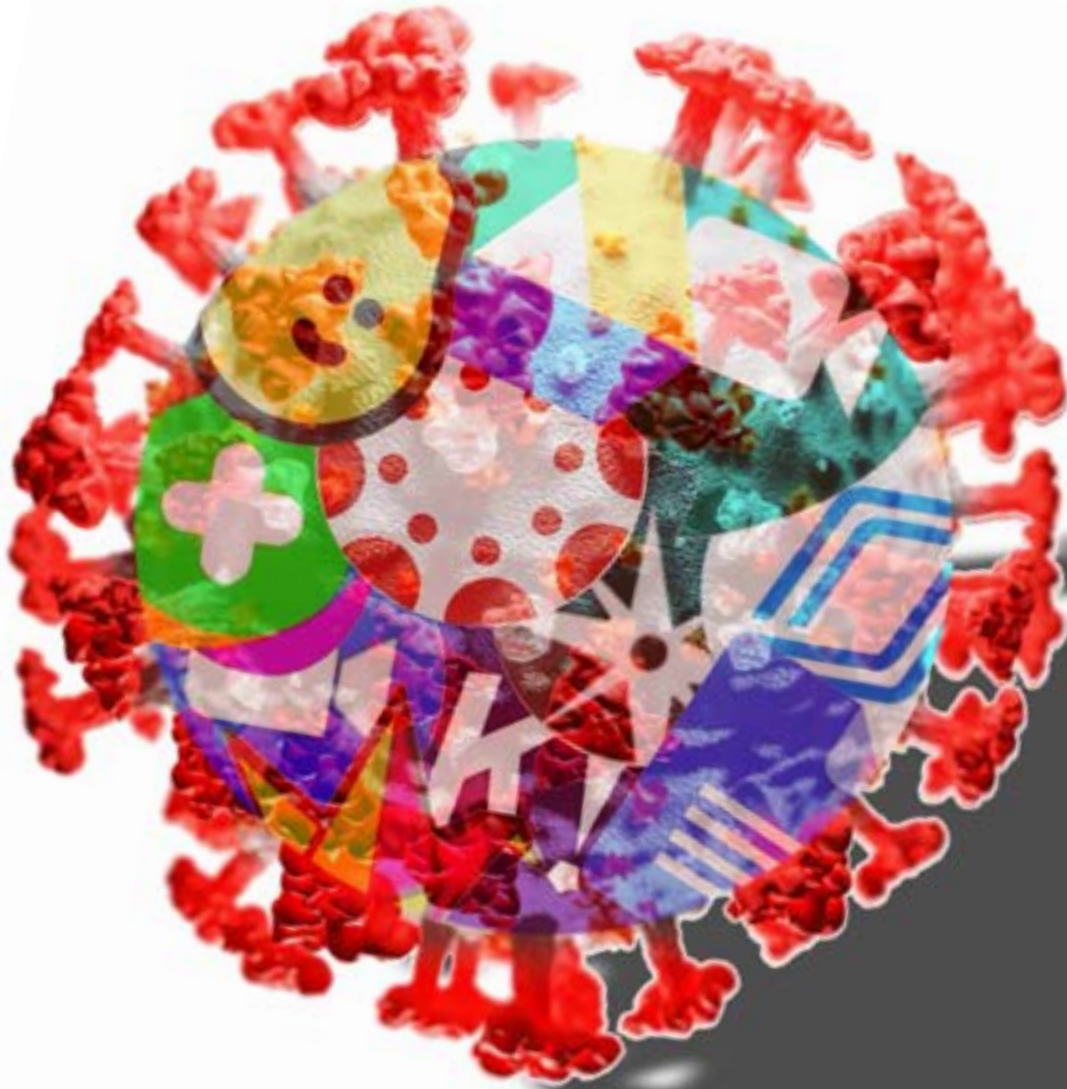


The Lion's Tale

FALL 2020

DIGITAL MAGAZINE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1



EDITOR IN CHIEF
Ben Fader

MANAGING EDITOR
Kenny Ling

COPY EDITOR
Ariel Hammerash

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
Erin Smith

NEWS EDITOR
Stephanie Samsel

OPINION & EDITORIAL EDITOR
Abigail Warwick

SPORTS EDITOR
Nicole Parker

FEATURES EDITOR
Ruby Gifford

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
Johanna Wojewodzki

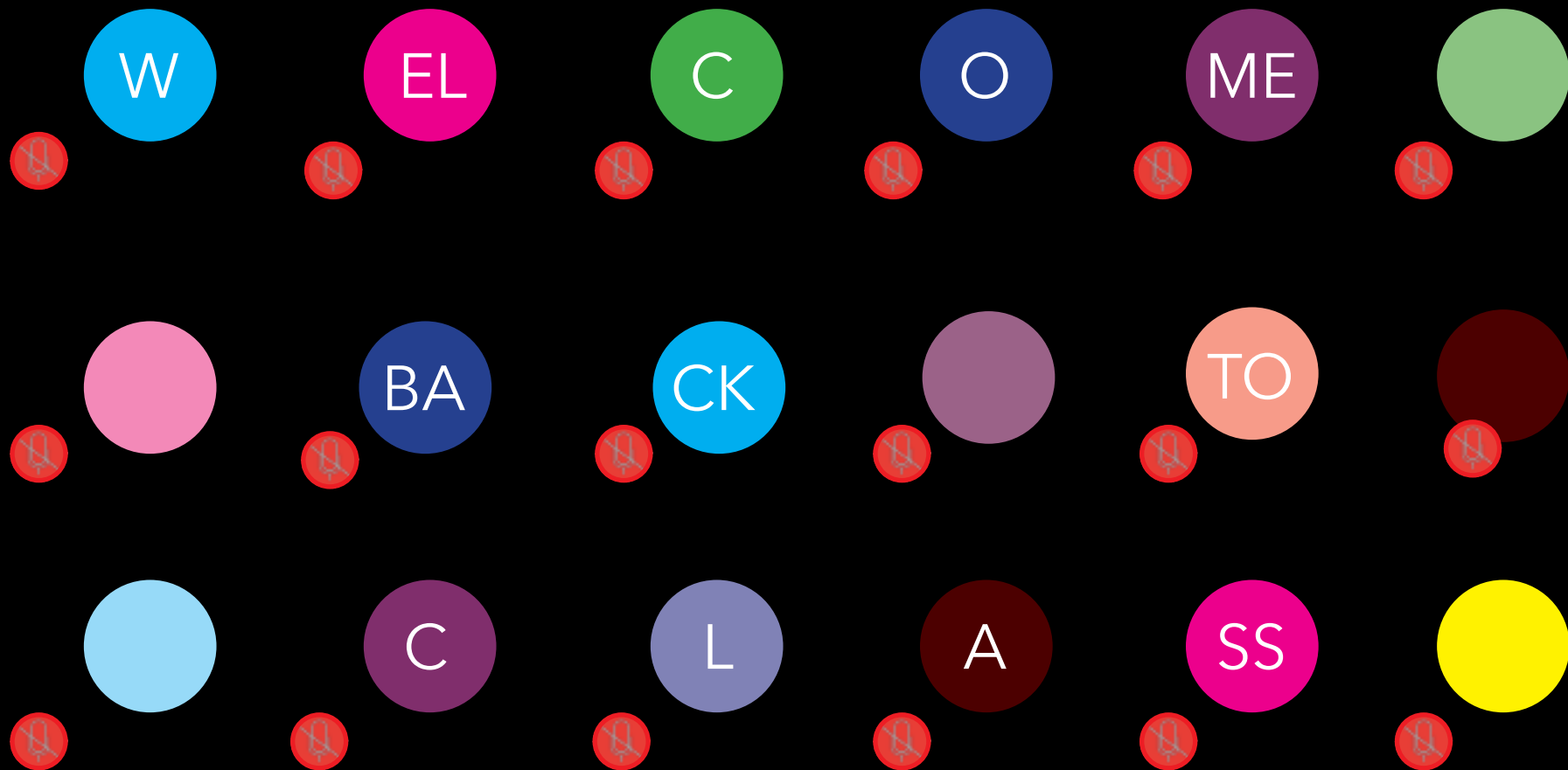
STAFF WRITERS

Chijokie Agbam	Megan Otchet
Bryce Banghart	Alyssa McGuigan
Miles Bell	Jessica Menk
Edward Calkins	Alexis Schuster
Sydney Corley	Amanda Silver
Hailey Gardner	Robert Smith
Madeline Kuehl	Sahijpreet Singh
Shenell Logan	Meghan Yunkun
Holly Larson	Michaela Wall
Alexis Maokhamphiou	Ella Werdell

ADVISOR
Mrs. Julia Carter

Contents

Welcome Back to Class: The Virtual Fall Semester	News	Shenell Logan	2
The Presidential Election and voting information	News	Chijokie Agbam & Bryce Banghart	4
COVID-19 Timeline	News	Sydney Corley	6
The Earth's Response to Quarantine	News	Holly Larson & Michaela Wall	7
New Dates for Sports	Sports	Alexis Maokhamphiou	8
The Breakdown	Column	Ben Fader	9
Howard Student Wins SMOB Election	News	Erin Smith	10
Click, Click, Buy! Online Shopping in Quarantine	A&E	Johanna Wojewodzki	11
The Response to Systemic Racism in Our Schools	News	Ruby Gifford	12
Work Spaces	Features	Maddie Kuehl & Alyssa McGuigan	14
Howard Theatre Goes Virtual	A&E	Alexis Schuster	16
College Essay Tips	Infographic	Eddie Calkins	16
Colleges Respond to Covid	News	Amanda Silver	17
The Club Connection	News	Ariel Hammerash	18
Fantasy Football	Sports	Megan Otchet	19
Fast Fashion	Editorial	Abigail Warwick	20
Phase 3 Reopening	News	Stephanie Samsel & Meghan Yunkun	21
Controversy: SROS	Opinion		
The Case to Keep SROs		Jessi Menk	22
The Case to Remove SROs		Miles Bell	23
Tik Tok Gets Political	Editorial	Kenny Ling	24
Staying Fit	Sports	Bobby Smith & Ella Werdell	25
Spooky Fun: Halloween Events	Features	Hailey Gardner	26
Howard Sports History: Mr. Lupashunski	Sports	Nicole Parker	27
NBA2K21	A&E	S.P. Singh	28



THE VIRTUAL FALL SEMESTER

by Shenell Logan '23
Staff Writer

ON

July 16th, 2020, a message was sent out to the Howard County Public School System announcing the approval of distance learning for students until the second semester. Along with the announcement of students going back to a virtual classroom, a new 4x4 schedule was introduced. Students are to take four classes a semester — a total of eight classes for the year — instead of the usual seven.

This additional class means the added opportunity to enroll in elective courses, and for some, complete their graduation-required

credits early. Howard High has been able to add elective courses not previously offered in the years of 7 credit schedules, notably African American Literature and more tutorial periods. Students enrolled in several AP courses, for example, were invited to join a tutorial course to keep their skills up for the exams in May.

The county has also added a Social and Emotional Learning period on Mondays. Howard High administrators are using this period to build community, offer extra help, and address those emotional needs. On the third Monday of each month, students are able to use the SEL period to

join and participate in clubs. On the second and fourth Mondays, teachers host Lion's Time for extra help. Extra help sessions are also offered in the mornings from 8:30-8:50am, and the afternoon from 2:55-3:15.

Another major change is the start time for high schoolers. In the past few years, the Board of Education has brought up the research-supported change of starting high school later; however, the cost of transportation has been a roadblock. This year, high schools and middle schools begin first period at 9am, a full hour and a half after the in-person start time. With no bus to catch,

this extra time for sleep (and last-minute homework) is significant.

Howard High is becoming acclimated to the new schedule and distance learning. Of course, many students, teachers and faculty members have different opinions on this new way of schooling. According to numerous students, the resounding advantage of the 4x4 schedule is the fact that there are fewer classes to worry about for the semester. Therefore, there is more time to complete homework and projects with a heightened focus on what their teachers are asking them to accomplish. There is also the point that

students and their families will be able to save money this semester. According to the National Retail Federation, "households will spend [on average] over \$117 on standard classroom supplies, nearly \$136 on shoes and nearly \$240 on clothing" during back-to-school shopping. This semester, the only school supplies Howard County students need is a computer - available free from the school system. Textbooks are available digitally or, in rare cases, distributed by the school, and novels for English class are on the new resource, Actively Learn.

As students study fewer

classes each semester, the 4 period semester schedule has reduced the number of students in each class. Mr. Kaplan, who teaches American Government, says, "From a teacher's perspective, we have less student [work] to grade."

However, the fewer classes ultimately connotes more schoolwork in the semester, which — as many have deduced — can be very stressful for students, as well as teachers. "It is a lot of work moving to the 4x4 schedule because of the asynchronous modules we create. We also have to condense our curriculum into four, 45-minute classes for half a year rather

than a full year with 54 minutes five days a week," Mr. Kaplan adds.

With the condensed curriculum, will students be able to retain the lessons being taught to them? Jen Zenker, who is a sophomore, says, "For some of the classes, it depends on the way that the teacher teaches it. For most people though, it might not matter because the teachers are trying to teach kind of fast since we don't have as much time as before."

After being asked if distance learning is more stressful than in-person learning, sophomore Marie Kim responded, "Oh for sure." She continued, "You don't have

the help that you need directly. You have to wait for emails or something else. You also have too many distractions at home. And every homework assignment is due on Monday." The Monday deadline to submit work by 9am is a county mandate, as is the demand for teachers to post the work.

Junior Madison Russell said during an interview, "Distance learning is definitely more stressful and [makes it] harder to keep up with work." Sophomore Ava Gallagher adds, "Even with having Wednesday off, there's still a lot of work that needs to be done by Monday."

2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

by Chijokie Agbam '21 & Bryce Banghart '21
Staff Writers

With the 2020 election approaching, it is very important to know where the candidates stand on issues that affect our country. President Donald J. Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden have different stances on health care, taxes, law enforcement and, most importantly, how they plan to combat COVID-19 in the future. They discussed all of these issues during the first presidential debate on September 30, 2020.

In regard to health care, Trump plans to eliminate the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, and replace it with a cheaper option: During the first presidential debate of 2020, he stated, "It's expensive, premiums are too high, and it doesn't work." The President wants Obamacare gone because he believes that something ill-fated from the start cannot be run - even by his own administration. Biden, however, plans to expand Obamacare: "20 million people are getting health care through Obamacare now that [Trump] wants to take away."

On the issue of taxes and the economy, Biden plans to propose four trillion dollars in new taxes for a decade on individuals and corporations that make more than \$400,000 a year. Trump states that this increase in taxes could "hurt the economy as it is just coming out of a recession." Biden states that he plans to create more jobs and predicts that 7 million more jobs will be created than what Trump was able to accomplish in four years. Trump's plan for taxes continues with the same free-market approach, which entails lower taxes and deregulation. Trump states that if Biden's economic plan were to go into effect, several companies would leave, causing an economic depression with ramifications "you've never seen."

In addition to the economy, the candidates differ in their approach to social justice. The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others have raised questions about law enforcement. Some citizens advocate for "defunding the police" while

others want more police involvement because the crime rate has increased in several cities. Biden's plan for law enforcement is to have reform and less involvement. Biden said, "What the plan would be is [police] departments don't get funded if they don't do the things that have to change... change the way we hold police departments accountable." Conversely, Trump said, "I will be announcing 61 million dollars in grants to hire new great police officers."

During the pandemic, the United States has been the country with the highest amount of coronavirus cases and deaths: America has 5% of the world's population but 20% of the total deaths from COVID-19. Biden proposes stricter quarantine and mask use guidelines until the number of COVID-19 cases can decrease and the average American citizen can recover. On the other hand, Trump advocates for opening the country's businesses, citing the economy as the main concern for the country's future.



VOTING IN A PANDEMIC

Election day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Maryland allows any voter to request a ballot by mail. You can also vote in person during early voting (see below) or on election day at your designated polling place.

1. Request your mail-in ballot with [a mail ballot application](#).
2. Fill out the application completely.
3. Submit the request to your [local election office](#). You should request your ballot as far in advance of the election as possible. The deadline to request a ballot by mail is (received by) Tuesday, October 20, 2020.
4. When your ballot arrives, read it carefully and follow the instructions to complete it and return it. You can do this by mail, or using one of the ballot drop boxes (see below).

Additional option for voters in Maryland

If you have a Maryland driver's license or MVA-issued ID card you are able to request an absentee ballot be delivered to you via email. You can request your absentee ballot online [here](#) and then request internet delivery of your ballot. You will receive an email with a downloadable ballot that you can print at home and mail back to your [local election office](#).

Dropbox Locations

Howard County (3 locations)

The Bain Center
5470 Ruth Keeton Way
Columbia, MD 21044

Meadowbrook Athletic Complex
5001 Meadowbrook Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21043

*Howard County Board of Elections

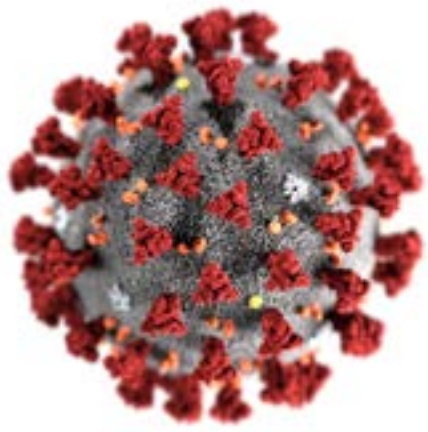
9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200
Columbia, MD 21046



Early Voting Centers (in person) October 26 - November 2

- Marriotts Ridge High School Gym
- Meadowbrook Athletic Complex
- Long Reach High School Gym
- Reservoir High School Gym
- Wilde Lake High School Gym

FYI: You may bring your official specimen ballot with you, but you are not allowed to campaign at a polling place. Leave signs and swag at home.



COVID-19

T I M E L I N E

by Sydney Corley '22
Staff Writer

JANUARY

27th: As the virus spreads to the United States, the first Marylander to fit the testing criteria tests negative.

MARCH

5th: Three residents in Maryland test positive for COVID-19; the first in MD. All three positive COVID-19 cases come from Montgomery County: A resident in his or her 50s and a married couple in their 70s. Governor Larry Hogan declares Maryland in a state of emergency.

12th - 16th: Governor Hogan announces that all Maryland public schools are ordered to close for two weeks. Governor Hogan closes all recreational businesses such as restaurants, movie theaters, and gyms as a result of social distancing measures not being utilized properly.

18th: A 60-year-old man living in Montgomery County with underlying health issues dies from COVID-19.

23rd: Governor Hogan orders all non-essential businesses to close

25th: The Maryland Superintendent, Dr. Karen Salmon, closes public schools until April 24th as COVID-19 cases continue to rise: now at 10,032 cases.

30th: Governor Hogan issues a stay at home order

APRIL

15th: With the growth of COVID-19 cases, now at 12,237, a face mask order is administered to slow the spread of the virus.

17th: The Superintendent declares that public schools will close until May 24th.

MAY

6th: With the growth of COVID-19 cases to 28,163, the Superintendent orders all public schools to close for the rest of the academic year.

13th: Part of the Phase One plan included lifting the stay-at-home order starting May 15th. Certain businesses are deemed allowed to re-open with safety precautions.

JUNE & JULY

June 3rd: Governor Hogan announces with the steady level of COVID-19 cases, Phase Two is ready to be executed. Phase Two includes the re-opening of gyms and malls as well as indoor dining in restaurants.

July 23rd: A select few counties in Maryland state that the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year will be online.

AUGUST

16th: The coronavirus cases in Maryland passes 100,000, numbering 100,212. The number of deaths due to COVID-19 is 3,502.

27th: Governor Hogan authorizes schools to open for the upcoming school year.

SEPTEMBER

1st: Governor Hogan declares the last phase of the plan to be enacted. COVID-19 cases number at 108,863 with 3,617 deaths.

On March 12, 2020, the lives of those in Howard County and all over the world changed. On this date, the world was in the beginning stages of lockdown. Seven months later, global environmental health has improved.

As seen on the World Air Quality Index Project official site, the amount of poor air quality days in 2020 have decreased substantially when compared to 2018 and 2019. According to Ms. Danaher, a biology teacher at Howard, "People are inside their houses; they're not driving as much so I think that would have a major impact on air quality." The lack of cars being on the road reduces the carbon output, helping the air quality.

Adding to the positive impact on the environment is Howard County's recently adopted policy: The taxing of plastic bags. On October 1, 2020, all stores that provide non-reusable plastic bags began charging five cents per bag at checkout. Depending on the store, customers may have other options such as using paper bags or bringing their own. Ms. Allen, head of the environmental club and science teacher at Howard High, adds, "Our Environmental Club has been doing a phenomenal job advocating for Howard and the greater community to be 'greener.' Examples of activities from the last few years include testifying and writing letters in support of Howard County five cent plastic bag fee legislation, an E-technology drive, marker/pen recycling, placement of water conservation posters in the restrooms, and light switch labels in the classroom reminding people to conserve water and electricity." Now that the plastic bag bill has been enforced, there is hope that more ways of "going green" will be implemented in the community.

On a more global scale, Europe has seen climate improvement. In Venice, Italy, the canals have been much clearer since the spring of 2019. When asked about the improvements attributed to shutdowns in Venice, Ms. Danaher explained, "[Boats] have combustion engines so they're pouring out carbon dioxide, which makes the water acidic and it's not good for the waterway, so I'm sure that the boats not being in the water is great for [it]... that's awesome to hear." A lack of tourists means a lack of boats — boats that can bring in unwanted algae and bacteria, causing the canals to be more polluted and crowded.

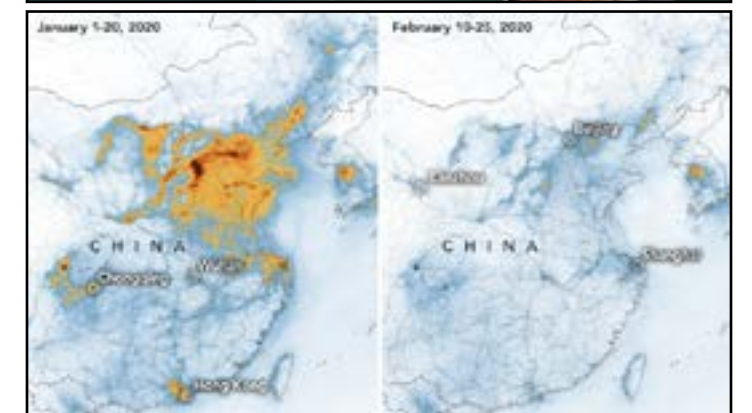
Pollution rates all over the world are also exceptionally lower than they were this time last year. In Asia and Europe, pollution rates now compared to 2019 records of pollution and polluting air output are down 40%. Since China emits about 50% of the nitrogen dioxide in Asia, this decrease could eliminate future problems that have started to arise. For example, the melting ice in Antarctica means sea levels are

The Earth's Response to Quarantine

by Holly Larson '23 and Michaela Wall '23
Staff Writers

rising, but if fewer green-house gases are emitted into the atmosphere, there is a better chance that an acceptable global temperature will be maintained. Ms. Danaher added, "[Europe's impacts] could be a coincidence, it could just be that, you know, we are going into other phases of climate, but I know that the air quality over Europe has also been much better. So it's not just related to our pockets and political."

While the planet we live on is fragile, staying home during the shutdown has reduced the damage caused by humans, leaving a stronger, healthier Earth.



(Above) Venice's canals are cleaner, bringing dolphins rather than tourists. Getty/ Twitter.

(Below) China's nitrogen dioxide from January to February 2020, showing decline in emissions since Coronavirus shutdown. <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/>

NEW DATES FOR SPORTS

by Alexis Maokhamphiou '21
Staff Writer

Athletes were devastated by the cancellation of sports due to COVID-19 and desperate to know when they could play again. Recent news about the comeback of sports and their seasons during the second semester leaves athletes, coaches and fans excited but also confused and worried.

On September 11, 2020, the new dates for sports were announced: The winter season will be from February 1 to March 27, the fall season will be from March 15 to May 8 and the spring season will be from April 26 to June 19. However, on September 24, 2020, Governor Larry Hogan announced that sports can begin as soon as October 7. Howard County decided not to participate in this plan, but on October 2, 2020, the Public School Superintendent's Association of Maryland (PSSAM) issued a plan to the State Superintendent, Dr. Salmon. This new plan suggests that sports begin on December 7. Howard County has not released any information allowing sports to start again in December, so as of right now, the original second-semester plan is in play. Based on the unknown of the prior October plan, Ms. Beth DeFrances, the Howard High athletics and activities manager, believed the new October date was surprising since the county agreed to start sports during the second semester. She states, "I think [Governor Hogan] has the idea that he wants to help kids and that's ultimately what we all want to do. I think it's difficult to make things happen sooner rather than later." Ms. DeFrances thinks the second-semester plan would work better for Howard, aligning with the online coursework. Then, the county would be able to evaluate the second semester to see if schools were ready for sports.

Sports are scheduled to come back on February 1, 2021, with overlapping seasons. This will give athletes a chance to be active again and pursue the sports they missed. However, the overlapping seasons can cause stress on multi-sport athletes and coaches. It will also cause athletes and coaches to miss part of certain seasons depending on their dates. Kaitlyn Denicola, a junior at Howard High School, plays soccer, basketball and lacrosse. She also plays lacrosse outside of school, which may possibly interfere with her sports at How-

ard. Due to her busy schedule, she states, "I'm going to have to set my priorities on certain sports and probably will not be able to play all three sports at Howard." This is a stressful time for athletes as they have to juggle sports and school. Denicola also mentioned that she is stressed out since the details on sports are "all up in the air and we don't know exactly what is going to happen."

Since sports were canceled due to COVID-19, athletes were worried about their safety and how to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. Kyle Colbert, a senior at Howard High School, plays football and basketball. Colbert is another athlete who has to manage the overlapping seasons, saying, "With the overlapping seasons I plan on working on both sports in the free time that I have during the season that interferes. But also still work out and get better for both sports." He is excited to get back on the court and field, but he is also concerned about his safety. When asked how to make him feel safe while still being able to play, he stated, "I think some sort of mask for football will help me feel safe since it is a high contact sport."

Even though this is a difficult time for everyone involved in sports, athletes and Ms. DeFrances share their excitement for the big comeback. Alex Marshall, a senior at Howard High School, plays football and baseball. He stated, "I'm just looking forward to the season in general. It's my senior year so this is supposed to be my best season and I'm going to have a lot of fun and I'm excited for that." Ms. DeFrances also shares, "I'm looking forward to seeing people in person, not just through a screen. I love watching sports and I love seeing how kids enjoy being a part of a team and representing our school. That is really the best part of my job."



The resumption of sports may cause multisport athletes to make some tough decisions, as Howard County's winter and fall sports seasons overlap by 13 days, and fall and spring sports seasons overlap by 13 days during the second semester.



THE BREAKDOWN

with Ben Fader '21
Editor in Chief

As sports have slowly returned after the COVID-19 hiatus, they bring familiar faces to new places in order to play the sport they love while the leagues try to keep the athletes safe from the ongoing pandemic. Big-name athletes take the stage once again. Only now, the colors they sport look a little different than the uniforms that fans are accustomed to seeing.

With the NBA finishing their season in the Orlando bubble at Disney, fans can once again enjoy a wonderful season from Anthony Davis, the seven-time NBA all-star that joined the Lakers this season and put them into title contention.

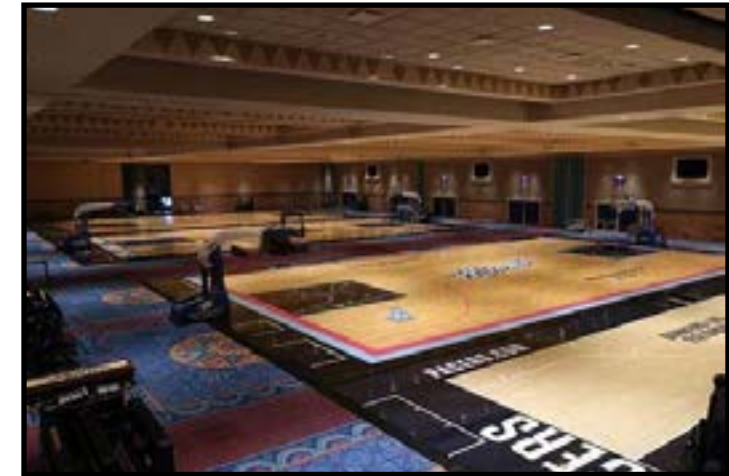
2018 MVP Mookie Betts, the newest member of the Los Angeles Dodgers, and 2019 MLB first team pitcher Gerrit Cole, the newest member of the New York Yankees, made huge contributions to their new squads this season and are currently competing for a championship.

The biggest jersey swap took place in the NFL, as six-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady ended his 20-year career with the New England Patriots. He moved to Tampa, Florida this offseason and has already made an impact with the Buccaneers, who have set high goals this season after a huge acquisition.

Although many other great players switched teams this year, it is rare to see so many elite athletes move on to new places all at once.

Even with all of these stars playing for new clubs, most of the attention is on something much bigger: COVID-19. The worldwide pandemic continues to affect how the leagues are operating, as they want to keep all of their athletes as safe as possible. Some protocols in place include multiple tests every week, staff and non-active players wearing masks, social distancing when possible, limited or no fan attendance at games and more.

Despite these safety protocols, the MLS, MLB, NFL and more leagues have all recorded positive cases, which creates the question: are the current protocols enough to keep the players safe? "I do believe that they are doing the best they can," said senior Karl Quist-Therson. Quist-Therson also brought up that "the use of virtual fans is a great way to have fan interaction, while keeping everyone safe." The NBA, WNBA, US Open and MLB have used forms of virtual fans set up around the stadiums in a best attempt to recreate a game-like atmosphere. This allows fans to be safe while interacting with the games and can help the athletes feel some normality during the games.



ORLANDO, FLORIDA, 7/7/20 - Practice courts located in the ballroom of Disney's Grand Floridian Hotel. Chris Burkhardt/ NBC Sports

The football coach at Howard, Coach Hannon, says that he does not think more protocols need to be set in place, "however, MORE science/technology may help... the virus is like nothing we've ever experienced before." The NFL did slightly tweak their protocols after a couple recent cases, but Coach Hannon is right. Once better treatment options (and a vaccine) are released, the athletes will have better options to stay safe. Until then, the athletes still face the risk of contracting the virus.

Even with the risks, having sports back is important to many people in our country. Senior Holly Buell thinks that sports were rushed back too quickly "because it present[s] the idea that America is recovering and following behind the other countries."

Even some athletes think that their leagues started either too early or did not include sufficient protocols to allow a safe experience for the players. The number of opt-outs included nine in the NBA, 19 in the MLB, 67 in the NFL, six in the NHL and multiple in other leagues such as MLS, PGA and the US Open.

Despite continuous positive cases in most of the leagues possibly threatening an end to seasons, the fans cheer on their teams and are happy that sports are back to entertain the country.

Howard Student Wins SMOB Election

by Erin Smith '21
Social Media Manager



ELLICOTT CITY, MD - July 12, 2020 - Zach Koung is sworn in as the Student Member of the Board of Education. HCPSS.ORG

Zach Koung, a senior at Howard High School, is representing Howard County students as the Student Member of the Board of Education (SMOB) for the 2020-2021 school year. He replaces Reservoir High graduate Allison Alston. Koung has been interested in student government for a while; he served as Class President for Howard High School's class of 2021 during his sophomore year and decided to run for SMOB during his junior year. Not only is Koung interested in school government, but he is genuinely interested in politics and wants to continue studying it after graduating high school.

When running for SMOB, Koung had to create a plan for what he wanted to accomplish if he won the election. He shares, "My intended goal is to be a fierce ally to students, fight for bold changes, and uplift the voices too often unheard." These goals, in conjunction with his willingness to represent a variety of student voices, helped him to win the election.

This year, Zach Koung has the task of representing student voices from all across the county, which is especially difficult because he is currently unable to speak to students in person about their ideas. Most of the connections he makes with students are through his SMOB accounts on Instagram and Twitter. Still, remote learning has not prevented Zach from speaking with members of the Howard County Association of Student Councils (HCASC). "The HCASC is a great organization to hear from and update students on the Board's activities. Almost every middle and high school in the county has representation in the HCASC," said Koung in an interview. Utilizing the aforementioned methods, Koung has been able to listen to student input and incorporate their ideas into his proposals at the Howard County Board of Education meetings.

CLICK

CLICK

BUY!

Online Shopping in Quarantine

by Johanna Wodjewodzki '21
Arts & Entertainment Editor



When COVID-19 quarantine restrictions were put in place by the state government in Maryland, shops were required to close, leading Howard's students to online shopping. Grocery stores went online with the pandemic, as did many doctors and pharmacies. Many major retailers have long made use of the Internet as a way to connect with consumers who would otherwise not be going out to shop. In addition to major retailers, one-person businesses on Etsy and eBay have been run successfully online.

Since the start of nation-wide shutdowns and quarantine, eCommerce jumped 30% in quantity of sales made in just one month, according to Rakuten Intelligence research. Many subscription-style boxes that existed Pre-COVID have shifted to become care-boxes for families with concerns related to leaving the house during quarantine. Companies with subscription boxes, like FabFitFun, shifted from workout and makeup related boxes to boxes specifically for healthcare workers. BirchBox, a makeup and beauty based subscription box, began to ship boxes to healthcare workers and essential workers. Shifts in interests in online shopping have occurred, from clothing to entertainment and necessities like groceries, medical products, baby products and cleaning products, according to independent journals.

Meal kits and food-related subscription boxes have also boosted in popularity as the COVID-19 outbreak has progressed in the United States. As people began avoiding brick-and-mortar stores, HelloFresh and Blue Apron, two meal kit subscriptions, announced their individual plans for continuing to ship out quality meals. HelloFresh reported rigid sanitation plans for the company and delivery partners and Blue Apron announced that they would be

following strict safety guidelines and enhancement of sanitation standards.

Anna Mueller, a sophomore at Howard, shared that in the past, she had tried the Allure Beauty Box, claiming, "I have tried Birch Box in the past, however, the Allure box is much better. You get full-sized products and they are usually name brand. It is much more worth the money." Mueller did

express, however, that in her time online, she has done more browsing than serious shopping.

Senior Emily Jackson shared her experience with online shopping as a member of an at-risk family. She explained that, "we have been doing all of our shopping, for almost everything, online." She is not alone; other members of the Howard community shared that they have shopped for necessities online, including their groceries, clothing and meals. Emily expressed that she has had negative experiences with online shopping, mentioning, "I've had many clothing items not fit, and by the time I return the item, it's sold out and I can't order a replacement size," an experience that Mueller also shared, and "with online grocery shopping, sometimes if a product is out of stock at the store, or our shopper can't find it, we get an item delivered that we don't want." Despite negative aspects of shopping without being able to try on or pick out items, Jackson expressed that her family does not look at in-person shopping as a possibility until a COVID-19 vaccine is developed.

As Coronavirus conditions adapt and change in Maryland and the United States, questions arise about online shopping and its popularity compared to in-person shopping. Many companies gained popularity because of their fully-online concept, but as in-person shopping becomes available again, will those small online companies fall apart or continue to thrive?



An alternative to brick-and-mortar stores, subscription boxes have changed in content and popularity. Photos from company websites, top to bottom: Allure Beauty Box, BirchBox, Hello Fresh, Fab Fit Fun, Blue Apron.

THE RESPONSE TO RACISM IN SYSTEMIC OUR SCHOOLS

BY RUBY GIFFORD '23
FEATURES EDITOR

On June 10, a [105-page petition titled “Addressing Racism in Howard County”](#) was sent to the Howard County Board of Education. In light of the recent Black Lives Matter protests happening across the country, former HCPSS student Victoria Owens created this petition with specific demands to HCPSS regarding how to address racism in their schools.

The petition was signed by over 400 former and current students, parents, staff and faculty of HCPSS. It begins by outlining the county’s need for change in order to address how systemic racism has impacted student bodies, hiring processes and school communities.

The last 98 pages contain personal testaments of racism in Howard County from those who signed the petition. The accounts detail numerous instances of discrimination in high schools from students whose graduation years range from 1999 to 2023.

This petition attests to the exponential increase in youth activism that America has seen after March for Our Lives, Black Lives Matter and numerous climate crisis marches. Many protests are the result of the united efforts of many teenagers and young adults who felt compelled to take action. The largest protest ever organized in Howard County was the recent Black Lives Matter Protest on June 2, organized by Hoco For Justice: “a multicultural, youth collective in the Howard County area dedicated to the liberation and success of Black and Brown lives locally and nationally.”

Howard County is home to numerous youth advocacy groups, some led by former Howard County students and some led by students currently enrolled in Howard County schools. These groups advocate for social justice in their communities, representing their generation’s initiative to improve the world in which they live.

Camille Young, a sophomore at Long Reach High School, is part of one such organization, Youth In Conversation. She notes, “Our main goal

is just teaching young people, especially Howard County students, how to have conversations and to promote diversity, inclusivity and equity within the county.”

Young believes there is a lot of room for progress in Howard County when it comes to appropriately addressing racism. “I do commend the county for being accountable and publicizing all these testimonies and having all the principals and teachers read what people have to say about these schools, but until HCPSS is making sure that everyone has to get these training and everyone has to take these certain courses, then that’s when real change really happens.”

So far, the county response to the petition has included reviewing staff and faculty training, as well as books and other texts assigned to the students in social studies and literature classes. In addition, more positions being created for the HCPSS Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. At Howard High, courses like African American Studies and Literature have been added to the 2020-2021 schedule.

All high schools are encouraging systemic change through faculty and staff training. Mr. Novak, the Howard High principal, elaborates, “As the county has developed their plan for this year, for staff it includes systemic professional learning on topics such as racial equity, implicit bias, restorative justice microaggressions - these kinds of topics.”

Dr. Martirano, the Howard County Superintendent, responded to the petition in his Juneteenth Recognition message on June 19: “We have reached out to young people who are leading a powerful movement for change in Howard County. I look forward to their continued engagement in helping HCPSS take on these very necessary reforms, because we recognize that this work depends on the commitment and participation of every member of our school system community...We must address racism at every level, because tackling racism will make our entire school system better for all of our students.”

“There are a lot of student groups that popped up this year. I think that’s fantastic,” Mr. Novak says. “In October, November, things will really ramp up with opportunities for students to connect and make plans and really put things out there as far as actionable items to address racism and work to make sure that our school is anti-racist.”

For any students wanting to advocate for social justice, Camille Young highly recommends joining groups at your school or in your county: “I like to say that we’re doing meaningful change in the simplest way. We’re learning how to have conversations because communication is key and that’s how we get things started. There’s so much opportunity for us to create real change.”

Systemic Racism: Racial discrimination that has become established as normal behaviour within a society or organization. Also called “institutional racism.”

Restorative Justice: A system of criminal justice which focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community at large.

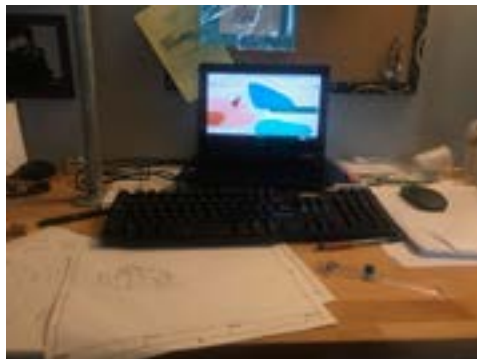
Microaggressions: A statement, action, or incident regarded as an instance of indirect, subtle, or unintentional discrimination against members of a marginalized group such as a racial or ethnic minority.

Implicit Bias: Unconscious favouritism towards or prejudice against people of a particular race, gender, etc. that influences one’s actions or perceptions.

Source: Oxford English Dictionary

WORK Spaces

Maddie Kuehl '21 and Alyssa McGuigan '23
Staff Writers



Freshman Gavin Couch's workspace is full of drawings to Geometry homework. He has a large keyboard for easy use during online school.



Junior Connor Henderson's workspace features a desk lamp, pens and pencils, and a planner to stay organized.



Freshmen Abigail Bryson's desk is very organized and personalized with a picture and a quote for added detail.



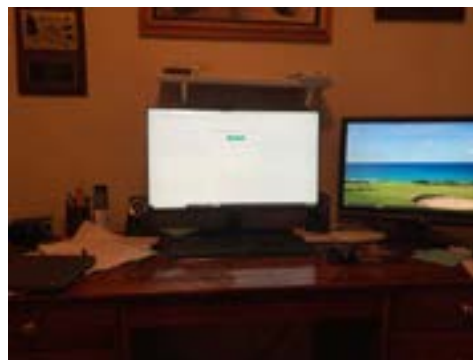
Junior Skylar Ehart completes her work at her kitchen table with her laptop and notebooks.



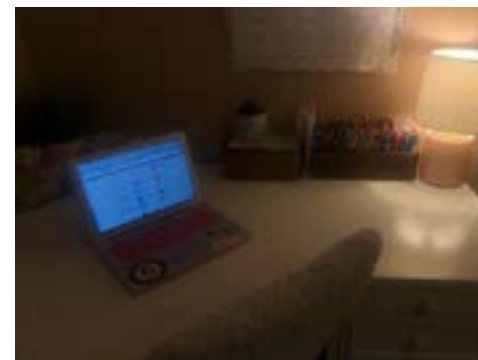
Senior Aileen Ham's workspace features a water bottle to stay hydrated and a to do list on her whiteboard to stay organized.



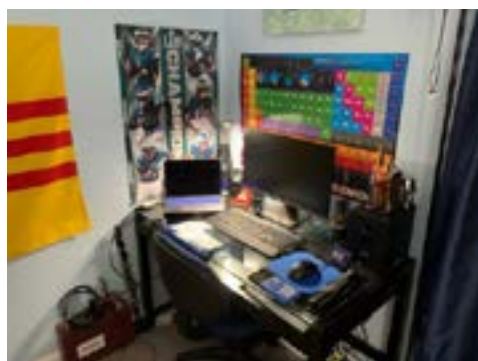
Senior AJ Marshall's workspace features a laptop, water bottle, and Ravens decor to brighten the space.



Sophomore Katherine Marcus's workspace features dual monitors and a large desk for lots of workspace. You can see papers and some modest desk decorations.



Senior Tiffany Rodriguez's workspace features her laptop and a calendar to stay organized. With lots of pens and even a fun little plant, her workspace is more unique and personalized.



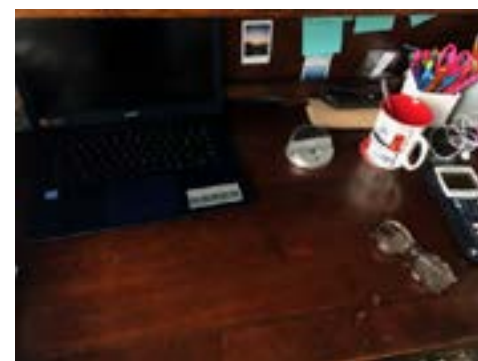
Senior Tyler Nguyen's workspace features two computers, a calculator and a periodic table poster. Lots of posters and monitors help him stay organized, and create a more uplifting work space.



Senior Riya Kanani does her work in bed with her laptop and notes. Working on a bed is a more comfortable and relaxing alternative to working at a desk.



Sophomore Gracin O'Connor's workspace features a Danny Devito Shrine, notebooks, a calculator, and coffee - a necessity for early morning and late night work.



Senior Chisom Obioha's workspace features her laptop and many colored pens for note taking. Sticky notes, polaroid pictures and little trinkets make the workspace more colorful.

*Can you match
the teacher with
their work space?*

THESE DESKS BELONG TO MS. BRENNAN,
MR. BRADDOCK, MS. METZLER, MS. LAVOIE
AND MS. BLOEDORN
- BUT WHICH ONE'S WHICH?



HOWARD THEATRE

Goes Virtual

by Alexis Schuster '21
Staff Writer

Have you looked forward to the annual school musical performed by your fellow students, only to be taken aback upon hearing that school has taken an online form? Fret not, for the stage has been taken to the digital medium! This year, a musical will be performed entirely online for the general public to watch, with a date to be determined. The accessibility of the musical however is unknown, as the director is looking for ways to broadcast it privately to the Howard High community.

The musical this year will be "Chicago." Set during the 1920s, Roxie finds fame after being imprisoned for murdering her lover, Fred, in cold blood. This musical is a satire on the concept of a criminal who gains notoriety and fame from being imprisoned.

I had the chance to interview the director of this musical, Mrs. Laura Greffen. She is passionate about this once-in-a-lifetime situation. Mrs. Greffen made it clear that the musical will be pre-recorded and edited, stating, "It's impossible to have multiple people perform and sing at the same time on the Internet." She further elaborates that since the actors are all in different situations, with different internet and data plans, it is quite difficult to get all of the necessary equipment and set pieces to accommodate a particular shot.

Anthony Negron, who plays Billy, notes that the technical aspect of the musical is different, with the rooms needing to have a particular look for a shot to feel right. He also spoke about the various audio and video files he uploads for Mrs Greffen to edit, with a few becoming corrupted in the process. As for his role as Billy, he explains that Billy is "a corrupt lawyer who's in it for the money, but he makes the public think he's better than he is. He's fun to play!"

Colleges Respond to Covid

by Amanda Silver '21
Staff Writer

Since the coronavirus pandemic, colleges have been changing to adapt to quarantine and to keep students safe. These new guidelines are being shared with students through emails, posters around the campuses and social media posts.

Colleges are having to make weekly changes due to the effects of the pandemic. Most colleges' first thoughts are to have the students come back on campus; they want to make an attempt at having online and in-person classes. However, after the first couple of weeks of the latter, many colleges started seeing a rise in coronavirus cases. This outbreak is attributed to many of the students coming from high COVID-19 areas. Since outbreaks on campuses affect many people, a lot of colleges have decided to switch all classes to be either online or in person with an online option.

Moreover, many colleges have set many protocols to keep students safe while they are on campus. According to Janie Kressman, a sophomore at Towson University, "You either had to stay on campus and agree that you weren't going to go home, or you had to pack up your stuff and leave and agree that you weren't going to come back." She added, "They gave everyone packets with thermometers. Everyday, you were supposed to test your thermometer and self report if you had any symptoms." This was the protocol until recently, when many universities such as James Madison, Towson and North Carolina State closed their campuses and forced most of their students to go back home.

Since many states have experienced a decrease in coronavirus cases, some colleges have made the decision to slowly bring students back on campus. At JMU, students were initially sent home for a short period of time when COVID-19 cases started spiking on campus, but with new protocols and stricter guidelines, students were eventually allowed back on campus. "We were allowed on campus for the first two weeks of school and then told we had to go home because of the amount of possible covid cases on campus... now we are back on campus and are having in-person and online classes," stated Alysa Wood, a sophomore at JMU. The colleges were told that they would have to make sure students are always wearing masks when leaving their dorms and practicing social distancing.

Apart from wondering if students will be staying on college campuses, many people are curious as to what the colleges are doing for students who contract the infectious virus. A lot of the schools have designated sections on campus for students who have COVID-19 or its symptoms: "They have isolation dorms that you go into for ten days or until you test negative, where they will bring you food," said Julia Hagen, a freshman at JMU. "If you have a roommate [who tested positive], they will have you quarantine in your room... if you have a connecting bathroom with someone who tested positive, then you have to quarantine for fourteen days." This is to prevent the possible spread of COVID-19 to anyone else on campus, as well as family and friends at home.

Top Tips

"Proofread your work. You're not writing a science essay; you're not going to get YOUR facts wrong; you're writing about you. Just make sure you have no grammatical errors."

Mr. Sackett

My best advice is to make your essay memorable. Think outside the box and be unique. You can't have enough people read your essay; pick people that don't often read essays and ask them, "is this interesting and memorable?"

Mrs. Patterson

"Focus on your own personal growth, life, experiences, relationships, story and don't be afraid to show your reader who you are and how you got there."

Mrs. Bragunier

TIPS FOR WRITING COLLEGE ESSAYS!

by Eddie Calkins '22
Staff Writer

GETTING STARTED

Step 1: Pick a prompt that speaks to YOU. The reader wants to know about you.

Step 2: Find a quiet workspace so that you can put all of your focus into the essay.

Step 3: If you're having trouble starting an essay, pick a different prompt. There's more than one for a reason!

MAKE IT STAND OUT

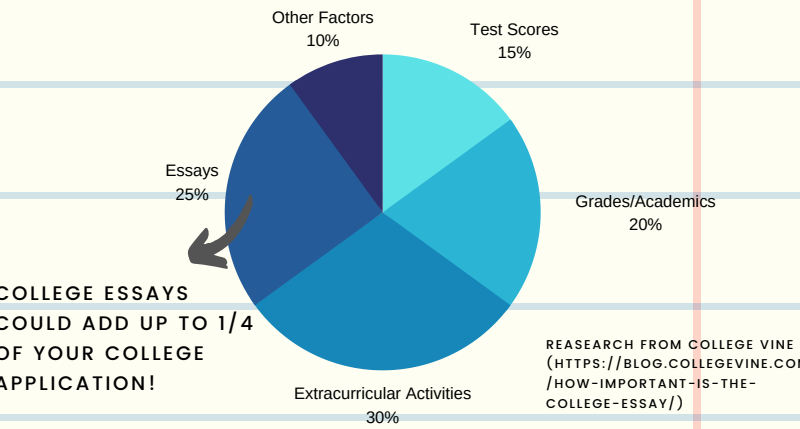
The reader will read thousands of essays and will likely only read yours for only a couple minutes. To make your essay stand out tell YOUR story from an interesting perspective and mainly focus on you, not the story. Mr. Sackett also suggests that you try to mix in figurative and poetic language throughout your story.

"I NEED HELP!"

The Howard County Library System has programs to help students with essays. Visit their website for more information.

The Howard Admin have help sessions 9-10am on Wednesdays through October 28th. Look for a Canvas announcement for more information.

COLLEGE APPLICATION COMPONENTS OF THE TOP 250 SCHOOLS IN THE U.S.



THE CLUB CONNECTION

by Ariel Hammerash '21
Copy Editor

ON SEPTEMBER 21, CLUB LEADERS REUNITED WITH old members and welcomed new students to their ranks through an online club fair. Virtual school may have affected club activities, but Howard High's student involvement in clubs continues — a crucial connection in an isolated world.

Virtual school would not be complete without extracurricular activities, something that Howard High administration has addressed with the club fair and creation of the SEL period. Every third Monday, the time from 10:50 to 11:20 is set aside for club meetings. Clubs can also meet any time before or after school, meaning many clubs are already blocking out time in their schedules to hold Google Meets with their members. The school has not yet released a policy about club gatherings in person, so any activities will have to be conducted virtually. For example, a virtual walkathon to raise donations. Clubs will need to adapt an innovative mindset to ensure activities are enjoyable and accessible. As Ms. Sowada, sponsor of Shelter Supporters, described this experience, "We're

building the plane as we're flying it."

Unfortunately, some clubs were not able to survive the transition to virtual. Social gathering clubs that thrive in a relaxed, sociable environment, such as Tea Club, are not on the virtual club roster. For the clubs that remain, virtual events often pale in comparison to those held in person. In the case of the Ice Hockey Club — a club focused on growing team camaraderie and creating a welcoming playing environment — virtual meetings may have dampened their traditional "rhythm and relationship building," according to the sponsor, Mr. McGoun.

Another aspect of virtual clubs is the need for greater communication and organization, something that Emily Guerrero, an officer of Shelter Supporters, believes is more difficult virtually, since "not everyone has access to computers and devices 24/7." Clubs will soon have their own Canvas groups, which may aid organization and communication.

Consensus is that virtual clubs are better than no club at all. Virtual clubs can even have distinct advantages. Even with busy schedules, students can still drop into a meet. Evie Shedleski, the president of Shelter Supports, notes that membership "has actually increased since virtual learning began." Most important is the enduring sense of community found in clubs that lightens the burden of social isolation. Mr. McGoun described how his club members become "part of a family," with "people to support you when you need it, especially when [people are] feeling disjointed and disconnected in these pandemic times."

CLUBS MEET EVERY 3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH DURING SEL PERIOD, 10:50 - 11:20

[CLICK HERE FOR CODES](#)

Fantasy Football

by Megan Otchet '22
Staff Writer

EARLY SEPTEMBER BROUGHT MANY SPORTS FANS THE ENTERTAINMENT they had been missing during quarantine: Football. While competition resumes on the field, fans compete online with weekly fantasy football matches.

At the beginning of the season, many students at Howard High School joined one or multiple leagues. Every week, two people in the league go head-to-head and try to get more points than their opponent. Prior to the kickoff of the first game each week, the player must create their ideal team out of players that they think will make the best plays from any NFL team. The player must also choose a collective team defense and special teams unit that can put up points.

Points can be scored on both sides of the ball through offensive plays like touchdowns, gaining a certain number of rushing yards or receptions and defensive plays such as fumble recoveries, interceptions or sacks. Points can also be deducted from a player or group if they make a mistake, like a turnover. The players that have been the most successful in earning fantasy football points from different positions are Russell Wilson (Seattle Seahawks quarterback), Alvin Kamara (New Orleans Saints running back) and Travis Kelce (Kansas City Chiefs tight end).

A junior at Howard High School, Dominick Mizer, explained his strategy for picking players: "In the first two weeks, I like to pick solid running backs. As the season progresses, I start to look for quarterbacks who have been putting up a lot of points." Some of his biggest point scorers so far include Austin Ekeler, a running back for the LA Chargers, and Calvin Ridley, a wide receiver for the Atlanta Falcons. Another Howard High junior, Chris Verderame, uses different websites and corroborates the predictions in order to pick his best team. He relies on the calculations of multiple sources, so he does not depend on a single prediction. The most impactful player for Verderame has been Dalvin Cook, the Minnesota Vikings' running back. "Dalvin Cook. He just kept finding ways to get involved in the play against the Texans and ultimately ended the game with two touchdowns and ran for 130 yards. He was a beast in there!" he said about his biggest asset.

Many leagues play fantasy football for money and place bets on who will win, which increases the players' competitiveness. In the league Verderame plays for, the loser of each matchup must buy the winner a dinner of their choice. Many other leagues will go as far as bizarre, embarrassing dares. Once the football season ends, a common penalty is for the winners to pie the losers in the face.



Popular picks for fantasy leagues include (from top) Travis Kelce, Austin Ekeler, Dalvin Cook, and Mark Ingram.



EDITORIAL : SUSTAINABILITY IN THE PANDEMIC

BY ABIGAIL WARWICK '21 STAFF WRITER

FAST FASHION, AN EVER-GROWING ENVIRONMENTAL AND GLOBAL LABOR ISSUE, has only worsened since the development of the pandemic this past year. Fast fashion is the process of designs making their way from elite, expensive companies to becoming widely available trends for the average consumer. The practice of producing these clothing pieces is often quite harmful to both production employees and the environment. Generally, fast fashion is known as inexpensive garments made at a rapid pace.

Companies infamous for utilizing this strategy include Zara, H&M and Forever 21, among hundreds of others. Many of these brands use toxic chemicals and substantial amounts of resources to produce their clothing—it takes 2,700 liters of water to make one cotton shirt, which is the amount of water the average person drinks in 2.5 years, as reported by the World Resources Institute. Not only that, but factory employees for these companies in other countries are overworked, underpaid and experience negative effects on their health from exposure to harmful chemicals.

At the beginning of quarantine, millions of orders were canceled, which caused millions of jobs to be lost, according to GQ. Now, underpaid workers are not receiving any wages at all. In cities like Bangladesh, where a majority of clothes are made, the poverty levels are extremely high. Factory employees went from making half a livable wage to making no wage, causing poverty to skyrocket.

Has this caused big-name brands to rethink their production strategies? Probably not. Most likely, these companies will recycle old designs from the beginning of the year in order to sell and get rid of clothes that went to waste in the spring, as per Grist. Otherwise, it would all be thrown away. This is not much better than the normal process, though, because new clothes continue to be made, meaning more materials continue to be wasted. In order for the fashion industry to change its ways, it would take complete production reform, and potentially even legislation.

Shopping sustainably is incredibly hard to do at a reasonable price as of right now. The less expensive brands everyone knows and loves contribute to the fast fashion problem. “I think a lot of big brands are focused on getting their product out to the masses in the most cost-effective way. Sustainable fashion would be lower quantity and with higher costs that not all consumers are willing to pay,” says Chisom Obioha, a senior who plans to study sustainability and business next year. “One solution for concerned consumers could be second-hand purchases and thrifting or donating clothes that are no longer worn rather than throwing them out,” she continues.

There’s not a lot the average consumer can do about this global issue, but paying attention to which brands claim to produce sustainably, and even second-hand buying could make a huge difference if it became the new norm.

Phase 3 Reopening

by

Stephanie Samsel '21
News Editor

&

Meghan Yunkun '23
Staff Writer



ELLCOTT CITY, MARYLAND, October 4, 2020- Coal Fire, Starbucks, and Mosaic Christian Church are among the many facilities that have begun allowing visitors inside under the guidelines of Maryland’s Phase Three of Reopening. STEPHANIE SAMSEL/ LION’S TALE

SINCE SEPTEMBER 4TH, WHEN MARYLAND’S STAGE Three of Reopening began allowing indoor theaters, outdoor venues, retail and religious facilities to operate at an increased capacity, customers and employees alike have approached this new step toward a semblance of normalcy with both excitement and trepidation. However, only the latter consistently witness firsthand the various attitudes towards these new allowances. These employees facing the challenges of reopening include a significant number of teenage workers.

Younger workers make up 24% of employment in industries at higher risk of COVID infections. Since the announcement of a virtual fall semester and no school sponsored sports, young workers have taken advantage of their flexible schedules to take on more hours.

Cassidy Crawford, a sophomore at Howard High, said “I’m working 13 hours a week and it seems to be going okay. I haven’t really stressed out that much about it yet, but I’m getting to the point where I can feel that school is becoming a major stress factor.” Crawford ranked her stress at a 7 of 10. Though the school schedule appears flexible with plenty of opportunities to add working hours, the stress incurred at work coupled with the adjustment to the demands of virtual learning leaves a lot to consider when deciding one’s hours.

Matthew Casimir, a recent Howard graduate and barista at Starbucks since February, has experienced the transition from taking strictly drive-thru transactions to allowing orders inside. “Everyone is required to wear a mask, that’s not up for debate,” he said firmly. “We have turned away a couple of people because they didn’t have masks, and we were like, ‘We can try to give you one, and it’s up to you to accept it.’ After a little bit of conversation we can usually

get through to [noncompliant customers],” he added.

One of the places of worship that has reopened in-person seating is Mosaic Christian Church in Elkridge. Megan Eich, a Howard senior, Mosaic Kids Elementary volunteer and Coal Fire employee, found “the result of seeing people face to face to be well worth the schedule headaches. It’s so fun,” she said, “We are all so hyped, because you can just feel the energy.” After being asked how the children — all of whom must use hand sanitizer and keep their hands to themselves — are handling having to wear masks during their services, Eich responded, “It’s going well — better than I expected, because I know I have plenty of experience with my little siblings of just not wanting to wear a mask and wanting to pull it down all the time, but [the kids] are really receptive. I think everyone as a community has really ingrained in even the young ones that it’s important that we keep each other safe.”

In addition to handling customer service, employees at food establishments have been trained to follow more maintenance procedures. Casimir, who has received sanitation training, noted the pastry case is frequently inspected: “It used to be [checked] about four times a day, now I think it’s around 6-8. [We] make sure everything’s there, make sure nothing is moldy, nothing’s too frozen, too warm.” At Coal Fire, where dining in is open at 50% capacity, employees receive temperature checks and replace their gloves as often as needed. “It’s so fascinating how different it is now compared to what it was,” said Eich. “We used to use max two warmers for food that hasn’t been picked up yet, and now on a Friday night, it’s unfathomable if we use less than four... it’s just the volume has increased so much.”

As for what customers and visitors should know as they return to their favorite buildings, the student employees responded with the following virtues: Kindness and patience.

CONTROVERSY:

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

THE WAVE OF MEDIA COVERAGE EXPOSING POLICE BRUTALITY AGAINST PEOPLE OF COLOR has sparked protests and calls for reform including a national movement to “defund the police” and a more local argument to remove school resource officers (SROs) from public schools. On September 10, Howard County Student Member of the Board (and Howard High senior) Zach Koung made a motion to remove SROs in Howard County. The motion failed with 4 votes to remove the officers, 2 members against the motion, and 2 members abstaining. The Board will revisit the motion once more information is gathered from the community, the Howard County Police, and Superintendent Dr. Martirano.

THE CASE TO KEEP SROS

by Jessica Menk ‘22
Staff Writer

Pulling School Resource Officers out of schools will not resolve the issues that we are facing; it will instead contribute to the problems for the students, schools and communities of Howard County.

Instead citing the issues that the officers are accused of presenting and immediately wanting them gone, people should be more concerned about why the issues are there, and how we as a community can fix them. School Resource Officers are not in the schools to scare kids and make them fearful, but to help promote a safe environment for them to work in. Taking these officers out of school would not help any of the issues being faced, but create a further divide between justice departments and the communities they work in. As a community, we should be working together to fix the divide, not further it. Removing these officers from schools would be a step in the wrong direction. The officers are there to promote learning and growth while developing relationships with the students and community. Their ability to build relationships, provide character building programs and maintain a safe environment for the students and staff are why school resource officers need to remain in Howard County Public Schools.

Officer Littlefield, an SRO who is currently working in Howard County at Wilde Lake Middle School, shared that officers are not only there to protect the school and students from outside threats, but also to help support students through various programs: An aspect which is rarely talked about. She explained one program specifically, [the BearTrax program](#), which she is a part of. “With the BearTrax program, our feeder schools, which are the elementary schools that send the kids to the middle schools, send us names of students that potentially need more support.” When asked what she thought the biggest difference was between county or state police officers and school resource officers, she said, “We’re able to build a relationship. I have students that will come to me beforehand, and we can act more in a proactive rather than reactive manner.” Having officers in schools allows for relationships to be built, which creates a positive environment for the students.

Student perspective on the presence of the officers is another crucial aspect. Marybeth Appleyard, a current Howard High senior, says she believes that the officers should be allowed to remain in schools: “They’re a safe point for all the students to go,” said Appleyard. “I feel safer because I know that if anything happens that he’s always there to protect us.” Evie Shedleski, a current Howard High junior, had many similar thoughts as Appleyard. When asked about Officer Lilly, Howard’s SRO last year, she said, “I really do like having him there, and I don’t know if I’d feel as safe at Howard if he wasn’t there.” Not only do some students feel safer when the officers are in the building, they also feel that without an officer present, they would not feel safe in a place that they spend the majority of their time which could, in turn, create more issues in the schools and for students.

When asked about whether he believed that the SROs should be allowed to remain, Mr. Novak responded by saying, “I do believe that they should be in schools. I know that it’s been a big controversial issue lately, nationally, and of course even here in Howard County. I think that’s something we need to honor, recognize, and address because I don’t think that’s something that should be taken lightly.” He also said, “I want students to feel safe and secure when they come in the building, for many students, that includes having a school resource officer.” As a principal in Howard County, Mr. Novak wants to create a healthy, safe, and overall productive learning environment. For many students in his school, that safety comes from the presence of an officer in the building. He also recognizes that “school resource officers work in partnership with school administration. So it’s not just the school resource officer issue, it’s also an administration issue.” It is the responsibility of the administrative team to ensure that the school resource officers are having a positive impact on the school community and to mitigate any problems that arise.

THE CASE TO REMOVE SROS

by Miles Bell ‘22
Staff Writer

Each year, the presence of an armed individual in a school environment is normalized, with Student Resource Officers having played this role for a very long time. But what is the purpose of a Student Resource Officer in schools? A student resource officer, in theory, is in place to keep peace and order in a school building. An SRO should make students and educators feel safe and secure in a learning environment. However, according to a National Assessment of School Resource Officer Programs in 2005, over 76% of students did not have a positive opinion of their SRO.

The first, and arguably most important, finding is that SROs do not improve school safety or reduce violence in schools. According to an article by Aaron Kupchik in USA Today analyzing the relationship between students and SROs, “While some well-designed studies suggest that the presence of SROs prevents student crime, a greater number of studies, each of which uses credible methods to compare schools with and without SROs, suggest that there is either no impact on student crime rates, or that the addition of SROs is associated with increased student misconduct (once taking into account preexisting school conditions). These inconsistent results might be due, in part, to variations in what SROs do.”

Furthermore, having SROs in schools makes students more anxious and minor misbehavior is criminalized, according to the Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights. This already doesn’t paint a great picture for SROs.

Unfortunately, local testimonies have not been positive either. Among staff at Howard High, the issue is further complicated by teachers’ interest in preserving a good relationship with these SROs who are coworkers, and also armed officers who regularly encounter children these teachers have a duty to protect. A staff member at Howard (source verified by the Lion’s Tale) who wishes to remain anonymous reflected, “What does the mandated presence of an SRO do but heighten tensions and make kids feel like they are in jail?” The source continued that many SROs they have worked with “seemed to be ... a coach with a gun.” This staff member also mentioned the [school-to-prison pipeline](#), a researched study on the correlation between suspensions and poor grades with arrests. If students in need of social and emotional health interventions receive them at the hands of a police officer, that connection between school misbehavior and arrests is amplified.

Student reports clarify the issue and show a need for change. “I went to AHS and my SRO was useless. When my friends had been sexually assaulted, he was in defense of the abusers and did nothing to advocate for her safety. His presence was nothing but useless and at times more damaging,” says Maya Carey, a former student of Atholton High School. Nate Manusco, a current Junior at Wilde Lake High, says, “In my freshman year I watched as an SRO bodied a student in a fight and then proceeded to pin her to the ground for multiple minutes.”

These are not the actions of a force that improves the safety of students in schools. It’s time for them to go. I support the motion introduced recently by the SMOB, Zach Koung, that takes that action. In his motion, Koung clarified that the regulations that placed SROs in schools could be interpreted to mean a variety of interventions from local law enforcement and in-county supports. So why does Howard County choose to interpret the guideline to the most extreme interpretation, with officers in all high schools and selected middle schools daily? SROs do not have a positive impact on students in schools and their removal has been long overdue. Removing SROs would make students much more comfortable in the school environment, and the community taxes that fund them could go to more effective student safety initiatives like school social workers, more school counselors, and community mental health services.



TikTok Gets Political

Editorial by Kenny Ling '21
Managing Editor

TIKTOK, AN EVER-GROWING SOCIAL media app, has evolved from viral dances and comedic creativity to a prominent political platform. With the arrival of politics comes controversies between ideologies and party affiliations. The app has become a venue for political activism and ideological formation. Although politics in TikTok spark meaningful discussions, they have overthrown the main purpose of the app: Engaging and original content.

In June, President Trump's campaign expected an enormous crowd at his rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The campaign received over a million ticket requests to attend the rally, causing many planned events outside of the rally to be cancelled in order for the projected overflow crowd to attend. The event resulted in only 6,200 attendees at the rally, a huge disappointment for the Trump campaign. The reason for the difference between ticket requests and attendees is teenage TikTok users who registered hundreds of thousands of tickets for the rally as a prank. The idea to sign up and not attend spread all throughout the social media app. Such a "prank" is not acceptable, but there were little to no repercussions to address this wrongdoing against the President of the United States.

Students agree that the politicization of

the platform is not a welcome change. "I miss old TikTok. Every time I go on my 'For You' page there's always something about Biden or Trump and which one is better," says Tiffany Rodriguez, a senior at Howard and TikTok star. She also believes politics has caused a problem in TikTok's algorithm since most posts displaying a political bias also have critical feedback in each comment section. Alexander Dean, a junior at Howard, has been a TikTok user for nearly two years. "Teenagers swear they know what they are talking about even though most of these political TikTokers aren't even old enough to vote. They act like they know everything, yet aren't fully educated."

Political TikTok has created a divide for many users, limiting interaction throughout the app. With this ideological split, many users are often limited to viewing only one side of the spectrum as the algorithm is specific to each user — the more a user interacts with videos that have certain audios, hashtags, or keywords, the more they will appear on the feed. There's also a "not interested" button to press to see less of a certain kind of content, but this feature should be more accessible to users. Interest in TikTok has decreased and will continue to do so if the app remains a large political platform.

Staying Fit

by Ella Werdell '21 and Bobby Smith '22
Staff Writers

For the past year, the coronavirus outbreak has created a roadblock for student athletes at Howard High School. Both Jasmine Wilson, one of the girls cross country and track team captains, and Coach Hannon, the varsity football coach and strength and conditioning teacher, have provided advice on staying in shape during quarantine for student athletes who are preparing for their season.

Tip #1: Consistency

Consistency is vital to staying in shape and improving, especially when training individually or without a coach. Consistency involves training regularly, keeping a challenging pace and effort to your workouts and preparing (mentally and physically) for tough workouts or scrimmages. Without consistency, the body will have a harder time adapting and building good habits. Remaining consistent with the amount of effort being put into workouts can be challenging, but the results will be worth it. Wilson stated, "If your effort decreases, your results during the season will show it." She also provided insight into how the cross country team is staying in shape: "We have all been running daily and putting in the work necessary to improve, no matter how weird the season will be. We have also been racing almost weekly to stay fresh." Participating in scrimmages is another great way to remain consistent when staying in shape.

Tip #2: Focus on Cardiovascular Fitness

Cardiovascular endurance is an important aspect in any athlete's training. Focusing on cardiovascular fitness is one way to improve as an athlete and remain organized. By focusing on just one aspect of the sport, training seems like less of a burden. According to Coach Hannon, "Our workouts are not just football specific, we're trying to focus on our major components of cardiovascular fitness. That's that one thing, that 60-90% [effort] for at least 20 minutes." The football team is focusing on improving their cardiovascular endurance in their training. As stated by Coach Hannon, to improve cardiovascular endurance, one must exercise for a minimum of twenty minutes in their target heart rate zone and at a hard effort. Improving cardiovascular fitness is not only important, but it is also easy to do at home. Most exercises used to improve cardiovascular endurance have no need for equipment, like running, jumping jacks, biking and jumping rope.

Tip #3: Track/Log Workouts

Finding motivation to workout can be hard, but keeping track of the completed workouts is a way to hold yourself accountable. Both the football team and the cross country team do this using different applications. The cross country team uses an app called Final Surge to log the workouts they completed. Their coach has access to these workouts and is able to track the progress of their athletes. For football, Huddle is used because, "Our kids' mindsets of 'Hey, I need to get out there and workout at least three times a week' has not changed and the use of technology reinforces that whether we are in a pandemic or not." Coach Hannon explained that Huddle allows for all the football coaches to see the workouts that the players are doing and motivates the players to work out because they are being held accountable. Even if your coach doesn't use these apps to hold you accountable, there are other ways to keep yourself motivated. Finding a friend to work out with or creating an exercise schedule to hold yourself accountable can help as well. Keeping track of the workouts that you complete will help motivate you to get out the door and finish it.

Spooky Fun

Scary (and not so scary) Halloween Events

by Hailey Gardner '21
Staff Writer

Due to coronavirus, many changes will impact this year's Halloween season and how students at Howard celebrate. There will be many changes to trick-or-treating as well as events like haunted hayrides, pumpkin picking and the widely popular Field of Screams, which will face restrictions upon re-opening this fall season. COVID-19 changes will fundamentally impact the functionality of these events. Families attending these events can expect online purchases of tickets to help limit the number of customers allowed to attend per day, necessary sanitation and timed visits.

Clark's Elioak Farm, located in Ellicott City, will have pumpkin picking from September 19 to November 8. Clark's Elioak Farm's website states the precautions that will be taken on and off the farm: "We are using a timed ticketing system to limit the number of guests who visit the farm and allow for contactless entry. Please plan to stay between 2-3 hours enjoying our farm." The farm mandates social distancing while allowing fun fall activities for families. The website also states, "We are 100% committed to the safety of our visitors and staff and have a policy that everyone 6 and over MUST wear their mask the entire time they are at our farm."

Clark's Elioak is open for visitation from 9 AM-5 PM. Every fall season, dozens of Howard High students go out to enjoy pumpkin picking, and Clark's Elioak Farm allows for the tradition to be upheld safely.

Rockburn Park's haunted hayride will open on October 16, 23 and 30 from 7PM-10PM, and October 17 and 24 6:30 PM-10 PM. Upon entering Rockburn Park, tickets will be available for purchase at the ticket stations, where proper safety precautions will be in place to keep customers as safe as possible. Howard County suggests that "hayrides should only be conducted in small groups and non-family members should be socially distanced." Allowing for distance and proper cleaning between hayrides does mean the hayrides



(Above) Clark's Elioak Farm offers pumpkin picking and family fun, while Field of Screams brings the Halloween horrors.

will take longer than usual to be fully prepared for passengers but will ensure a safe experience.

Trick-or-treating this year is not encouraged, but there are a few rules that Howard County has established to practice the tradition safely, such as "avoiding large groups, applying sanitizer between houses, allowing 6 feet distance between yourself and other people, and facial coverings should always be worn even if wearing a costume mask." Howard County officials suggest leaving treats outside. Placing treats in a bowl outside and sanitizing all treat bags will help to decrease the chance of transmission. Trick-or-treating rules are crucial for younger siblings to ensure they are taking proper precautions.

Another event Howard High students enjoy is the Field of Screams. Field of Screams is COVID-19 compliant, and will be enforcing rules such as, "Masks are Mandatory! Extremely Limited Attendance / We Will Sell Out!, No Congregating in the Compound, Sanitization Stations Available, Covid-19 Protocols Incorporated Throughout the Event." The event will be touchless, as stated on the website. Tickets are only available for purchase online. By following guidelines on masks and social distancing, the Field of Screams can remain COVID-19 compliant, even in indoor portions, where crowd control is more challenging. Field of Screams will only be hosting two trail events, the Haunted Trail and the Trail of Terror because of restrictions with COVID-19. Many Howard High School students attend this event annually, so its occurrence in these unprecedented times is something to look forward to.

Most events for this Halloween season will still be going on, though marginally stricter, which is a necessity at this time. Keeping yourself and your family members safe is very important and should be the main priority of students when celebrating the holidays. If you or a family member is showing any symptoms of COVID-19, please do not attend these attractions.

Howard High History:

A Living Legend Reflects on Sports Among the Lions

by Nicole Parker '24
Sports Editor

When the doors to Howard High School first opened in 1952, Frank Lupashunski was there, a social studies teacher and coach known to his students as "Mr. Lupe." He retired in 1984, but still lives in Ellicott City and feels a connection to Howard High School where his wife AnnaMae was a library aide, and from which his three daughters graduated. The Lupashunskis like to talk about their school and recently shared what the sports program was like nearly 70 years ago, before Howard High was known for its great athletics.

High school sports were a lot different in the 1950s than they are now. Accord-

ing to Mrs. Lupashunski, outside of cheerleading, there were no girls' sports, as "[girls] played in phys-ed, but they didn't have their own teams." County and regional championships were a long way away in 1952 when Mr. Lupashunski said the football team was "relatively popular," but had just six players, while the basketball team was "trash." The basketball team improved; in 1959 the team won the District 3 championship and was runner-up in the state tournament.

The sports program grew over the years, adding baseball and volleyball, and in 1959 Mr. Lupashunski started the school's first golf

team and became its first coach, even as he assisted coaches in other sports. Since no other public high school had a golf program, he said they played against area private schools. He reflects, "That was an experience that I always cherished. I was very happy. I taught the kids football, basketball and golf." One of his former players, Joan Lovelace, is in the Howard County Women's Athletic Hall of Fame. Lovelace joined the boys golf team in the early '70s after being encouraged by Mr. Lupashunski.

By the late 1950s, Howard had girls' field hockey, basketball and volleyball. In 1960, softball was added, and

later, tennis. The uniforms for basketball and volleyball were actually skirts or dresses over tops. Although title IX in 1972 helped level the playing field by requiring gender equity for boys and girls in education programs, it took a long time for girls lacrosse to come to Howard County. It wasn't until 1988 that girls lacrosse was approved by the Howard County school system — after Mr. Lupashunski retired.

The first graduation class at Howard High was 108 students. A lot has changed since then, including the sports program and teacher's salaries; Mr. Lupashunski said he made \$2,600 a year in 1952 as a teacher.



Left: Mr. Frank Lupashunski takes a swing as Howard's golf coach. Above: The 1958 Howard Lions football team, 1958 cheerleaders, and The Howard girls' basketball team in 1972. Photos from the Howard High 1958 and 1972 yearbooks.



NBA 2K21

by S.P. Singh '24
Staff Writer

2K Sports released their new game, NBA 2K21, on September 4, 2020 to gamers around the globe. This game is the continuation of the NBA 2K series, with four editions at varying price points. It was developed by Visual Concepts and published by 2K Sports. 2K has revolutionized video games in past editions, but this year NBA 2K21 is a step ahead of previous versions due to gameplay improvements, faster load times and adjustments to game modes.

The new editions of the game will include Kobe Bryant, Damian Lillard and Zion Williamson on their front covers. The Standard Edition for current generation and Standard Edition for next generation are priced at \$59.99 and \$69.99, respectively, while the Mamba Forever Editions for current and next generation are both priced at \$99.99.

2K will be adding many new features in 2K21 to improve the gameplay. Players that pre-purchase or buy the Mamba Forever edition of 2K21 get rewards including bonus virtual currency, which can be used within the game store to buy virtual goods including uniforms, equipment or apparel and animation packages that grant the game character new moves to perform. Purchasers also receive bonus MyTEAM points which can be used to open packs in the game to unlock a player; the tier of said player depends solely on luck.

Jake Keller, a senior at Howard High School who plays 2K21, said, “This changed the park courts and around the park they added a lot of pictures of Kobe to honor him.” Some changes in NBA 2K21 were made to honor Kobe Bryant, who tragically passed earlier this year.

There are also new consoles coming out soon: the PS5 and Xbox Series X and S. 2K21 will have better graphics on PS5 and other next generation consoles. “I believe the gameplay will be a lot smoother and bugs in the game will be fixed because developers are spending more time on the next generation 2K,” says Nathan Dawes, another Howard High School senior and 2K21 player. Developers of 2K also express that the 2K21 next generation editions will work better with the upcoming consoles as it is built for next-generation consoles.

@HowardLionsTale
www.lions-tale.weebly.com

ETHICS AND PURPOSE

The Lion’s Tale seeks news and entertainment that informs and interests the students at Howard High School. We do not accept money for sponsorship, nor do we advertise. Our ethics dictate that the staff of The Lion’s Tale does not report on itself; our writers, editors, and advisor are not sources for interviews or human interest pieces. We fact check our articles, and gain approval from our sources before publishing their quotes. Anonymous sources are allowed so long as our advisor has verified the source. Plagiarism and/or fabrication of information is strictly prohibited. Once staff writers complete their work, the pieces are reviewed by section and copy editors, then the Editor in Chief and advisor.

If our readership would like to suggest a correction to an article or write a letter to the editor, please DM our Twitter page @HowardLionsTale or email the advisor, Mrs. Julia Carter, at julia_carter@hcpss.org.

COLOPHON

Distribution of this eMagazine is through the Howard High School student Canvas page and direct email. The full issue is uploaded to our website in both formats, and each article is individually placed in sections by our Managing Editor. The Lion’s Tale eMagazine is designed using Adobe InDesign and published as an eBook, as well as a PDF. Article text appears in 11 point Times New Roman. The masthead is in Riesling. Page design is the work of the advisor in consultation with the Editor in Chief and section editors. Graphics for the cover and the altered TikTok logo are the work of Alexis Maokhamphiou, who uses Adobe PhotoShop.