

THE FALCON

NSA INTERNSHIP CANCELED
THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION HAS
CANCELED NSA INTERNSHIPS,
CAUSING SIGNIFIGANT EFFECTS ON
STUDENTS.

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**FALCON: BRINGING
DISTRESS AND SORROW**
THE SCHOOL'S MASCOT FAILED TO
STAY RELEVANT. NOW SPHS
WELCOMES KHARLEIGH AS ITS NEW
MASCOT.

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**ROCK AND ROLL
REVIVAL REVIEW**
RNR IS KNOWN AS THE BIGGEST
SHOW OF THE YEAR, BUT RNR 36
HAS FAILED TO LIVE UP TO THE HYPE
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Duo the owl is the mascot for Duolingo, a language-learning app. Language classes at SPHS will begin using Duolingo during the 2025–2026 school year. “I think it’s great using Duolingo, because it’s a good way to substitute a teacher, especially if they’re going to be out,” Spanish teacher Yaneth Posada said. Graphic by Luis von Ahn and Severin Hacker Luisvon Ahn



SPHS Math teachers are going on strike. “It would be an impact that’s very serious,” Assistant Principal Gardner said. Thousands of striking teachers cheered last January in downtown Los Angeles after an announcement of a deal to end their six-day strike. Photo by Scott Heins / Getty Images



Starting next year, all students will be required to complete an additional gym credit. Previously a single gym credit Anne Arundel County has decided that students will need two full years of gym to complete their high school career. “I think school is no longer for me,” freshman Karis Woodward said. Leah Croghan, Caroline Procida, and Isabella Thanner pose in the locker room before gym class. Photo taken by Addison McLean



Energy Drinks are getting banned. “I would be pretty upset because I really like energy drinks” sophomores Brielle Francia said. A collage of energy drinks including: Monster, Celsius, Ghost, Prime and Redbull by Ruby Howland. Graphic by Ruby Howland.

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NSA Internships Canceled

The National Security Agency high school work study has been called off for next year.

Penny Dickerson | Staff Writer

Under the Trump administration, budget cuts have discontinued the popular internship in AACPS with National Security Agency (NSA) meaning that no candidates will be hired for the 2025-2026 school year.

A high school work study at the NSA is an opportunity that has been available to seniors at Severna Park High School for over 40 years. Interested juniors must fill out an application for the work study in September and go through a long process including a psychology test and a polygraph to be considered. It gives students “the opportunity to gain work experience in business, computer, engineering, manufacturing, construction, graphic arts, Chinese language and Russian language,” Ms. Brack, the SPHS internship coordinator, said. “The program provides hands-on work experience from September-August for four hours per day/20 hours per week Monday-Friday with a security clearance, part-time salary, paid leave and the opportunity for permanent employment upon successful completion of the program.” Around 35 juniors this year applied, including Junior Keeley Gangl, who was excited about the prospect of participating in the work study.

“It provided a good opportunity to learn more computerscience, and it looks good on a resume,” Gangl said.

However, this opportunity is going away under President Trump’s administration, which has

been firing thousands of federal employees recently.

Due to the cutback of workers, the government has also made the decision to terminate high school internships at all government agencies.

For the foreseeable future, students will no longer be able to participate in the NSA work study, which has been a huge upset to those who have already applied because of the lengthy and tedious application process. Processing can take up to a full year, and finding out halfway in has been very disruptive.

Students who have been planning for this internship since the fall are now scrambling to find other opportunities. With scheduling already in, they have committed to certain classes that allow for a shortened school day. The internship requires leaving after second period, meaning that some students have given up courses to be able to do it. While it is still possible to add classes for next year, for some people it is too late to get into the ones they wanted to.

“A lot of plans were made around the internship,” Gangl said. “Now I’m going to have to look for new classes or internships, and



many are closed or unavailable.”

While it may be reinstated in the future, the internship is definitely cancelled for the coming year, leaving many juniors frustrated at all the time and effort they already put into the application process, as well as what this means for their senior year. While there are other apprenticeships and internships still accepting applications, it is a big let-down for students.

“I was really looking forward to participating in the work study,” Gangl said.

Many juniors plans have been disrupted by the announcement that the Trump administration has terminated the NSA high school work study. They are left scrambling to register for other internships or classes for next year. “I had so much riding on that program,” applicant junior Keeley Gangl said. Photo by Richard Nachman in 1965

It's Out With The Old, In With The New

Showing school spirit in the boldest way possible.

Nicol Chovanec | Staff Writer

The exterior building, a mixture of boring brick color, is starting to get old. Severna Park High School will officially be undergoing one of the most extravagant makeovers in high school history. Will there be sparkle? Will there be an outdoor swimming pool on the roof? That is unknown, but what we do know is, the exterior is officially being repainted gold and navy.

Rumors about the design of these colors have been passed around, Assistant Principal Mr. Sneck seemed to have a good idea about how the design will accentuate Severna Park's school spirit. "There will be horizontal blue and gold strips on each side of the building. The front and back of the building will also have a painted Severna Park Falcon logo... there is talk of also putting the Falcon logo on the roof of the building" Sneck said.

Redesigning the exterior of the high school has been a topic in mind for a while, specifically "...one of Dr. Bedells biggest push since becoming superintendent," junior Will Andrione said.

The story behind this change is interesting, only the

people in the main office truly understand the importance of repainting the school building. Many faculty members have placed their complaints which have ensured that the school will be seen from miles away.

Assistant Principal Mrs. Cassarino has opened up about the real reason behind repainting the school, "We get a lot of complaints everyday not being able to determine where the school is. What's the middle school? What's the high school? You know people are coming home from vacations they can't even find the school from the air when they are in the airplane."

Cassarino makes it her goal to speak to the painters about making this change big, "I have been talking to the painters a lot about something that has some actual glitter and sparkle in it."

Sparkle will ensure that people do not confuse the high school for a Kohl's. Cassarino continued, "We are just looking for a color scheme and some changes that will make the school more identifiable so that people quit coming here to return their amazon orders because they think we're Kohl's."

Surprisingly, these issues are not as rare as they might seem. Cassarino is incredibly

passionate when expressing the importance behind changing the building. The embarrassment of having a high school mistaken for a Kohl's has taken a toll on the energy in the main office.

Cassarino predicts the outcome of the new design, "It'll be very helpful, it will reduce the nonsense traffic in the main office, it'll cut down on the calls that we have, and I think everybody will be able to find the building a little bit better."

Many ideas have been passed around, some have been shot down and some are still being discussed. Andrione states, "Another project idea that has been shot around the board is the idea of repainting the entire campus. This means blue and gold football field, blue and gold parking lot, blue and gold walls and murals inside of the

school, changing the bus colors from orange to blue and gold if they go to SP."

At the end of the day, Severna Park High School fights to be one of the best schools in the county, and one way to ensure being the best is having the greatest school spirit amongst students and faculty.

Sneck commented on the effect this bold change will have on school spirit, "I think that this idea goes along well with our initiative this year of increasing school spirit. Painting the building will increase school spirit significantly."

Agree or disagree, it's happening. It could be the best thing or the worst thing to happen to Severna Park High School, only time will tell. Severna Park High School will never look the same, there is no going back.



Predicted outcome of Severna Park High School's exterior building after renovations. It's new, it's bright and it's bold! Severna Park High School is getting a makeover effective the day after the seniors leave. Plans have been released, insiders have opened up about what exactly Severna Park High School will look like starting the 2025-2026 school year. Graphic by Nicol Chovanec.

Most Popular School Paint Colors

According to a 2025 survey conducted by the Department of Education, which was the catalyst for it's dismantling according to press secretary Leavitt on March 21, "Colors are not something children should learn, education is only for indoctrination" Leavitt said.

32%
Lime Green

29%
Salmon Pink

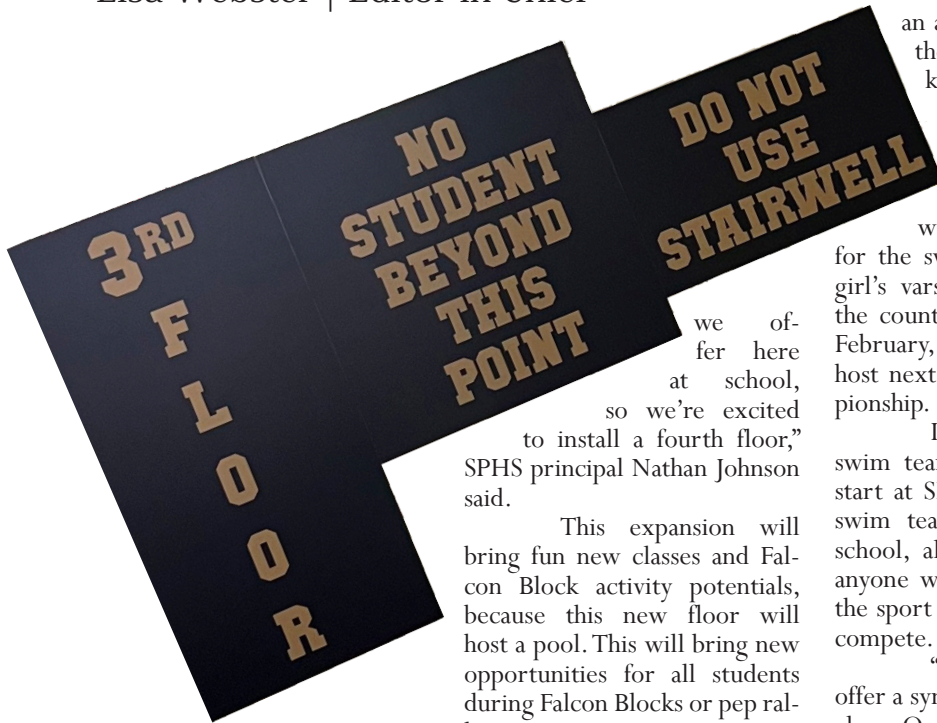
39%
Neon Orange

3%
Black

SPHS Expansions

The school's plan for a new fourth floor.

Elsa Webster | Editor in Chief



With a new administration, Severna Park High School is changing the course catalog for next year thanks to the new addition of a fourth floor. Not wanting to take space away from the sports fields in the back, expanding upwards was the logical solution. Construction on the new floor will start as soon as school lets out and plans to end before students return to school next August.

"So we were really excited about growing the school and growing the programs that

we offer here at school, so we're excited to install a fourth floor," SPHS principal Nathan Johnson said.

This expansion will bring fun new classes and Falcon Block activity potentials, because this new floor will host a pool. This will bring new opportunities for all students during Falcon Blocks or pep rallies.

"We're gonna put a swimming pool up there over the summer. I plan on getting my admin certified as lifeguards, so they're able to kind of supervise the pool. Then we'll have free swim during Falcon Block, we'll have lap swimming sometimes. I'm even hoping that we can put in a high dive so that we can have competitions sometimes during Falcon Block or during pep rallies or something like that. And I'm really trying to get a big enough pool so that we can actually have

an all school pep rally at the pool. We can all kind of go swimming, maybe Marco Polo, who knows?" Johnson said.

The new pool will also have benefits for the swim team. Since the girl's varsity swim team won the county championships last February, the new pool will host next year's county championship.

In addition to the swim team, a new team will start at SPHS. A synchronized swim team will start at the school, along with classes for anyone who wants to practice the sport but does not want to compete.

"Yes, we're going to offer a synchronized swimming class. Our dance teacher will be running the synchronized swimming team," Johnson said.

There will also be lifeguarding classes and a new wave simulator. "We're also gonna be offering lifeguarding courses. We have some heroes over the summer who saved some lives, so they'll be leading those courses. And then we're also trying to create a wave simulator in the pool so it can also offer surfing lessons," Johnson said.

The new pool is not the only addition coming to the

fourth floor. A large part of the community is school spirit, so some of the new classes being built on the fourth floor will be dedicated to teaching students how to be a mascot.

"So I'm thinking of doing mascot classes so we can learn how to be great mascots at sporting events; maybe if somebody wants to go work at Disney when they're older, they'll have some experience there. I'm also trying to implement a helicopter course. We have a lot of field space, I think we have plenty of space for a helicopter pad, and see if we can't get some kids flying helicopters around the building," Johnson said.

The new floor is primarily focused on the new opportunities that the additions will provide students rather than the added floor being a continuation of the classes and departments already offered at SPHS. The fourth floor, with the pool, new classes and a helicopter course, will take the school to the next level for all students, staff and admin.

The stairwell only leads up to the roof as of now, but starting next school year, the stairs will bring students up to a pool with a high dive and wave simulator fully ready for classes to start. The new fourth floor will accommodate this among other things. Photo by Elsa Webster



**Got Benched?
Get Energy.**

**NOW SELLING
IN THE SPHS
BOOK STORE**

WARNING!

DRINK AT YOUR OWN RISK
NOT SUGGESTED FOR CHILDREN, TEEN, ADULTS, THOSE PREGNANT OR THINKING OF
NOT SUGGESTED WITH THOSE WHO HAVE AUTISM, DEPRESSION, HAVE HAD A COOL, WHO
ARE HEALTHY, OR THOSE WHO WANT TO REMAIN HEALTHY.
NOT TO BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICINES, INCLUDING OVER THE COUNTER OR
PRESCRIPTIONS.

Energy Drinks Banned in AACPS

The BOE anonymously voted to ban energy drink in schools due to health repercussions.

Jessenia Limani | Staff Writer

Does this sound familiar? Students walking through the halls holding their Alanis, and cans of Celsius and Monster littering classrooms? Well, it should, because the student consumption of energy drinks at Severna Park has been drastically increasing over time, with a large population of the student body constantly indulging in these delicious caffeinated beverages. Yet, at what cost?

This incomprehensible caffeine incline has certainly caught the eyes of school administrators. However, unlike the students, the administration does not enjoy seeing these energy-inducing cans of carbonation around school. In fact, they dislike these drinks so much that they have decided to put their foot down once and

for all by issuing a school-wide ban coming into effect on April 2. That's right, no more energy drinks for Severna Park.

Now before the student body rebels, outraged by the ban of their favorite drinks, it must be taken into account the fact that there are good reasons for this ban to occur. It's no secret that energy drinks have health repercussions due to their high levels of caffeine and added sugars. But what's even worse than poor health is poor school performance.

"It gives them the high surge of energy, but then that's a pretty heavy crash half-ways through the school day, so then your third and fourth period classes are lacking," health teacher Stacey Bell said.

As explained by Bell,

energy drinks have a direct correlation to poor performance in school. Students are often seen rapidly consuming these energy drinks with no thought to how it might negatively affect them. No one likes to feel like a sleep-walking zombie at the end of the school day, which is exactly why the administration has put an end to these drinks.

Furthermore, students are developing a caffeine dependency way too early in their lives. The inescapable future of consumerism and lifelong dependencies is something that currently haunts teenagers, but this does not need to come into effect before they inevitably start making unhealthy decisions in college.

Yet, the administration's reasons for banning these

fizzy cans of caffeine isn't the only side to the story. The students might not be too happy about having their best-loved drinks completely banned by the school. This is especially true since energy drinks can sometimes become more of a need than a want. Are high-schoolers actually getting the recommended eight to 10 hours of sleep per night? TikTok and homework already make being well-rested practically impossible for teenagers.

So is it really wise for the administration to take away the one thing that keeps students going throughout the day? Junior Starr Busey said, "It will be much tougher for me without that instant boost of caffeine to just get my body going in the morning."

TOP SPHS ENERGY DRINKS

Abby Lawhorne and Emmy Mora | Staff Writers



ARCTIC VIBE CELSIUS
200 milligrams of caffeine per 12-ounce



ICED VANILLA BERRY
114 milligrams of caffeine per 12-ounce



SWEDISH FISH
200 milligrams of caffeine per 16-ounce



HAWAIIAN SHAVED ICE
200 milligrams of caffeine per 12-ounce can



“For teens, experts recommend limiting daily caffeine intake to no more than 100 milligrams, which is roughly equivalent to one cup of coffee.” American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

WARNING!

DRINK AT YOUR OWN RISK

NOT SUGGESTED FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, ADULTS, THOSE PREGNANT OR THINKING OF BECOMING PREGNANT.

NOT SUGGESTED WITH THOSE WHO HAVE AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE, HAVE HAD A COLD, WHO ARE HEALTHY, OR THOSE WHO WANT TO REMAIN HEALTHY.

NOT TO BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICINES, INCLUDING OVER THE COUNTER OR PRESCRIPTIONS.

CONSULT WITH A DOCTOR BEFORE CONSUMING.

AACPS "Dog"

Juice, a tra
brought in

Elsa Webster

Anne Arunc
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and SRO Officer Be
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feine in school by br
caffeine sniffing dog.

Juice is a
old mixed breed Te
has been working wi
lice department sin
His abilities include
throughout the da
around and running a
his cat siblings, Onyx

"We are e
help protect the st

“It’s for their own health, and one day they will thank us.” MS. BELL

Without their energy drinks, what will students resort to that will help them stay awake during the school day? Some students may not like alternative energy sources, like Busey who said, “I am not familiar with anything else that will help me stay up other than coffee. I hate coffee.”

Are non-coffee liking students just supposed to suffer under this new ban, submitting to a fate of crippling exhaustion that persists in a never-ending cycle of misery? Or will the students be forced to rise up against the administration and create an energy drink black-market? The smuggling and illegal transaction of Alani cans won’t be a good look for Severna Park.

If it hasn’t been made

clear already, the energy drink ban has its pros and cons. The ban may improve the overall health of students but the administration is sure to experience some backlash. After all, energy drinks are an amazing source of quick fuel for those suffering terrible sleep schedules and procrastination induced-all nighters.

Still, at the end of the day, students are subject to the administration’s rule and must learn to live without manufactured energy.

“It’s for their own health, and one day they will thank us,” Bell said.

Brings in Extra Power

trained detection dog, will be to find energy drinks.

| Editor in Chief

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SPHS by using Juice to sniff out prohibited drinks like Red Bull and Ghost,” Police Liaison to School Michael Myers said. “It is important to help students, who can’t help themselves, by telling them what they can and cannot drink. It is a philosophy that adults have used throughout the years in order to make sure teens understand who the boss is. I hope there aren’t any unwanted issues with Juice, and I hope Juice stays awake long enough to be of use to confiscated unwanted

energy
drinks,”
Myers
said.

Students have mixed reactions to this new infringement on their energy drinks. “What happened to first amendment rights? I mean, if I want to drink garbage, I should have the right to drink garbage. My body, my energy drink,” senior Mary Smith said. “This school is becoming too much, I can’t wait to graduate.”



On April 2, the Severna Park administration will be banning energy drinks throughout the school due to their harmful effects on health, a decision expected to outrage the student body. “I believe other students will be very upset,” junior, Starr Busey said. Photo by Jessenia Limani

Juice is a trained detection dog with the Anne Arundel County police department. His role in coming weeks is to sniff out any energy drinks, that have a high caffeine content, and help SRO Bennett confiscate them. “This is an abuse of my rights to drink garbage,” senior Mary Smith said. Photo by SRO Bennett

Set Your Alarms, Severna Park

AACPS giving students whiplash yet again with new school opening times.

Aileen Jeter | Features Editor

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) realized in a recent board meeting that it is impossible for teenagers to manage their time wisely.

So, high school students county-wide will now start instruction at 5:30 AM and conclude learning at 12:18 PM. This was in response to student opposition from the 2022 school hour changes, with AACPS opening their doors at 8:30 AM for the last three years. Protests on multiple campuses broke out, with signs that included "You're Gambling With World War Three" and "My Rest, My Right!"

Parents continued to share their concerns anonymously on Facebook. Evidently, it has become a competition

among Severna Park parents to see which family faces the most adversity in this affluent town.

"This is utterly ridiculous," one user wrote on Facebook. "My child gets back from lacrosse at 10 PM, then does homework sometimes until two in the morning. Is anyone else concerned?"

"Tell him to quit," a user replied, "Your kid definitely isn't as good as mine."

"I was in the meeting," someone said. "We understand that your child does not go to sleep at a rightful hour regardless of the time school starts. This was the best decision for our faculty, staff and students."

"My child is crying right now. Is anyone in your meeting going to do anything about this?" someone replied.

"Stop whining. Just

wait 'till it rains, then we won't have any school for — give-or-take — three weeks, and your child can sleep in all they want," someone replied.

"What are you talking about?" another user said, "Just wait 'till it's cloudy for God's sake. Then Bob Mosier will call out school for a month!"

Severna Park junior Isabella Tangrea did not find much controversy with this new change. "Well, I'm gonna be a senior next year, so it doesn't really matter to me," she said, "... I'm never gonna come to school anyway."

In the height of these civil discussions, AACPS has already started planning their 2026-2027 school year changes, with new rumored pro-

posals like mandatory full schedules for seniors and redistricting Shipley's Choice families to Severn Run High School. Tune in this time next year for parents' opinions on the final decisions.

AACPS is enforcing new schedule changes in the hopes of making students' lives less stressful. Unfortunately, it has proved to be impossible to please Severna Park parents, and, likewise, impossible to manage Severna Park students' stress. But this new change might rewrite history. Graphic by Ruby Howland.



New Grading Policy

SPHS new grading policy has already generated buzz.

Andre Boone | Staff Writer

Severna Park High School has a new grading policy where there's now a 50% grade weight on homework and only a 10% grade weight on assessments because of lowering test scores in the school. Teachers believe that students must stay on top of their homework more in order to get a good grade.

"I'm kind of worried since homework is graded on completion, so their grades won't be an accurate measurement of how they understand the material," Angela Sasse, a math teacher said. "I think students are really going to have to make sure they stay on top of their grades since 50%

of it is homework."

Some teachers try not to give much homework since they believe that students already have a lot going on outside of school.

"I think the new grading policy would not be a great move," Brittany Fonte, an English teacher said. "I try not to give a ton of homework because I feel like students have a lot to do after school."

Additionally, having more weight on homework than assessments could misrepresent the objective of the actual grade.

"It'll not achieve the objective of grades in general because the purpose of grades

Claim Identification	Claim is clear, original, sophisticated, and demonstrates a clear connection to the thesis.	Claim is mostly clear and demonstrates a clear connection to the thesis.	Claim is somewhat clear and mostly demonstrates a clear connection to the thesis.	Claim is somewhat unclear and does not demonstrate a relationship to the thesis.	No attempt made at producing a claim.
Evidence Usage	Multiple pieces of evidence are effectively synthesized to support the author's claim. Evidence choices expertly enhance the author's claim.	Multiple pieces of evidence are synthesized to support the author's claim. Evidence choices enhance the author's claim.	An attempt at evidence is made. Multiple pieces of evidence are used. Evidence choices mostly enhance the author's claim.	Multiple pieces of evidence are not used. Evidence choices do not enhance the author's claim. Evidence is summarized not analyzed.	No evidence is used to support the claim.
Evidence Analysis	Analysis of the evidence is sophisticated and demonstrates a strong understanding of how evidence can be synthesized in a text.	Analysis of the evidence is thoughtful and mostly demonstrates understanding of how evidence can be synthesized in a text.	Analysis of the evidence is present and demonstrates understanding of how evidence can be synthesized in a text.	Analysis of the evidence is insufficient and demonstrates limited understanding of how evidence can be synthesized in a text.	Analysis is limited or not present at all. There is no attempt made to analyze how evidence can be used synthetically.
MLA & Language Conventions	Language conventions are well above grade level and demonstrate sophistication. One or fewer errors present. Citations are correct.	Language conventions are above grade level. A few errors present in language conventions, but they do not interfere with the author's meaning. Citations are correct.	Language conventions are at grade level. Multiple errors present in language conventions, they may interfere with the author's clarity. Citations are mostly correct.	Language is not at grade level. Multiple errors are present in language conventions. Errors interfere with the clarity of the response. Citations contain multiple errors.	Language below grade level and/or response is significantly underdeveloped. Significant errors are present and severely impact the clarity of the response. Citations contain significant errors or are not attempted.

Changes to SCLTs

SCLT policy will be changed, causing many students to stress.

Ella Fretwell | Staff Writer

At the beginning of the year, Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) introduced SCLTs to schools across the county including middle and high school. SCLT stands for Short Cycle Learning Tasks and is a small assessment that generally has no more than ten questions. Originally, the SCLT was a part of the assessment category and they were given around every two weeks. After a series of issues with them they were moved into their own grading category and there were fewer of them given per quarter.

Starting fourth quarter, AACPS will bring back SCLTs making them even more frequent than they were in the beginning of the year and upping how much of each student's grade they will be worth. They will now be required once

a week in every math and English class, but instead of moving back to the assessment category the SCLT category will be expanded. SCLTs will not go back to the assignment category, they will stay in their own category which was previously worth three percent, but will now be worth five percent of students' grade, with the extra two percent pulling from the homework category.

Many students are worried about how the new SCLT policy will affect their grade. In the past, the SCLTs have been challenging for many students and it is rumored that in the new quarter they will only get harder. "They are awful and pointless. I am pretty nervous because there are many trick questions and things we have never learned," sophomore

Olivia Herman said.

It is uncertain how long the county will keep these changes to the SCLT policy seeing that they changed their original policy at the beginning of the year so fast. However it has been rumored that these changes will stay at least until the end of the 2024-2025 school year. It seems as if whether or not the SCLTs impact students grades and mental health positively, they will be here to stay.

The official breakdown of how each grading category will be weighted in powerschool as listed on the Anne Arundel County Public Schools website. SCLTs will now be worth slightly more of each student's grade, with the additional points pulled from the homework category. This change to the grading policy will go into place halfway through the fourth quarter. Photo by Ella Fretwell.

Category	Percentage of Overall Marking Period Grade
Assessments	50%
Assignments	30%
Homework	8%
SCLT	5%
Quarterly Assessment	10%
Total	100%

is to see if a person has mastered the content of the class," Bernadette Kraft, math teacher said. "To give more weight on homework and only 10% to assessments could mean that a student could know nothing in the class and still pass."

However, there are some that say that having more homework is better.

"I say the more homework the better," Trevor Bryden, a social studies teacher said. "I am of the opinion that kids should actually have a lot more homework and a lot less assessments."

This change will be a

Since most homework is graded on accuracy, Severna Park Students rarely put in effort. Now that assessments only count for ten percent of their grades, students see no reason to do any of their schoolwork and teachers are outraged. Photo by Andre Boone.

huge adjustment for students, where ideally it should help kids be more active with their homework

"I think it'll be a huge adjustment for not only students but also parents too, because home life is going to be different if kids have a large amount of homework every night," Fonte said.

This new grading policy will definitely fill up students' free time with homework.

"It might take a little time to get used to because I don't think kids now have enough homework, but they'll find the time. Kids have too much free time these days, they're just out there sitting on the couch eating Cheetos out of their belly button, watching Youtube videos when they should be doing homework. I think ideally, kids have anywhere from four to six hours of

homework each night, which is what we want," Bryden said.

It could worry teachers since too much weight on homework could cause students to not be prepared for quizzes

"I think students will make sure that they have their homework done, but I'm worried about them studying for tests and quizzes," Sasse said.

Most of the time homework is graded on completion, so most students' grades will be based on if they actually did their homework or not.

"Everybody's grades are going to be very high since they just have to try on their homework to get a 100," Sasse said.

"Grades will soar; they just have to throw something down for their homework, so grades will be great," Kraft said. Ideally, the new policy could make kids learn better since

they're on their own time.

"Grades are only going to go up," Bryden said. "Kids are going to learn how to be better students, better students, better test takers, I think in the end it's gonna make them better students."

Some will find that this new policy will make students more upset.

"They'll be upset at first because kids are lazy and they don't want to do anything," Bryden said. "They want everything handed to them on a silver platter. Homework's good for them, and I think they should shoot for four to six hours of homework each night. Homework should be mandatory in each class."

Some teachers find the original policy to be the better choice. "They should've left things the way they were," Sasse said.

The Falcon: Bringing Distress and Sorrow

Our mascot has been updated to better represent our students.

Ruby Howland | Graphics Editor

Our school's mascot, the Falcon, faces mass criticism from the students.

"The old mascot SUCKS... It's literally so offensive... The Falcon (ew) offends

me so much because I am NOT A BIRD," sophomore Sydney Davis said, seconded by a majority of students who also are not birds. "Whenever I see the falcon during football games I start violently shaking and crying due to how much it hurts me to look at," Davis said.

Clearly, students are in distress over this offensive representation of themselves. There could have been other birds that would better represent our student body if we absolutely had to choose a bird. Perhaps an owl, commonly associated with wisdom, or a sparrow, commonly associated with being boring.

Yet, someone somewhere instead chose the violent falcon, a stupid big bird that probably doesn't even know the pythagorean theorem. Not only that, but our super original design (not stolen from the Atlanta Falcons) implements hostile design elements. Shape and color language are one of the most important aspects of character design to ensure your audience gets the correct first impression, and our logo fails in every aspect.

Using almost entirely points and triangles, the shape commonly associated with villains or mean characters, it completely misrepresents the soft, nerdy students our school is known for. Commenting on the angularity of the original logo, senior Saturn Guethler added, "The old mascot had an unrealistic body type and it made me feel self conscious about my appearance. The new mascot feels like something that actually represents me and my peers."

So, there has been a decision made to 'pacify' this horrid mascot. Introducing our new representative, Kharleigh, using SP/HS pronouns (obviously). With SPer glorious blue hair, cut by a fifth grader in the dark, and enough piercings and tattoos to make your grandpa wince, HSe is the picture of our student body. Now designed with a more humanoid form to relate to the human student body, consisting of rounder shapes and softer corners. HSe sports the most iconic fashion, resembling a beloved pop culture icon, Miku binder Thomas Jefferson.

"I feel that we should have a mascot that dresses similarly to the average student. The former mascot was out of touch," senior Saturn Guethler said.

Kharleigh has also been modified to have a more achievable body type, as humans cannot grow wings unfortunately.

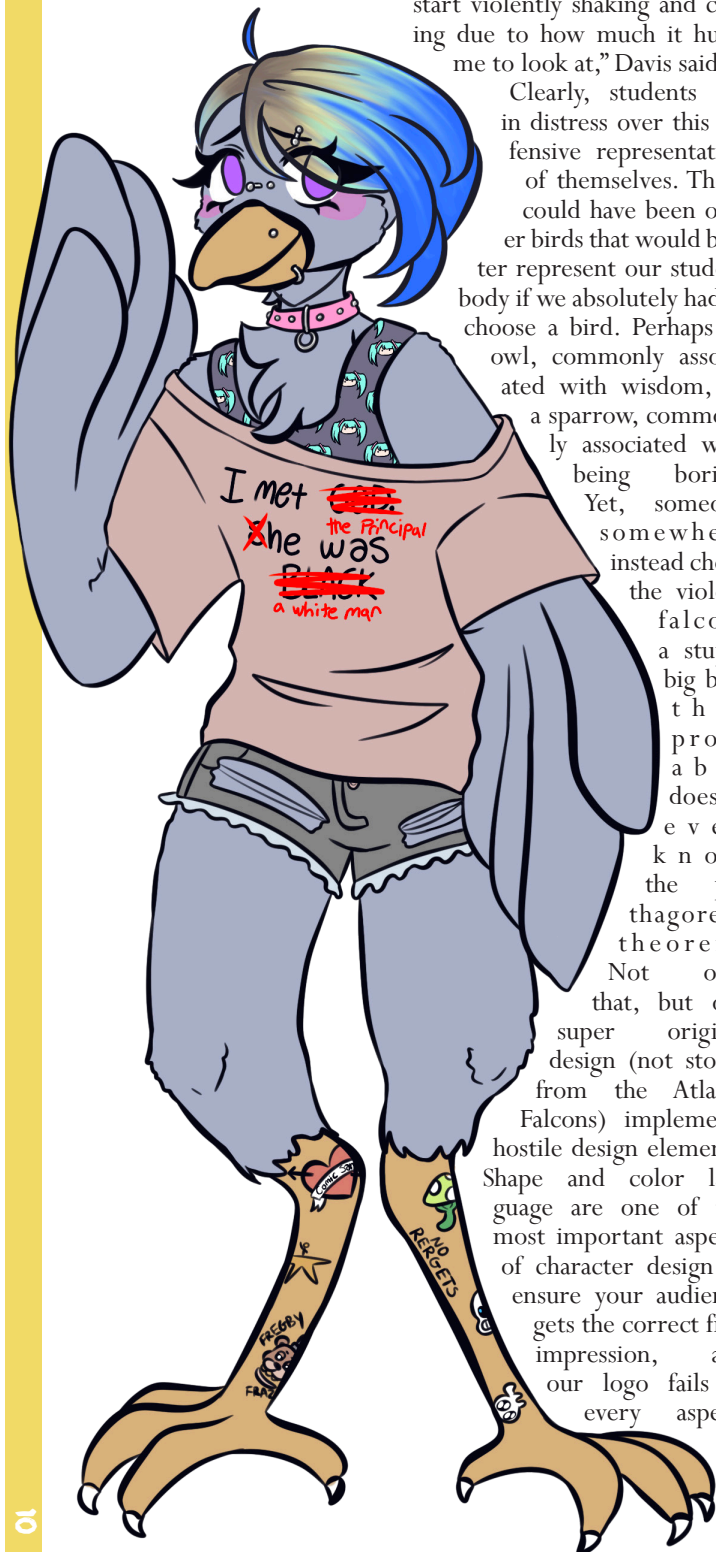
"Everyday I look at myself in the mirror and cry, knowing I will never look like Anthony Mackie with beautiful CGI wings. How am I supposed to grow feathers?" senior Lydia McFarland said, notably sobbing during her interview.

Students have already connected with our new mascot, quickly falling in love

with the relatable icon that is Kharleigh.

"Kharleigh is the reason I wake up in the morning, do my homework and teleport to Nebraska. Praise be to Kharleigh," Davis said.

"Although I am still featherless, Kharleigh gets me," McFarland said, causing an eruption of cheers and clapping from other students. Now, our new mascot, with blue hair, pronouns, and the fashion of someone robbed of the "Sexiest Man in America" title is bringing joy to all students of Severna Park. Praise be to Kharleigh.



Left: Kharleigh, the glorious leader in physical form, will become the new school mascot following the 2024-2025 school year. HSe rocks SPer blue hair and pronouns like a Victoria's Secret model. "I saw the former mascot selling bootleg copies of the Talon behind the school. I, for one, am glad we are no longer represented by a criminal who preys on the desperate," senior Saturn Guethler said. Graphic by Ruby Howland

Right: New variations of the mascot were made to promote the change. Drawings from students around the school were submitted to Principal Nathan Johnson to determine how Kharleigh will look, the winner was senior and Kharleigh enthusiast Ruby Howland. Graphic by Ruby Howland.

Rock and Roll Revival Review

A review of the worst show yet.

Jon Neal | Staff Writer

Rock and Roll Revival has been going on at SPHS for a long time now, and out of all the shows, this has to be the worst. Rock and Roll Revival closed last weekend because they were unable to sell enough tickets. This failure has brought the drama department \$42,343 in debt that they will have to make up next year, or never have another Rock and Roll performance ever again. Around 78% of tickets sales were lost according to RnR finance secretary Mary Smith.

For RnR 36, everything from lighting to singing was a mess, and here's why.

Before the show, everyone was hyped up. The audience was happy and full of excitement and anticipation, but not the cast and crew. To them, the show was terrifying. It was a huge pile up of stress and dread as the show date approached.

"I've seen someone eat like five pounds of celery. It was terrifying," junior Douglas Waters said.

The stress faced by the cast and crew built up and people were so nervous they started doing physical exercise.

"They've been doing a lot of burpees and like, yeah, just out of nowhere. To get the stress out," junior Ally Kuhn said, another crew member.

Backstage, senior Abbie Heath had the job of helping remove the bodies of people the collapsed from stage fright and stress.

Another cause of the horror of a show was the skill of

the cast and crew. Many of them have done Rock and Roll Revival before, but something about this year messed it up. When Kuhn was asked about her fellow crew members, she said, "Terrible, I hate everyone."

Well before the show, Kuhn and Waters both said they have no faith in the cast.

During the show, it was almost a complete disaster. A cast member that shall go unnamed, could not perform. However, a miracle happened. Heath said, "But luckily the crew was able to take over backstage and become the singer." The show was saved. "I think there was a bit of an issue because they kept forgetting the words because they weren't the actual original actor. But they found a way." That act was one of several that ruined the show.

Throughout the production, so many things went wrong. The song Uninvited in Act 2 caused a variety of microphone issues as several mic stands were broken during senior Brooke Testerman's exit. Mic stands also failed in the group number of a Temptations medley, causing senior Alex Stavrevski to rock out with half a mic stand. Even in rehearsal, the singing was far worse than it would have been. Near the end of the production, three lights went out and a number of spotlight gels were burned through. Fortunately, they were no longer needed for the show.

"The singers needed to improve, the dancers needed to improve. Everyone on tech was

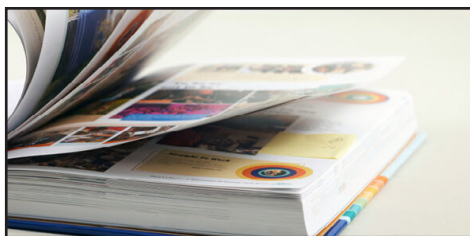


Molly Martin, Ava Gilman, Kaitlyn Knowles, Isla Crawford and Grace Daly pose in the dance hallway on March 13. The entire cast and crew was temporarily moved to the hall so that the janitors could clean the vomit. A total of seven cast and crew threw up that day due to nerves and the overwhelming chaos that was happening around them. Photo taken by Magi Howland.

being annoying," Kuhn said. Not only was the show a disaster, but so were the people." Waters said. "The cast, I mean golly there is something wrong with them."

From the start of rehearsals people knew it was going to be a mess. With people

yelling at each other without reason it was impossible to put together a good show. At one point, a microphone was airborne. The whole experience, preparation and performance, was horrific for everyone involved.



LAST CHANCE TO ORDER A YEARBOOK

Introduction of the SPHS Pickleball Team

The 2025 pickleball team and its introduction in Anne Arundel County.

Emerson Scott | Sports Editor

As of March 11, the Anne Arundel County Athletic Board approved the introduction of pickleball as an official high school sport and released the inaugural schools that will have the ability to have a pickleball team.

As an up and coming sport, pickleball was first introduced as a game catered towards the elderly and those with more limited mobility. But today pickleball has become more competitive and even

more popular across all generations. When walking in your neighborhood or playing in the park, you have likely seen tennis courts adapted to accommodate pickleball, and probably have heard some yelling or heated debates surrounding whether or not someone's foot was in the "kitchen." This not-so-culinary debate is one of the main reasons that the sport has gained so much traction at Severna Park High School.

Severna Park's name on that list marks the beginning of a new chapter for pickleball in the high school setting.

Inside school, there is excitement about the pickleball team. Junior Gabi Villegas said, "It means a lot to be on the pickleball team because there is such a community involved and I love playing pickleball with my friends."

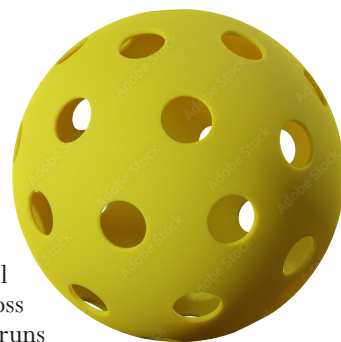
While all of this change is seemingly very positive, there are a couple of downsides when it comes to eligibility to play on the team.

The students that currently play a high school sport will have to decide if they want to continue to play them, or are willing to join the pickleball team full time. This is because across all schools, the season runs through almost the entirety of the school year and the training is beyond rigorous.

In pre season, the team has two a day practices, one being at 6am before school and the other being at 3:30 after school (both are subject to change). Also, the fitness routine for the program most certainly isn't for the weak: mile runs, trips to the gym and days spent on the track are said to be common practice for the team. Due to this, it is impossible for a student athlete to be able to participate in any school sport outside of pickleball.

In spite of this, the team has taken on eight students to be part of the team so far, so that come fall the team will be ready and bonded prior to the thick of the season. Another pickleball team member is junior Ty Maddox. Maddox had to make the tough choice to drop high school tennis in order to join the team, but seems happy with his decision due to his willingness to hone in on the craft of pickleball. "It is fun being a part of the pickleball team, I get to meet new kids all the time and have fun interactions with them," Maddox said.

Severna Park High School is a known powerhouse when it comes to athletics, and the bar remains high for the pickleball team. Their eyes are on a state championship to become the first school in Maryland to win that title for pickleball and etch their name in history. This goal is one that



starts at practice, and in order to provide adequate space for the team, the school will begin construction on a multi-level pickleball court that will replace the separated tennis court next the farthest entrance to the student section football bleachers. Currently, the team has just started practicing in the gym as well as at "The PutAway" in Millersville, MD. But after the creation of the multi-level courts, the team will be able to practice, play games, and host tournaments on the new state of the art courts.

The excitement around the team and what is to come remains to be thrilling chatter inside and outside the Severna Park High School walls. The devotion of the players and the determination from the school will make the fall athletic season of 2025 another thing to look forward to. Teachers have recommended that students start purchasing tickets to the team's games now before they sell out for the season. The competition of pickleball has expanded to the high school setting, and with their eyes on the prize, the SPHS team is ready for what is to come.

Freshman Riley Buck practices pickleball during gym class. Students are excited for this fall sport to host its first tryout on Aug. 10. "I think it's good that we're adding more opportunities for people to be involved in sports," junior Payton Gerwig said. Photo taken by Katarina Day

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