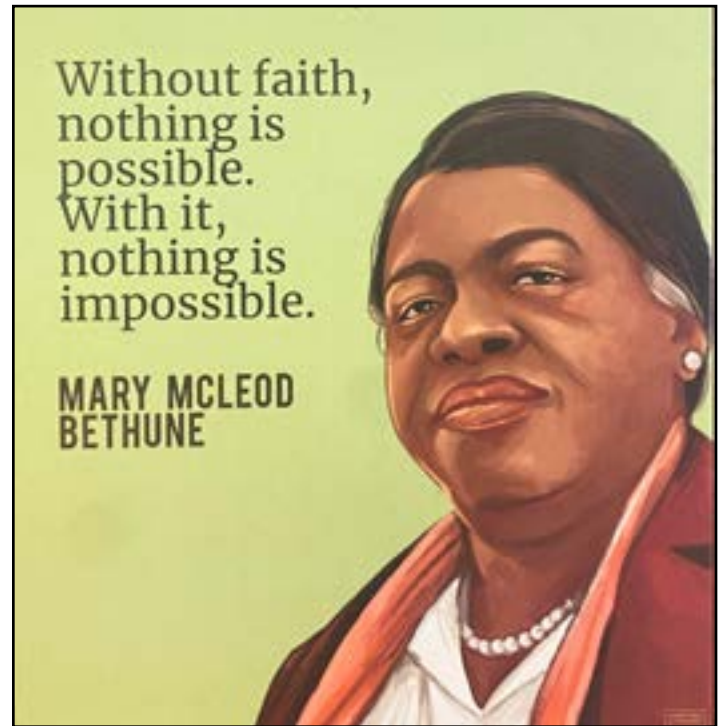
Most teachers spend most of the school year trying to connect with students but it's no surprise that their efforts are countered by schoolwork so, how does a teacher build a relationship with students who resent them for giving them work? To get started on the journey ahead, the new social studies teacher, Mr. McDougal, sent roughly 175 postcards to his students over the summer with inspirational leaders on the front and some of their most famous quotes as well as an introductory greeting on the back.

"I was reading up on the best ways to build relationships with students" McDougal said. Postcards go back to his first year teaching at Anne Arundel County, specifically at Lindale Middle School. "I didn't know anything about



the kids, so I really wanted to get a good start with them, and I thought, this may go a long way."

McDougal wanted to make a connection before meeting students on the first day. "Hopefully, the postcards are some-



thing that can make them know, hey, I'm here for you if you need anything to make them feel comfortable."

So what impact did the postcards actually have on the students? Sophomore Peter Binnie said, "I thought that it was very considerate" and that "it showed that the teacher cared."

Sophomore Evan Crockett agreed, that after receiving the postcard, he thought, "Oh, this is going to be one of my better teachers, and it turned out to be right, I really like Mr. McDougal," he said.

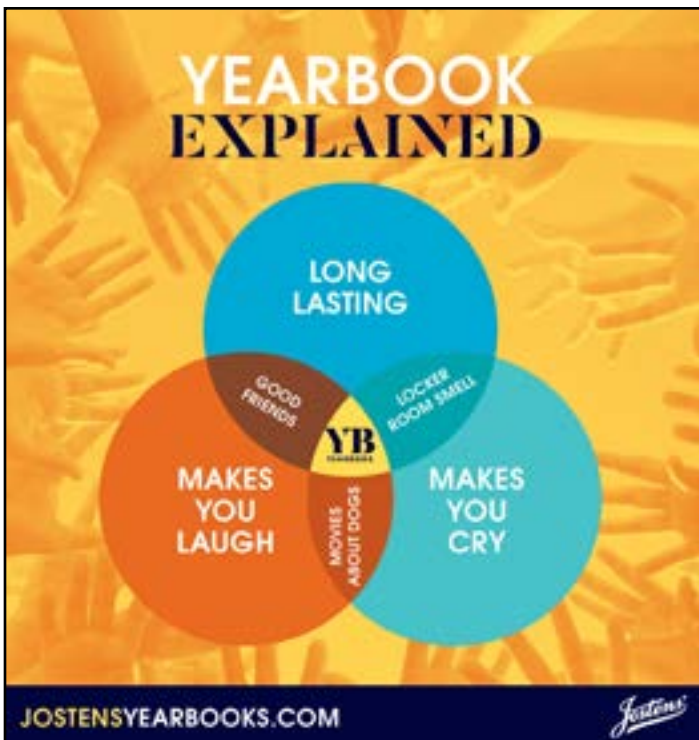
Crockett also mentioned that one of the greatest effects of the postcards was that "now that he's already opened up casual conversation, I can casually converse with him."

Mr. McDougal began making an effort to

Over the summer Mr. McDougal sent about 175 postcards of inspirational historical leaders to his students before the upcoming school year to introduce himself.

connect with his students before the year even started, before they were able to define their relationship with him from the amount of schoolwork given.

They say 'a little goes a long way' and it did, his students were able to appreciate the gesture and acknowledge that the teacher cared about them individually and not just academically and because of that, students felt more comfortable in and out of the classroom, and isn't that how students should feel in their classes?





# The Love Letter

## OPINIONS

Dr. Love answers YOUR questions!

Owen Cress | Guest Writer

BELOW: Sending your questions has never been easier for Dr. Love, just head to his Instagram page and post questions @dr.lovesphs. Junior Owen Cress is waiting to take your questions on all things love. Send questions through the Instagram account. Graphic and Photo taken by: Owen Cress



Hey there, Talon readers! The Love Letter is back for the October issue and hopefully many more. I'll try my best to answer the pressing predicaments that seem to plague us.

### How do I break up with my significant other?

Breaking up is one of the hardest things to do. I put it barely behind first period AP World pop quizzes. So, in order to do it in the best way, I've assembled a list of principles to follow when breaking the tough news.

Firstly, the best way to break up is to do it in the most gentle way possible. Even though the love you two once had is gone, that doesn't mean you can't approach and forgive the person with friendly love. This will minimize the number of broken hearts

and pangs of regret. Worst case scenario, hard feelings create cruelty and attempts to destroy your reputation, so at least try to preserve the ego of the other person.

Second, do it with proper respect for timing. Let's say this guy you're with just isn't doing his part. You resolve to split up. When should you do it? I can tell you not to break the news in the morning. For a lot of people, especially those invested in a relationship, a break-up might wreck them a lot more

than you think it will. Out of courtesy for their ability to function, it's best to do it in the evening. Another timing issue to consider is what's happening in your future together. For example, it isn't working out between you and this girl. You know it's not going to last long. The bad thing is that your birthday is coming up. How awkward is it gonna be when she hands you a present, only for you to break up with her the second after? Knowing this, it's best to break up sooner than later.

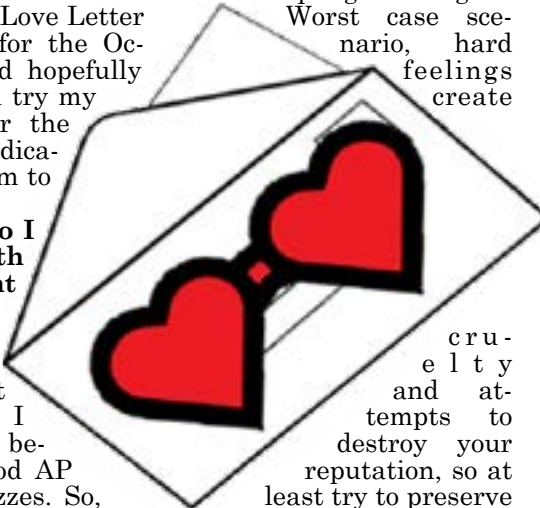
Thirdly, talk to someone about it! Breaking up with someone is like shedding a layer of skin. You feel different after--and it leaves room for growth! Use the aftermath of the relationship to consider what went wrong and what you would do differently next time. Talking to someone trustworthy about the relationship,

whether it be a close friend or a parent, will open some doors in your head about what really happened behind the curtain of drama and hormones. This, of course, doesn't mean gossip. Gossip will only damage your already fractured relationship with your ex. Plus, your ex won't get the idea to gossip back.

The bottom line is that you gotta get out of there. Good luck, ex-lovers! My heart goes out to you.

I'll see you next time in the Love Letter!

Dr. Love



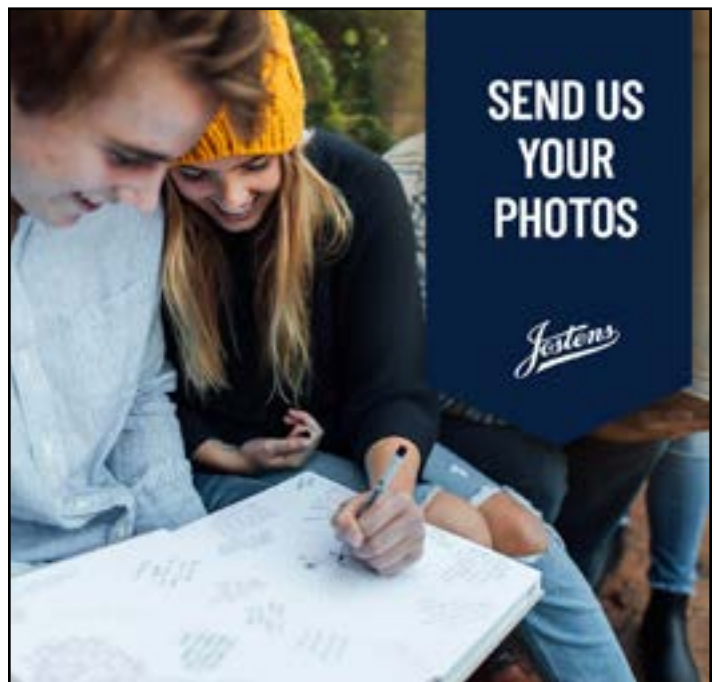
### To Bee or Not to Bee? CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Cygan suggests a budget of around \$300 for beginners. But he also cautions people that not everyone is capable of being a beekeeper. He briefly talked about a legal process he had to go through to get the bees. By law all honey bee colonies in Maryland must be with the Maryland department of agriculture.

"It wasn't as treacherous as I expected. Just a simple evaluation of my yard and a few forms I had to fill out," Cygan said.

However, there are certain criteria that must be met for you to even be considered. You must already have your supplies such as your hive, bees, hive tool, smoker, bee suit, and gloves. You also need at least 5 feet of space in every direction around the hive. And bees cannot be kept around other pets such as dogs or other pets.

To anyone interested, his classroom is 165 on the 1st floor in the tech ed department.



# Cropp Circle

## OPINIONS

A critique on the circus and performing animals.

Lucas Cropper | Staff Writer

