

The SPTALON

AUGUST 2024



LETTER TO SPHS

New principal Nathan Johnson addresses the students of SPHS via letter. Read more on page 3

CHINCOTEAGUE ISLAND

One student's experience on the island while on vacation. Read more on page 6

LOVE LETTER

Dr. Love answers your questions in his latest edition of the Love Letter. Read more on page 10

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SEVERNA PARK HIGH
60 ROBINSON ROAD
SEVERNA PARK, MD 21146

Seniors Ryder Halloran and Joey Tramotoana Aug. 23 at the inaugural senior sunrise hosted at the stadium by the class of 2025. Tramotoana said "I really liked it. I loved seeing all my friends after summer and reconnecting with them before the school year." Photo taken by Kelley Halloran Cotton.

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Band camp occurs each summer before the football season begins. "Band camp is a great opportunity to get a headstart on a band for the upcoming year, and is also a great way to meet new people and make friends," Harper Ferrence said. The band plays at pep rallies and many other extracurricular school events, including the half time show at home games. Photo taken by Jonah Darcy

Over the past summer, students at SPHS had the opportunity to venture to Europe with a trip involving students taking foreign language classes. The students and their chaperones, teachers Heather Barnstead and

Yaneth Posada, traveled around Europe to many countries such as Italy and Greece. "The students get to experience another country and learn. Who doesn't love to learn?" English teacher Valerie Earhart said. Photo By Heather Barnstead



WHO WE ARE The Talon is the principle news publication and public forum of Severna Park High School, which is located on 60 Robinson Road, Severna Park, Maryland 21146. Phone: 410-544-0900

ASSOCIATIONS The Talon is a member of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and Quill & Scroll International Journalism Association. It has won Gold and Silver Medals from CSPA.

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SPHS field hockey is estatic to build a strong 2024 team with new freshman and returners participating at tryouts. Freshman Tessa Norris described tryouts as "a good learning experience from watching the upperclassmen and

a really fun community." The fall season began on Aug. 14 during try outs for a variety of sports, including varsity and JV field hockey. Photo By Jonah Darcy

Letter to SPHS

NEWS

New Principal Nathan Johnson addresses the student body.

Nathan Johnson | Guest Writer

Dear Students of Severna Park High, I hope this letter finds you all in great spirits and ready for an exciting new school year!

My name is Nathan Johnson, and I am absolutely thrilled to introduce myself as your new principal. It is an honor to join this community, and I am excited to get to know each of you as we embark on this journey together.

As we begin this school year, I want you to know that my primary goal is to support your success and well-being. I firmly believe that every student, including you, has unique talents and potential, and it is our collective responsibility to create an environment where you can Belong, Grow and Succeed. Whether you are stepping into the school for the first time or are a seasoned student, I am committed to making this year a positive and enriching experience for all.

Education is not just about grades and test scores; it's about discovering your passions, building lifelong skills and developing into well-rounded individuals. I encourage you to take advantage of the diverse opportunities our school offers, from ac-

ademic programs to extracurricular activities, sports, and clubs. These experiences will not only enhance your learning but also help you build friendships and create lasting memories.

Let's make this year remarkable, filled with growth, learning, and success. Together, we can create a supportive, inclusive, and enthusiastic school community. I look forward to meeting you all and witnessing the amazing accomplishments that lie ahead.

Here's to a fantastic school year!

Best,



Nathan Johnson
Principal
Severna Park High School



Nathan Johnson was appointed as the principal of Severna Park High School, formerly Johnson was assistant principal at Annapolis High School. Johnson started as the principal of Severna Park High for the 2024-2025 school year. He is taking over for former principal Lindsay Abruzzo. Photo courtesy of AACPS

CLUB LOCATIONS	24 CLUB	FB	329	IMPROV	FB/AS	208	LITERARY MAG (IMPULSE)	FB/AS	208
	ALC	FB	114	IT'S ACADEMIC	FB/AS	333	EMBERS (YEARBOOK)	FB/AS	244
	AP SPANISH	FB	266	JAM BAND	FB	192	PUZZLE CLUB	FB	220
	ART CLUB	FB	242	KEY CLUB	AS	LIBRARY LOFT	RED CROSS CLUB	FB	206
	BEST BUDDIES	FB	146	KINDNESS CLUB	FB	335	ROBOTICS CLUB	FB/AS	157
	BLACK STUDENT UNION	FB	TBD	MATH TEAM	FB/AS	319	SAILING CLUB	FB/AS	159
	BOOK CLUB	FB	MEDIA	MEDICAL YOUTH	FB	TBD	SCI-FI CLUB	AS	CAFE
	CALCULUS CLUB	FB	330	MOCK TRIAL	AS	210	SKILLS USA	FB	154
	CHECKERS CLUB	FB	224	MODEL UN	FB/AS	334	SPACE EXPLORATION	FB	164
	CHESS CLUB	FB	307	MORGAN'S MESSAGE	FB	308	SPANISH CLUB	FB	268
	CHICK-FIL-A LEADERSHIP	FB/AS	304	NATIONAL ART HS	FB	243	STAR WARS CLUB	FB	159
	CHINESE CLUB	FB	201	NATIONAL BUSINESS HS	FB	303	SGA	FB/AS	210
	CODING CLUB	FB	311	NATIONAL ITS	FB	208	SWIFTIES	FB	196
	CROCHET AND KNIT	FB	196	NATIONAL MATH HS	FB	315	TYPING CLUB	FB	231
	ENTREPRENEURSHIP	FB	304	NATIONAL ENGLISH HS	FB	203	VOCABULARY CLUB	FB	308
	ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB	FB	366	NATIONAL HISTORY HS	FB	224	WISHING CRANES	FB	328
	EQUITY CLUB	FB	220	NATIONAL SCIENCE HS	FB	364	WOMEN IN STEM	FB	159
	E SPORTS	FB	315	NATIONAL SPANISH	FB	256	YOUNG DEMOCRATS	FB	220
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	FCA	FB	256	NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY HS	FB	157	ZOOLOGY	FB	365
	FILM CLUB	FB	256	NATIONAL MUSIC HS	FB	192			
	FLY FISHING CLUB	FB	148	ONE LOVE	FB	114			
	FUTURE DOCTORS	FB	368	NEWSPAPER (TALON)	FB/AS	244			

FB=FACLON BLOCK
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Summer's Not Over Yet

FEATURES

Fun events you can still attend while school's in session.

Elsa Webster | Editor-in-chief



The Richard-Rodgers Theatre in New York City is the home of the musical "Hamilton." While Broadway in New York might be out of reach for most students at SPHS, touring productions at the Hippodrome in Baltimore and the National Theatre in D.C. are more accessible to students. Photo taken by Elsa Webster.

As many students know, the summer is a great time to catch your favorite band or show without the consequence of missing time to do homework. But this shouldn't discourage them from being able to attend concerts or shows while school is still in session.

The first concert students would be able to attend while school is in session at Merriweather Post Pavilion, a concert venue close to Severna Park, is the third and final night of Mitski. Mitski is a popular artist amounts students and this added night is a chance for students to see this artist considering her previous nights are already sold out. This final night is on Sept. 1 at 8:00 pm.

The next artist on the schedule for the Merriweather Post Pavilion is Omar Apollo on Tuesday, Sept. 3. This is followed by the band the Killers on Sunday, Sept. 8 and Cigarettes After Sex on Tues-

day, Sept. 10 with others after those.

The Merriweather website currently only has shows listed until Wednesday Oct. 9 but for those interested, students can find shows later on in the year using the calendar on the venue's website.

Merriweather is also not the only concert venue close to Severna Park. The CFG bank arena is another place students can attend concerts.

On Sunday, Sept. 15, the Twenty One Pilots will be at the venue followed by Charli XCX and Troye Sivan on Thursday, Sept. 26, Billie Eilish on Friday, Oct. 4 and Sabrina Carpenter on Saturday Oct. 5. These artists are just some of the many that students can see. The schedule of events at the CFG Bank arena can be found on their website.

But concerts are not the only events students can attend while in school. The Hippodrome Theater in Baltimore re-

leased their schedule for the 2024-2025 season.

The first musical for the upcoming season is "& Juliet," a show that puts a twist on the Shakespeare story, "Romeo and Juliet." "& Juliet" will be running from Sept. 22- 28. The next show after that is "MJ," the biographical musical about Michael Jackson. "MJ" will be running from Nov. 12-17.

Dec. 7-14, the musical the "Life of Pi," based on the novel of the same name, will be running. Following the "Life of Pi," "Annie," a show about an orphan girl's adventures, will run Jan. 7-12. After "Annie," Disney's "The Lion King," based on the movie of the same name, will run Feb. 12 through Mar. 2.

The next show is "Shucked," a musical about corn, which will run from

Apr. 1-6. This is followed by "Come From Away," a true story about a town welcoming plane passengers after 9/11, which will run from Apr. 18-19. On May 6-11, the show "Some Like it Hot," based on the movie with the same name will run.

The final show of the season, "Chicago," a show about two female murderers in the 1920s, will run Jun. 3-8. Tickets for the 2024-2025 season are not currently available, but more information about the shows and eventually tickets can be found on the Hippodrome website.

School does not mean the end of fun for students. Students can still have great experiences at concerts and shows while school's in session and on the weekends between classes.



The stage from the Fall Out Boy concert on March 20 right before they played their first song, "Love From the Other Side." This concert occurred on a Thursday during school despite this, students still attended. Photo taken by Elsa Webster.

Lights, Camera, Action

FEATURES

A freshman's guide to auditioning.

Elsa Webster | Editor-in-chief

For many reasons, high school is different from middle school. Whether it is the size of the school, the amount of people or how clubs are run. Or if it is the drama program and with that, the auditioning process. But this should not scare underclassmen into not being a part of the program.

“Especially for freshmen, it is a great place to meet upperclassmen and learn the tricks of the trade at a younger age” senior Ava Gilman said about being a part of shows at SPHS. “Overall, the best part of these shows is knowing you are a part of a group that created something together.”

While some aspects of the audition process may be similar to what they were in middle school, with bigger productions comes more involved auditions.

“For musicals, the directors usually give a list of songs from the musical, one for each voice part, that you audition with. For rock and roll, the song choices are much broader. There is a list of 100+ suggested songs, but you can audition with almost any song that is over 20 years old. For both auditions, you sign up for a time slot after school and sing in front of two-three people, who record your performance. Then, in a few weeks you find out if you got in” Gilman said.

Unlike the middle school, SPHS has plays that require auditioning as well. One Acts are the student directed and sometimes written plays.

“One Acts and the spring play are different because they don't involve singing. For One Acts, you receive an excerpt of the script and are given 15

minutes to practice, then you perform in front of the student directors and Ms. Parks. For the spring play, you get time at home to practice before you have to perform in front of the director.”

In addition to the differences from auditioning at the middle, the shows which require singing, the fall musical and Rock and Roll Revival, also called RnR, and the shows that are strictly acting, One Acts and the spring play, are different from each other during auditions.

“The audition process for the musical side of things is very tough and mentally challenging, but on the acting side of things, usually the auditions are easy and won't cause much stress” senior Logan Symmes said. These auditions also vary depending on who is running the audition. “It depends on who is directing the show or who is there to judge you. Some people are nicer and more understanding than others.”

With this comes tips from students at SPHS who have been involved in the drama program for years and know how to have the best audition possible.

“Some tips that I would give are, for the music-based auditions, make sure to dance and perform rather than just sing. The directors are looking for stage presence in addition to vocals” Gilman said. “For One Acts and the spring play, they're much more low stakes, so don't feel stressed auditioning. One of my main tips is that you should be prepared for the workload of these shows. They require time



The SPHS playbill from the 2022 production of “Footloose.” This show was the last show for former drama chair Angela Germanos. After this, current Drama Chair Kara Parks took over. This year, the fall musical will be “Catch Me If You Can.” Photo taken by Elsa Webster.

and effort of practicing and running lines.”

And each student and therefore each audition is different. But for some shows like the musical and RnR which both require musical auditions, the skills are transferable.

“The biggest tip I have for auditioning for the musical side of things is to practice over and over again with your instrumental track” Symmes said.

Though it may seem daunting at first due to the scale of some of the productions, for some, the experience will be worth it.

“Overall, One Acts has been one of my favorite experiences because you work with other students entirely, instead of adults. Also, I really recommend

rock and roll, because performing on stage is so much fun, with makeup, choreography, and a huge smile.” Gilman said. “I've made some great friends through the drama program. Not only in the cast, but in tech crew and the hair and makeup team.”

But since the drama program at SPHS is larger than the one at the middle school, that means there will be more people trying out. Not everyone will always get into the shows. But that doesn't mean they won't get in later.

“If you don't get in, it can hurt, it should hurt, but it's not the end of the world. Just carry on with your life” Symmes said.

Chincoteague Island

FEATURES

A closer look into the history of the island and activities to do when visiting.

Samantha Polk | Online Editor

For the past five years, summers have been anticipated as a time for my family and me to visit Chincoteague Island—a secret paradise off the coast of Virginia. As big a part of our family tradition as each visit has become, it does not stop us from being busy and appreciative of the least of its simple natural charms on the island.

My interest in Chincoteague Island was first piqued when my grandmother told stories about how wild horses roam around the island. To a little kid, an island with wild horses in it is pretty hard to resist. I kept asking my parents to take me, and finally, when we did, the entire island proved to be much more than what I had expected from just seeing some wild ponies.

Next to Chincoteague Island lies Assateague Island, a sprawling national park known for its nice beach and wide variety of activities one can do. There is an historic lighthouse, a drivable scenic trail, and a few visitor centers that offer engaging activities to suit all

ages. The park offers free entrance to fourth-grade students; therefore, this is a good place to go as a family. With such an expansive beach, there is much space to relax or wander, and from the park itself, next to the trails and nature programs, educational experiences regarding the ecosystem and wildlife of the island can be had.

Chincoteague Island sure does have an incredible food scene. First of these is Island Creamery, proclaimed by some as one of the finest ice cream places in America. Its creamy homemade flavors and charismatic surroundings make this location a must-visit. Another local favorite is Pico Taco, a taco restaurant that has become a staple for both residents and visitors. The flavorful dishes and lively atmosphere really reflect the food culture of the island. On our first day every summer, it is a family tradition to stop by Woody's Food Truck, where one is greeted with hammocks, outdoor games, and an easy-going, family-friendly atmosphere. The scene has changed



A wild pony and her foal on Assateague island in the year of 2019–2020. The pair along with the other native animals of the island are an incredible sight for visitors. Photo taken by Samantha Polk.

of late with the addition of a large water park nearby, offering its own set of benefits and problems. Although the island is more crowded, developed, and built up than in earlier years, the essence of these local attractions is as great as ever.

Among the most famous events to take place on Chincoteague Island is the Pony Penning Ceremony, which has been a very popular activity among visitors for many years. The event involves cowboys rounding up wild ponies from Assateague Island, swimming them across to Chincoteague Island, and auctioning them off to ensure the herd is kept healthy and at a size that can sustain itself. It is not only a testament to endurance and skill but also a very important conservation practice. In addition to the annual Pony Penning, a July fair is held on the island that includes terrific entertainment of all ages and donates its proceeds to the local firefighters, cementing ties with the community and show-

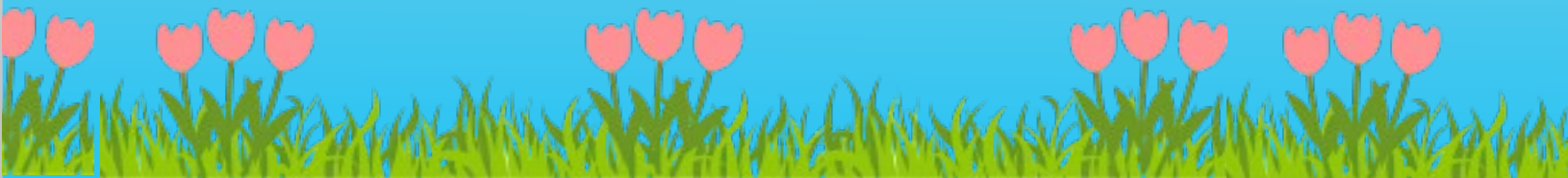
ing respect for the heritage of the island.

Physically, Chincoteague Island has changed a lot over the years, with new developments and attractions changing its face. The shift from isolation to crowd and upgrade evidently reflects a wider trend of tourism and local growth. But even in these changes, that special something about this island character and enduring appeal continues to make it so special for our family vacations.

Chincoteague Island is the perfect blend of natural beauty, tradition, and easy going activities that make every visit an unforgettable escapade. From wandering across Assateague Island to local treats and participating in iconic events, its charm never dates, so that every trip becomes a bank of treasured moments and discoveries.



A sandpiper on the beach of Assateague Island. Sandpipers are found all over the island and are birds protected under the National Parks Service. There are even sections of the beach where people are unable to go due sandpiper nesting. Photo taken by Samantha Polk.

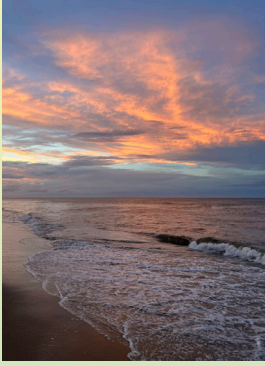


Summer Photos

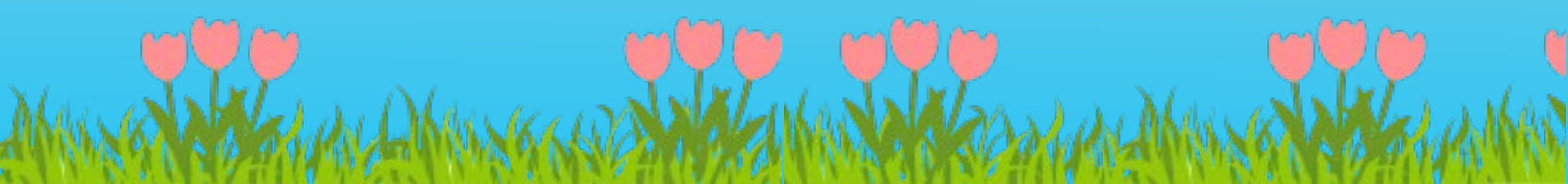
FEATURES

What the students of SPHS did this summer.

Elsa Webster | Editor-in-Chief



For the students of SPHS there isn't a common place for vacations and summer activities. They range from school trips to Europe, to the beach, to concerts, to academic summer programs of different subjects. Left to right: Photo taken by Elsa Webster, Payton Gerwig, AJ Scott, Rio Miguez, Elsa Webster. AJ Scott, Anna Clark, AJ Scott, Ruby Howland, Isabel Luznik, Samantha Polk.



Summer Jobs

FEATURES

Though students take summer off for school, some find jobs to help fill the free time.

Alethia Brown | Guest Writer

One of the most popular times for students to find jobs is the summer. “I worked at Shipley’s Choice. They had a program called Camp Success there and I was a camp counselor for it,” senior Maggie Moran said.

Applying for jobs can seem daunting, but it’s not always difficult.

“I work at Rita’s and I’m a manager and ice maker,” senior Emma Rogers said. “I got the job by going to the job fair at the beginning of the season and then picked up an application. Then my boss interviewed me and gave me the job on the spot. I’ve been working here since my freshman year.”

Some jobs do have many requirements for applying and working there.

“I sent in one of their applications, went to an interview and had to fill out some paperwork,” Moran said. “Plus because I was working for the county I had to be drug tested, fingerprinted and background checked.”

Often persistence is key with finding a good job.

“I would just tell [others] to keep trying because eventually someone will want to hire you. I applied to lots of places before I even thought about American Eagle. I chose to work here because I have a lot of clothes from there and it was the only place that actually got me in for an interview,” sophomore Jonah Darcy said. “I had to apply for the job twice, the first time I didn’t get it but the second time they gave me the job on the spot.”

These summer jobs aren’t always just for the summer, though the free time available certainly makes it easier to work.

“I will be continuing this job during the school year; I will probably be working after school some days and on

the weekends,” Darcy said. “I work at American Eagle at the Annapolis Mall. I help out customers, style them. I have been working there for around three months.”

With the variety of jobs that students find comes a variety of experiences. A common first job for students is to work in food service.

“My favorite part of the job is working with my friends... [Rita’s] also is a good first job because it introduces you to the food industry and dealing with customers,” Rogers said.

Another popular job is being a counselor at a summer camp.

“I think that it was a good experience, but definitely not for everyone,” Moran said. “I think it really surprised me how crazy some kids are. Of course you know kids are crazy, but it doesn’t really set in until you’re surrounded by 20 of them.”

Activities like interacting with kids can come up in many summer jobs.

“I work at Play Street Museum,” senior Abby Jeffers said. “I like working with kids and meeting new people.”

Summer jobs can be difficult, just like any other jobs, but there are certain skills that can help you.

“I would tell people trying to find a job to be patient and understanding with others because you do have to cooperate. Also, you aren’t going to have fun all the time but try to enjoy it as much as possible,” Rogers said.

Every job has highs and lows, but it’s still important to make sure you can enjoy it, at least sometimes.

“If it’s a temporary job, like a high school or summer job, look for something you can handle. You don’t have to love it, but you shouldn’t have to hate it,” Moran said.



Senior Abby Jeffers show off her uniform one afternoon while working at PPlay Street Museum. Jeffers has been working there for 7 months and will continue during this school year. “I like working with kids and meeting new people,” Jeffers said. Photo taken by Julie Jeffers.

NOW THAT’S A SMILE



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A Love of Pens

OPINIONS

Finding the right stationary for you.

Payton Gerwig | Buisness Managing Editor

Taking notes, highlighting passages, writing essays, carrying around papers, all things part of school that often seem mundane. However, you should enjoy the stationary you're using. Although it doesn't take away from the bore of writing and highlighting, it can be nice to enjoy the tools you use.

Some basic essentials include: binders, pencils, pens, pencil case, highlighters, sticky notes, notebooks, paper and much more.

Now getting good stationary can be difficult, especially at an affordable price. There are some great options though that don't involve going to the store and hoping to find what you need there. Another great part about online shopping for your stationary is that you can get things to suit your style all fitting into one theme.

Five great places to find stationary include:

JETPENS.COM

This website also has their own amazing articles to recommend stationary products at great prices. The website itself can take longer to navigate if just browsing.

YOSEKASTATIONARY.COM

Includes a wide variety of items although tends to mostly have more expensive name brands.

PAPERPLANT.COM

Has a ton of top known brands for some amazingly cheap prices but fewer selections than other websites.

USA.KINOKUNIYA.COM

Has well known brands and easy to navigate website although minimal selection and same prices as in store.

NICONECO.COM

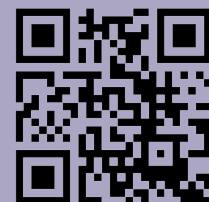
Has lower prices but mostly art supplies and journaling supplies instead of traditional stationary.

Knowing where to look for stationary is simply only half of it as you need to be sure you're spending money on reliable stationary. Some of my recommendations include going for brands that are well known for being used by students, that includes; pa-

permate, zebra, Uni-ball, gelly-roll, and campus. Although some of these brands may be international they can still be found at reasonable prices.

Whether you plan on spending money on stationary or just using leftovers from the year before, it's important to remember that you need good tools to help you succeed in school. You don't want to bake a cake with a broken oven.

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A heart design with some basic stationary necessities inside of it. Showing a true love for things that can be bought at office depot. Graphic By Canva

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The Love Letter

OPINIONS

Dr. Love's home from the summer.

Owen Crest | Guest Writer

Welcome to the Love Letter! I'm Dr. Love, SPHS' one and only romance remediator. In this column, I answer YOUR questions in the ever-growing field of love, a science with few absolutes and lots of margin for error. Luckily, you got me to clear things up, so relearn how to read and stick around!

I'VE GOT SOMEONE IN MY DM'S THAT I DON'T LIKE. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Summer is a heck of a drug, squarely on the American Addiction Center's list of most addictive substances, trumped only by the greatest drug of all--love. Summer junkies looking for their next hit might go as far as to use summer as a gateway drug to dabble in a bit of love. After all, summer flings come straight from syrupy teenage sitcoms and everyone wants their own episode. However, after the fanfare and fireworks, perhaps your suitor isn't quite who you thought they'd be. Now they won't stop texting you and something must be done.

Getting to the root of the problem, this person's little spark of hope can be stomped out or fizzled away. 'Stomping the spark out' consists of talking to this person and communicating how their actions make you uncomfortable. While this course of action is healthy and sometimes necessary, you might try to preserve the friendship more cleanly by dropping subtle hints that you two are just buddies and allow the other's feelings to resolve themselves, thus 'letting the spark fizzle out.'

For example, let's

say this guy that you don't like asks you how your day was. If you answer earnestly then you'll get into a whole conversation, which can be tiresome. Give sparse responses, simple 'good's and 'yes'es will suffice. Return the question for the sake of friendliness, perhaps, but beware leading him on. Once he understands that you're not here to cater to his delirium, he'll get the message.

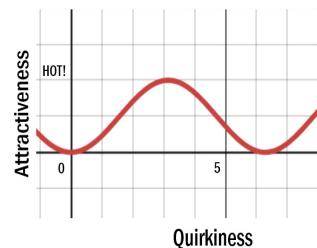
Of course, that's no guarantee. What should you do when you just can't shake this sanity assailant? The solution is simple: if this person won't stop trying to draw from your well, poison the waters. Listen to exclusively phonk and drum and bass for at least a month then ask them out. This might be leading them on, but it's like their last meal while on death row given what's to come. Bring them to the biggest phonk show you can find but don't tell them what it is beforehand. Get super into the music and act surprised when they don't know any of it. On the car ride home, speak exclusively about the up and coming artists in the phonk scene and the impact of drum and bass on American culture. When the person is dropped off, their mental state will be so irreparably damaged that they'll probably spend the rest of the weekend crying. Worst case scenario, they're into it and you have to go to phonk shows for the rest of your life. A gamble to say the least, but you're up to the challenge, right?

I HAVE REALLY NICHE INTERESTS AND NO ONE SHARES THEM. HOW CAN I MEET PEOPLE?

A common mis-

conception among high schoolers is that you need to share interests with other people in order to make meaningful connections. We like to perpetuate this lie by making cliques and putting certain topics in and out of the vogue. However, if you're seeking to genuinely learn about others, similar interests are merely a tool to start conversations. Our individuality is what makes us special and ultimately gives other people unique reasons to love one another.

Bust out your TI-84s. I encourage you to think about the relationship between quiriness and attractiveness as $A(q) = -\cos(q) + 1$, notating attractiveness as a function of quiriness.



My hypothesis is modeled with this graph. If you're basic, you won't be interesting to talk to. However, if you accumulate positive quiriness by being interested in positive, cheery things, you'll be more interesting and therefore more attractive. That being said, becoming obsessive over these things will eventually drop your attractiveness because you no longer can relate to the average Joe. If you find yourself in this valley, you can go further beyond and commit your full self to this thing which appeals to other super fans and people just around to



watch the spectacle, translating into attractiveness, forever oscillating between unrelatable and irresistibly fascinating to like minded people and onlookers alike. How else would computer science majors find partners?

This concept deemphasizes the importance of liking common things but rather uplifts being passionate, which makes you a more interesting person and thus more attractive. Hopefully this helps!

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

Dr. Love

Harmony of School and Summer

OPINIONS

How summer fun can co-exist with the beginning months of school.

Emerson Scott | Sports Editor

For many people like me, summer is one of the best times of the year and the beginning months of school felt like a screeching halt to the good summer days. But as the summer comes to a close and school is now in session, that doesn't mean summer fun has to end quite yet.

Here are some fun things you can do even as a busy school year starts to pick up.

NEIGHBORHOOD POOL:

A fan favorite is going to the neighborhood pool. After school, grab some friends, or enjoy on your own because something as simple as swimming is a fun activity that takes advantage of weather. Sometimes it is easy to forget the fun of your local community.

DINNER TRIP TO DOWNTOWN ANNAPOLIS:

Annapolis is such a cool place to have a good dinner and enjoy the water and it can be a great way to capitalize on the nice summer weather that is beginning to dwindle. Main Street is home to good restaurants that should be able to accommodate whatever you are in the mood to eat.

PICKLEBALL:

Although it isn't for everyone, pickleball is an exciting sport that you can make either very competitive or light hearted and easy. This is also an awesome way to have fun with friends.

WASHINGTON D.C.:

The time to vacation farther away might have been interrupted by school, but there are so many entertaining and unique things to do right in our backyard. Washington D.C. can make for a fantastic weekend trip. When there you can enjoy a nice meal, visit a museum, or just sightsee around the city. Millions of people travel from all over the world to see our nation's capital and the good thing is that even with school, D.C. can always be enjoyable.

CREATE A STUDY GROUP WITH SOME CLASSMATES:

This is a good way to stay on top of school work in the early months of school to manage your course load and the homework that comes with it. Also, to keep it engaging, try to pick a new place to study each time you meet.

FOR THE FRESHMEN:

The change from middle school to high school is a big change. But finding ways to interact within school is something you won't regret. Fun with friends also doesn't have to end when school starts. A great thing I would recommend is to play a sport, join a club, go to sporting events, or participate in school sponsored activities. These things make that summer fun carry into school. Especially as a freshman, having other people at your school to lean on is a fantastic way to make lasting bonds and show you that high school

can be a great four years if you find simple ways to make it more and more enjoyable.

With school picking up that might mean the opportunity for vacation or relaxing sleepy days might

be over, but that doesn't mean the fun has to stop. So go outside, enjoy yourself and soak up the last bits of summer!

Washington D.C., the nation's capital, is only about an hour away from Annapolis. This makes it a great option for students who have free time on the weekends. D.C. has a ton of museums, galleries and parks which is perfect for people of all ages. Photo taken by Elsa Webster.



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Falcon Comic

OPINIONS

Welcoming students back to school.

Shiloh Bishop | Guest Cartoonist

