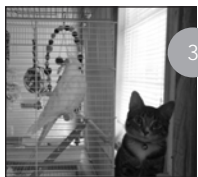




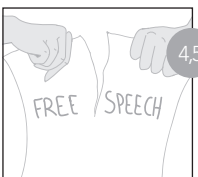
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Minecraft Club seeks out specific outlets to play the game.

HEATHER DUNBAR/RANK&FILE



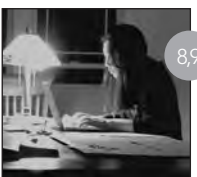
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EMMA CHOI



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The senior Powderpuff volleyball team defeated the juniors in the first four sets during Spirit Week.

PATRICK MCCABE/RANK&FILE

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Earth Day yields gardening efforts

by heather dunbar & paulina farley-kuzmina

Last Thursday, members from a variety of service clubs like National Honors Society, National Science Honors Society, Envirothon, Key Club and Earth Force met after school in the Native Species garden as part of a cleanup effort in celebration of Earth Day.

"Some people aren't a part of any club, they just come here because they want to help," IB Environmental Systems and Societies teacher Barbara Brown said.

Some of the work done in the garden included weeding flower beds, planting vegetables in the raised vegetable garden and mulching.

"I think it's cool we have a native species garden, because we get to see these plants during a school day, which is pretty relaxing," freshman Kari Eskeland said. "This event is an opportunity to work and an opportunity to be a part of something beautiful."

A group of students went to the portion of Pimmit Run located behind the back practice fields with Danielle Wynne, a freshwater ecologist for the Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division.

"We're looking at different partnerships in order to get an idea of how many floatables are in these streams and also to go one step further and figure out how we can prevent them from getting into the streams in the first place," Wynne said.

Wynne supervised the group while they filled in data sheets about the specific types of trash in and around the stream, and spoke about what the varying types of debris signified.

Junior and Key Club member Emeline Walker was one of the students to attend the monitoring session.

"I was volunteering in the native species garden, but what we're doing here is something that we can do long-term," Walker said. "We're always trying to find more organizations we can work with so that we can always guarantee our members service opportunities."



HEATHER DUNBAR/RANK&FILE

Top: Seniors Mpesa Kapinka and Kinda Ahmed weed by the pond in the native species garden for service hours.

"We went on an ESS field trip last week, and they told us about invasive species and how important it is to remove them to let indigenous plants grow, so what we're doing here helps our local plants grow," Kapinka said.

Bottom: Sophomore Dylan Wake prepares the garden bed for mulching.

"After they [finish weeding] they are going to lay down newspapers and then put a thick layer of mulch on top of it," Brown said. "The mulch keeps the weeds down and newspapers make it harder for the weeds to grow, which makes the mulch job last longer."

Music department wins Blue Ribbon award

by spencer gilbert

Following multiple assessments during the month of March, the music department has been awarded the Blue Ribbon distinction from the Virginia Music Educators Association.

This distinction is awarded to programs whose ensembles in band, choir and orchestra receive superior, the top rating, at their respective assessments. Band director and music teacher Paul Vesilind characterizes the distinction as a goal for the program as a whole.

"All of us as directors strive every year for all of our groups to get superiors," Vesilind said. "The Blue Ribbon is an honor and really means that we as a department have a really balanced program."

The Wind Symphony, Sinfonia Orchestra and Statesmen Singers had been practicing since the beginning of this year in preparation of this performance. These musicians often choose challenging pieces which incorporate varying movements and registers.

"Preparation for assessment is a lot of blood, sweat and tears," member of the Wind Symphony and senior Sara Zhu said. "We try out a lot of pieces that are very challenging, and practice every class as well as during after school rehearsals."

While preparation for assessment was difficult for the band and orchestra programs, the Statesmen Singers faced

a unique issue: the absence of their director Keri Staley for most of the year.

"We had to overcome adversity this year," junior Satori Greene said. "Our choir teacher was out on maternity leave for the beginning of this year, so we had two different substitutes and we had to shift substitutes right before our assessment. While it was a new experience, we were able to adjust and still performed well regardless of this challenge."

Since Vesilind began teaching seven years ago, students have earned four out of the seven years, and according to him, despite these challenges, the music program as a whole is on the rise.

"The quality of our ensemble has grown with the growing population," Vesilind said. "The Blue Ribbon distinction is one that we should from now on be getting on a consistent basis."

For many musicians and singers in these programs, earning the Blue Ribbon distinction is a culmination of the many years of work they have put into their musical ambitions.

"As a senior, I've been in band all four years and the prep for assessment and everything that relates to growing as a musician comes with the cultivation of a wonderful music program," Zhu said. "I'm going into music in college and I don't think that could have been possible without my four years here at Marshall."

news**briefs**

Welcome Club aids ESOL

While the ESOL program has assisted in integrating non-English speakers into the community, those involved have expressed a desire for a clearer focus on academic assistance. Senior Hanieh Hosseini has taken it upon herself to shape the Welcome Club into an opportunity for the ESOL community to receive academic assistance from those who are already integrated.

"I was, myself, an ESOL student when I came here," Hosseini said. "I was in ESOL 4 and then I thought that we were missing something to kind of help students. I thought help from a peer would be really effective."

The club currently offers assistance for speakers of over five foreign languages, including Chinese, Arabic and Farsi. While activities are mainly oriented toward tutoring, the members have discussed possible expansions in the future.

ESOL department chair and club sponsor Sharon Carser-Brown believes the club is a welcome opportunity for those looking to assist peers in need.

"Anytime students want to help other students or get involved with the community, I'm very much supportive of that," Carser-Brown said.

by ethan zack

IB Spanish classes visit GALA Hispanic Theatre

IB Spanish classes went to the GALA Hispanic Theatre on April 15 where they watched *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*. The play is based off of a book by Nobel Prize winner Gabriel García Márquez, which some of the classes had read beforehand.

"It was really fun, I think the best experience was seeing it live after we read the book in class," sophomore Brenda Henriquez said. "I think the presentation made it really life-like and the actors were great along with with the costumes and scenes."

The trip, a first for the language department, also set the potential for future trips.

"It makes the language come to life to the kids not just in the classroom, but also out of it," IB Spanish teacher Silvia Montes said.

The play will run at the GALA Theatre until May 8.

by johann young



FERNANDO URIBARRI

A member of the GALA Theatre explains the play to the audience prior to the show.



Top: Juniors Hahneul Shin and Jared Zell Skype senior and Minecraft Club leader Garrett Brothers during his vacation in Florida. The club emphasizes that physical presence is unnecessary for participation in its various activities.

Right: Freshman Jacob Zahalsky works cooperatively on Minecraft. "[The club] is different from others at Marshall," Zahalsky said. "There's not many similarities—it's more of an accessible server than it is a formal club."



HEATHER DUNBAR/RANK&FILE

Minecraft Club breaks down confines of physical meetings

by heather dunbar

Minecraft Club's co-presidents, senior Garrett Brothers and junior Hahneul Shin, led an interest meeting on March 11 in C106 and since then have held informative meetings as part of the club's informal structure.

The co-presidents came up with the club as a place for Minecraft enthusiasts to play alongside their peers late last year, but missed the registration deadline. This year, they've been able to establish the club as an activity that is accessible both at after school sessions and at home.

"Most of the time, [the club] is free to people who want to play Minecraft on wifi in their spare time or whenever," Brothers said.

According to sponsor and Economics & Personal Finance teacher Sandra Ludden, the lack of a need for formal club meetings is both convenient and unifying.

"It's neat that they all help each other out in the game and they can play it from anywhere while still being involved with each other," Ludden said. "There's a kind of unity—it's a unified club in all these different locations."

The club is able to play as an organized group outside of Ludden's room due to the fact that they have their own server, which is hosted by junior Jared Zell. Zell has the responsibility of running

the library help desk alongside Instructional Technology specialist Roxanne Kaylor, as well as being a teacher for the Cyber Security Club.

"I'm not necessarily one of the leaders of the club, but I'm here to help out," Zell said. "There's a lot to configure, and there's always some kind of problem [in the game]. I make sure the cool mods that we have work without ruining the server or messing with anyone's computers, and I make sure the in-game economy is balanced in that we want to keep this a typical survival game rather than having some people beat the game entirely."

Minecraft Club is separate from Video Game Club despite their similar aims, and Shin feels the distinction is helpful in that the structure of Video Game Club has limitations.

"They usually play something like Super Smash Bros., which dominates meeting times, so there's less options," Shin said. "In Minecraft Club you can play at home or at school during meetings so there's more freedom."

Video Game Club member and sophomore Jeremy Klein also thinks the additional club has value in its specificity.

"There's a lot of people who consider themselves players of Minecraft but they don't really play video games that much," Klein said. "This could be good for differentiating that as well as providing a club for people who really like Minecraft but don't like the video game community."

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staff editorials

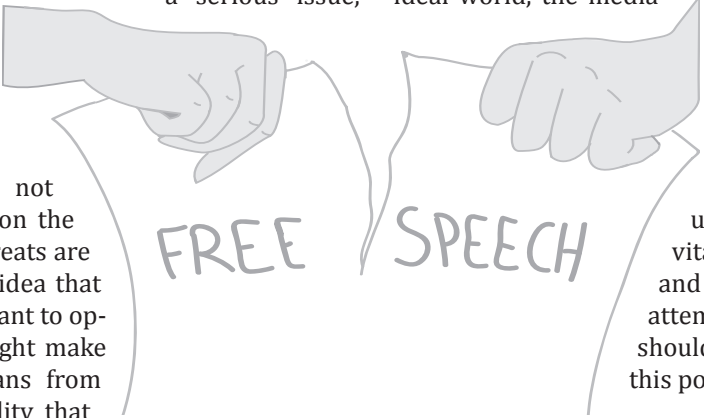
Intensifying libel laws threatens press freedom

While freedom of speech exists in countries all across the world, few things are more emblematic of American society than the right of citizens to openly criticize even the most powerful politicians without fear of retribution. The libel laws that protect journalists, however, have come under fire in the presidential primary race as Donald Trump threatens to find a way around the Supreme Court ruling that has protected newspapers from unwarranted libel cases since the 1960s.

“We’re going to open up libel laws and we’re going to have people sue you like you’ve never got sued before,” Trump said, referencing the media during a February rally in Fort Worth, Texas.

Although libel, a written false statement meant to damage a person’s reputation, can be a serious issue, new libel laws should be implemented with extreme caution as they are one of the few instances in which free speech can be limited.

Regardless of whether or not Trump has the power to take on the Supreme Court ruling, these threats are dangerous as they enforce the idea that politicians and the press are meant to oppose each other. The media might make unfair attacks against politicians from time to time, but this is a reality that



politicians have dealt with for centuries. The idea that making it easier for powerful people to sue the media would have a positive impact is ill-conceived. Critical media coverage is important in the United States and something we cannot afford to lose.

Under the current interpretation of the law established in *New York Times v. Sullivan*, journalists are protected from lawsuits even when their stories are factually inaccurate so long as the false claims are not made with the intention of ruining the subject’s reputation.

This is a crucial law in our country because if journalists are forced to ensure that every single word that they publish is accurate, the current system of journalism would crumble and it would severely limit investigative reporting. In an ideal world, the media should be accurate and unbiased 100 percent of the time.

In our current society in which breaking news is rushed out in a matter of minutes after major events, this ideal is not feasible and the public should understand this unfortunate reality. The media plays a vital role in protecting our democracy and way of life in the United States, and attempts to limit the freedom of the press should not be taken lightly, especially in this political climate.

PETA’s provocative advertising fails to focus on animal rights

April is Animal Cruelty Awareness month, and the charities that focus on the prevention of that issue range from all-encompassing organizations such as the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to more focused groups like Bat Conservation International.

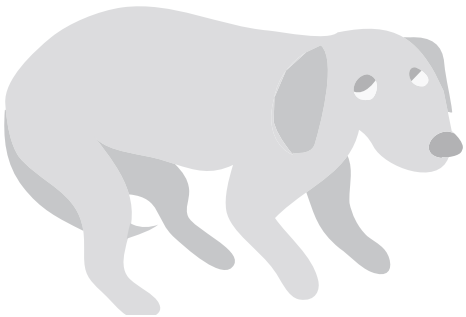
Animal cruelty prevention groups share a few core sentiments. ASPCA states on their website that we must “recognize the cruelty that threatens them,” and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals similarly points out that “we can’t stop animals’ suffering if we simply look the other way and pretend it isn’t happening.”

PETA is a non-profit based in Norfolk dedicated to animal rights activism, and though they do collect a significant amount in donations from their supporters and received \$43.53 million in contributions in 2015, they also receive a fair amount of criticism. Anti-PETA groups

such as PETA Kills Animals cite the organization’s excessive usage of euthanasia as their biggest fault, as The Virginia Department of Agriculture reported that out of the 1,974 animals PETA received in 2015, 1,456 were euthanized.

Beyond their excessive use of euthanasia, PETA overuses offensive ad campaigns. In 2004, PETA launched a Holocaust on Your Plate display which horrifyingly paired images of animals in slaughterhouses with images taken in Nazi concentration camps. The European Court of Human Rights banned PETA from using the images in 2009, but PETA did not publish an apology of any kind, and instead offered a blog post defending their right to free speech, making no point about the animals the ad was meant to defend.

PETA’s desire to spark conversation through controversy is ineffective, and doesn’t help animals in poor conditions.



The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services requires all animal shelters to report the number of cats and dogs they take in each year and the number they kill.

year	received	killed
2015	1,974	1,456
2014	2,631	2,324
2013	2,175	1,792

STATISTICS FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

Moviegoers should embrace conflicting opinions

Whenever a new movie release garners at least a semblance of anticipation, the first place that the populace turns to is not the theater anymore, it is the reviews. As more and more media platforms allow us access to instantaneous information on any given topic, forming one’s own opinion outside of the pre-formed biases of society has become increasingly difficult.

The irony that exists within this conflict stems from the idea that individuals who don’t want their opinions challenged by society are the ones that band together and make up a “societal opinion.” In turn, society disregards the opinions of other individuals who do not share this specific opinion. People that fear neglect or isolation for sharing an unpopular opinion adopt the opinion that society supports, allowing it to strengthen. This conflict is known as the Spiral of Silence theory, proposed by German political scientist Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann.

The overruling influence of society’s opinions within the cinema industry reached a critical point following the release of the highly-controversial blockbuster *Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice*. While critics immediately took to touting the movie as one of the worst in recent times, average moviegoers were decidedly less critical of the movie and some even praised it as a cinematic achievement.

A difference of opinion in this respect would be okay if

not for the considerable amount of sway critics have over their target audience. A study done by José Ignacio Azuela-Flores of the Autonomous University of Tamaulipas, Víctor Fernández-Blanco and María José Sanzo-Pérez of the University of Oviedo, explored the effects of critics’ reviews on movie demand and found that reading critical reviews of films in newspapers increases the probability of an individual going to the cinema to watch the film by 10 percent.

The reason this influence is so detrimental to media is that it undermines the industry’s place as an art form. Film as a medium is meant to give individuals an opportunity to create their own opinion about something abstract. There is not meant to be one single, unified mindset on every aspect of a movie. In the modern world, however, those with the unpopular opinion that goes against society are criticized or even ostracized.

The disparity between popular societal opinions and those of the minority should not be condemned, rather the opposite. The main issue lies within cultivating an environment where every single one of those varying opinions can be respected. Instead of a knee-jerk defensive reaction to anything that contradicts their opinions on something abstract, the populace should welcome differing viewpoints as it validates the original purpose of the medium: to inspire new ideas.

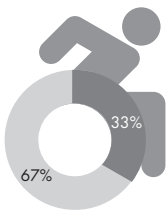
Lack of accessibility limits transportation

by kate carniol

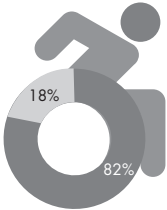
Spraining my ankle was the worst thing to ever happen to me. Being taken out of soccer season for five weeks was heart-breaking news. There is nothing more painful than realizing that you are going to miss half the season because of an injury. The timing was unfortunate because I was a week away from going on a school trip to New York and there was a chance the orthopedist would refuse to let me go on the trip. Luckily, I got approval and was advised to rent a knee walker so traveling around the city and campus of Columbia University would be easier. However, I wasn't ready for the challenges ahead of me that come with requiring accessibility accommodations.

On my first day I had trouble finding an elevator in the buildings so I resigned myself to taking the stairs and luckily my friends were willing to carry my knee walker down the steps for me so I wouldn't have to. It's a federal law that schools must be wheelchair accessible, but nowhere in the law does it say that elevators and ramps have to be convenient.

Touring the streets of NYC was also a challenge because the ramps built in to the sidewalks were either occupied by people standing and waiting or they were so bumpy I thought I would tip over. People with mobility restrictions need to have more accessible elevators and ramps. A 2015 study done by the School of Human Performance and Recreation found that only 66 percent of restaurants in the United States have the required ramps and only 53 percent of restaurants have designated parking spaces for



33% of wheelchair-users report accessibility problems



82% of wheelchair-users struggle with getting on public transportation



50% of wheelchair-users must use the stairs to enter their homes

STATISTICS FROM NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH

individuals with disabilities. This isn't fair at all to those who need it. They didn't choose to have this disability and they shouldn't have to go out of their way just to get into a building.

Not only are people with disabilities already forced into finding new methods to get around, but the difficulty that comes with accommodation could force them to feel different or out of place.

There is a stigma that comes with having a disability and it's that you will always need help doing everything. This isn't true at all. Persons who require ramps and elevators are not helpless individuals.

Gap years combat stress

by paulina farley-kuzmina

It's not news that Northern Virginia harbors a competitive atmosphere for high school students. Fairfax County is rated among the top school districts in the country and Marshall has been ranked one of the top three public high schools in the state, according to websites like Niche and U.S. News, so it's not unusual when students are faced with challenging classes and

92%

wanted to gain life experiences and grow personally

85%

wanted to travel and experience other cultures

82%

wanted a break from the academic track

48%

wanted to volunteer

STATISTICS FROM SURVEY OF 700 STUDENTS BY THE AMERICAN GAP ASSOCIATION

faced-paced curriculums.

This could lend to a stressful high school experience, in which students are burned out from the whole college application process just before they start an even more rigorous academic experience at a four-year college. Although there are plenty of alternatives to moving straight from high school to college, there isn't nearly enough information about those options that is presented to students.

Taking a year off to work and save up for college is a viable option, as is taking a gap year to volunteer or travel. Gap years in particular have a stigma surrounding them, as there are assumptions that students who take gap years will have essentially wasted their time.

However, according to a study done by Middlebury College Dean of Admissions Bob Clagett, students who took a gap year and then applied for college had a higher average GPA compared to those that didn't. Clagett also reported that gap year students had higher levels of motivation and had a high academic endurance during their times at their four-year colleges.

More students, especially those who had rigorous high school experiences, should feel comfortable taking a structured gap year where they are able to gain real world experience and explore career interests before going to college.

Social media generates comedic election cycle

by gwyneth murphy

Social media influences the public, especially in this election, and the online presence of a candidate is now a factor that younger voters consider before casting their vote. Popular social networking sites and mainstream media trends spread quickly and to a large audience, making it an ideal platform for political ridicule overkill.

Sites such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter have a huge influence on the shape of each election. According to Pew Research Institute, 38 percent of social media users promote material about political and social issues that others post. Vulgar debates litter the comment sections of candidates' interviews on Youtube.

On other sites, memes, gifs and Vines have moved beyond celebrities and on to politicians and their looks. In fact, jokes uploaded to social media accounts about

Presidential candidate Donald Trump's hair make news before his actual speeches do. People focus on the wrong aspect of the election by drawing attention to the appearance and comedy of a candidate. Making a mockery of the profession instead of focusing on real global and national issues weaken the political system.

Popular twitter accounts like @InvisibleObama and @TomCoburnsBeard use their combined 45,000 followers and online attention to instill personal political beliefs through what is essentially online brainwashing using relatability.

According to Pew Research Institute, 16 percent of social media users reports posts and online conversation changed their views on a political issue. This is an example of how social media drives the political conversation and opinion, rather than hard facts and reliable news sources.

Although social media lends itself to mass feedback and fundraising for the

candidates, both of these methods can get out of hand quickly.

During the nearly two year span of presidential campaigning, these websites' users devote themselves to aggressively spreading their opinion of their favorite candidates, or rather their hatred for their least favorite.

These comments infest the online presence of properly publicized and well-groomed politicians, and in a race as controversial as this one, one comment can change how the public views their officials.

As much as we often see these races as a competition among reality television stars, it is a serious occupation that holds the reputation of the United States in their hands.

Online users and young voters need to remember that as ridiculous as these elections can be, candidates deserve a level of dignity and professionalism from the public.

letters

Elimination of housing discrimination

As the Fairfax County Human Rights Commissioner of Marshall I want to emphasise on the importance on human rights throughout our school. Everyone should be aware of their rights and that they can count on assistance from the commission in case they need help. The Fair Housing contest on April 15 was a way to promote unity in community by letting students throughout the county submit a drawing or letter to emphasis on this issue. The winner of the contest drew different races coming together without being rejected for the identity. The contest winner along with many other immigrants left their countries to seek a better life, and they should not face additional challenges by being rejected to a home because of their social identity. Instead they should get helped, therefore it is important for a diverse county like Fairfax to have a commission defend people's right in case they are violated.

Janan Iranbomy
Sophomore

Good grades require effort

As a student who's put their heart and sometimes mental health on the line to get the grade, achieve outside of school, and be accepted into college, nothing kills me more than a certain mantra I hear more and more around school. It's always some iteration of the same idea: "Oh, I could get an A/succeed in some activity/get into University of Whatever—if I tried." This seems to imply that the motivation and work put into an activity are utterly trivial, that inherent intelligence or skill trump putting in the hours. Clearly, I disagree with this idea. Maybe Ambiguous Student could do that well—or maybe they couldn't. Honestly, it's not important, because working up the drive to succeed in the first place is 90 percent of the battle. Not trying doesn't make you cool, or a misunderstood genius, or somehow superior to those who do try. Drop the defense mechanism, make the effort, and you'll be more successful. Probably.

Bevy Daniel
Senior

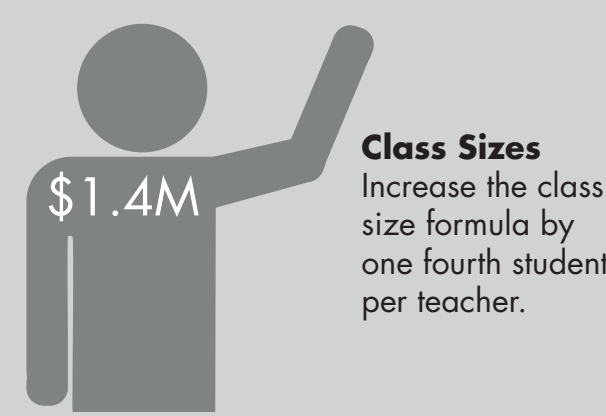
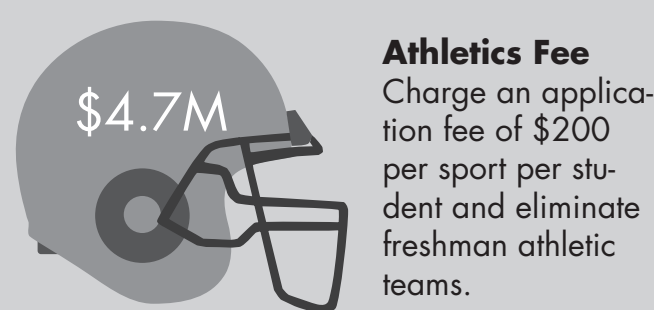
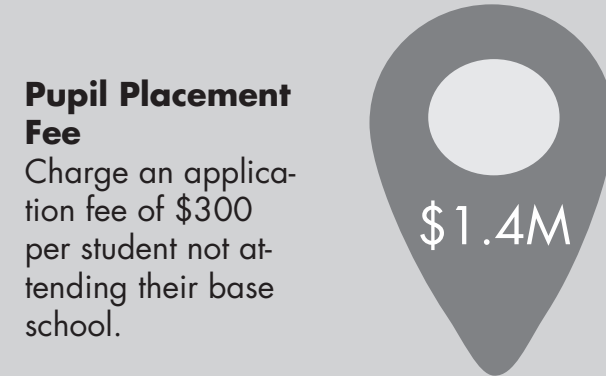
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Breaking down the FCPS budget

● compiled by gwyneth murphy

Possible fees to balance the budget

The following fees could be implemented in order to better balance the FCPS budget for the 2017 fiscal year. By adding these fees for students, FCPS would receive additional funds, which would be used at their discretion after the final budget decisions on April 26.



Note: fees would be waived or reduced for students with free and reduced meals.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors debates over potential budget cuts

Last Tuesday, Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza and other officials in Fairfax County met up at the Fairfax County Government Center to observe the Board of Supervisors' discussion about the 2017 county budget markup and recommendations for the 2018 budget. District representatives on the Board of Supervisors debated over topics such as teacher salaries and class sizes, with the goal to better align FCPS with nearby school systems.

At the beginning of the school year, FCPS requested \$122.7 million in additional funding from the county, which is an increase of six and seven tenths percent from the previous year. However, the amount presented in the county supervisor's budget in February called for a three percent increase.

Fairfax County Public Schools has received budget cuts over the last nine years, but the cuts for the upcoming year cause a loss of \$50 million compared to last year. According to the FCPS website, the Board of Supervisors has had to cut 2,172 positions and almost half a billion dollars since 2007. This is due to an increase in the student population, funds for employee retirement, health insurance costs and teacher compensation.

Teacher compensation was a major topic of discussion among the Board of Supervisors, as FCPS teachers haven't had a significant raise in pay in seven years. Lee district representative Jeff McKay, who was the representative that put together the budget, advocated for its passing because with proposed tax increases teachers would be able to get a raise.

"[This is] yet another example of underpaid employees that serve our constituents and where the state comes up short," McKay said.

The Board of Supervisors voted at the end of the meeting on a possible increase in teacher

salaries and decrease in class sizes. The proposed financial plans passed without the need to cut student programs.

Less than half of the money raised by taxes in Northern Virginia stays in Northern Virginia because more of Virginia's overall state budget that is set aside for education funds ends up in Southern Virginia schools.

State funding was recently subject to recalculations, which, according to Providence district school board representative Dalia Palchik, is a large contributor to the budget issues.

"The additional surplus that the state received this year allowed for some additional money to go towards education," Palchik said. "However, with the total additional funds minus the loss of funds due to a change in the funding formula and enrollment changes, the net increase in state funding is approximately \$16.8 million, which is less than one percent of our total budget."

This means that due to changes in funding distribution, FCPS actually loses money, despite an increase in the education budget.

FCPS is the 10th largest school system in the country, which means smaller budgets can not cover all needs-based programs, so things like small class sizes, waitlists, textbooks, computers, buses, maintenance and salaries, among other smaller things have to be cut from the current budgetary plan. Programs that allow for elective variety, advanced courses and career-focused classes were also on the table to be cut.

Programs that grew in the last few years such as ESOL and Special Education also add costs that would need to be included in the budget.

FCPS ends each school year with around one and a half percent of the budget unspent, which happens in order to meet minimum school



PAULINA FARLEY-KUZMINA/RANK&FILE

Mount Vernon district representative Daniel Storck and Braddock district representative John Cook listen to chairman Sharon Bulova's opening remarks during the Board of Supervisors budget markup meeting for the fiscal year 2017.

revenue standards required by law and carries over into next school year's budget. This additional money serves as more of a buffer zone in case FCPS goes over budget, as opposed to a bonus for the school in the following year.

Seventy percent of FCPS funding comes from inter-county transfer and 23 percent from state aid, with the last seven percent divided among various taxes and reserves. According to the FCPS government site, Virginia is one of the top 10 states for high levels of income, but in the bottom 10 for state funding for K-12 education. This is due to the lack of relevance schools have with the majority of the population, because 70 percent of Fairfax County residents do not have school-aged children. According to principal Jeffrey Litz, this has a large impact on interest in the budget crisis, because people do not want to pay for something that they are not involved with.

"When the Board of Supervisors contemplates raising taxes for schools, there's a large constituency that fights against that because they feel that the schools have enough money, and that they are not responsibly using the

money that we have," Litz said.

In reference to the six percent residence tax increase proposed in the budget, Springfield district representative Patrick Herry spoke in opposition of the added taxes and then rejected the proposed budget.

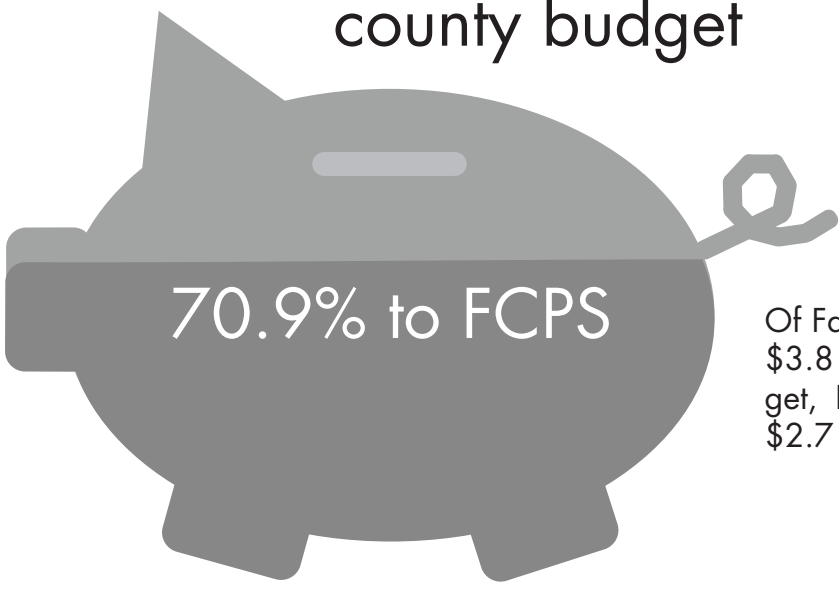
"I'm disappointed that instead of setting priorities we are pick-pocketing our residents," Herry said.

Tax and fee adjustments were suggested in order to balance the 2017 budget, with changes such as increasing individual participant application fees for rectangular field users from five and a half dollars to eight dollars and increasing the Sewer Service Base Charge from \$20.15 per quarter to \$24.68 per quarter.

"The low hanging fruit is gone. We have to dig deeper," Providence district representative Linda Smyth said. Smyth advocated against the budget plan.

Moving forward, students, board members and district representatives will plead their case for a budget increase before the final decision on April 26.

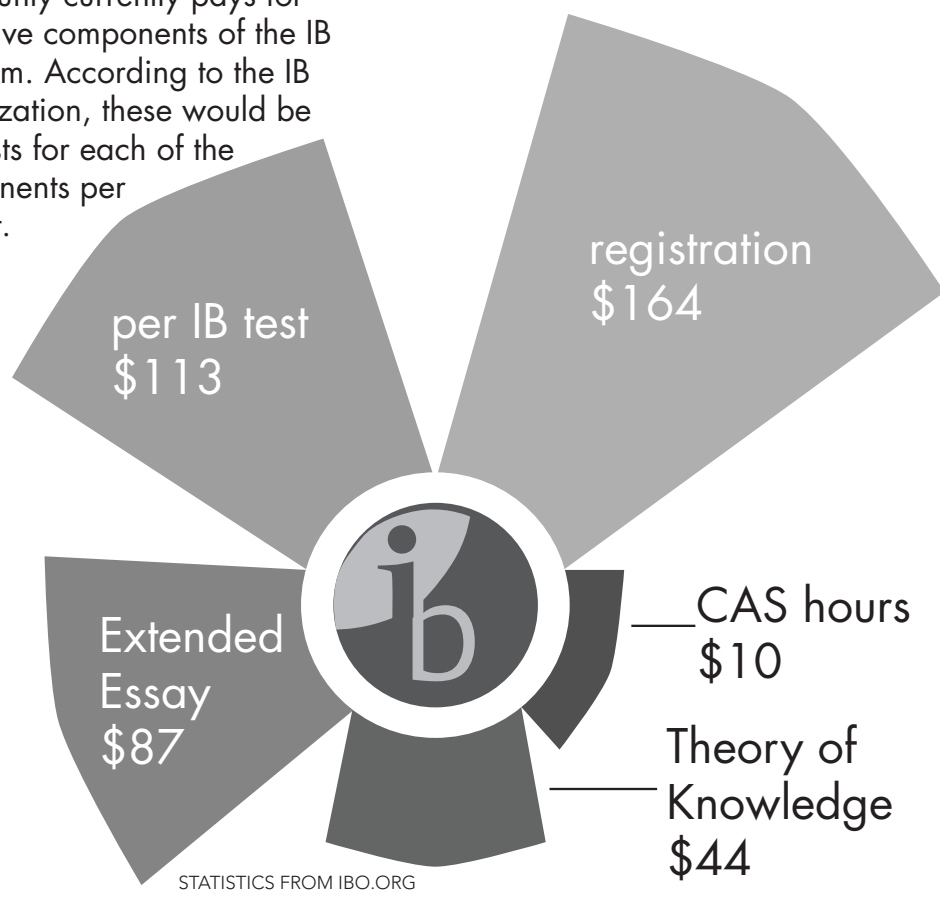
county budget



STATISTICS FROM FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV

Of Fairfax County's \$3.8 billion budget, FCPS receives \$2.7 billion.

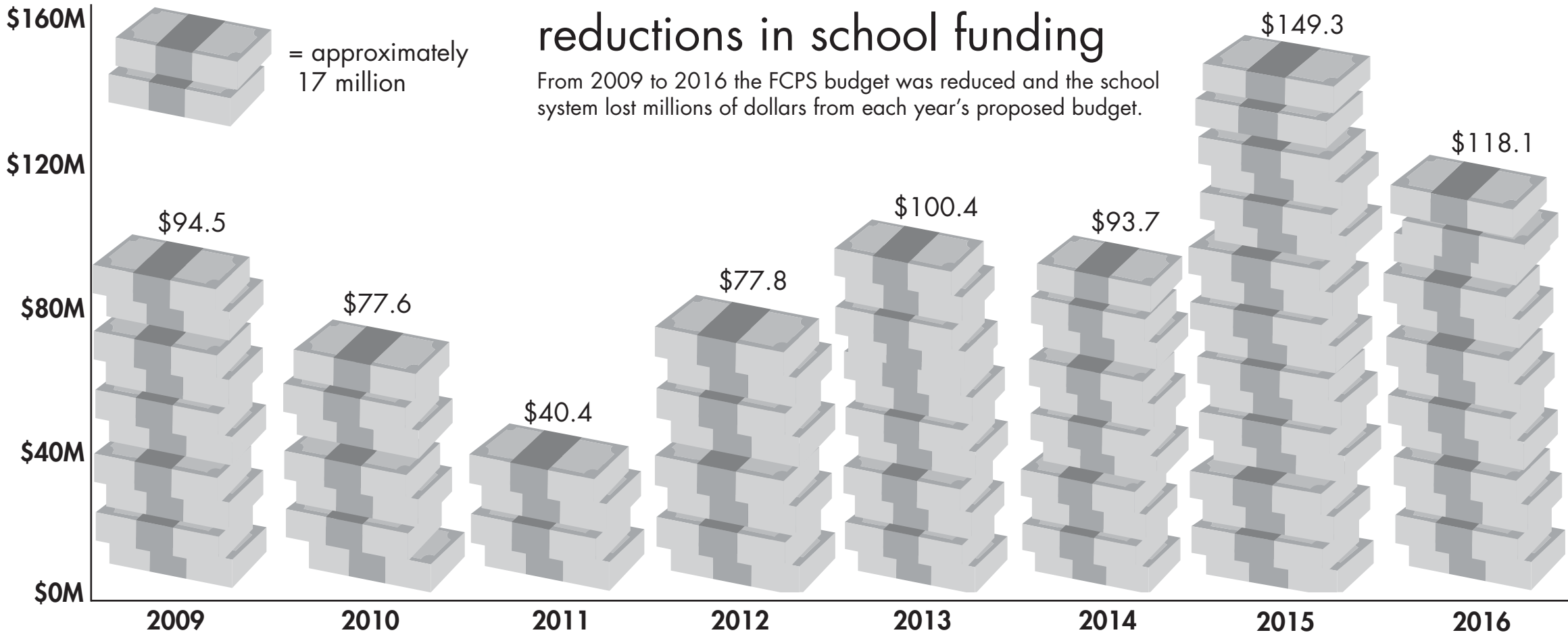
The county currently pays for these five components of the IB program. According to the IB organization, these would be the costs for each of the components per student.



STATISTICS FROM IBO.ORG

reductions in school funding

From 2009 to 2016 the FCPS budget was reduced and the school system lost millions of dollars from each year's proposed budget.



IB program faces potential fees

There are a few county budget cuts that could potentially affect IB. The board could require students to pay all test and registration fees, eliminate the Middle Years Programme, and reduce the additional staffing provided to schools.

According to the IB coordinator Matt Axelrod, fees for exams could add up to one thousand dollars per test taker, which could deter students from lower-class families from pursuing the IB diploma or taking multiple IB courses.

"I don't like the idea that the IB diploma would only be for kids who can pay for it," Axelrod said.

Aside from exams, other fees go along with being an IB diploma student, such as Theory of Knowledge and the cost of sending extended essays off to be scored.

"My recommendation was to have the county pay for the first three exams at least," Litz said. "That way you aren't alienating those kids that only take one, two or three IB exams, and then have the diploma candidates pay the

rest on a sliding scale."

The candidates that most likely would pay on a sliding scale are those that receive free and reduced lunches, which is currently almost a third of the students at Marshall.

The Middle Years Programme, another IB program up for debate, would affect almost all IB schools in the county.

This program goes from seventh through 10th grade and involves IB concepts such as international mindedness and communications, without the exams administered at the end of the year.

Although Marshall does not currently have this program, schools such as South Lakes, Robinson and Annandale use the MYP to strengthen their IB programs.

"I feel bad for those schools who have invested in the Middle Years Programme because there is real evidence that says, for schools like Mount Vernon, which does not have a very robust IB program in the way that Marshall does, MYP could really aid in that growth," Axelrod said.

the positives of binge-watching

With video streaming services such as Netflix rapidly replacing cable television, people are not only changing where they watch their favorite shows, but also how they consume their daily entertainment.

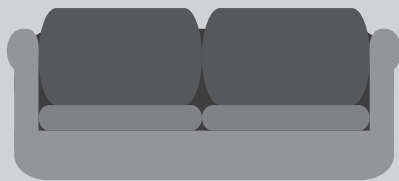
by patrick mccabe



61% percent of users binge-watch TV shows

I tend to binge-watch shows that are on Netflix because they are all there to watch and you don't have to wait every week for a new episode.

Claire Sparrowgrove, sophomore



51% prefer watching with one or more people

I don't have Netflix, but if I go to my friend's house I'll probably binge-watch on their TV.

James Pepito, senior



73% have positive feelings about binge-watching

You get really in into it and remember more things, since you just watched it.

Mpesa Kapinka, senior

STATISTICS FROM HARRIS INTERACTIVE, COLLECTED FROM 1,496 NETFLIX USERS

Adult content affects young adults

by emma patterson

Around the hallways it is common to find some reference to a television show intended for adults you may or may not have seen before, such as references on SGA posters or ads for clubs who reference shows like *Game of Thrones* or *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* to appeal to teens walking by.

When it comes to television, most teens have free reign over what they watch. Sixty-eight percent of kids in the United States under 18 years old have a television in their bedrooms, with only 13 percent of families reported to set rules about what type of shows kids see.

The rate that an individual matures is strictly personal, and things like rated PG-13 movies and age limits on alcohol and legal adulthood are merely based on human growth milestones, which are relative.

"I don't think there's a specific time because people mature at different rates," senior Rebecca Golden said.

The question lies in what these shows can provide as an insight to the adult world and topics that would not be found in shows with younger age ratings.

"There's a point in which people transition from childhood to young adulthood, with that transition accompanied by a decrease in impressionability," junior Bangyen Pham said. "Those who are more impressionable, i.e.

children, should be restricted in what they watch; however, those who are less impressionable should be given free reign as to what they watch."

Until adolescents grow out of their impressionable phase, they are more likely to emulate what they see on television and other media. A study by the American Broadcast Company found that 22 out of 100 juvenile offenders admitted to having learned the techniques they used to commit crimes from watching television.

"Any show that produces dangerous stereotypes or ideas in explicit or violent ways isn't good to expose to someone who is still growing up and learning to form their own personal beliefs," junior Sasha Duckworth said. "Dangerous things can come out of telling kids what is 'adult' and what isn't: for example the whole debate over how a lot of people are desensitized to violence while sexuality is treated as this huge taboo."

Duckworth attests to the improper placement of values in the education and media systems in that media can portray sexuality as something to be afraid of.

"Teaching kids that their sexuality is worse than committing violent acts can lead to self-esteem issues with how they treat other people," Duckworth said.

Alongside this, shows have the power to bring consideration for social change beyond the issue of bias against minority groups and the LGBT community by



FX. REPRODUCED UNDER FAIR USE.

In an episode of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, Charlie Kelly (Charlie Day) drinks to win Chardee MacDennis, a game the show's main cast created.

introducing moral concepts.

"I actually watch *Criminal Minds*, which, despite the massive array of, as the title implies, criminals, humanizes others and shows that one should be aware of the fact that people are not inherently bad, but instead are a product of their environment," Pham said.

HIGHER SCORES MEAN MORE OPTIONS.



MATH



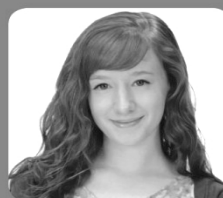
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JOHANN YOUNG/RANK&FILE

The popular clique, portrayed by Taylor Lane, Rachel Dickman, Holly Waters and Macy Blakely pick on the nerd group, portrayed by Joshua Blake, Bella Orobato and Luke Hemmingson. The musical addressed the unhealthy environment that disparities within social circles create.

Loserville increases promotion

by johann young

The Statesmen Theatre performed *Loserville* for the first time last Thursday, and will continue further showings this Thursday through Saturday. The musical itself was originally performed in the United Kingdom and has only been performed in the United States a few times, which makes Statesmen Theatre one of the first American groups to perform it.

"I was looking for something that would be challenging and yet still fun," theater teacher Jason Tamborini said.

Due to this, the cast has the freedom to add something new to the experience.

"It's a lot of fun because we don't have a lot to compare our experience to, so now we're creating our moves and our own personalities for the characters and we are able to put our own little twist to it," sophomore Rachel Dickman said.

The soundtrack consists of a modern pop rock score to keep with the modern themes of the musical.

"The songs are extremely catchy and it's such a different experience than any of the other musical theater I've done in the past," junior

Luke Hemmingson said.

The group has made an effort to strengthen their advertising campaign to help spread the word and increase attendance for each performance.

"Everybody who hears that this is the play we're doing says, 'Hey that's cool, what is that?' and so typically if you don't know a play you're less likely to go see it, no matter if it's a group you like or don't like," Tamborini said. "In an effort to spread the word that we're doing this musical and you should come see it, we decided that really we're going to do a campaign of marketing and advertising."

The campaign consists of promotional letters sent home to families within the community as well as a technique known as "reverse pick-pocketing" in which members discreetly place flyers in unsuspecting individuals' pockets. Senior Bella Orobato also created a public Snapchat geofilter.

"It's one of the posters as well, I think it's the most eye catching and visually you can tell it's pixelated [with] nerds versus jocks being evident [within] that," Orobato said. "[That is one] of the big themes in the show, so we wanted to encapsulate that in the geofilter."

Choi scripts new stage play

by caylin elkins

Many of sophomore Emma Choi's hobbies stemmed from a lifelong love for the arts, especially writing and theatre. Passionate perseverance has granted her the opportunity to have her own original play published off Broadway.

Choi has a long list of successes and affiliations with the arts. Since last year, Choi has run a satirical online news outlet called *The Griffin*. Along with this, she has a long standing career in theater, both within school and in the community. But her most recent success was on March 14, when she was awarded the golden key at The Scholastic Art and Writing Award for excellence in fictional writing and poetry.

The outcome of all these interests was Choi's introduction into the art of playwriting.

"I'm actually not completely sure when or how I got in so deep. In the words of John Green, I got into playwriting 'like the way you fall asleep, slowly and then all at once,'" Choi said. "I've always loved theatre and cinema and I work in a lot of other genres like poetry and fiction, so when I finally churned out my first play,

it made sense."

Choi participates in the Writopia Labs program, an organization dedicated to providing adolescents with a creative outlet. With help from her Writopia instructor, she entered her play into the Writopia Worldwide Ten Minute Plays Festival. She won and the play debuted in New York City last Wednesday and Saturday.

There was a lot of work, however, that went into creating Choi's show "Good Neighbors." Choi's greatest struggle was getting started in the writing process.

"Writing is very draining because you basically pour a little of yourself into your words, so choosing an idea that's worth the investment, both emotionally and time-wise, is very stressful," Choi said.

Writopia's festival theme for 2016 was community, which helped give Choi a starting point in how she would approach the story. Choi based her 10 minute play in an apartment complex, viewing only one character as she listens in on her two neighbors on either side of her. What makes Choi's story unique, however, is the satirical nature of the story.

"I think a lot of writers take themselves too seriously, especially when



EMMA CHOI

Sophomore Emma Choi features in an untitled self-produced film for a Scholastic competition. She will take on similar roles when she helps the director of her stage play "Good Neighbors" prepare for its release.

writing dramatic pieces," Choi said. "So I wrote this play to be a kind of satirical take on the conventional romantic comedy, poking fun at the Nicholas Sparks and Sarah Dessen types."

Choi highlights her love for satire through her character Bobby.

"He just comes in and destroys the sappiness," Choi said. "He's common sense personified because he interrupts a

totally unrealistic conversation."

At the end of it all, Choi will get to provide a helping hand in the production process prior to its general release to the public.

"I recently had a long phone call with my director last week where we talked about actors, staging, costumes and other things, I'll be going up next week to attend a rehearsal," Choi said.

Film teams produce projects

by spencer gilbert

From its inception four years ago, the film festival has paved a new way of expression for the IB Film Studies II class.

Since becoming a class, IB Film Studies II has not only taught the deeper nuances of film and filmmaking, but has also brought together people with a common love for film.

"I took film because watching and making movies is one of my biggest interests," senior Abby Spira said. "When I heard there was a film class here I jumped at the opportunity."

The second year of IB Film Studies delves deeper into the process of creating a movie, hence why the class is responsible for organizing the festival.

"In IB Film II the focus is really on production," IB Film Studies teacher Pierce Bello said. "We think about how we can make movies that are as original and creative as possible."

Organizing the film festival is integrated into the class curriculum, as everyone takes on different roles.

"It is part of the HL II fourth quarter

assignment to put together this big film festival," senior Adina Anand said. "My role is compiling the films into one big show, and other people have jobs such as marketing or outreach."

The production process requires many dedicated man hours to create one final product.

"When you watch a movie you don't realize how much time each shot takes," Spira said. "In reality each shot takes so long to set up and the process as a whole is a lot more difficult than many think."

The festival draws entries from film programs across the county. Anand, who will be entering this year, spent almost an entire year on her film "Parallax," which was shot in Virginia and India.

"I made a film that I started last summer and continued through December of last year," Anand said. "I've been admitted with this film to go to the state film festival, so I think I have a pretty good shot on getting into the GCM festival."

While the date for the film festival has yet to be announced, it is expected to be held at the end of May at the Angelika Film Center located within the Mosaic District.

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CAYLIN ELKINS/RANK&FILE

Seniors fall to faculty

Left: Seniors Ethan Axelrad and Shireef Sabah double-team social studies teacher Matt Hausman. Winning by three points, the faculty took their 25th consecutive win in the annual game. "Even though we didn't win, it was a really fun and exciting game from start to finish," senior Alex Haight said.

Right: Senior Crosby Gamble makes a layup as counselor Josh Peters goes up to defend him. The senior players started off strong in the seniors-versus-faculty basketball game on April 8, holding the lead in the first half. However, the teachers came back to take the victory. "Our success was a team effort and I was the one who happened to have the opening to do something with the ball," English teacher Lindsay Hardenbergh said.

by caylin elkins

College-bound Statesmen

16 seniors committed to play NCAA sports and will be honored at Signing Day today.

baseball

Ben Kerns
Ursinus College
Justin Han
Middlebury College
Nate Scheinman
Skidmore College
Nick Cintron
Cornell University
Steve Johel
Coastal Carolina University

football

Josh Hurlburt
University of Richmond
Khrystan Camillo
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Tyler White
James Madison University
dive
Bryce Shelton
University of Virginia

track & field

Jack Gieseler
Bridgewater College
Justin McFaul
Longwood University

lacrosse

Sarah Smith
Asbury University

softball

Madison Larsen
George Mason University

field hockey

Addie Clark
Davidson College
Victoria Novak
University of Mary Washington

volleyball

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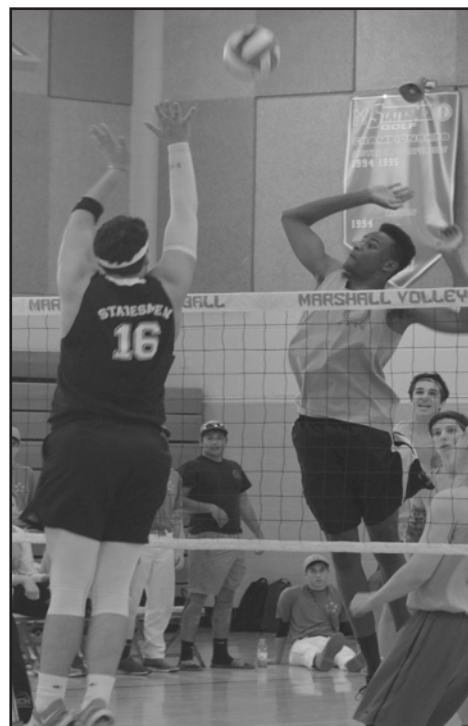
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Powderpuff unleashes rivalry

by patrick mccabe

The senior class came out victorious at the Powderpuff volleyball game, as upperclassmen went head to head during spirit week.

The class of 2018 planned the game and allowed for juniors and seniors with varying degrees of volleyball experience to face off while being coached by current varsity volleyball players. The seniors won three sets to one.



PATRICK MCCABE/RANK&FILE

Junior Jordan James goes up against senior Tyler White during the first match of the powderpuff volleyball game. The seniors came out victorious, beating the juniors three sets to one. "It felt good to win but it felt even better to win with a bunch of my friends and to take home the victory for the senior class," White said.

"You feel like you've accomplished something because you did it for the people you've spent the last four years with and against a classic rivalry between the juniors and seniors," senior Ethan Polk-Trauman said.

The excitement surrounding the game was not only confined to the court, as there was trash-talk between the grades in the build up to the game, and a crowd of all grade levels came out to watch.

"There was a lot of smack talk going on between the seniors and the juniors building up to the game," senior Tyler White said. "Although there was trash talking going on, it was all in the fun of competition so we all were having a good time representing our class and playing in front of a good crowd."

For some players, the powderpuff game was their first time playing volleyball on an official team, making it a unique experience.

"I have played a little bit of volleyball before but never on a team," senior Richard Luu said. "Playing on a full team really changed my perspective that it is much harder than it seems. I would play again any day."

White equalled the sentiment, adding that it gave him a new level of respect for the game.

"I had never played volleyball before, and I have gained a huge amount of respect for the sport," White said.

For Polk-Trauman, the game also served as a way to play one last game with his senior classmates.

"It was a great opportunity with a bunch of guys for the last time," Polk-Trauman said. "Especially when I've never been teammates with some of them before."

Boys lacrosse off to best start in years

by kate carniol

Fresh off of winning the Capital Conference championship last year, boys lacrosse started the season by not only winning nine of their first 10 games, but also by outscoring their opponents by a combined total of 90 goals. The start is the team’s best in over six years. According to varsity head coach Kevin Curtin, these triumphs are largely due to the fact that the players put in offseason work, attending green days and participating in weight lifting sessions. Lacrosse athletes also competed in summer, fall and winter leagues.

“I trained to get faster and worked hard to learn how to handle the mental side of the game,” sophomore Owen Keightley said.

Curtin added that a strength of the program is that it consists of athletes who are ready to put in the effort necessary to improve.

“We have kids that are dedicated and committed to getting better and that are focused,” Curtin said. “They aren’t willing to settle for mediocrity, so they go out and work hard every day at practice and work hard every day at games.”

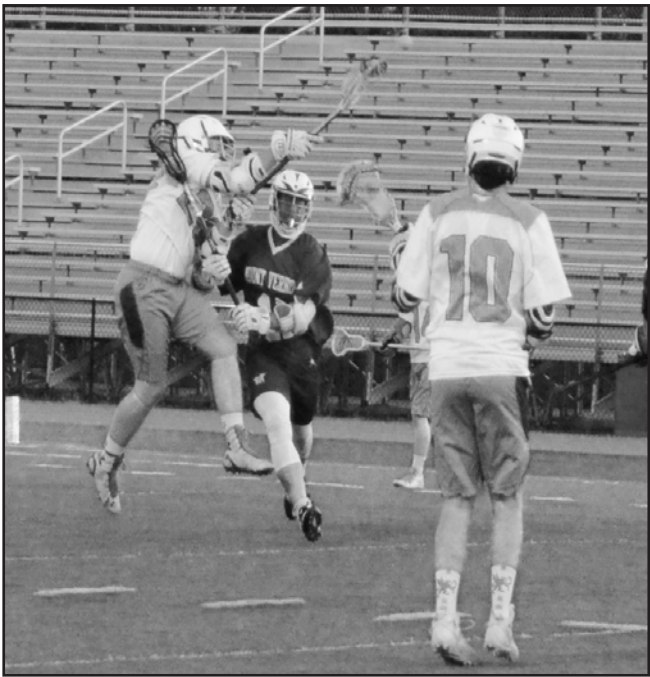
Team captain and senior Chase Barrand cites hard work at practices as a factor that has lead to the team’s ability to achieve its desired results.

“We come to practice every single day and work really hard and it’s shown this year and last year,” Barrand said.

This season, the lacrosse team has focused on cleaning up fundamentals and working cohesively on the field come game day.

Speed of play and controlling the pace of a game is a deciding factor in a multitude of sports, and lacrosse is no exception.

“It’s the pace at which the ball moves, it’s the pace at which your teammates and opponents perform,” Curtin said when naming the differences between the junior varsity and varsity teams. “It’s the people in our program that put their athleticism and their stick skills together



KATE CARNIOL/RANK&FILE

Sophomore Tyler Murphy watches on as senior Josh Hurlburt takes a shot during the April 29 game against Mount Vernon High School.

with a mental approach that allows the game to slow down.”

Barrand also emphasized the importance of speed of play and the role it plays in deciding games.

“There’s a big difference between laid back practice and game speed, especially when playing opponents like Langley and McLean,” Barrand said. “They really come at you.”

Prior to their 6-7 loss to Langley High School, the team was undefeated for six games, collecting wins from Edison, McLean and Falls Church high schools. While the team hopes to continue their winning record, the coaching staff does not make winning games their sole priority.

“The coaches’ goals are to make sure that our players are constantly getting better and are improving throughout the course of the year,” Curtin said. “I’m not going to say wins and losses aren’t important, but there are times that we are happy after losses and there are times we are frustrated after wins.”

sports**briefs**

Track and field breaks records

Four meets into the season, track and field had one state qualifier, one finals qualifier, three regional qualifiers, 42 conference qualifiers and won 25 events.

“We just started competing after spring break and so far the team is off to a great start,” said track and field coach Clifford Wong. “I felt great. It was a great start for everyone.”

The season opener tri-meet was held on March 30 against Falls Church High School and Wakefield High School. It was a successful start for both the boys and girls teams, with the girls winning the tri-meet with a score of 123 points, 97 above Wakefield and 99 above Falls Church.

“I enjoyed it because I was running with my friend, so we pushed each other,” freshman Suchi Sudarshan said.

On April 2 at the Dunbar Crimson Tide Invitational, sophomore Heather Holt and senior Alex Haight both broke school records. Holt won the 3200 meter run and qualified for states with a school and meet record time of 10:59.33. Haight won the 2,000 meter steeplechase with a school record time of 6:34.38.

With the season just beginning, athletes are looking forward to future meets, and senior Jade James is hoping to make the most of her last season.

“I don’t really know what to expect from this season, but I just want to go out with a bang and get my times down,” James said.

by lauren elias



ROBIN HAIGHT

Senior Alex Haight competes in the steeplechase event at the Dunbar Crimson Tide Invitational on April 2.

FCA encourages recognition and support of all athletes

While a variety of interest, hobby, and academic-centered clubs are present within the school community, there is a noticeably smaller quantity of clubs that address the religious views and values of the community. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes offers an opportunity for Christians and others to integrate their faith with their sports activities.

“It gathers them all together,” FCA leader and senior Robert Leap said. “It encourages them because they’re not standing alone.”

Those involved view the club as a reprieve from daily academic stresses and an environment that promotes emotional wellbeing.

“It’s a nice break in the middle of the day,” FCA sponsor and English teacher Lindsay Hardenbergh said. “It’s great to kind of reset that button and remind yourself that God’s got a plan for you and really invite him into the day with you.”

The club has also made a point of extending itself to non-religious athletes or those struggling with their individual beliefs.

“We welcome everyone,” Leap said. “It doesn’t matter if you’re a Christian or not.”

FCA’s leaders have begun preparing to select next year’s leaders in hopes that the club will continue to strengthen its influence in the community.

“It would just be my goal that more people know that we’re there,” Hardenbergh said. “Whether you want to come or not, know that we’re there and find a way to volunteer, give back and support the athletes.”

by ethan zack

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Teachers share sports team leanings

Teachers with strong devotions to collegiate and professional teams do not hold back when it comes to sharing their passions in class.

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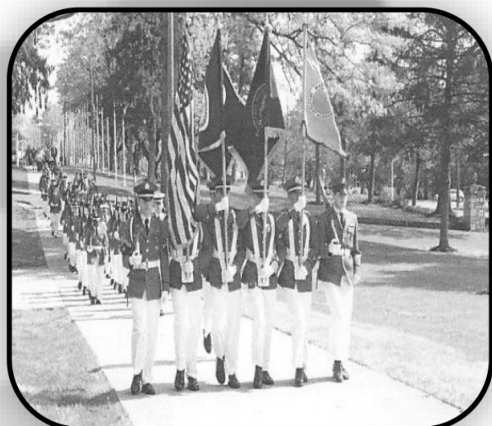
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Leadership Development

Under the direction of
Lester A. Layman, LTC (RET), US Army (USMA '89)



- ★ Drill Team
- ★ Raiders Team
- ★ Rifle Team
- ★ Map Reading

- ★ Character
- ★ Leadership
- ★ Industry
- ★ Integrity
- ★ Service

Academics

Individually tailored
"road maps" and study plans



- ★ Enhanced Curriculum
- ★ Advanced Placement
- ★ Dual Enrollment
- ★ STEM : Project Lead the Way

Summer School



Non Nobis Solum

- ★ Academic Summer School
- ★ JROTC Summer Program

★ Colonel's Camp:
A Middle School Leadership Program

Not for Ourselves Alone

- ★ ESL Summer Program
- ★ STEM Summer Camp

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