

The Talon

May 2024

2024

class of



TEACHER ADVICE

*Listen in to the words of wisdom that your favorite teachers are sharing for the class of 2024 to take with them in the future.
Read more on page 9*

THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE STIGMA

*The unfair stigma surrounding a more accessible form of higher education for people of almost any age.
Read more on page 21*

EDITOR LETTER

*Noel Castillo's final goodbye as the Talon Editor, see what he has to say before he leaves for Temple University.
Read more on page 23*

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The seniors of the Talon staff recreate their family photo. Photo by Ruby Howland, Graphics by Mia Tocco

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Mother's Day is a very important holiday, especially to our seniors. Seniors treated their mothers with the absolute best, and most respect out of anyone else. The seniors at our school have come up with genius ideas that have blown their mothers head off. "Personally, I just got my mother flowers. I know it's a little basic,

but who doesn't love flowers? I'll try harder next year I promise. A good creative idea I had for next year was to make a painting. I know that seems still basic but I personally think it's a lot better. I'm going to make one like all the pets and the whole family because I think that's really sweet and cute," Vallie Woolsey said. Photo by Tristan Alcott

The spring play, "Arsenic and Old Lace" took place in the Black Box on May 3 and 4. The play revolves around the Brewster family, particularly two elderly sisters, Abby and Martha Brewster, who are known for their charitable acts in their Brooklyn neighborhood. However, the sisters have a dark secret - they are serial killers. Senior Morgan

Axenson McCallair performed for her last time on stage before graduating. Photo by Valerie Earhart



A number of seniors this year were fortunate and skilled enough to earn sports scholarships. Sports scholarships are given to a student based on their athletic ability and are recruited to play on the Colleges sport team. Senior Sarah Stefancik is one of the seniors at SPHS who received a sports scholarship. She's planning

to attend "Mercer University to play division I lacrosse." Stefancik has been playing lacrosse since she was five years old. "Playing at Mercer gave me an amazing opportunity for scholarships. I never expected one, but it was amazing to be recognized for all the hard work over the years" Stefancik said. Graphic by Claire Gray

How to Get Politically Active

NEWS

How does one go about being a politically active and informed teenager?

Logan Humphries | Staff Writer

With the 2024 presidential election right around the corner it is more important than ever for the students of SPHS to get active politically. “It’s important because whether you like it or not, it affects your life super deeply. People often talk about how when presidents changed their life didn’t get affected, but whether you notice it or not, people’s freedoms are being taken away from them, you know *Roe v. Wade* being overturned, you have lots of small laws that come up and affect your actual life,” senior Shubh Agnihotri said when asked about the importance of being politically active.

“It’s always important to be aware of your surroundings and things that might affect you. There could be new legislation proposed that would greatly affect the way you live, and it’s important to be aware of something like that. It also gives you a greater understanding of others and their opinions, opening up room for more effective communication,” senior Ella Fleureton said.

“There’s a lot of



Shubh Agnihotri at Baltimore’s Food Not Bombs preparing food to support the community. Photo by Shubh Agnihotri

things that really affect your life and when you turn 18 and you move out or go to college that stuff is [going to] start piling on you and you’ll begin to regret that you didn’t vote for candidates that had your best interests,” Agnihotri said.

However, many find it a challenge to get involved with politics, especially since most of us are still too young to vote. Fortunately, there’s a myriad of ways to be politically active as well as support your community.

Seniors may register to vote in the primary presidential election even if they’re not yet 18 before May 14, “registering to vote is an extremely important thing to do. Many people have already done it while getting their license but you can still do it without a license. You can go to the Maryland board of elections website to get registered to vote. All you need is your license/ permit number, social security number, and your address then they’ll mail you the registration,” Agnihotri said.

“Teenagers, especially seniors and some juniors, who will be able to vote during the upcoming elections should exercise that right, and make sure younger voices are being heard. That includes both presidential and local positions, like the Board of Education,” Fleureton said.

You must register as either a democrat or republican to vote in the primaries, but you may change your party at a later time. There are many other ways to get involved politically outside of voting - “I would say doorknocking, emailing your representatives, they respond but they only respond if you do it on like a personal level. It’s a lot better to write an email with



Shubh Agnihotri with Chief of Staff for Delegate Heather Bagnall, Rory Nolan. Photo taken by Shubh Agnihotri

your own thoughts and feelings because then they’ll actually read it. When I was working my internship basically the procedure for any fast action mailers is to send back an automated response. But if people actually tell you what they think, and here’s why it needs to happen, people get legislation ideas from constituents, it’s important to tell them about what you want because they may not have thought about it,” Agnihotri said.

“I’ve done a great deal of door knocking throughout the 2022 midterms and now for the 2024 presidential primary. I don’t care so much about who wins the presidential primary as I do for local candidates.” Continuing on, Agnihotri said: “We’re mainly doing outreach. We’re trying to encourage people who don’t normally vote to get out there. There are registered voters that oftentimes are soft on the issues, republicans who aren’t super into the party or democrats who don’t vote often or independents in general.”

Another way to get politically active is by supporting your community - “There’s plenty of volunteering opportunities outside of electoral politics.

There’s food not bombs, you can cook for people, Picking up trash, supporting your community. I’d encourage you to look up your city or town with volunteering or community action, you’ll probably find something,” Agnihotri said.

Severna Park High School students also have opportunities to be politically active in school, “Honestly the Talon is amazing, I wrote an opinion editorial about why we need more public transportation. There are good clubs, Young Democrats, Young Republicans, the Environmental Club, last year they did campus cleanups. There’s a lot of stuff you can do, just ask around,” Agnihotri said. “I think we need more formal education on politics and current events in schools, including being able to freely discuss our opinions. The US Government and Social Issues classes are the best at meeting both of those, and highlight the importance of communicating between opinions,” Fleureton said.

How to Be Politically Active
Continued on
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Prom Pics

NEWS



A High Schooler in College?

NEWS

Johns Hopkins offers summer and during the school year internships for high school students.

Maggie Manis | Staff Writer

Are you interested in science? Or healthcare? Well, there is an internship for you. Johns Hopkins is a prestigious university, located in Baltimore. They are known for their medical, and biological research. Johns Hopkins also cares deeply about the involvement of interested teens near the school and they have several opportunities for current high school students. This includes biophysics, bilingual healthcare, brain science, academic research and health leadership.

The Biophysics Research for Baltimore Teens program runs through mid June to mid August, five days a week for six weeks. It is available for Baltimore City students who want research opportunities and hands-on experiences. It uses skills in biology, chemistry, physics and computer science to answer scientific questions about human genomes and studying on the molecular level. Real scientists use biophysics everyday to study diseases in genes, the effects of biofuels, and to study serious diseases like cancer or HIV.

Centro SOL Programa de Verano para Jóvenes (Centro SOL) Summer Scholars Program, this program focuses on promoting diversity in healthcare and scientific fields. Bilingual stu-

dents work with the JHU School of Medicine to help patients with limited english. It's a really inspiring program promoting a wonderful cause, it allows students to connect with the community in a new way.

The Johns Hopkins Internship in Brain Science Program: Project Pipeline Baltimore, this is an eight week summer program that runs for Baltimore area students to be exposed to neuroscience. They work to study HIV's effects on the brain and cognitive development as well as the central nervous system. They focus on various therapeutic ways to treat these conditions, while learning new information about the brain and the disease.

The Medical Education Resources Initiative for Teens Health Leadership Academy, is a program that specializes in bringing students of underrepresented backgrounds into the healthcare field. Students are taught by doctors and acclaimed educators. This is an all-year-round internship, students come to the school and are taught every Saturday at the university. Students participate in labs and learn physiology and anatomy.

The Summer Academic Research Experience works to expose exceptional high school students from generally



An image of Johns Hopkins campus, the location where all these internships take place, the campus is very pretty and is huge. Photo taken by Christopher Manis

low-income households, and gives them an opportunity to learn about biomedical research. Students who are at least below 200% of the federal poverty limit are given an environment to work and be creative, and a time to give back to the community.

The Aspire program at Johns Hopkins is a science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) study program designed to have high school juniors and seniors study and work in a stem career related internship. Students are allowed to study in one field that they apply for, biology, chemistry, computer-science, engineering, information technology and cybersecurity, mathematics and data analysis, physics, and planetary science. Students work in groups and with mentors, and build projects and conduct research. The intern-

ship can be in person or virtual; however, it is important to note that applying for these internships does not guarantee that you will be admitted. One of Severna Park High's own seniors, Max Dustin is in the aspire program! When asked if he enjoys the program he said:

"Yeah, I work on different projects, from the assignment that I picked, we do math and data analysis. It's fun, I get to work with different people. I would recommend it if you have the time for it."

Out of all the inspiring opportunities that the school offers, you're bound to find one you enjoy. Johns Hopkins University is encouraging future doctors and scientists, one teen at a time. There's something for everyone.

How to Be Politically Active Continued from Page 3

Another challenge of being politically active is staying informed. With so many sources constantly inundating us with misinformation, it's important to do your own research. "Social media is definitely a big factor, it's how I find out about a lot of events initially. Of course, I do my own research after that, whether it be news articles or books, and I try to talk with other people to help understand their perspective," Fleureton said.

Agnihotri lamented his use of social media: "I have a decent amount of friends now because of my internships in the government, as well as talking to people who are also politically active. A lot of it just comes down to staying up to date with social media, which is unfortunate because a lot of it is not true," Agnihotri said.

As we approach adulthood, we are made to accept more responsibility. Our choices have more influence on the world around us, so we have to get involved. "You can always be an asset to your community if you work hard enough to do it, so I really encourage you to look around about the stuff you really care about," Agnihotri said.

Sports Senior Night

SPORTS

Celebrating seniors in sports.

Emerson Scott | Sports Editor

The sports teams have become much more than just a household name. The Falcons have seen both sides of the script when it comes to sports, from heartbreaking endings to triumphant championships. None of this would be possible without the students that dedicate their time to their sport and work to perfection often for multiple seasons. That's why celebrating their high school sports journey is so important and why senior nights will always be a night to remember.

Senior night is an event in which the juniors and underclassmen athletes decorate the locker room, make posters, give out flowers, and overall just celebrate the seniors on their team. After the fun in the locker room is over, the seniors are paraded with their family, pictures are taken, and the game begins.

Senior night is an event that happens for all sports teams at Severna Park High School and since the majority of it is set up by the students, they aren't always the same from sport to sport. Making new and exciting memories throughout the wide varieties of sports. Students like senior Ryn Feemster who plays soccer, basketball and lacrosse, look back on senior night with a smile. When speaking about the event, Feemster said, "It's very important because you're celebrating what you've been through, how you have grown as a person and as a player on the field. I also think it's great because you are celebrating those who are older than you."

It is an amazing journey going from setting up and planning for senior night, to it then being for you. Feemster said, "It's

kind of sad, but it's bittersweet and it comes so quick." There are many seniors who could back up Feemster in this statement, as lots believe their high school career comes and goes too fast. The seniors lay the foundation for the next year, and work to maintain an environment that fosters competitive spirit and camaraderie.

On senior night, all the senior players get to participate in the game and play alongside fellow senior teammates. This final hoorah is what makes senior night so special and why it is such a major experience in many students' high school sports careers. Senior tennis and soccer player, Nora Farley said, "I am looking forward to the tennis senior night because my friend Nate and I get to play together so that will be super fun but it's also going to be super bittersweet because I don't want the season to end."

This is a perfect testament to how special it is to play with a senior classmate and it shows how far they have come and it is a great moment to let loose and have fun. The bittersweet side of the night is definitely an emotion shared amongst the seniors, the feeling of accomplishment alongside sadness is something that shouldn't be overlooked. Instead it should be something to be proud of, knowing that in order to miss it you must have really enjoyed it and appreciated it, because something can't be special if it lasts forever.

So many memories through the years are captured in posters and pictures, the athletes are able to reminisce and reflect on why they kept coming back. Also, for the senior players that haven't been playing



Severna Park girls soccer team's underclassmen set up the locker room for senior night. Decorations are being put up and all the girls are contributing to the perfection of the room. Sophomores Maria Bragg and Bella Mazzola hang up streamers with freshman Izzy Burlison. Photo by Emerson Scott

the sport every year, senior night is another special moment to add to their final year memories and the fun that they have had so far. Basketball and softball senior, Sally Trent said, "It comes by in a blink, this season went by way faster than I thought it would, the four years did too. It brings my high school sports journey full circle. I feel like I have been doing this for a long time now, so it coming to an end I think brings it full circle."

For senior athletes,

senior night is the perfect send off and moment of appreciation to the students whether or not they plan to further their sport in the future. Win or loss, senior night creates lasting memories that seniors can look back on when they have left high school and continue to make an impact on whatever they do next. Thank you seniors.

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| <h1>YEAR BOOK DISTRIBUTION</h1> <p>we ain't joking</p> <p>YEARBOOK WILL INCLUDE ALL SPRING EVENTS, SPORTS, PROM AND GRADUATION</p> | <p>MAY 20</p> <p>Every senior will receive yearbook signing pages and are invited to signing event after graduation practice in the CAFE.</p> | <p>AUG 01</p> <p>Senior distribution (class of 2024) will be from 10-12 PM outside CAFE. Bring an ID for pick up.</p> |
| | <p>MAY 20</p> <p>In advisory, every underclassmen who purchased a yearbook will receive signing pages for their yearbook. Only those who pre-purchased.</p> | <p>AUG 01</p> <p>Extra yearbooks will be sold to seniors only from 10-12 PM. Cash only.</p> |
| | <p>follow us @sphsemlers</p> | <p>SEPT 9</p> <p>All underclassmen can pick up their books during lunches. Bring an ID. If there are extra books, they will be sold during this week.</p> |
| | | |

The Teachers who Shaped Class of 2024

FEATURES

A reflection on some of the teachers who became mentors.

Anna Clark | Staff Writer

As the senior class prepares to part ways with Severna Park high school and take off on new journeys, many students are sad to say goodbye to their favorite teachers. This comes with good reasoning seeing as though the teachers have played a large role in shaping each student that walks through these doors. Oftentimes students find one or more teachers that they consider much more than just their educator. They are friends, mentors, and provide a great deal of support for each student. High school can be a challenging time, and certainly there are going to be bad days. The ability for a student to go and speak with a teacher who will have open and honest conversations is vital for their successes.

She taught me to use my resources and that teachers were there to help us succeed," Angel Santiago-Cruz said, regarding Mrs. Sasse, his favorite teacher at SPHS.

"She really cares about her students and is your friend" which is a trait that allowed students to be comfortable speaking with her and trusting her guidance on school and life said Santiago-Cruz.

Amanda Giebles favorite teacher is Mrs. Miller who is another one of the lovely math teachers of SPHS. Giebles explains that to her Mrs. Miller has been "Impactful in my life because she is always there to help me and give me advice no matter what the situation is" she also adds that she has learned both "math and life les-

sons from her that I will use for the rest of my life." To any future students of Mrs. Miller, Giebles specifically warns you to "pay close attention to factoring lessons" and remember, as Mrs. Miller likes to say "life is choices."

Bella Zorc highlighted Mrs. Doucette as her favorite teacher at SPHS. Mrs. Doucette is once again part of math department. Zorc mentioned her appreciation for her "realness" and admired her "great advice on getting things done on time and with good effort." Zorc also brought up that "Mrs. Doucette treats you like an adult which really helps her students grow as individuals, I am really going to miss her class but I know I'm ready to go for next year."



Senior, Bella Zorc and SPHS staff member pictured together. Photo by Anna Clark

The teachers dedication, not only to teaching students the curriculum but also to being friends and mentors to students, has left a lasting impact on the class of 2024. Goodbyes are bittersweet, but the influence of each and every teacher in the building will continue to shape the lives of their students long after they leave the halls of Severna Park High School.

Unlocking Opportunities

A look into the ROTC scholarship program.

Samantha Polk | Social Media Editor

In the pursuit of a career in the military, individuals often face the pivotal decision between attending a service academy or opting for the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program at a civilian college or university. This decision can shape not only their academic journey but also their overall experience of military training and personal growth.

For Chip Fitzgerald, a high school senior, navigating this choice was driven by the desire for multifaceted experiences. When asked why he chose the college route instead of the academy, Fitzgerald emphasized the wealth of opportunities afforded by the ROTC program. He stated, "I'm going the college route for ROTC because it offers me more opportunities." By opting for ROTC at a state college, Fitzgerald aimed to immerse himself in the vibrant tapestry of college life while simultaneously receiving the invaluable training and mentorship necessary to excel as a military officer.

Fitzgerald highlighted the

flexibility and breadth of experiences available through the ROTC scholarship program. "Going to a state college instead of the academy allows me to really experience college life while still getting the benefits of being conditioned as an officer to the military." He explained the ROTC scholarship program not only provides financial assistance but also opens doors to a diverse array of academic pursuits and extracurricular activities. Enriching the college experience.

Interestingly, Fitzgerald's journey into ROTC was initially fueled by family ties and the allure of a reliable backup plan. Reflecting on his decision to join ROTC, he shared, "It was a really good backup, it's something that my family has done before and my grandpa did it at Southern Mississippi." For Fitzgerald, ROTC initially served as a contingency option, a path familiar to his family lineage. However, what began as a fallback plan blossomed into a genuine passion as he discovered the array of opportunities and fulfillment

inherent in the ROTC program.

Fitzgerald's story shows the power of a choice and the capacity of the ROTC program to shape not only careers but also aspirations and identities. By electing the college route with ROTC, Fitzgerald shows how you can harmonize academic exploration with the rigors of military training, forging a path based on resilience and opportunity.

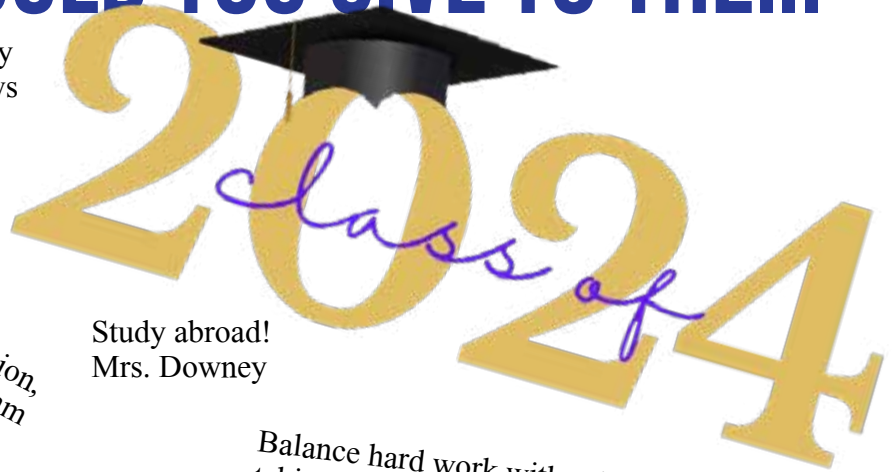
The decision to choose ROTC over the academy is not merely a matter of logistics but a strategic choice rooted in the pursuit of growth and fulfillment. Through the lens of Fitzgerald's journey, it becomes evident that the ROTC path represents not just a route to military service but a gateway to a transformative collegiate experience infused with purpose and possibility.



Teacher Advice

FEATURES

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THE...



Find your passion, and try to find a career that allows you to pursue it.
Ms. Angi Sasse

Study abroad!
Mrs. Downey

Balance hard work with self-care, because taking care of your well-being is essential for success.
Mrs. Annie Houghton

Travel early and often!
Mrs. Bak

Be resilient . Each time you encounter an obstacle, it makes you stronger. Don't look back, keep moving forward.
Madame Auchincloss

Take risks! Take a year off, follow your passion, study abroad, travel the world, go for your dream job. You only have one life and you don't want to look back on it with regrets. Oh, no... was my advice basically YOLO?! Ha!
Mrs. Poole

Don't stop! Never stop reaching higher, never stop going forward, never stop learning more.
Mrs. Williams

I would give the advice to the class of 2024 to remember that they each have their own path with their own timeline. What you set out to do is not always what comes your way, but make sure you make the best of it and look for the good you can do and be despite your path not always being what you planned for it to be. Also, just love people!
Maria Buhler

Don't be afraid to go outside your comfort zone. You are not who you were 9th grade year, now is the time to try new hats on of who you want to be as a person.
Miss Chelsea Singer

GO and DO and TRY and EXPERIENCE! There is a WHOLE BIG HUGE world out there!!
Kelley Halloran Cotton

Always be kind and assume the best intent in those around you!
Mrs. Staisloff

Life is not always easy, school is not always easy. There will be stressful moments and times where you are unhappy. YOU have the ability to make the change and make the difference. You can surround yourself with friends and people that will pick you up instead of put you down. Do what is best for you and your goals. Be respectful and kind all while achieving what you feel is success.
Mrs. Taylor

There's always another day, another chance to do it differently, do it better, do something completely different. Don't dwell on your mistakes, learn from them, move on, and become a better version of what you are today. Your final path may not be the path you envisioned today, but it is yours, where you end up requires work and flexibility.
Mrs. Cosh

Always trust your gut, never be afraid to speak up, and hold your head up high.
Ms. McGrath

Don't settle. Do what you love and love what you do...and it will never feel like work.
Sra. Alcombright

Never stop learning and never stop trying to learn.
Mr. Bernstein

Live a life that you are proud of. At the end of the day, you look yourself in the mirror and you have to decide if you're happy with who you were that day. If you are, sleep tight, If you aren't, wake up the next day and change something.
Mrs. Grace Miller

Seniors Opting for Trade School

FEATURES

Breaking traditions, seniors forge new paths in trade school pursuits. How CAT-South prepared them for it.

Natalie Clayton | Staff Writer

In an era marked by shifting perspectives on education and career paths, an increasing number of high school seniors are forging a unique route post-graduation by opting for trade school over traditional higher education avenues. Not everyone's post-graduation plans look the same, as each senior has different career aspirations and goals. Trades often provide a more direct pathway to employment, with many industries experiencing high demand for skilled workers. This can lead to quicker entry into the workforce and potentially higher starting salaries compared to some traditional degree programs. Additionally, trades offer hands-on training that equips individuals with immediately applicable skills. While gathering a consensus on fellow SPSHS Seniors post-graduation options they spoke on their thoughts regarding trade school. "It's certainly an excellent option...I would have considered it if I hadn't already known what I wanted to do" senior Kegan Clifford said.

At Severna Park High School students are given the option to travel off campus to go to CAT-South(Center of Applied Trades). "High school students can attend the Center of Applied Technology South (CAT South) as part of their regular daily schedule." CAT South provides students who are interested in exploring a trade the opportunity to experience real work environments while they are still in school. Some of the trades that are offered include Arts, Media, Communication, Construction, Hospitality, Health and tech-

nology. Underneath these categories there are more specialized fields where students are offered options to get experience in specific areas of certain career fields. The CAT South website claims, "Completion of any of the 14 programs at the Center provides students with a combination of technical and academic expertise that can be utilized in a variety of ways." When speaking to students who got to experience hands-on work at CAT South in their chosen trade, there was a collective consensus that it is undoubtedly a great experience that is beneficial to anyone hoping to have a career in a trade.

"What you learn is definitely going to prepare you for getting a job in that specific field. Plus if you change your interest and still want to go to college, the skills you learn will help you get other jobs too," senior Andy Ligterink, who pursued IT networking, said. While Ligterink will not be further pursuing this trade after graduation, when reflecting on his experience he claims "I still appreciate the things I learned."

Some students who attend CAT South are going to continue their trade they learned after high school proving it to be a great opportunity for students to get a head start in a trade they would like to pursue. When speaking to senior Thomas Kosloski who attended the Marine Service Technology program at CAT-South, he similarly spoke highly of his experience, "I believe it's an amazing opportunity for students to experience a working environment and to learn a trade is useful in today's society." When asked about his plans



post-graduation, Kosloski claimed that he would be continuing to pursue this trade, "I am working on further pursuing a job in the marine industry and further learning more about the marine trade and maritime industries." Although trades might not be a popular route to take, it is definitely an overlooked and advantageous path to

At CAT South students are able to get hands-on experience in their chosen trade. Here Thomas Kosloski is in work gear as he said they were "getting ready to paint." Photo taken by Tristan Alcott

How to Take Senior Photos This Spring

FEATURES

Are you a senior looking to take amazing graduation photos? Here's our top tricks and hacks.

Lilith Vice | Staff Writer



Photographer Jennifer Poist takes senior photos of Madelynne Earhart in the fall of 2023 at the Baltimore Museum of Art. Madison McCaffrey poses with her regalia and 4H jacket at Ft. Smallwood Park in the spring of 2024. Photos by Jennifer Poist and Valerie Earhart

Spring is coming and so is graduation. This time of year seniors are usually scrambling to figure out their graduation and what colleges they should apply to, and of course everyone's mom is going to want cap and gown pictures. Speaking with a few seniors from the school and the school's photography teacher Mrs. Fornadel, they put together some good tips on how to take decently good photos for graduation.

One of the first topics she brought up was incorporating the sun in your pictures. While sometimes this can make your photos have weird lighting, it adds some flair to your image and can help add to the spring look. She also heavily stressed the importance of grids. "Putting a grid on your camera can help you center the focus point of your image and even out the background to help compliment the person in the photo," Fornadel said. She also brought up how nature and flowers can add a good vibe to your photos. "You want to add botanicals that match the season, you don't want tulips in winter. Some good flowers I would use in spring photos are sunflowers, tulips, daffodils, lavender and such. You want pastel colors, lots of light yellows, purples, and pinks, things like that," Fornadel said.

While talking about some of these seemingly simple things, she elaborated on the importance of knowing your camera and how to work it. For example if you want a picture on-stage, she suggests using a telephoto lens. These were made specifically to capture photos of people from far away, using the grid too can also help you center where you want the person to be in the photo and add perspective.

Aperture also can play an important role in your photo. "The larger your aperture, the blurrier your background foreground will be. Meaning you can focus on one subject in a crowd. I suggest a large aperture like f/1.8 for a photo with lots going on in the background," Fornadel said. Another important tip she wanted to include was to take a picture of the venue before going to see what the lighting and background may look like when taking the real pictures, you can also use this to help create a good filter that works with the lighting of the venue.

Though Mrs. Fornadel makes it look easy, some students haven't had the best experience with their graduation photos. "For basketball our coach hired us a professional photographer to help us take pictures of our senior players but I just didn't like the way they turned out and I think if we had done them ourselves we could have done a much better job," senior Liam Cleary said. Given that all of us are quite obviously on a budget, being able to take your own photos can save time and money, and given that there are resources to take better photos are available to students for free, it seems like something more students should take advantage of. It is quite sad to see so many of our seniors leaving, (not sad for them of course) but the school has worked for years to prepare them and we wish the best to all of our seniors flying the coop this June. As always, have a great summer.

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MRS. FORNADEL'S TIPS

- 1 Engaging in your background, making yourself seem busy in a photo is good. You never want to look directly into the camera in a full body picture.
- 2 Incorporate nature, think about the color schemes and what colors would express what your photos are trying to express. In a picture with falling leaves I suggest a larger aperture because it can make the photo look hectic and helps make you the center point.
- 3 In half body photos or from chest up looking at the side or off to the distance can help add depth to your portrait.
- 4 Use a grid in photos chest up. If you're close, keep to a certain side of the frame. The further back you go the better you can center yourself in your photo.

IMANI ABDOLAH I BREN DAN ABELL FINN ACKERMAN AMELIA ADAMS SHUBH AGNIHOTR
EMME-CLAIRE ALVARADO CHARLOTTE ANDERSON QUENTIN ANGELO SARA ANTINUCCI SA
LINE BALL CHRISTINA BALLAGH LIAM BAST JUSTIN BATE SOFLA BATTITORI CHARLEY BAUF
MIN JAMES BENT WILLIAM BESSLING COLTEN BILLINGS JULIA BLACKMONELLEN BLAINNO
CAITLYN BOUCHER BROOKE BOWERMAN KEVIN BOWLES ERIN BRADLEY COLE BRAKENA
BRAYDEN BUCKLEY JOE BUCKLEY EVAN CAMPBELL LAUREN CAI
BETH CARR RACHAEL CARR ANTHONY CHANG
ERIC CHU JEFFREY CLIFFORD
KEEGAN CLIFFORD
COVER KAELE CRAIG
CUTAIR TYLER D
JORDAN DOUGL
JACK EVANS KA
NOAH FERNAN
DO-BROWN JO
GLOEKLER CA
ELIZABETH C
HEDENSTAD J
WEGABRIELLA
ISENBERGJESSI
KELLY JOSEPH
KOSLOSKI SARA
LAWHORN BRETT
THICUM HUNTER
ONS MORGAN MAC
MCCONNELL VERONIC
MILLS GRACE MIN PARKER
NAH NKOLE SARAH NKOL
OWEN SYDNEY OWENS GARY
JOSEPH PINEDA-VASQUEZ ANDREW
WEST EVAN REASER HUNTER REED JOH
ROEGER REBEKAH ROHMANN ASHLEY ROU
ROZAL AUDREY RUBENSTEIN KALEI
ALL SCALLEY ALLISON SCHIAVONE
GABRIEL SLATER AIDAN SMITH A
KADEN SPIEGL-JOHNSON LILY STAF
NATHANAEL STROUD MADELI
TESTERMAN DARYL THOMAS GA
LER SOPHIA URREA WILLIAM UT
GAS JULIA VINCENT CHARLES WA
WEEMS ETHAN WESTER LUKE W
STON CALVIN WINSHIP KAYLEE WINTERS MAYA WOLFE
LAN ZYVOLOSKI IMANI ABDOLAH I BREN DAN ABELL FINN ACKERMAN AMELIA ADAMS SH
ODOVAR-VIVES EMME-CLAIRE ALVARADO CHARLOTTE ANDERSON QUENTIN ANGELO SA
LAN BAILEY JACQUELINE BALL CHRISTINA BALLAGH LIAM BAST JUSTIN BATE SOFLA BAT
CHRISTOPHER BENJAMIN JAMES BENT WILLIAM BESSLING COLTEN BILLINGS JULIA BLACKM
BOARD CASEY BOOTH CAITLYN BOUCHER BROOKE BOWERMAN KEVIN BOWLES ERIN BRADI



Graphics by Mia Tocco and Ruby Howland

Senior Destinations



ALABAMA

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Charley Bauer
Brady Fox
Patrick Koistinen



CALIFORNIA

HENRY MUDD COLLEGE

Lucas Giraldo



CONNECTICUT

US COAST GUARD ACADEMY

Nolan Grizzle
Kayden Smith



DELAWARE

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Logan Clevenger
Amanda Giebels
Quinn Owen
Ava Weems

WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY

Allison Schiavone



FLORIDA

FLAGLER COLLEGE

Jasmine Hoban

FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

Price Conner

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Brandon Tenenbaum

UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

Lizzie Groseclose
Aiden Hill



GEORGIA

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Lorenz Rozal

SCAD

Sara Antinucci



KENTUCKY

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Carter Crivella
Abby Crowley
Audrey Denton



MARYLAND

ANNE ARUNDEL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rachael Casper
Matthew Dove
Aubrey Lautenschlager
Mason Regan
Morgan Rick
Grace Seabolt
Trevor Starks
Mady Washburn

FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Ro Neary

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

Anna Reilly

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

Chloe Crawford
Abigail Gloekler
Riley Panuska
Jordan Shriner
Vallie Woolsey
Ryan Zachry

ST. JOHN'S

Jeremy Richter

STEVENSON UNIVERSITY

Brendan Vaught
Alexander Villegas

TOWSON UNIVERSITY

Bryce Cinelli
Isabel Fay
Ryan Graves
Santana Hawk
Emma Hermann
Hunter Reed
Ella C O'Brien

UNIVERSITY OF MD, BALTIMORE COUNTY

Samantha Chavez
Gabriella Howe
Alex Merryman
Ian Zyvolski

UNIVERSITY OF MD, COLLEGE PARK

Shubh Agnihotri
Liam Cooney
Max Dustin
Jack Evans
Spencer Feldmann
Jude Lascola
Derrick Liu
Vincent Liu
Dillon McConnell
Kelly Moy
Galen Richardson
Gabby Rosati
Ben Philip
Luke Whitlock



MICHIGAN

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Jose Silva



NEVADA

WORK

JJ Cameron



NEW JERSEY

STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Samira Ibrahim

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Vivian Lee



NEW YORK

CANISIUS UNIVERSITY

Perry Stevenson

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Andy Glesmann
Eleni Puzas
Upton Young

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

Hannah Nkole
Sarah Nkole

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Nora Farley

UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Andrew Campbell
Brett Layne



NORTH CAROLINA
CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY
 Caitlyn Boucher



OHIO
MIAMI UNIVERSITY
 Markella Gatanas
 Owen Temple
 Sam Testerman



PENNSYLVANIA
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE
 Kate Evans
JUNIATA COLLEGE
 Samuel Elder
LAFAYETTE COLLEGE
 Paige Miller
 Bella Webster
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY
 Kaitlyn Miller
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY
 Christian Beisler
 Charles Fitzgerald
 Michael Fallon
 Thomas Fallon
 Sean Williams

TEMPLE
 Athena Vangraefschepe

THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY
 Kendall Scalley

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
 Eric Lin

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
 Michaela Lilly



SOUTH CAROLINA
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
 Ryan Crowley
COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
 Brooke Bowerman
 Isabel Taylor
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
 Taylor Denton
 Avery Landis
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, BEAUFORT
 Kasey Thompson
WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
 Sarah Rowland



TENNESSEE
RHODES COLLEGE
 Berit Isenberg
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
 Samuel Gillespie
 Brady Jones



TEXAS
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AUSTIN
 Julia Blackmon



VERMONT
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
 Tadhg Cronin
 Vanessa Hammel
 Sophie Merz



VIRGINIA
CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY
 Darby Shrout
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
 Patrick Smith
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY
 Sam Salas,
LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
 Josh O'Donnell
LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY
 Madison Davis
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
 Kiran Spencer
VIRGINIA TECH
 Isaac Miller
 Kaylee Winters



WEST VIRGINIA
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
 Alejandro Almodovar-Vives
 Nora Bodkin



WISCONSIN
LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
 Audrey Rubenstein
MADISON COLLEGE
 Jack Sticka

MILITARY
ARMY
 Owen Dinsmore

WORK
 Lucas Cropper
 Logan Humphries



ENGLAND
GEORGIA TECH
 Henry Carlson



GERMANY
GAP YEAR
 Claire Gray
 Mia Tocco



IRELAND
TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN
 Allyssa Chase



JAPAN
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, KYOTO
 Noel Castillo

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Senior Shout Outs

OLLIE ALCOMBRIGHT:

From a very young age you have always had a strong and independent spirit. We are so proud of what you have accomplished and we cannot wait to support you in the next stage of your journey. We love you!
Mom, Dad and Gunner

TRISTAN ALCOTT:

Congratulations, Tristan! Time to take over the world!
Love, Mom

ALEJANDRO ALMODOVAR-VIVES:

All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them. Never change, you are amazing and we are so proud of you.
Mami, Papi, Abi & Laura

JULIA BLACKMON:

Julia, congratulations on your graduation! We're so excited for your future and can't wait to watch you soar! We love you very much. Hook 'em!
Mom, Dad, & Claire

NORA BODKIN:

CONGRATULATIONS to our brave, kind, amazing LION-ESS! We are so proud of you!! Keep being you, only the way that you can. Let them hear you ROAR!!!
Mom, Dad, Aron and Taffy

KEVIN BOWLES:

We are so proud of you!! Congratulations, you are now a TERP!! Stay Fearless!!
Love: Mom, Dad and Michael

CAMI CARR:

It's been a fun journey with you here in SP! Starting at the Wee Center to SPSHS - including cheerleading, plays, guitar, Oneka, and sports! I can't wait for your adventures ahead!
Love Mom

NOEL CASTILLO:

Noel, I am so proud of you, your accomplishments and the fine young man you have become. I have no doubt that the goals you have set to accomplish will be achieved in an exemplary and dedicated manner. Remember, the sky is the limit!
Love Mom!

BRYCE CINELLI:

Congratulations, We are so proud of you. As you take the next step, work hard, dream big, believe in yourself and put your faith in God! We love you!
Mom, Dad and Chace

KEEGAN CLIFFORD:

Keegan, you are a FORCE and your future is so bright. Dream big and have some fun along the way. I am so proud!
Love, MOM (and the rest of your family:)

LIAM COONEY:

Congratulations! We're so proud of the amazing courage and love you demonstrate every day. Keep doing incredible things! We love you so.
Dad, Mom, Michael, James, Claire, Ella, and Luna

NOAH COVER:

Noah, we are so proud of all that you have accomplished. Can't wait to watch you follow your dreams. With love always.
Mom, Dad, Abby and Emma

CARTER CRIVELLA:

Carter, We are so proud of you and all you've done at Severna Park! We can't wait to see what the future holds and all that you accomplish at Kentucky! Go Wildcats!
Dad, Mom, Sophia, & Claire

TADHG CRONIN:

We are so proud of all you have accomplished! We are so excited for you next chapter at University of Vermont!
Love, Mom and Dad

AUDREY AND TAYLOR DENTON:

We are so proud of both of you! Enjoy the great times and embrace the challenges. Behind you all your memories, ahead of you all the dreams!
Love, Dad, Mom, Collin and Minnie

MATTHEW DOVE:

Matthew, we are so proud of your graduation and cannot wait to see what the future holds for you. We love you and will always be there for you.
Dad, Mom and Julia

MAX DUSTIN:

You continue to amaze us Max, from the day you were born. We are so proud of you, and couldn't love you more. Keep chasing your dreams, and being true to yourself. Love you to the moon and back.
The Max Dustin Fan Club

SAMUEL ELDER: We're very proud of you! "As soon as I saw you I knew a grand adventure was about to happen." (-Milne)

Love: Dad, Mom, Evie and Ellie

NORA FARLEY:

Congratulations NoJo! You are going to do so many amazing things! We are so very proud of the intelligent, independent woman you've become. We love you so much! Go 'Cuse!
Mom, Dad, Claire, Louie, Sybs and Rocket

ISABEL FAY:

SO PROUD OF YOU ISABEL!! WE LOVE YOU!
DAD, MOM, EMILY AND LILY

EMILY FAY:

EMILY YOU ROCK! WE KNOW YOUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT AND WE LOVE YOU!
DAD, MOM, ISABEL AND LILY

SPENCER FELDMANN:

The end is finally in sight but it is really just the beginning! We are so proud of all you have accomplished but most importantly, the kind person you are growing into. Best of luck at UMD College Park!
Mom, Dad & big sister Lucy

BRADY FOX:

Congratulations, son! What a ride it's been getting 4 young men graduated from SPSHS! What a gift it's been to us to watch you all grow into your own. Love you and your brothers so much.
Mom and Dad

AMANDA GIEBELS:

Amanda, thanks for being such an all around great kid and for making life fun. We will miss you in the roost but we hope you enjoy being a Blue Hen, cluck cluck!
Love, Mom and Dad

ANDY GLESMANN:

Congratulations on your accomplishments in high school! We are so proud of you and wish you the best at Cornell University! Your future is bright
Mom, Dad & Natalie

RYAN GRAVES:

We are all so proud of you and can't wait to see what the future holds! Congratulations and best of luck next year!
Dad, Mom, Regan, Josh, Brad & Abby

CLAIRE GRAY:

Congratulations Claire!! We can't wait to see what adventures like ahead for you in Germany and at Champlain! Lot of love.

Mom & Tommy

VANESSA HAMMEL:

Congrats on your SPSHS and AACC graduations! Looking forward to seeing you thrive at UVM next year.
Mom

PIERCE HANLON:

Congratulations, Pierce! We are so proud of you. Your intellectual curiosity, high empathy for others, and creativity will continue to serve you well on your next journey!
Love, Your Biggest Fans (M, D and Jax)

EMMA HERMANN:

We are so proud of your consistent hard work that is culminating in graduation! The best is yet to come, even better than Tiny Tigers! Jeremiah 29:11 We love you!
Dad, Mom, Olivia and Cocoa

SAMIRA IBRAHIM:

Samira, we are so proud of all you have accomplished. You have worked hard. We are honored and proud to be your grandparents We know your future will be bright.
Mama Samia and Baba Youssi

SAMIRA IBRAHIM:

Samira, we are so proud of you. We know you will make us proud at Stevens.
Love, Mama and Baba

BRADY JONES:

We are so proud of everything you've accomplished at SPSHS and know you'll do great things at University of Tennessee! We love you!
Mom, Dad, Logan, Taylor & Kooper

BENJAMIN KAUP:

Wow - what a year! We are so amazed at your determination and growth this year! Love you!
Mom and Dad

SARAH KELLY:

Congratulations! We are so proud of you and all of your accomplishments. You will do great things in the fall at Maryland - Go TERPS! We love you!
Love, Mom, Dad and Andrew

BECCA KNOX:

Beccaroo - We love you and are so proud of the young woman you have become. We hope you have a lifetime of love, health and friendship.
Mom, Dad, Shaina, Zach, Tyler, Rocket & Binx

JUDE LASCOLA:

We love you Jude! Good job doing the requirements to graduate high school!
Mom, Dad & Penny

AUBREY LAUTENSCHLAGER:

You are one of the highlights of our lives. You fill our world with color, that no amount of bleach can take away.
Love you lots.

ALEX LAUTENSCHLAGER:

We are proud of your production called life. Your resolution and audio is crystal clear; no editing needed. Love you lots!

BRETT LAYNE:

Congrats on graduation and for receiving an appointment to USMMA! We can't wait to see what the future holds for you! You make us all so proud!
Mom, Dad, Braden, Mama, GDad, Uncle B and Aunt Gina

ANDY LIGTERINK:

Andy Ligterink, you did it!! Congratulations. We are very proud of you.
Love Dad, Mom and Tim

MICHAELA LILLY:

Congratulations Michaela, we are so proud you and all of your accomplishments. We are excited to see where college takes you! GO RAMS!
Mom, Dad, and Maddie

GIOVANNI LIMA:

To my son, G\$ I closed my eyes for a moment and a man stood where a boy use to be. I may no longer carry you in my arms but always in my heart. You have given me so many reasons to be proud of the man you have become. But the proudest moment for me is telling others you are my son. We love you now and forever.
Congratulations! Mami & Lorenzo Lima

HUNTER LISTMAN:

Congratulations, You did it!! You've done great. Be proud of yourself. Proud of you, all the best to you. Your future awaits!!

Mom, Dad, Sophia, Kurt, Kaleena, Kurt, Gunnir, Max, Karris, Barret

DERRICK LIU:

Congratulations Hodek! We are incredibly proud of you. Your dedication and hard work have paid off. Always stay curious. Best wishes for a bright and successful future!
Love, Mon, Dad and Casey (^o^)

JEREMY LOPEZ:

Dear Jeremy we are so happy for this moment in your life, which is only the halfway point of your achievements the best is yet to come, and we are incredibly proud of everything you are and have accomplished. May God bless your future from here and out, and may you achieve all your goals with love Dad, Mom Grace, and orbit

JONATHON (TACO) MAZZOLA:

We are so proud of you and excited to see what that the future holds! Love you and dream big.
Mom, Dad, Bella and Charlotte

DILLON MCCONNELL:

Love you Dillon!
Conlan, Grady, Quinny, Dad, & Mom

RONNIE MCINTYRE:

Ronnie, our favorite graduation speaker quoted Gandhi, "Be the change you wish to see in the world". You knew who you were then and you still do today. Go out there and make it happen!
Love Mom, Dad, Brendan & Aidan

ALEX MERRYMAN:

We are so proud of all you have accomplished and look forward to seeing where your skills take you!
Dad, Mom, Leah & Skittles

SOPHIA MERZ:

We are so proud of you Soph! You are amazing and you're going to make a tremendous impact in your future endeavors! We love you so much! Here's to new adventures!
Dad, Mom, Sina, Greyson, AJ, Carson, Mac

ISAAC MILLER:

We are so proud you and excited to see what you do with your future. We have no doubt you'll do amazing things!
We love you!

Daddy, Mommy, Abigail, & Elijah

ISAAC MILLER:

Isaac, we are so very proud of you and love you so much! I look forward to your success in life! With love,
Mama & Granddaddy

ISAAC MILLER:

Congratulations! You're a great kid and wonderful grandson! I know you'll be successful! Love,
Baba

REBECCA (RO) NEARY:

We are so proud of you, Becky! Can't wait to see how you change this world! We're so glad that you're our daughter/sister.

Love, All of us at Team Friendship Heart

JAMES O'CONNOR:

We are so proud of you. We can't wait to see what this next chapter brings. The sky's the limit.
Dad, Mom and Erin

GARY PAGAN:

Gary Pagan- Congratulations! Remember to take risks, but be responsible! We know you will do great things.
Love Mom and Dad.

BEN PHILIP:

Congrats, Ben! We are so proud of all of your hard work and dedication. Set your sights high, because with your work ethic and determination, anything is possible! We will always be here for you.

We Love You So Much, Mom, Dad & Zoe

HUNTER REED:

Hunter Reed we want you to know how much we admire you. You're a hard worker and a loyal friend. Never change. Good luck at Towson.
Love Mom and Dad.

MASON REGAN:

We are VERY proud of all your accomplishments, despite the challenges you have faced. You are a kind and hardworking young man who will do great things in life!
Love, Mom, Dad, Kirsten, Dominic, and Ollie

GALEN RICHARDSON:

Congratulations! The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. Keep being you! We're so proud of you and can't wait to see what you accomplish next! GO TERPS!
Mom, Dad, Celia, Ginger, Nino

SAMUEL SALAS:

Congratulations! You are just getting started! We are so proud of you and look forward to your next chapter!
Mom, Dad and Charlie

JULIA SHARPE:

We can't wait to see what good things you do! So proud of you!
Mom & Dad

MATTHEW SMITH:

Congratulations Matthew! We love you and are so very proud of you. Keep on smiling!
Mom, Dad, Caroline, Sarah, & Mickie

MATTHEW SMITH:

Matthew, We are so very proud of you for so many reasons. Congratulations! Enjoy the next chapter. We know you will. Love you!

Mom, Dad, Caroline, Sarah, & Mickie

KAYDEN SMITH:

Dearest Kayden. All of your hard work is paying off and we're so very proud of you and your accomplishments. We're excited to watch you achieve your dreams. Go Bears!

Love, Mom, Dad & Carrington

KIRAN SPENCER:

We are so proud of you and super excited for all that you will do in the future.

Mom, Dad, Meghal & Biscuit

KADEN SPIEGL-JOHNSON:

Congratulations Kaden! We are so proud of you and can't wait to see you progress in your next chapter of life!

Love, Mom, Zach, Grandma and Grandpa

TREVOR STARKS:

Congratulations! We are so proud of you and can't wait to see all that you accomplish in the future. Stay Classy!

Mom, Dad, Colton, & Conner

PERRY STEVENSON:

Congratulations, Perry! We're so proud of you! We look forward to this next part of your journey. We can't wait to see all the amazing things you do in life!

With love from Mom, Dad, Bryce, and Rusty

IZZIE TELLO:

Congrats Izzie! We are so proud of all you have accomplished. Looking forward to what your future holds at Lynchburg.

Love, Mom, Dad, Arybelle & Family

OWEN TEMPLE:

We are so proud of your accomplishments! We are looking forward to your next four years at Miami University!

Mom, Dad, Conor, and Cassie

BRANDON TENENBAUM:

Brandon - Congrats on Graduating from SPHS this year 2024! Wishing you tremendous success next year as a Florida Gator in Gainesville!

Todd, Mary & Jack

BRANDON TENENBAUM:

Brandon, Congratulations on graduating from SPHS! We are so proud you and excited for your next chapter at University of Florida in Gainesville!

Love Mom, Dad and Jack

KASEY THOMPSON:

We are so proud of you and all of your hard work We are excited for your next adventure!

Love, Mom, Dad and Lizzy

MIA TOCCO:

Congratulations on your graduation! Proud of you and your adventurous spirit. Enjoy your year in Germany. Can't wait to see what your future holds.

<3 Mom, Dad, Sofie, Ben & Ollie

SALLY TRENT:

We love you and we are so proud of you. We will miss you Smiley!

Love, Mom and Dad

BRENDAN VAUGHT:

We are proud beyond words of your success at SPHS. We know you will kill your next years as a Mustang. We love you tons!

Mom, Dad, Brooke and Bradley

TRISHA WALLACE:

Trisha, we are so proud of you and love you tremendously! We can't wait to see what this next journey brings for you.

Love, Mom, Eric, Haley, Joanna and Abigail

LUKE WHITLOCK:

Super proud of all that you've accomplished at SPHS. We'll miss you next year-- University of Maryland is where you are meant to be. Let's go Terps!

Mother, Father, Jake, Abbey & Tom

SYDNEY WILSON-JOHNSON:

HIS word is a lamp to your feet and a light to your path... enjoy the journey!

Love Mom

UPTON YOUNG:

Upton, as a wise man once said: "Keep going. Grind for what you want. Pray. Listen to your mama." GUNNA

Mom and Dad

SARA ANTINUCCI:

Dear Sara, Sarabaraaa, Nucci! We are so proud of you and can't wait for you to start a new adventure at SCAD! Keep up the awesome!

Love, Mom and Dad, Molly, Joey and Domenic!

AVERY LANDIS:

Way to go Avery!!

Love - Mom, Dad, Stevie & Elvis

GABBY ROSATI:

Don't look back, you are not going that way! Sky is the limit. Proud of all your hard work in and out of classroom!

Xo Mom

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THE...

2024

class of

Don't get so focused on getting to the next step in life that you forget to enjoy the step you're on.

Mrs. Jennifer Mermod

Say please and thank you. Respond to emails, texts, and messages in a timely manner. The little things matter and will go a long way with everyone in your big picture.

Mr. Connolly

Stay the course. When thwarted, try again, harder, smarter. Don't EVER give up. Persevere relentlessly.

Mr. Gorrick

Where there is a will there is a way! If you start something, be responsible for finishing it.

Mr. Kilby

The journey is the reward.
Mr. Phillips

Where there is a will there is a way! If you start something, be responsible for finishing it.

Ms. Witting

Stay true to yourself and do not compromise your beliefs.
Lisa Nichols

If you know better, do better.
Mrs. Marks

What Would You Say

FEATURES

Seniors reflect on their high school years.

Elsa Webster | Opinions Editor

Seniors are getting ready to graduate in June and end their time in high school. With them spending four years at high school, there is a lot to reflect on.

"I would say, don't procrastinate. Procrastinating really catches up with you and then, in the long run, it doesn't help you. Set up good studying methods. Yeah, don't procrastinate," senior Gabriella Howe said.

Different seniors have different things they would wish to tell their freshman selves. Though most center around school.

"Don't get caught up in the Severna Park mentality that you have to be in 55 AP classes and do all the clubs because I didn't and I still got into college so, you'll be fine even if you don't do every single thing there is to do," senior Ellen Blaine said.

Some would tell their younger selves to stop worrying about getting perfect grades in school.

"Stop breaking your back getting straight As probably," senior Jessie Jacobs said.

While others would tell their younger selves to put more of a focus on schoolwork and tests.

"I would say, just focus on your school and just study. I think I would say that," senior Liam Bast said.

Regardless of what they would tell their freshman selves if they were given the chance, most wouldn't change much about their experience in high school.

"No. I think everything happens for a reason. I wouldn't change anything," Howe said.

Some wouldn't make any changes because of an overall enjoyment of

their time at Severna Park High School.

"No, I don't think I would. I think I enjoy what I've done so far and I think I would do it again if I could," Bast said.

Though there are those that would have changed some things about their time at high school, specifically their senior year, if they could.

"I'd probably take more classes my senior year and just be more engaged in general throughout my time here," Jacobs said.

While there are things that they would keep the same, there are some things that the seniors wish they would have known prior to high school and their senior year.

"I wish I would have talked to my counselors more and actually use[d] the resources that we have here at school because we have a lot of good resources like Mrs. Jackson, she's great for college and career," Howe said.

Others wished they knew more about the social aspect of high school and how to manage having a social life and assignments.

"It's important to make time, not only for your friends, but for school and sort of balance them out and have a good mix in-between," Bast said.

For some, it is less of a balance and more of a general focus on social life.

"It's kind of what you make of it, in classes and with friends, and socially and everything like

that. You gotta put yourself out there," Jacobs said.

What they would have wished to know also applies to more than classes and people's social lives, but their time at the school in general.

"I don't know. It gets better from freshman year, I guess," Blaine said.

In addition to what they would wish to have known before senior year and high school, the seniors had some advice for

younger grades.

"Join whatever clubs you feel like. Don't feel like you're going to be an outlier there because you just gotta put yourself out there and make new connections and stuff like that," Jacobs said.

As advice goes, seniors have some about friends and teachers.

"Just try to make friends with people because that will make your day a lot better," Blaine said. "And then, be really nice to your teachers because they'll kind of make or break your grade."

Regardless of what they would or wouldn't change or what they wished they would have known, seniors are now able to say goodbye to Severna Park High School and move on to the next chapter of their lives, whatever it may be.

The seniors have changed since their freshman year. But still considering everything that happened in those four years, most wouldn't change anything about their time here. "No. I think everything happens for a reason. I wouldn't change anything," senior Gabriella Howe said. The 2021 yearbook was the class of 2024's freshman book, students were in virtual learning and student sent selfies for the portrait section. Photo taken by Elsa Webster



How to Plan For Your Senior Summer

FEATURES

Senior summer is on the horizon, what are your plans?

Tristan Alcott | Staff Writer

Summer is on the horizon once again and the only difference for our seniors is that they're making a transition in life. For many this can be a stressful time in their life and most feel overwhelmed. It's important to still live life to the fullest and seize the day. Just because college is just a few months away doesn't mean you have to stress about it. Take advantage of the time you have left before this change occurs and embrace it when the time comes. Planning for college is smart and a well intentioned thought but many students may find themselves torn between schools whether it's academic or location related. All around there are obstacles throughout the college process and it's always good to hear tips from fellow students and what their plans might be. You are not alone.

Thomas Kosloski shed light on what his plans and hopes are for his summer before college. "I

have been taking steps to advance further towards the college I'm interested in such as signing up for sports. I've been recruited to row crew for them," Kosloski said. When asked what advice he would give to other seniors he said, "I suggest that they more or less have fun with their summer because this is their last summer in high school. College is going to be fun but it's kinda a big step into a different world," Kosloski said. Kosloski will be working at a shipyard throughout the summer to gain more experience in the profession he wants to pursue.

Sevillia Guerra was asked about what her plans are for her last summer as a high schooler, "I will be taking classes at AACC to get enough credits for the classes I really want to take, it's all mostly culinary based," Guerra said. The advice Guerra had for students like her was, "It's a really good idea to get a good footing finan-

cially so you're prepared for adulthood and college courses," Guerra said.

These students are a few examples of how to handle your summer before college or whatever you have in store for your life and if your visions don't look exactly the same to theirs or those around you it doesn't mean that it's wrong. It's normal to be nervous right now, a big change is coming, just remember your family, friends, and the SPHS community are here to support you and your endeavors.



Students are counting down until the last day of school for 2024. For graduating seniors, that date is May 23 and for underclassmen it is June 11. Graphic by Emerson Scott

Senior Athlete's Secrets to Success

SPORTS

Senior athletes share their experience as a high school athlete and give advice to underclassmen who will soon be just like them.

Rylie Cleary | Staff Writer

From mastering the art of balancing everything you can imagine school, work, sports and jobs. Seniors are ready to close out their final few months here, before they go they have some important advice to share with the underclassmen taking on the same responsibilities they did. The seniors who have been athletes all four years know how hard it is to manage everything but also how fun it is once you get the hang of it. Senior athlete Sara

Kreis is a girls lacrosse player here at SPHS, Kreis will be continuing her lacrosse career at UNCC (University of North Carolina at Charlotte), Kreis has a few thoughts that helped her get where she is today that would be of great benefit to underclassmen.

"I think once you get a good schedule going, keep it for the next four years." Kreis makes a point that once you find a routine and it works don't change it, having a routine helps athletes stay consistent in all of the

Senior Athlete's Secrets
Continued on Page 20



Seniors Sara Kreis and teammate Kate Evans are pictured playing lacrosse in support of the one love organization. "My teammate Kate Evans and I played for a bigger purpose this day," Kreis said. Photo by Falcons 4 Love

This Falcon's Final Call

OPINIONS

The last May issue will enter the wall dedicated to past Talon issues wand my journey through music.

Noel Castillo | Editor in Chief

As the sun sinks lower in the sky, an array of fantastic oranges and gut-wrenching pinks outstretch to warmly embrace the earth's residents in the day's final hours. Dusk claws its way out of the depths from below and envelops the globe, the glare of a cold, unforgiving crescent moon pierces into the soul of any who dare reject it.

"Bet you don't know why the sun sets red. You see, light is made up of lots of colors. And out of all those colors, red is the one that travels the farthest," Axel said to his friend Roxas atop a clock tower as the sun set and they enjoyed the simple pleasure of the sun setting.

A pitch-black blanket with speckles of light shining through; night has fallen. Despite every warning and caution to fall with it, one young journalist decides to not allow democracy to die in darkness. Waves of sleep deprivation incessantly pound the shores of sanity, silence permeates and becomes so loud it begins echoing, bouncing off eardrums and intercepting neurotransmitters carrying important messages. Gazing at the clock in another corner of his room, this journalist can see that time no longer follows a linear route, it is against him. Despite

considering the plethora and weight of words for the whole day prior, he super-naturally struggles, fumbling any appeal to ethos, pathos, logos or proper use of convincing diction to engage his audience.

"Suede Timbs on my feets makes my cipher complete. Whether cruising in a Sikh's cab, or Montero Jeep, I can't call it, the beats make me fallin' asleep I keep falling, but never falling six feet deep; I'm out for presidents to represent me (say what?) I'm out for presidents to represent me (say what?) I'm out for dead presidents to represent me," Nasir Jones famously rapped on "The World is Yours" in 1994 and again on September 26, 2023 at the Capital One Arena in D.C. with the Wu-Tang Clan.

This is the nitty-gritty truth that nobody tells you when recounting their highlights as a journalist under Valerie Earhart's mentorship. Despair, grief, misfortune and countless vicissitudes have obstructed his path and there have been many moments where he has desired only to quit. Throughout his high school career, he is reminded time and time again that there are bigger, badder fish to fry no matter what problems he currently faces. There always will be. However, he is also

reminded that Newspaper and the Publication Lab will always welcome him home whenever he flunks a test or goes through a depressing breakup or feels ostracized from literally everywhere else. Now, as he enters the next stage of his career and life, he realizes that this is no longer his home. He now lives as a citizen of an ever-expanding and globalized world that doesn't care whether he lives or dies. And he's going to make it everyone's problem. Thank you Mrs.

Earhart and go Falcons.

"There's nobody in the entire world who deserves to get hurt, nobody in this world." — Thors

"Far west, across the sea, there is a land called Vinland. It's warm. And fertile. A faraway land where neither slave traders nor the flames of war reach."

"I don't want to rule anything. Being King of the Pirates is about being more free than anyone." — Monkey D. Luffy



Senior Athlete's Secrets Continued From Page 19

of the things they have on their plate."If you need help don't be afraid to reach out." Kreis talks further talks about reaching out to people for help, is one of the smartest things high school athletes can do. Everything starts to pile up and oftentimes athletes can find themselves not really knowing what to do. Teachers, friends, coaches and parents are all great resources that athletes can use to further get the help they're in need of. Kreis closes out her thoughts by saying "just find a good balance and you'll be fine." It's crucial to find this balance because you need both the energy for sports and also the energy to hang out with friends or the energy to do final tests in school or the energy to go and work an eight hour shift. Every senior's schedule looks a little bit different because different things work for different people. Everyone can find that balance; it just takes time.

Tucked away in a little corner of Severna Park, a certain Editor-in-Chief's wall is filled with every issue of the Talon since he began writing as a guest writer. While this young man does not exactly know everything he wants to do in this life, he knows he must do everything in his power to continue to write the truth, as it is, for the world to read. Photo taken by Noel Castillo

The Community College Stigma

OPINIONS

The stigma surrounding a more accessible higher education.

Chris Benjamin | Online Editor

As seniors apply for college, they are in a constant state of suspense hoping to receive an acceptance letter from the school of their dreams. Many students have their wish come true, but this is not the reality everyone gets. While for others community college is a good alternative that can provide them with the education they need, it is also a good option for people wanting to stay close to home and that are on a budget.

Due to the high expectations of students the thought of going to community college is essentially non-existent. Many students sway away from community college due to it being viewed as “the bottom of the barrel” of higher education. This is due to its availability and affordability which sound more like benefits than problems. People place more “prestige” schools such as IVY League colleges at the top of the social ladder where they appear unattainable, making them more desirable. Meanwhile schools with higher acceptance rates are placed towards the bottom due to the reasoning of “anyone can get accepted there.”

This stigma causes students to feel disappointed in themselves if they don't get accepted or can't go to a university for whatever reason. Students feel as if they are viewed differently by their peers simply due to where they chose to attend. While it's true that more prestigious colleges can provide students with better educations due to their reputable professors and programs, our local community college AACC can still provide a gateway into other colleges in Maryland.

Anne Arundel

Community College has a transfer program where if you perform exceptionally in your classes, you can transfer to certain colleges and universities in Maryland. All of your transferable credits will be moved over to wherever you transfer, which can help save you money on elective credits. At the community college you will only be able to get up to an associates degree, which does not meet the qualifications for many careers. This is why the transfer system is so amazing, as you can complete the first two years at the community college, and then use it as a gateway into a four year university.

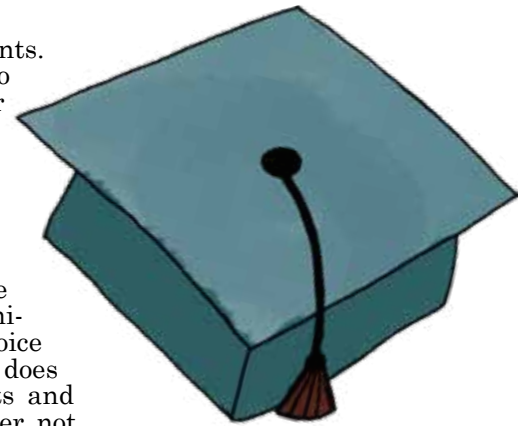
One of the reasons why community college is cheaper than a four year university is due to their not being any on campus living accommodations. This will take away from the traditional college experience many people seek, but it is still possible to build relationships with fellow students at the community college. Another major benefit of attending AACC for students in the Severna Park area is the

easy commute to campus. We are fortunate enough to live very close to the community college, which is a pri-

ority for many students.

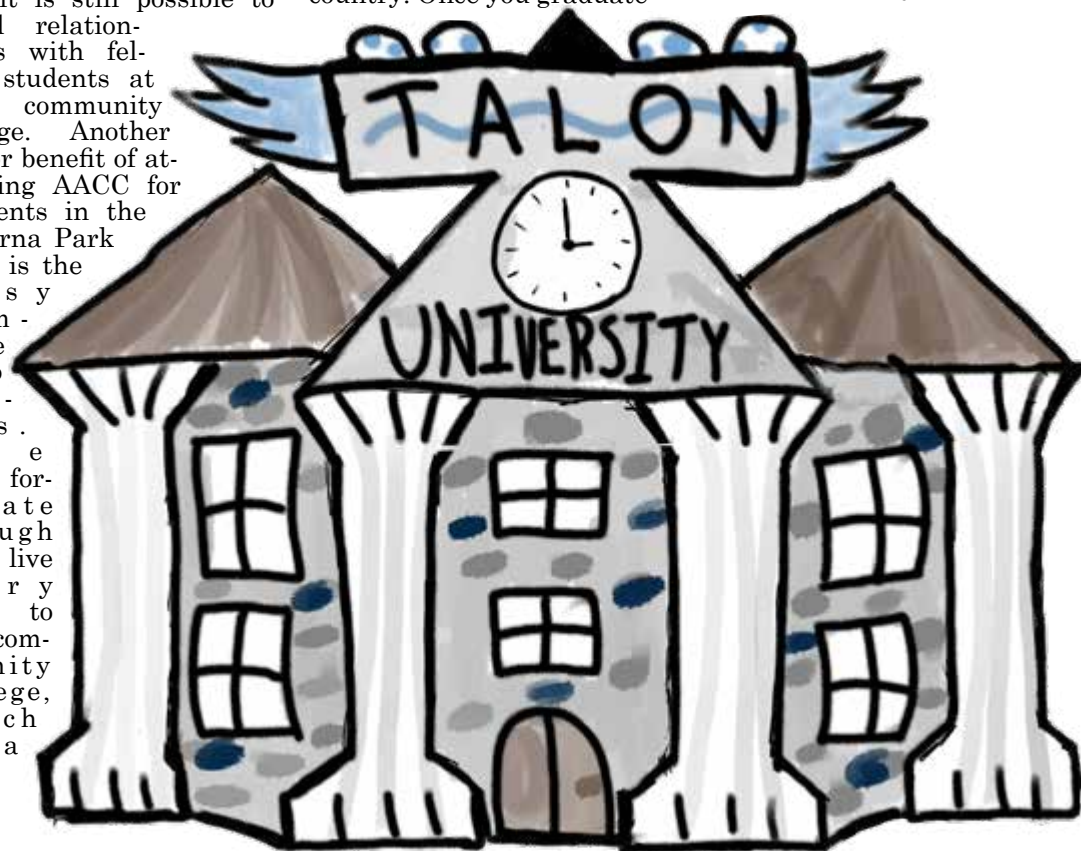
It can allow them to stay closer to their family and also makes it easier to maintain a job for those paying for their college.

Students that are fortunate enough to attend a university of their choice should do so as it does have its own benefits and opportunities. However, not every student is in the same position. The stigma that surrounds community college may discourage some students from pursuing a higher level of education. As well as make students who plan on attending community college feel isolated from their peers during a time where we should be congratulating, not judging. Community college is not a bad alternative especially considering that AACC is the number one community college in the country. Once you graduate



college and pursue your career, where you went to college isn't as important compared to your qualifications and what you know.

ABOVE: The cap and gown are symbols of achievement and success as graduates move on to the next chapter of their lives. It also represents a community as graduates say farewell to their fellow classmates. BELOW: Deciding on where to go to college is a difficult decision. During a time when a lot of comparing occurs, it's important to be proud of yourself no matter where you choose to attend. Graphics by Chris Benjamin

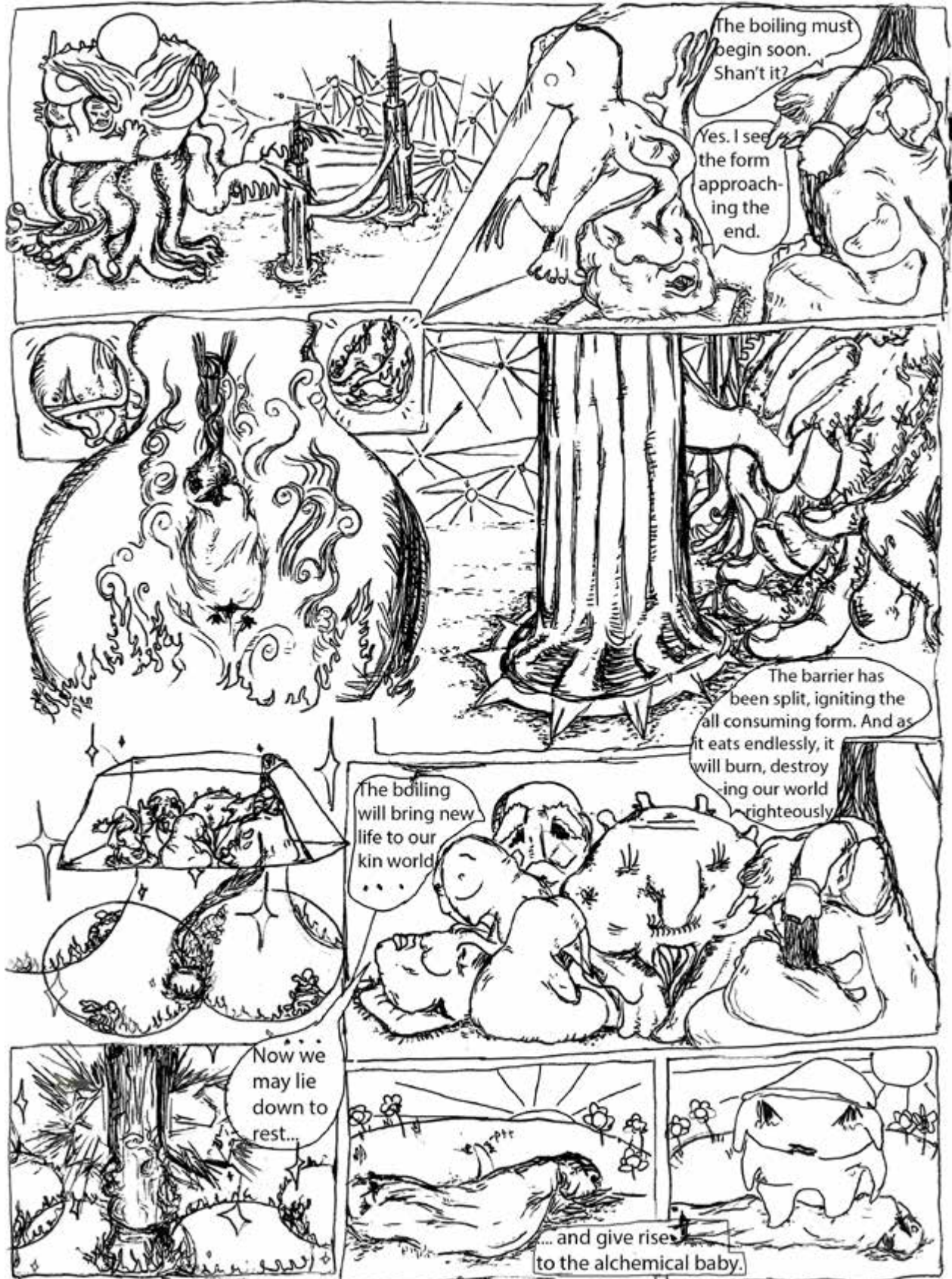


Advent of Creation

OPINIONS

A story of revival and graduation.

Lucas Cropper | Staff Writer



Editor Letter

OPINIONS

My experience as the Talon's Editor.

Noel Castillo | Editor in Chief

Every second of every day, you are breathing. You are alive. Every thought and action you make, or lack thereof, can snowball into great tragedy or amazing triumph. As young adults, we now bear more responsibility and it is our duty to try to help others on a day to day basis. We have to listen to each other, hear out differing perspectives and at the very least try to address the issues we can respectfully. Otherwise, injustices will happen and continue to. If there's a sliver of a chance that something you can say or do will help someone in need, why let them suffer, alone, in silence?

The day I wrote this letter, I spent half of my second period looking back at the Talon website. Talking with my friends about articles we had due next class naturally led to further procrastination and reminiscing on the online newspaper. Scrolling through the homepage, we saw articles that we had written; profiles of students and teachers who have learned so much from each other and achieved incredible things with each others' support. Countless stories of movies, video games, happenings in and out of school that have brought lots of people together. And I felt really proud.

Lucas Cropper, one of my best friends and a new staff member of the Talon this year, asked if my

sister Natalie wrote for the newspaper. Immediately, I typed her name into the search bar and her profile from 2019-2020 popped up. "A Bop or A Flop," her article about artist Conan Gray appeared, in addition to two other entries I had unfortunately forgotten about. The first: a photo of a calendar she drew up and a caption featuring Michael Kandra, ostensibly a Presidential Dog Walker during the pandemic. The second: an article titled "Online Content is Evolving." At the first sight of it, I was stunned. I have likely seen the article before, but it was written a little over four years ago and I was too locked in playing Apex Legends with the boys to realize that my sister was interviewing me.

I no longer recognize the boy in that picture. I'm four years older now. That awful haircut is over and done with, I let my hair fall this way and stick out the other, however my mom still always reminds me to brush my hair.

Mrs. Earhart always tells me: "Noel, who do you control in all this?" My answer is always: "Myself." And it's the truth. No matter what influences may sway you, it is your privilege and right to speak and empathize. Empathize with those who hurt and limit themselves and say: "I'm not good enough." It is never too late to set a goal. Stay true to yourself. You

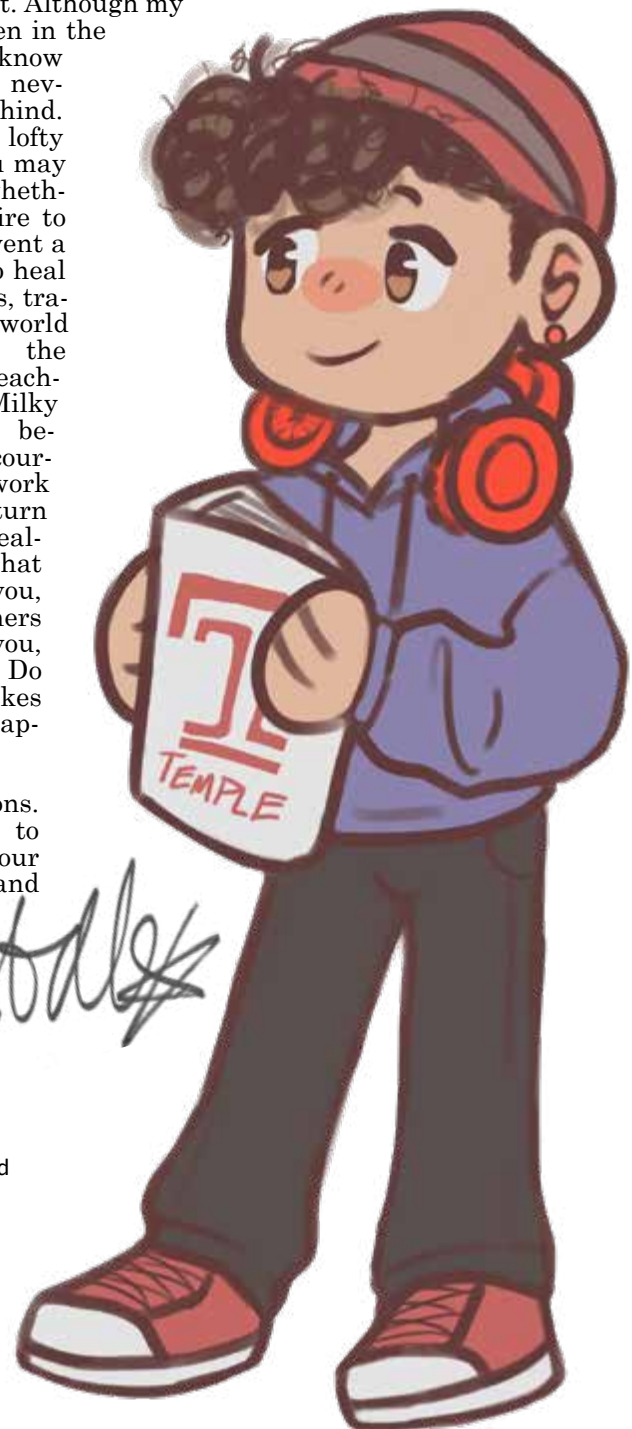
have a voice.

My senior year has consisted of a lot of "firsts." My first wrestling season, my first Rock & Roll, my first internship. It is also a year of a lot of lasts. My last year writing for the Talon, my last year roaming Severna Park High School's halls as a student. Although my head is often in the clouds, I know my body is never far behind. Whatever lofty dreams you may dream - whether you aspire to one day invent a medicine to heal all ailments, traverse the world or explore the furthest reaches of the Milky Way and beyond - I encourage you to work hard to turn them into reality. Find what makes you, and others around you, flourish. Do what makes you truly happy.

Go Falcons. It's time to find your wings and soar.

noelcastillo

Graphic by
Ruby Howland



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