

the *Talon*



COURSE REQUIREMENT CHANGES

There have been multiple changes to the SPHS curriculum for the 2026-27 school year, including to PLTW, AP Physics 1 and 2, senior schedules and more.

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ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

It is the 100th anniversary of Black History Month, a milestone that honors a century of recognizing Black Americans' contributions, struggles and achievements.

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STUDENT'S GROWING FEELINGS ON ICE

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MORE ON PAGE 8

Cover caption: February celebrates its 100 year anniversary this year. Acknowledging the accomplishments of prominent Black Americans and their contributions to our collective history. Graphic by Angie Callahan

March 2, 2026

NEWS IN BRIEF

Computer Switch

Elizabeth St. Andrie | Copy Editor

Half the high schoolers in AACPS recently traded in their Chromebook for the Windows-based HP Elitebook 6. AACPS wrote on its website that the county chose to switch to Windows laptops because they "include traditional desktop applications like the Microsoft Office Suite and Adobe Photoshop; which are commonly used in post-secondary and professional settings," and because "most programs are developed for Windows."



The HP Elitebook 6 is the laptop model that half the student body will now use for school and homework. It is larger and heavier than the Chromebooks, but according to some, it is faster. "They load faster, and it's easier to get work done," sophomore Avery Davis said. Photo by Elizabeth St. Andrie

68th Grammy Awards

London Schwartz | Staff Writer

Feb. 1 witnessed a variety of artists accept Grammy awards in their respective categories including: Record of the Year, Album of the Year, Song of the Year and Best New Artist (also known as "The Big Four"). Kendrick Lamar won the most, with five awards, Bad Bunny took Album of the Year. Song of the Year was Bille Eilish and Finneas for "Wildflower," and Best New Artist was Olivia Dean.



Several talented artists won Grammys at this recent award ceremony. award acceptance speeches. Photo courtesy of Grammy Event

Lunar New Years

Ella Fretwell | Staff Writer

Severna Park High School's Lunar New Years festival, which took place on Feb. 19, was sponsored by Severna Park's Asian Student Union, featuring many Asian cultures celebrating the new year for lunar calendars by participating in festivals and enjoying a variety of food and activities for the time of renewal.



On Thursday, Severna Park High School Asian Student Union hosted their Lunar New Years festival for students and the community in the CAFE. The festival included games, food, music, performances and the University of Maryland lion dancers. Photo by Ella Fretwell



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COURSE REQUIREMENT CHANGES

How will the many updates to the curriculum impact students?

Elizabeth St. Andrie, Andre Boone Jr., Artin Tarpinan, Kendall Bishop and Rachael Blizzard |
Copy Editor, News Editor and Staff Writers

There have been multiple changes to the SPHS curriculum for the 2026-27 school year, including a change in the weighting of Project Lead The Way (PLTW) classes, the discontinuation of the AP Physics 1 and 2 combined class, a new financial literacy course required for incoming students and a reduction in the number of credits required for graduation. In addition, seniors will now be required to take at least four classes each semester.

PLTW

All PLTW courses are being weighed as an AP course in the upcoming school year, meaning the standard GPA weighting will be increased by one point for A's through C's. Because of this change, stu-

dents enrolled in these courses next year could see a substantial rise in their GPA without the workload of the course itself becoming more rigorous. This creates more opportunities for students to enroll further into PLTW courses, as the work-to-payout ratio is now greater.

The advanced weighting on these courses does not mean they will become AP courses with AP tests. Rather, they will be weighted the same as AP courses. Time will tell if more students will take advantage of the advanced weighting and take part in PLTW.

AP Physics

Rather than increased participation, it is decreased enrollment that has caused the combined course AP Physics 1

and 2 to be split into two separate courses.

The revised courses will affect the AP Physics 1 and 2 daily course load. "Students tend to have a difficult time fitting a course that meets every day into their schedules," physics teacher Mr. Witmer said. "As a result, course enrollment in AP Physics 1 and 2 combined has been going down."

The school is not fully discontinuing AP Physics classes, but accommodating students' needs to succeed. Witmer said, "The hope is that this change will make scheduling easier and allow more students to enroll in AP Physics 2 without needing to enroll in an every-day course."

SPHS was the only high school in the county offering AP Physics 1 and 2 as a combined course. "Severna Park High School noticed that AP Physics 1 and 2 combined was not as impactful as it previously was, so a change was decided to no longer offer AP Physics 1 and 2 combined in favor of offering AP Physics 1 and AP Physics 2 as separate courses," Witmer said.

Even though the AP Physics 1 and 2 combined

course will be unavailable to students, there will be other classes to replace it. "Now, students who want to maximize their AP science enrollment can take AP Physics 1 in combination with AP Biology, AP Chemistry or AP Environmental Science one school year and then AP Physics 2 and AP Physics C the following school year," Witmer said.

By creating multiple other options, students can still advance in physics while being able to handle the course load that comes with it, such as its advanced math.

Financial Literacy

Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, students, starting with incoming freshmen, required to complete a half-credit in financial literacy in order to graduate.

According to Superintendent Dr. Mark Bedell, the purpose of making financial literacy a requirement to graduate is to ensure students have a foundational knowledge of literacy before they leave high school so they can control their financial destiny and lead the global economy.

"There is no question that the need to produce students who are financially literate is real," Bedell said. "Adults



Mrs. Cosh's classroom, the current teacher of AP Physics 1 and 2. With the course no longer offered, student's raise questions on the ability to take all the physics courses offered. "But [the change] also cuts off Physics C from people. That makes it so much harder to take all the physics classes." Senior Payton Gerwig said. They took AP Physics 1 and 2 during the 2024-2025 school year. Photo by Rachael Blizzard.

who are not financially literate cannot lead the global economy into which our students will enter.”

Those who value lifestyle skills and believe that students should have a foundational understanding in financial literacy are more likely to agree with requiring financial literacy as a graduation requirement.

“It’s a lifestyle skill,” Ragnhild Erdely, a math teacher teaching financial literacy, said. “It’s something that students will find benefits in because it’s a lot of applying algebraic skills to real life. Anything that was covered in algebra will now relate to real life skills.”

Because financial literacy is a new graduation requirement, it has room to improve and evolve, especially with advances in technology and AI systems.

“I think they’re gonna try to make it more applicable to students and how technology will be a bigger part of it,” Erdely said. “Since technology affects everyone a lot more, instead of just checking accounts there could be Apple Pay, Venmo and other banking apps that students use.”

According to Chief Administrative Officer Christina Catalano, the course will cover topics like budget planning, bank accounts, checking, savings, credit cards, maintaining and establishing credit, student loans and accrual of interest.

Senior Schedules

Rising seniors have also received updates to their scheduling rules. Seniors, starting with the class of 2027, will now be required to take at least two credits, meaning four classes, per semester. According to Principal Johnson, the two-credit requirement had been a guideline for seniors in AACPS, but it is now a requirement for the upcoming school year.

Now that seniors must take at least two classes per day, they are required to attend Advisory as well if they are in the building. “If students are done for the day or do not have classes on an Advisory day, they will not be expected to attend,” Ms. Brown, the head of the Counseling Center, said. “Students may not leave for Advisory and then return for afternoon classes.”

Classes that span both A days and B days, such as Calculus AB, count as two classes for the purposes of scheduling. Dual Credit classes count as official credits, but not general Dual Enrollment courses at AACC. “The two credits per semester must be earned through SPHS classes, AACC Dual Credit classes and/or official internship opportunities with Mrs. Brack,” Ms. Brown said.

To clarify, students cannot use proof of employment, such as a job at McDonald’s, to be excused from the four-credit requirement, but official, registered internships can earn credits for scheduling. However, Ms. Brown said students should talk to their



NEW In 2026-2027

Severna Park High School



Important Update!

Beginning in the '26-'27 school year, ALL SPHS PLTW courses will receive Advanced Weighting GPA credit - same as AP classes!

A = 5.0
B = 4.0
C = 3.0

The plan for the new PLTW pathway. “I am excited for the changes going from honors weighting to level five advanced weighting because, finally, students will be given the grading reward that aligns with their workload,” said Scott Bernstein, the CTE Department Chair. Photo Courtesy of Mr. Bernstein.

counselor if they have “an extenuating hardship that needs to be discussed.”

Additionally, the overall number of credits in order to graduate will now be reduced from 26 down to 23, although this is still more than the State of Maryland requirement of 22. The purpose of this change is to ensure students have schedule flexibility and more time outside of school, so they are able to partake in additional opportunities that would not be possible if they had a higher number of credits they needed to graduate.

“This is not about expecting less from our students,”

Bedell said. “This is about opening opportunities for them. The 23 credits is a floor, and other districts with similar requirements see many of their students surpassing the minimum.”



ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrating 100 years of remembrance while looking towards progress and advancement for more years to come.

Angie Callaham | Graphics Editor

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Black History Month, a milestone that honors a century of recognizing Black Americans' contributions, struggles and achievements. What began as Negro History Week in 1926, created by historian Carter G. Woodson, meant to celebrate Fredrick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln. These are two key figures in Black history, according to the Library of Congress. The Month has grown into a national reminder that Black stories are not separate from American history—they are

essential to it.

"My favorite part about Black History Month is learning about new things about my culture every day," junior Jahari Gray said.

Black History Month was created during a time when Black contributions were largely ignored or erased from textbooks and classrooms. Woodson believed that learning about Black History Month was necessary for understanding the nations as a whole. Over time, Negro Week expanded into Black History Month of-

fically in 1976. This change reflected the growing recognition of Black Americans' impact in areas such as politics, science, art, sports and social justice. Reaching the 100th anniversary highlights how important this mission still is today, and furthermore, Black History's growth into reach higher levels and more individuals.

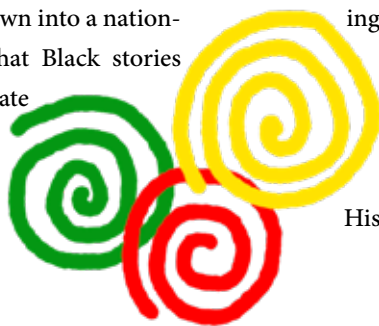
Throughout history, Black Americans have shaped the United States in countless ways. Leaders like Martin Luther King Jr, Rosa Parks and Malcom X helped push the nation toward greater quality during the Civil Rights Movements, according to national-daycalendar.com. Inventors, writers, musicians, and activists have also transformed American culture and identity. At the same time, Black History includes stories of everyday people students, workers and families who resisted injustice and created change in their communities, according to aam-us.org.

These stories show strength, resilience and determination in the face of discrimination.

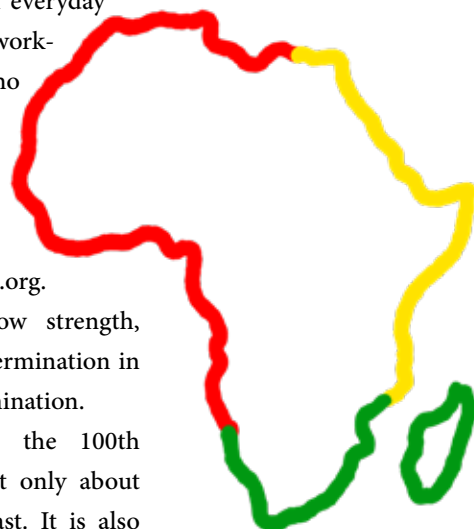
However, the 100th anniversary is not only about celebrating the past. It is also about recognizing the present and preparing for the future.

Black Americans continue to face challenges such as racial inequality, voter suppression and disparities in education and healthcare. Black History month encourages people to learn, reflect and take action so that progress continues beyond February.

As Black History Month reaches its centennial, its message is clear: history must be remembered honestly and fully. Learning Black history helps create understanding, empathy and accountability. One hundred years later, Black History Month remains just as necessary as when it began, not only to honor those who came before, but to inspire future generations to continue striving for justice and equality.



A curly haired girl with the Pan African flag behind her. The Pan African flag represents black for unity, red for the blood shed for freedom and green for the abundant land of Africa. This unites all under one flag. Graphics by Angie Callaham



BLACK STUDENT UNION

The club's preparations for the 100th Anniversary of Black History Month.

Elsa Webster | Editor-in-Chief

During the 2024-2025 school year, the school formed the Black Student Union (BSU), a club focusing on creating community and promoting culture.

AP African American Studies teacher Heather Allam is the club's adviser, and the club was formed after students in her class asked her to sponsor it. Since then, BSU has grown as the club's members gather together to share their experiences and spread awareness about African American Culture.

"Basically, we thought, because we do go to a majority white school, that people need to be educated, and it'll be nice for everyone to learn about different cultures and different people, different backgrounds," senior Kimora Turner said. Turner is BSU's president this year.

BSU is open to all students who wish to join and participate, regardless of race. The primary goal of the club is to educate the student body as a whole about Black History and culture.

"Getting to know so many kids that I wouldn't know otherwise," Allam said regarding her favorite part of advising

BSU. "It is also amazing to see how diverse the meetings actually are-- it is the Black Student Union, but everyone is welcome, and we always have fun."

The meetings for BSU typically follow themes. This year, two of the themes included Black Movie Creators and Kwanzaa, which begin with an icebreaker activity and have games.

"[BSU] was to show everybody that black history can be more than what is put out there," junior Ariana Tolson said. Tolson serves as an officer for BSU, helping to promote the club and plan events. "It made me join to learn more about my history that I don't learn in school."

To further spread awareness and reach out, the club also plans events such as field trips, most recently to the Smithsonian, bake sales, and this month, a spirit week. The spirit week took place the week of Feb. 17 through Feb. 20.

"The kids wanted to do something to celebrate Black History Month, especially since this is the 100th anniversary,"

Allam said. "Each day will have a theme that revolves around African American history and culture." Black Student Union, for February, has several events planned to celebrate Black History Month and its anniversary.

BSU worked in conjunction with the Equity Office at the Board of Education to make the event possible. The themes for the spirit week were as follows: I Have a Dream Day (PJ day), Pan-African Day (wear green, yellow, or black), African American Music and Arts (wear a favorite musician, band, or artist) and Unity Day (wear black to show togetherness).

While always encouraging new members, the Black Student Union has created a

sense of community for all those involved this year and last.

"Just sharing my culture and being able to express it, because who doesn't like sharing?" Turner said. "I like sharing stuff, especially educating other people about it that don't know."

More information about the Black History Month Spirit Week and the club's meetings can be found on the BSU Instagram page, run by the officers.



Juniors Kuna Doh, Noelle Strong and senior Jonae Hargrow pose for photos during a Black Student Union meeting. The club works to foster a sense of community for all its members, and welcomes anyone who wants to join. "I most enjoy when I see a lot of people come in and actually enjoying the club instead of just making fun of it or just not coming at all," junior and BSU officer Ariana Tolson said. Photo by Kimora Turner



STUDENT'S GROWING FEELINGS ON ICE

Amid nationwide protests, what do students in Severna Park think?

Diego Arita and Hal Cosler | Staff Writers

Lately, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has been a strongly recurring topic of discussion among students in classrooms, protests, and on various social media platforms. Some of us are worried, others are confused, and almost everyone is focused on what this means for our communities.

Through various interviews with students from Severna Park High School, I have learned that this discussion of politics and social problems regarding ICE not only impacts our community but the very students themselves.

At school, many students say that ICE feels personal to them. Several students have commented on how anxious they feel watching news reports about ICE raids and immigration enforcement; some fear that their family members could be affected, even if they themselves were born here.

This is not an isolated feeling; students across the country have taken action in their feelings of injustice based on the current administration's immigration enforcement.

In some cities, thousands of students walked out of class to protest ICE and immi-

gration policies. ICE strategies have been documented as involving deceptive ruses such as wearing plain clothes or impersonating local law enforcement to gain entry into a domicile. This along with the spike in force used by ICE agents with reports detailing threats, intimidation, excessive force with breaking windows or using chemical agents, and the death of two Minnesotans, has led to strong disapproval and concern among many students. Teachers and school leaders have mixed feelings about these walkouts: wanting to support students exercising their constitutional liberties but also a responsibility of having students attend school without interruptions in education.

On March 13, the students of SPHS have planned a schoolwide walkout, following other Maryland schools doing the same on that day.

"We're protesting against ice coming here, especially because even if there's students who might be legal or illegal, regardless, the fact that ICE doesn't follow habeas corpus and the right to free trial means that anyone can be deported," walkout organizer and junior Isabella McLean said.

However, not all people share this disapproving view of ICE. Some adults, and by extension, some students, advocate for strict enforcement of immigration laws as a way to protect the nation's borders. But often among young people, especially in diverse communities, the feeling is often that these policies are too harsh and frightening.

For many students, it's not just about politics, but also about family, friends, and the fear that a loved one could be affected by ICE actions. Be-

cause of this uncertainty, students say they are paying closer attention to the news, talking to their families, and trying to understand how these important national decisions affect their life and those around them.

"I want people to not be afraid, especially in our day and age," McLean said. "There's a big political divide, political antagonism. And I think we just need to get along and stop experiencing so much hate."

PROTEST TIPS

1. Remain safe: stay clear of harm and see exits, make sure that students with disabilities are being accommodated.
2. Make sure we're not saying anything that goes against our protest

advice: discriminatory remarks, or hate speech, because those aren't protected under First Amendment rights.

3. Stay on approved protest paths: follow SPHS Protest Account for information how where and when to walk.



STUDENTS AND WINTER BURNOUT

Students thoughts on winter burnout, and ways to cope with it.

Jolene Robertson | Opinions Editor

During winter, many students experience burnout, where they feel less motivated to participate in activities and school. While school can already create much stress for students, the temperature dropping seems to increase stress and anxiety levels.

Between December and February, the sun comes up later in the morning and earlier in the evening, while the temperatures slowly drop. This affects many people's mental health as a result of staying inside lots of days. Many students believe the shortened daylight impacts not only their stress, but motivation levels too.

"I feel like as soon as the weather gets colder and it gets darker outside, I don't do my homework, or it may be difficult to do my homework," sophomore, Sana Baber said. "The motivation just goes down."

Students feel stuck, since they are filled with ex-

haustion and are worn out.

"I just try and stay as active as possible, and don't go in my bed, 'cause if I go in my bed, I won't get out," junior Parker Ward said.

Though it may feel hard, there are different ways that the students like to encourage themselves to be more motivated. Keeping themselves busy helps some students.

"I like sticking to a good routine and being productive," senior Grace Lopez said. "I also surround myself with my friends and like hanging out with them a lot."

The school strives to assist students when dealing with mental health issues by having counselors available and hosting events for students to participate in. Yet many wonder: is this enough? Some students believe there could be more done to help how students feel, especially in the winter.

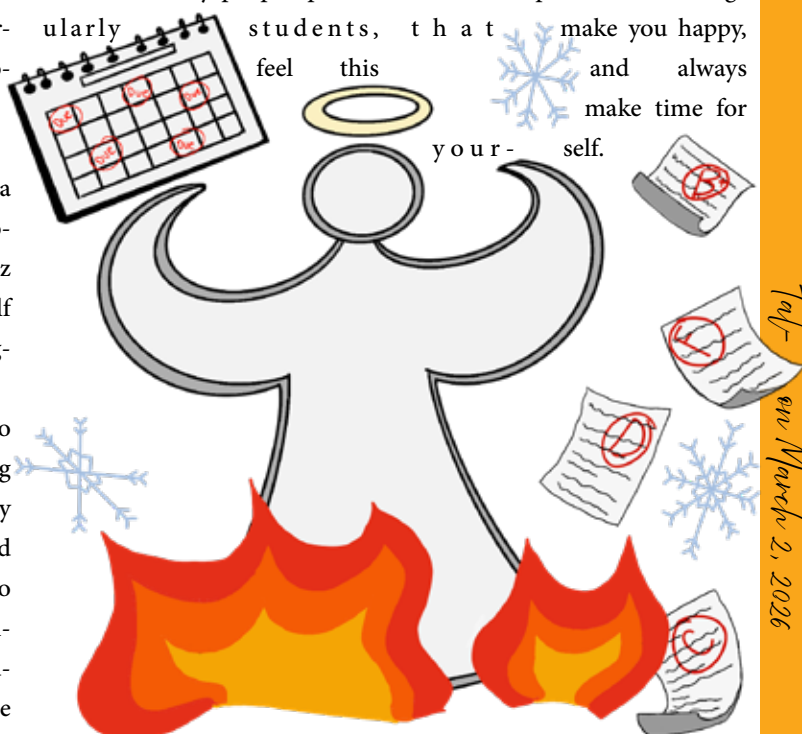
"I think maybe having support groups, 'cause some

people don't have anyone to talk to," Baber added.

Having someone to talk to when feeling this way is extremely important and could be essential to one's wellbeing.

Throughout this period, when many people, particularly students, feel this

burnout, it is important to focus on the things that help you stay motivated. Being around the people you love, who make you happy, is another key factor when it comes to getting through times like these. It is essential to prioritize the things that make you happy, and always make time for yourself.



The drawing below exemplifies winter burnout with images of grades and due dates. Burnout affects many students during the winter months. "I definitely start to feel less motivated in the colder months," junior Anya Diggs said. Graphic by Angie Callahan

up to something

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FEATURES

THE DEBATE ON AI IN THE CLASSROOM

Should Artificial Intelligence (AI) be allowed for assignments and homework?

Ella Stoudt | Social Media Editor

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a tool used for answering questions, solving math problems, creating images/videos, having conversations, coding and many more things. In school, AI is most commonly used by students when doing math homework and writing essays. Despite student's use of it, Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) has strict regulations against AI, "Where AI applies for schools is around academic dishonesty, and we just want to make sure that students are not using AI to supplement their own work," Principal Johnson said. If AACPS has strict policies against AI, why do students get away with using it?

AI has the ability to curate "human-esk" responses, making it more appealing to use. These human-like responses

make it hard for teachers to pick up when students are using AI versus when they aren't. English and history teachers have all resorted to using "AI trackers," these detectors scan the text and give teachers a percentage of how much AI is used in their writing. And yet, these trackers can sometimes get it wrong. According to Forbes.com, a copywriter ran the Declaration of Independence through an AI content detector, the result was 98.5% AI-generated, despite it being written in 1776.

Using a randomized survey, 74 out of 143 students said that AI should be used in the classroom. AI can be used as a tool for studying. When students are struggling with homework, AI can show them how to answer a question. Additionally, AI can help students

come up with ideas for projects, essays and classwork. "You can use it to create practice questions to understand a topic better and study for an upcoming test" junior Rachael Blizzard said.

Sixty-nine out of 143 students, on the other hand, said that AI should not be used in the classroom. AI takes away from learning, when students use AI they don't use their brains and get the generated answer without trying.

According to scientists at the University of California, Riverside, each 100-word AI prompt is estimated to use roughly one bottle of water. Which may not sound like much, but when a billion people over the world are all using AI everyday, it can produce gallons and gallons of water. AI is a big contributor to climate change. Cornell researchers found that by 2030, the current rate of AI growth would annually put 24 to 44 million metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, equivalent to five to 10 million cars on U.S. roadways. "I believe that generative AI is extremely dangerous because of the mass use of fossil fuels

and water, they pollute the air, as well as generative AI replacing mass amounts of jobs and money" sophomore Georgia Clanton said.

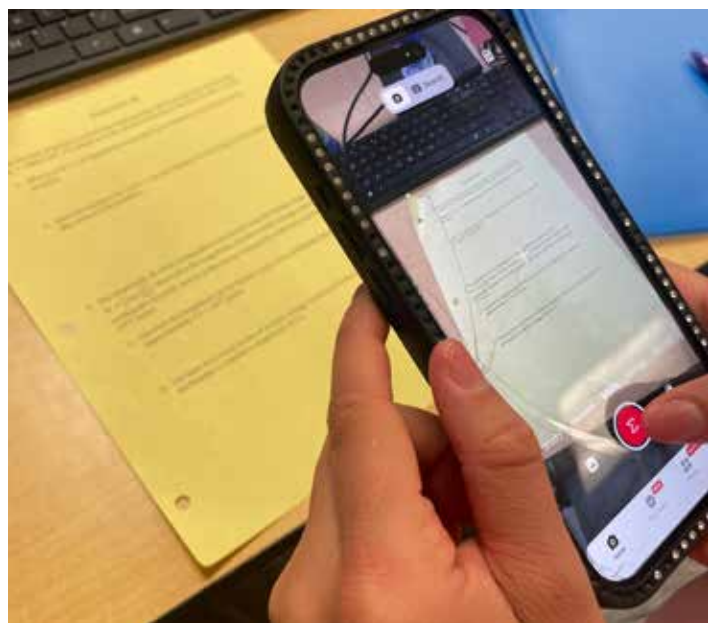
One of the reasons most people don't like AI is because students don't get the chance to work their brains and learn the topics. "I know a lot of people use it, but I believe since we're in school, we should all use our brains and get stuff done by ourselves" sophomore Lily Krainak said.

When students don't use AI they learn how to think for themselves. If the assignment they are doing is hard, that means it's working their brains and making them learn how to persevere through the tough times.

"Learning is best enhanced through a one to one process for the human being. You know, like talking out a math problem with a human being rather than figuring out the answer immediately on AI is always better" social studies teacher Mrs. Goldberg said.

When students get a 100% on their homework, but then get a 50% or lower on

Story Continued on Page 12
"The Debate on AI in the Classroom"



Anonymous student using AI to do pre-calc homework. "AI helps students when they don't know an answer for a question," junior Angie Callaham said. Photo by Ella Stoudt

Sports Highlights

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

With the recent move to the 4A classification, the girls basketball team looks to take on playoffs with the first game being against the North County Knights on Friday, February 27. This is following a strong win against Chesapeake, with senior, Brooke Barnes knocking down two important free throws in the final minute to secure the game.

Severna Park vs. Chesapeake 51-48

Severna Park vs. Broadneck 45-33

Severna Park vs. Meade 51-13

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

The boys basketball team has seen some incredible success so far and closes the regular season and heads into playoffs as the regular season county champs. The boys team also made a huge ripple in the rankings as they defeated the defending state champions at Meade, they then met them again in the county championship, which was a great game that unfortunately didn't end in SP's favor.

Severna Park vs. South River 55-49

Severna Park vs. Broadneck 53-43

Severna Park vs. Annapolis 71-60

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Indoor track and field has officially ended and has closed the season with the girls 3A state championship title. Individually, sophomore Grace Redond won the 800 and the 1600 meter runs. Also, the girls 4x800 placed first as well. Finally, senior Matt Williams competed in the boys high jump and took first. With a great end to the indoor season there is a lot to look forward too in the spring.

VARISTY ICE HOCKEY

The hockey season this year was marked by dominance on the ice. The team went back to back as the Eastern Conference Champions with a 3-2 win over South River. As the team went on to the state tournament the faced Walter Johnson but sadly lost in a 2-3 over time.

Severna Park vs. South River 3-2

Severna Park vs. Easton 6-3

Severna Park vs. Broadneck 9-3

ALL ABOUT SPRING SPORTS FOR 2026

The spring season and what to and look forward to.

Emerson Scott | Sports Print Editor

Although an icy layer of snow covers the ground outside, beneath it lie courts, fields and tracks, all gearing up for athletic competition during the 2026 spring season. With the new year underway and winter sports rounding the corner, athletes prepare to return to the outdoors to kick off spring sports such as boys' and girls' lacrosse, tennis, baseball, softball, track and unified bocce. So with that in mind, here is what to look for, what to expect, and what's new.

If you are an athlete who is looking to try out for a spring sport, the first thing to be aware of is interest meetings held by coaches in school during falcon block, or in some cases, after school. To stay up to date on whether or not an interest meeting is being held, make sure to listen to the morning announcements and mark your calendars. As for the tryouts themselves, they are being held on Feb. 28th, with most sports having three-day tryouts. If you haven't registered to participate in

spring tryouts yet, don't worry, registration began on Feb. 14th and closes at 3 p.m. on Feb. 27, so you still have plenty of time. All registration is done through the FamilyId.com website.

Also, a sports physical is mandatory to be able to try out. If you are an athlete who has already played either a fall or winter sport for SPHS or you have completed and passed your sports physical post June 1, 2025, you are all set. Finally, if you are currently competing in a winter sport and the playoffs overlap with spring tryouts, what should you do? Well, athletic director Mr. Dave Kauffman said that sports in season are not allowed to overlap. This means that you must wait for the final conclusion of one high school season to then go into the next. So keeping a clear line of communication between yourself and next season's coach is certainly important.

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"All About Spring Sports for 2026"

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Fallen March 2, 2026

SPORTS

Next up is what to expect and get excited for this spring. The lacrosse season is always a staple in Anne Arundel County and in all of Maryland. The girls' team ended their season last year with a great run that brought them to the state championship to defend their 2024 title. It was a game well fought, but ended with a close defeat. As for this upcoming season, the team has already started preparations with winter workouts for those interested, as well as getting returning players together to compete indoors at the Spooky Nook facility and competing in

indoor tournaments.

"It's good to get the team together in the off-season and just move the ball again and refresh all of our connections and coaching together" senior lacrosse player Naomi Batty said.

More to look forward to comes from the tennis team, which, despite classification shifts, remains in the 3A division. Last season was marked by young talent such as sophomore Brynn Bilnosk, who brought a state championship back to Severna Park in girls' singles.

Although the coach-

ing staff for the upcoming spring season remains the same as the previous, that doesn't mean that there aren't new elements in play. Every year, there are bound to be alterations in the way teams operate and execute the season, whether that be because of graduation and incoming athletes or changes in competition and classifications. Junior varsity baseball coach, Coach Kristofer Dean sums up the way the baseball team, both JV and varsity, will approach the transition to the 4A division.

Dean said, "We still prepare for the team that is

ahead of us; there is no difference in preparation."

So, as spring sports begin to take over the latter half of the school year, the opportunity to compete and succeed for Severna Park becomes increasingly apparent and compelling. Whether a team is defending titles or fighting to handle unfinished business, there is so much on the horizon this spring. If you are planning on being a part of the athletic world, best of luck. And if you want to support your school and its athletes, get your GoFan tickets ready, because the spring will be filled with fun for all.

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"The Debate on AI in the Classroom"

on their tests, it can be a warning sign to teachers that they did not try and decided to cheat instead of learning the lessons. This can lead to referrals that go on a student's record, and make it harder to go to college, participate in honors societies and clubs like SGA.

Students were surveyed on the question "Should AI be used in classrooms." They were surveyed in classrooms where teachers were present, this may have impacted student responses.

As the saying goes, honesty is the best policy. Acting with integrity and honesty is 100x better than lying and cheating on assignments that students are capable of doing. Taking advantage of falcon blocks, redos, and emailing teachers, are all wonderful

ways of bringing up grades, instead of using AI. "The most satisfying thing as a teacher is seeing students maybe getting a bad grade on an assignment, but they stay persistent, get help and we get to see them succeed" English teacher Ms. Harrington said.

It's better to get a failing grade, make the effort to do a redo, and work for a new grade, rather than getting an automatic 0% with no redo for using AI.

Students can not only be more successful, but they can also feel fulfilled when they learn how to think for themselves. Instead of resorting to cheating, learn how to be more resilient when doing work. Is using AI worth the risk?

The tennis athletes who competed in the 2025 state championship tournament. With its completion, Severna Park won first place in girls' singles, second in mixed doubles, and third in boys' doubles. Senior Ty Maddox said, "We ended the season well, and now it is time to get right back at it." Photo by Ty Maddox.



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