

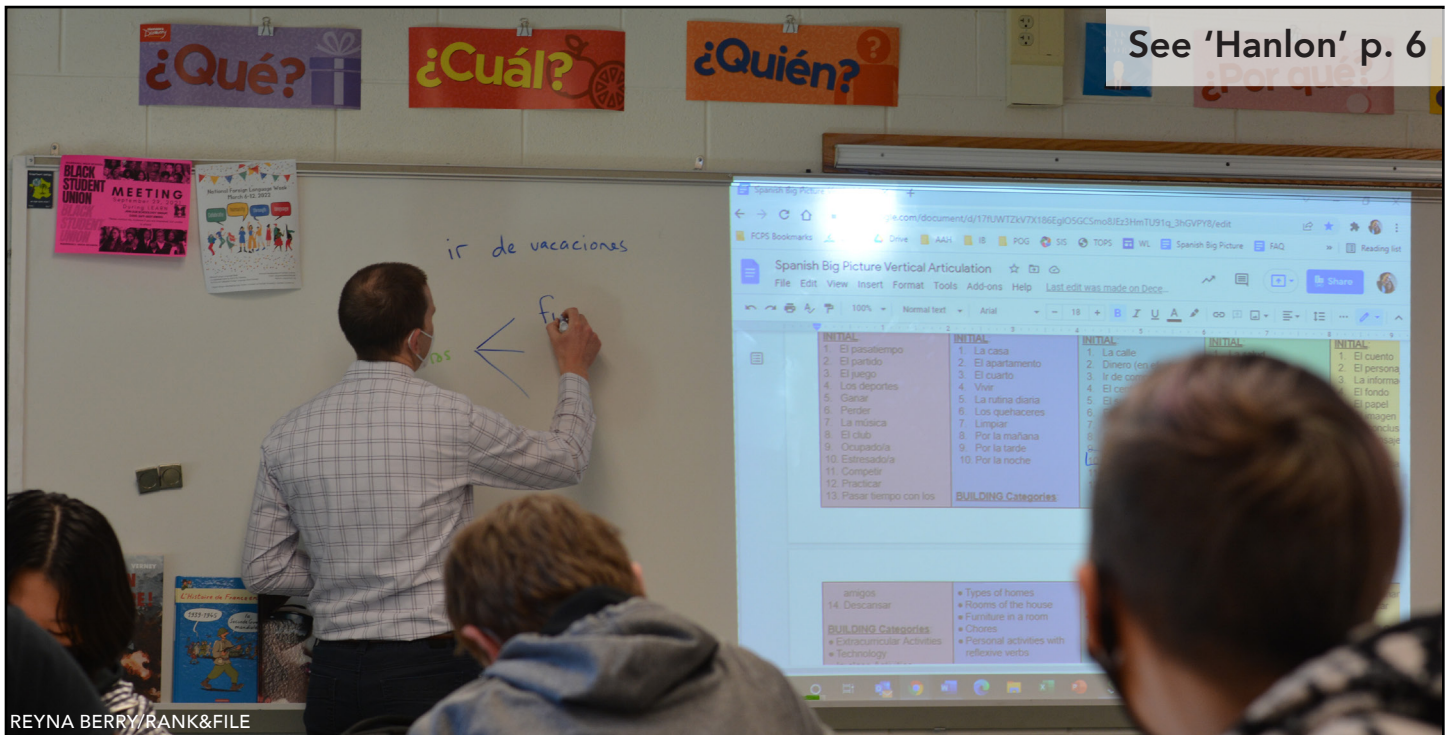


# rank&file

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**Climate Strike:  
The Road to Change**  
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REYNA BERRY/RANK&amp;FILE

# rank&file

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## *Letter from the Editor*

Once upon a time, Marshall's community slogan was Small School, Big Heart. Although our school may not be so small anymore, the importance of community has held consistent. Community has been a major focal point of stories throughout the year, in issues like the conflicts between student groups and administrators, the discussion over Advisory and loosening COVID protocols.

Several of our feature stories explore this dynamic of community. This includes our center spread, highlighting our first food review of the year, as well as an article detailing a student group working alongside other local schools ahead of a climate strike.

One of the biggest hardships to come out of

the pandemic was losing our usual daily interactions. Everyday conversations lead to stories, and the return to school has allowed those daily interactions to occur again and everyday stories to be told.

With those everyday stories in mind, our April issue seeks to tell the experiences of some of Marshall's most dedicated individuals. From an award winning teacher educating in three different subjects to an activist alum, we wanted to explore the hidden stories behind everyday figures at school.

Theo Schmidt  
Editor-in-Chief  
Rank&File

# An Alum's Adventures, Activism and Advice

by rebecca paz

Since graduating from Marshall in 2018, Carolina Hidalgo-McCabe has followed a path which led her from Massachusetts to Morocco and Capitol Hill to the White House.

Hidalgo-McCabe went to Tufts University, studying international relations and civic studies. In her freshman year, she worked with Counterpart International WomenLead Initiative.



COURTESY OF CAROLINA HIDALGO-MCCABE  
Hidalgo McCabe with President Biden.

Then, she took a gap year in Morocco to study Arabic as well as taking an internship with Civic Nation's ALL IN Democracy Challenge, mobilizing student voters.

2020 meant a fall semester away from campus mobilizing Latino voters in South Florida for the Biden presidential campaign.

Last summer, she took an internship for Senator Elizabeth Warren.

Recently, Hidalgo-McCabe celebrated International Women's History Month at the White House with around 15 congresswomen including Nancy Pelosi and

activists like Dolores Huerta.

"As one of the youngest women in the room it was absolutely inspiring to be surrounded by such a diverse and powerful group of women," she said. "[They] have broken barriers and moved mountains to improve the lives of women across the country and the world."

She discussed important issues like gender equity and intersectionality with these women as they awaited First Lady Jill Biden's speech.

"I got to sit next to a woman who writes biographies of Black women in history and one who runs a national domestic violence resource center," she said.

To her, their interactions, and this unique experience were magical.

"To be in a room filled with some of the most powerful women in America and to see their humanity and their humility was truly a once in a lifetime experience," she said.

Her long journey reached many locations from all over the east coast to Morocco, but her memories of Marshall remain.

"I've had so many amazing adventures and opportunities since leaving Marshall, and none of them were what I expected," Hidalgo-McCabe said.

Hidalgo-McCabe said that her biggest takeaway from her years at Marshall is to reach out to people who are different from yourself, and to always be asking questions.

"Make sure you're looking out for one another," she said. "Think of networking as relationship building not only vertically with people above you, but horizontally with the people around you."

From her time at Marshall she learned many lessons, including advice for all students today.

"Think about your positionality in this world and be open to your passions changing and evolving," she said. "Finally, find ways to be centered in the community and do things that fuel your fire."



COURTESY OF CAROLINA HIDALGO-MCCABE  
Hidalgo-McCabe with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (top) and her mother (bottom) at the White House.

## Carolina's Journey after Marshall

☑ Worked with Counterpart International's WomenLead Initiative

☑ Studied Arabic through Moroccan State Department Program

☑ Interned at campaign to mobilize student voters on college campuses

☑ Mobilized Latino voters with Miami Freedom Project, Cubanoscón Biden

☑ Interned for Senator Elizabeth Warren's D.C. office



# Peer Tutoring Program lends a helping hand

by aitana wells

Counselor Douglas Sawitzky established the Peer Tutoring Program for students to have a place to receive extra help in their classes. It is held on late bus days, Mondays and Thursdays, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Sawitzky came up with the idea around the semester mark and got it up and running quickly.

"The PTP consists of friendly students equipped to help with most subjects, including math, science, social studies, English and world languages," counselor Douglas Sawitzky said in an email to all students. "The reason this program got off the ground [was] talking to a lot of students who have lots of D's and F's [and] parents reaching out for academic support, and we didn't always have a great answer where to send them," Sawitzky said.

The six lead tutors are a combination of sophomores and juniors, although the program also has a further 40 to 50 regular tutors.

"I'm one of the lead tutors, so my role is just sending out emails to other tutors about potential appointments," lead tutor and sophomore Emma Pollock said.

This volunteer method comes with varying commitment from the student tutors.

"That's why we have so many tutors, just because some people like to respond more to emails about appointments and come in more," Pollock said. "So it's very much based on how much you can tutor."

Tutor commitment varies as much as tutee commitment.

"We have nine kids showing up for chemistry on [Feb. 10] preparing for a test," Sawitzsky said. "[It depends on]



AITANA WELLS/RANK&FILE

Sophomore tutoring lead Emma Heren helps freshman Katherine Shatokhin.

time of year. I anticipate the next two weeks having bigger demand with the quarter ending. We'll certainly see."

At each session there are about 10 to 15 tutors including a constant 10 tutors for walk-in sessions, plus additional tutors for every personal appointment scheduled.

////////////////////  
*"We didn't always have a great answer where to send [struggling students]."*

- counselor Douglas Sawitzky

////////////////////  
 "In the [sign-up] form we asked each tutor what they were comfortable in tutoring," lead tutor and junior Karen Lin said. "We basically sorted the tutors out by how many subjects they could teach, [which] also helps with appointments when students request for certain subjects."

The tutors sign up on a first come first serve basis.

"[The availability sheet] opens up like a week beforehand," Lin said. "Then people just go on to the sheet and take up whatever slots are available at the time."

The program's success rate has fluctuated.

"I think it is like with any new program, it takes a while to get off the ground," Sawitzky said. "So I expected to have low numbers at first, but it's really been up and down. Like last week, we had 12 or 13 per session, but then

Monday was a dud; we only had one kid show up."

The program was aimed for all students to get help from their peers.

"In theory, I think this was designed for anyone to get tutoring," Sawitzsky said. "But we were definitely hoping kids in more standard level math classes who were struggling had a place to go."

Pollock said she has high hopes for the rest of the program.

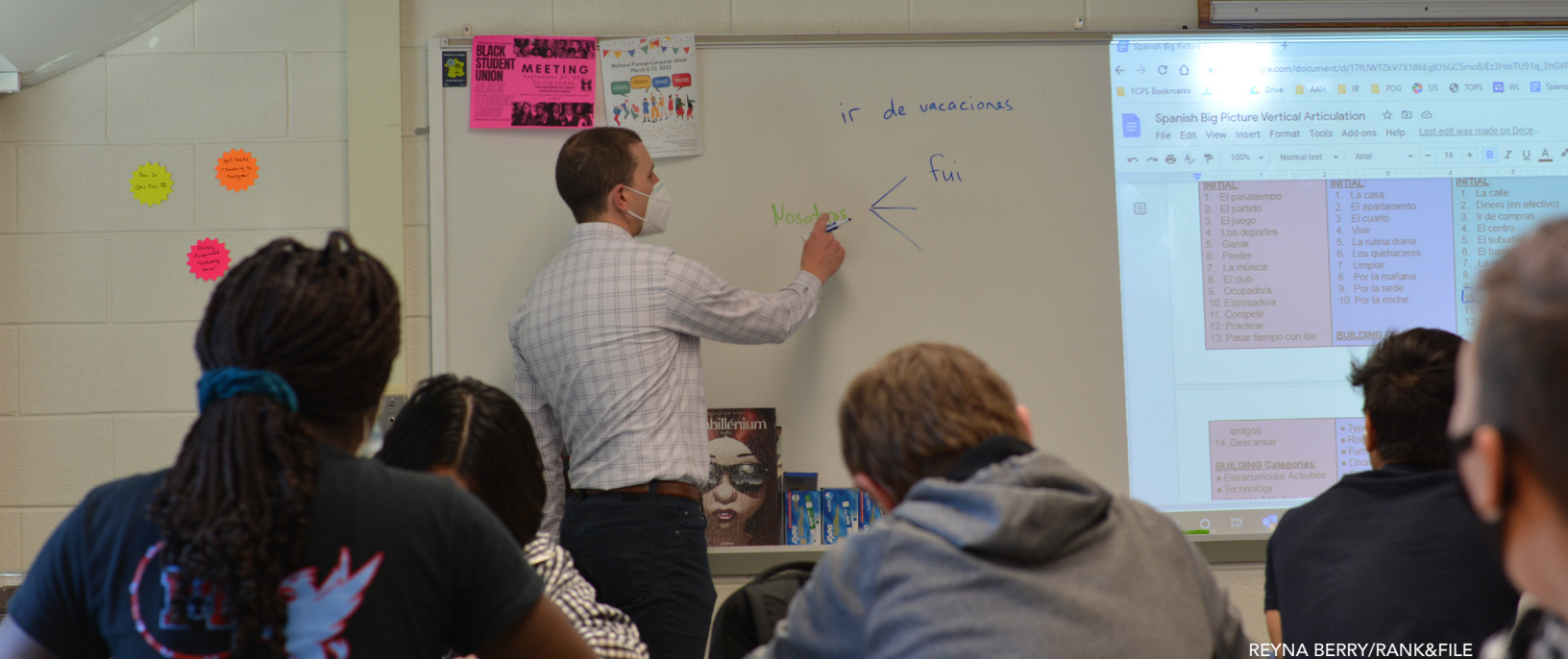
"We knew there was an interest in having it, but it's been going really well," Pollock said. "We're hoping it goes beyond just this year."

Sawitzky said he encourages students to give the program a try if they have not already.

"I think it really is a good free resource," he said. "I think pretty much everyone's experience has been a positive one. Everyone's always gotten a tutor when they're there."



ART BY REBECCA PAZ



# Creativity and Care in the Classroom

## Hanlon earns outstanding Region 2 teacher award

by reyna berry

While getting his masters in history, Matthew Hanlon happened to substitute for a French teacher. Over a decade later, he's been recognised as FCPS Region 2 Outstanding Secondary Teacher.

Hanlon, who teaches African-American History this year along with Spanish and French classes, said he was honored to have been selected.

"It feels weird," he said, "I think because I'm surrounded by so many amazing teachers at Marshall."

With the effects of COVID-19 still evident, Hanlon also said teaching this year has been tricky.

"This year was anything but a normal school year," Hanlon said. "I definitely felt like I've been trying to find my footing as a teacher. It's a challenging year, and I haven't always felt successful, so that's the other reason I was surprised to not only be recognized by Marshall, but then

Region 2."

Though Hanlon was surprised by his achievement, his colleagues—who nominated him for the award—were not.

### COLLEAGUES

"I have never met someone so universally fitted to be Region 2 Outstanding Secondary Teacher," Spanish teacher Alicia Escribano said. "This is my first year at this school, [and] he has supported my adaptation to grading, school culture, technology and IB expectations with endless good nature and patience."

As a teacher, Hanlon is always trying new things.

"He is constantly on the cutting edge of teaching practices," French teacher Mary Cobb Wittrock said. "His actions essentially demand, 'How can we ask our students to take risks with their learning if we do not do likewise?'"

Still, Hanlon said he worries about the impacts of this ever-evolving curriculum, which he describes as

"disruptive pedagogy."

"I recognize it's hard for others in the building to work with someone who's changing all the time and experimenting all the time because sometimes you just want to do the same thing," Hanlon said. "I want stability."

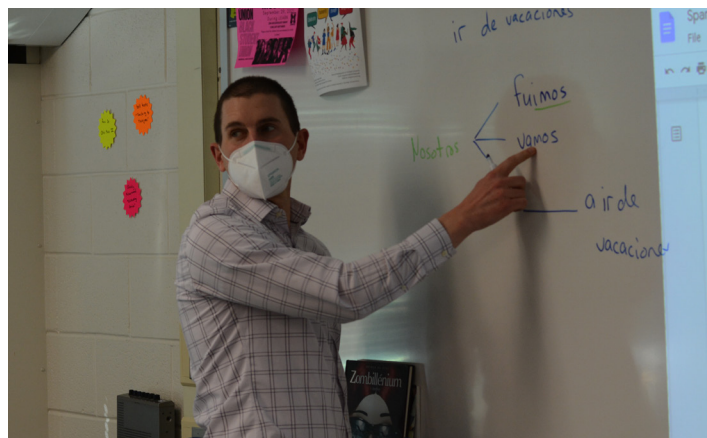
However, Spanish teacher Carlota Bernal Shewchuk was adamant about the success of Hanlon's inventiveness.

"[What] you must know about him is how creative and innovative he is," Shewchuk said. "He is on the vanguard

of everything. He always likes to share with us new ways of teaching and helping students learn and acquire their language."

Hanlon was in for a surprise when English teacher Pierce Bello handed out certificates to all the nominated teachers with what their colleagues had written about them, and one teacher had said they were impressed by Hanlon's experimental teaching style.

"For somebody else to think that, like another



REYNA BERRY/RANK&FILE

Matthew Hanlon, recognised as 2022 FCPS Region 2 Outstanding Secondary teacher, teaches his Spanish 2 class.



teacher to see that as a good thing, was nice to see," he said.

## PERSONAL LIFE

Taking risks applies to Hanlon outside of the classroom, too.

He has dreams of qualifying for the Boston marathon and currently practices and coaches kayaking in his—limited—spare time.

In fact, when Hanlon himself got his start as an educator, it was as a children's swim coach.

"In college, I got a summer job coaching the local swim team and actually got to work with an Olympic swimmer for Sweden," Hanlon said. "She was showing me how to break it down. Like, how do you go from not being able to put your head underwater to then being able to swim across the pool?"

Observing the teaching process in this way was helpful, he said.

"Seeing that I helped this kid to be able to swim across the pool, that was really exciting," Hanlon said. "I think that's what pushed me to want to be a teacher."

He then took a one-off substitute teaching job for a French teacher who happened to be going on maternity leave, and was asked to stay on full time, eventually making his way to Marshall and world language

department chair.

## LEADERSHIP

Escribano said one of Hanlon's greatest strengths is this leadership ability.

"Hanlon has an extraordinary talent to balance the respect of independent thinking and the process of negotiation," Escribano said. "He considers disagreement or divergence as enrichment for all, and so we all accept as team behavior that it is not only safe but important to contribute."

Shewchuk felt similarly.

"[Hanlon] is a consensus-builder," Shewchuk said. "He wants all of us to be able to contribute to the decisions that we make as a department, and none of us are ever afraid or reticent to ask questions."

## TEACHING STYLE

Hanlon teaches French Language and Literature while Shewchuk teaches Spanish Language and Literature, so they are also able to collaborate often in that regard, Shewchuk said.

"He and I have a lot of discussions about methods and techniques, trying to work with students to help them further their knowledge of both literature and culture," she said.

On his part, Hanlon describes his teaching style as relaxed and inquiry-based.

"Rather than telling you, 'This is what you're going to learn, learn it and memorize it,' it's, 'Here's a concept we're going to approach and we're going to explore it,'" Hanlon explained. "You're going to explore it in your own way and figure it out on your own, and I'll be there to help you along and to push you along



REYNA BERRY/RANK&FILE

Freshmen Ryan Clopper (above) and Adetutu Toviho (below) participate in Mathew Hanlon's Spanish 2 class. "I enjoy being in his class," Clopper said.



and challenge your thinking along the way."

Hanlon said he also strives to make language and history interesting for his students.

"I really like giving students the opportunity to pursue something that's interesting to them," he said. "If there's something that you can find, as a student in that class like, 'Oh, I like music' or 'I like food,' something that you at least like and connect with, then it makes the experience better. I think if you like what you're learning, you're going to learn it better."

## STUDENTS

Hanlon's students, like freshman Max Melchiorre,

enjoy this teaching style. "He is good at answering questions and helping out when you need help, and when you need space he gives

you space," Melchiorre said.

Freshman Ryan Clopper also said he enjoys being in Hanlon's class.

"His teaching style is very interesting, hands-on and real world," Clopper said. "He doesn't sit up at the screen lecturing you."

Clopper also said he appreciates Hanlon's empathy for students' struggles.

"We are not all on the same level because of virtual learning last year," he said. "He understands that we missed some instruction and teaches us and grades us very understandingly."

Next, Hanlon will interview with judges for the next stage of the competition and expects to get results in June.

"We are all rooting for him to win this award for the County because we think he is absolutely fantastic," Shewchuk said. "We wish him the best!"



ART BY REYNA BERRY

# Idylwood Plaza: Where to Eat?

Rishi Vanka and Eleanor McAden sample nearby spots to grab a bite

## *To Bing or to Bao?*

### **Eleanor's Evaluation**

**Bing and Bao** was the first restaurant Rishi and I visited, and it was a good start to our whirlwind food tour of Idylwood Plaza. Even though Rishi went traditional and ordered a regular bing, I decided to one up him and build my own. For context, a bing is a type of mung bean and wheat based bread, similar to a crepe, but of Chinese cuisine. Inside the bing I got chicken, lettuce and cucumber. At \$8, it was a good amount of food for the price. The outside was soft, but the wonton crisps sprinkled in among the other ingredients gave it a nice crunch that was the high point of the meal. My business partner Rishi called me out for being an "Anglo-Saxon" and pulling out a knife and fork to eat it, because it is traditionally eaten without them. I also bought a bao, which is a fluffy flour bun with filling. In this case the filling was pork, cabbage, scallion and ginger. The bun of the bao was slightly sweet, which contrasted well with the savory pork. However, to answer the classic question, to bing or to bao, I would bing. The bing had a wider range of flavors and textures, so if you have a more diverse palate, I recommend ordering it as well.



### **Rishi's Review**

I got the Traditional Bing, which was a kind of wrap that I had no clue how to eat. I made the mistake of eating it with a fork and knife because I saw Eleanor do it. I should've eaten with my hands, especially because the wonton crisps in the bing made it difficult to cut through the whole thing with a flimsy plastic knife. Eleanor probably had a great time eating her chicken bing with a fork and knife, but I struggled. The food itself was great—I loved the sour flavor and the contrast between the soft bread and the crispy wonton inside. The Traditional Bing was just under \$9, so it was a good deal for a decent amount of food. We got Snow Donuts to share and they were delectable. The donuts had powdered sugar on top, and in the center was a banana custard filling. I highly recommend the donuts especially with warmer weather coming because they were cool and refreshing.

## *Is Taco Bamba really the Bomb-a?*



### **Rishi's Review**

I got the Camarón a la Diabla at **Taco Bamba**, which the menu said would have spicy shrimp. The shrimp was not spicy. It was really good, but didn't deliver as advertised. Eleanor got a cauliflower taco and chicken for the second day in a row and continued her streak of not being able to finish her food while I, the superior eater, devoured my taco. In total I spent just under \$11 (the taco was around \$4 and the juice was

\$7) and was happy with what I got in return, except for the misleading shrimp taco. While the taco was great and I'd recommend it to people who like shrimp, they should also know it is unlikely to deliver on the spice promised in the menu.

### **Eleanor's Evaluation**

After a long day at school there is nothing like a couple of tacos and a refreshing, almost frighteningly neon lime Jarritos. I got the Tinga taco with braised chicken and the vegetarian Iron Mike with roasted cauliflower. The chicken had a strong, chipotle flavor and was the better of the two tacos. Still, for a cauliflower taco, the Iron Mike was also amazing; if you are a vegetarian I would highly recommend getting it. I am a fan of roasted vegetables and I enjoyed the crispiness of the cauliflower, although it was not as warm or filling as the Tinga. Rishi, on his quest for shrimp, secured a "spicy" shrimp taco. Rishi and his monstrous appetite quickly knocked out his meal, but my inferior appetite left me with half the Iron Mike to take home.

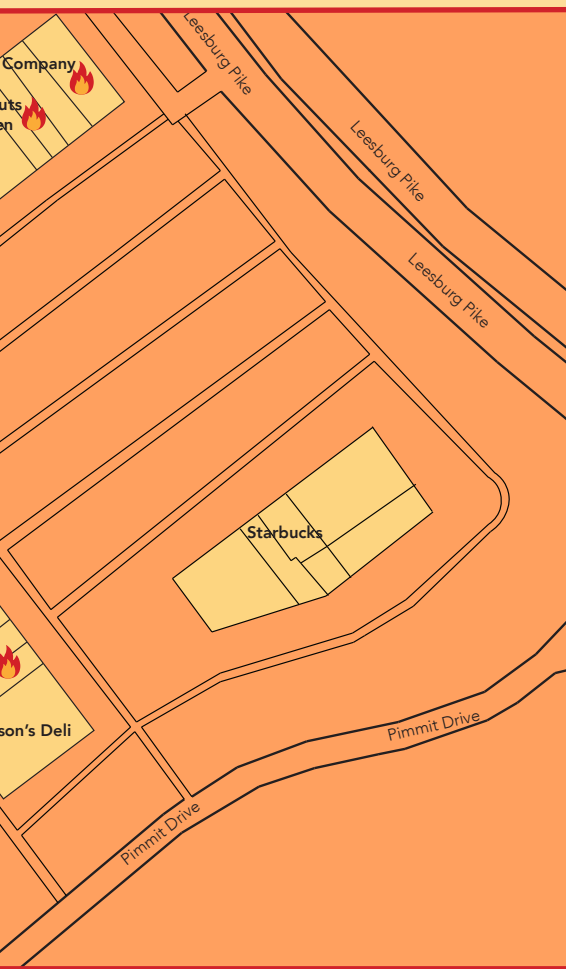




# One Small Step for Chicken, One Giant Leap for Chicken-kind

## Eleanor's Evaluation

Excitement about **Astro Doughnuts and Fried Chicken** always finds its way into the journalism room come production week, when we stay and eat after school working on the magazine. Naturally, I had high hopes for a restaurant which claims to be out of this world. I ordered two pieces of dark chicken and an Oreo donut. I would say I have a sweet tooth, but this chicken had me questioning. I somehow managed to order chicken at every place Rishi and I visited, and the chicken at Astro was light years ahead of the chicken at any other restaurant. The Oreo donut was chocolate-heavy and was not as refreshing as the Bing and Bao donuts. The donuts at Bing and Bao had refreshing, cool custard, while the Astro donut was a little bit of a mouthful, with no custard savior—for \$4. It was good, but not worth one third of my hourly wage at my job.



## Rishi's Review

I had the highest expectations for **Astro Doughnuts & Fried Chicken** of the four restaurants we went to, mainly because my sister said she liked it when she was in high school. I ordered the Asteroid sandwich and a Tropical Crunch doughnut. We ate in Eleanor's car, unlike all of the restaurants we had been to, because we didn't feel like it was a place where we could sit down and eat. When I looked at my food, I saw they didn't give me my doughnut. I was disappointed, but decided to eat my sandwich anyway and see how that was. It was amazing. Finally, after two restaurants in a row who's claims of spicy food fell short, I felt the heat. The chicken was well-cooked, and the brioche bun gave the whole thing a slightly sweet finish after the spice from the chicken and sauce. Unfortunately, the Asteroids could not save my experience as a whole from being soured. I did go back later and got my doughnut, but to my disappointment it was not up to par with the Asteroid. It was visually pleasing, but it had a yellow glaze on top that turned out to have an artificial citrus-like flavor. Overall, the Asteroid carried the experience.

## Two's Company

### Rishi's Review

**Noodles and Company** stands out among the other restaurants we visited because of its popularity. I ordered the Shrimp Scampi, and the food came fast. The speed concerned me at the time because I got shrimp, a risky item to get at a restaurant. However, the shrimp was well cooked and easily the meal's highlight. Sadly, there wasn't much else I liked. Eating a bite with both zucchini and tomato erased the flavor from the shrimp, reducing it to a watery mess. The shrimp could still have been alive with the amount of water it was swimming in.



## Eleanor's Evaluation

To end our journey Rishi and I had to go to the timeless Noodles and Company. At this classic establishment I decided to get their mac and cheese, regular size. This quest has brought to my attention that my appetite is incredibly small, as the meals I ordered at every restaurant defeated me, leaving me with leftovers. However, at Noodles I finally was victorious. In fact, I ate it a little too fast, considering I hadn't eaten all day and devoured it within minutes. Even though I felt sick afterwards, it was worth the battle. Their mac and cheese is warm, cheesy (but not too cheesy) and filling. The ratio of noodles to cheese was perfect, and if you're looking for a basic, filling meal it is the first place I would look. Sometimes you need a simple, comforting meal to get you through the day—I know I certainly did. Rishi, on the other hand, stuck to his mission, and ordered another meal with shrimp to conclude our review.



# Climate Strike: The Road to Change

REBECCA PAZ/RANK&FILE

by rhea newnaha and  
rebecca paz

**T**here is no planet B.” “Stand up for what you stand on.” “Respect your mother.” These are some messages students paraded through Washington, D.C. during the 2022 global climate strike.

On March 25, students from various schools in the DMV banded together in front of the white house to get one message across: climate change needs to be addressed.

“What we’re demanding is taking science and implementing that into action,” Marshall’s strike organizer and sophomore Sabal Dangi said. “That includes forcing government officials to declare a national emergency, reinvest in our communities, and just bringing awareness to all the overexploited nations and solutions towards that.”

Dangi said he is leading students at the protest with guidance from global strike coordinators located in the D.C. area as well as the Friday For Future program.

“Bringing awareness is a main thing because here at Marshall, what I’ve noticed is there wasn’t really much awareness or anything really being done to bring this issue to light,” Dangi said.

Sophomore Sasha Friefeld said she finds the future implications of climate change to be concerning.

“We want to hold politicians accountable to promises that they’ve made relating to the climate,” Friefeld said. “That’s why we’re [protesting] in front of the White House. But mostly to bring awareness and gather people together to show a big group of people does have a passion for this.”

Freshman Simryn Tolani says that President Joe Biden’s proclamation of putting sums

of money towards the climate has not been met.

“I think everybody needs to be a little bit more open-minded and realize that like, as one of the posters said, there is no planet B,” Tolani said. “There is no second chance, this is our Earth, this is our planet.”

Sophomore Mariam Diallo has always had an interest in climate change issues and in comparing them and the efforts made to resolve them in different countries.

“I had never imagined a way to be able to participate in a social issues activity at this age, but I’m so glad I was even given the opportunity,” Diallo said. “I hope that others also follow their interests and find ways to be involved, even if it seems difficult.”

Sophomore Finn Wormer said his reason for protesting is to make an impact by sending messages of climate change. He hopes people hear them and make a difference.

“The future shouldn’t be thrown away,” Wormer said. “I think that our children and our children’s children will be greatly affected by this and maybe even us. I think it comes sooner than most people think.”

Sophomore Tola Reasons said the key to getting the a message across is finding unity among protesters and gathering more people to send the message.

“The idea that this [planet] is the only thing that we have left, it’s not just important, but it’s kind of scary,” Reasons said. “People need to pay more attention to it because it’s something that needs to be brought to their faces.”

Dangi said he encourages students to use their voices to enact change. He hopes to continue initiatives to raise awareness about climate change and help move along the journey to a cleaner planet.



ART BY REBECCA PAZ



# Guest Opinion: Food for Thought

by ryan oh

**B**elieve it or not, your hamburger is contributing to a global crisis that has plagued the world for years with the worst yet to come. The causes of climate change have been debated, but it is safe to say that eating beef is adding to a global crisis that threatens the lives of billions of people throughout the globe.

Climate change can cause huge threats to states like Hawaii and New York due to coastal storms and increased flooding as well, causing massive amounts of economic damage to states near a large body of water. This isn't only a national issue either. In Alexandria, where some of your teachers reside, the Potomac River already causes frequent and worsening urban flooding and financial damage to local families. Imagine what could happen with worse storms.

It is causing many species to be endangered such as polar bears, ringed seals and even the cuddly koalas that we all know and love. It may be upsetting to know that your hamburgers are contributing to this horrible crisis that clouds the earth in uncertainty.

I acknowledge that beef is a common part of many cultures throughout the world. In my Korean culture, we have a dish called bulgogi. In Mexico, they have carne asada. America has hamburgers. But like our ancestors, we must evolve to cope with the times, and if that means we heavily adapt our diet, then we must do so out of necessity.

According to a team of researchers at the World Resources Institute, a non-profit research organization, cows emit a harmful greenhouse gas, methane, as they perform digestive functions such as passing gasses and defecating.

The WRI also explains that wastes from pastures and

fertilizers, which are used on cattle food, emit nitrous oxide: another greenhouse gas.

But the biggest reason: farmers need space for cows and that means cutting down forests which decreases the ability of trees to take carbon out of the atmosphere. The fewer trees there are, the more atmospheric carbon there is, and the more greenhouse gasses that pollute the atmosphere.

In 2019, carbon dioxide was estimated to be responsible for 80% of greenhouse gas emissions from human activities.

Even after taking into account certain efficient beef production methods, land for cows could increase by nearly one billion acres between 2010 and 2050. That is about six Canadas put together!

The WRI states that if every person in America ate about half of their current beef consumption, the impacts would be humongous. It would almost eliminate the need for deforestation.

So what can Marshall students do to help the cause? Start eating one less burger per week. It would be enlightening if you were to calculate the number of calories of beef you consume in a week. It would come as a shock to some. Then try and hit the 50 calories per day (350 per week) as much as possible. Eat vegan food once or twice a week and spread the word as well.

While we are slowly decreasing our consumption, according to the WRI, the speed would need to be one and a half times faster than right now to reach the 50 calorie day mark by 2050.

Based on what's happening to our planet right now, I don't even think we have until 2050.

When there are threats to Earth, everybody must come together and make changes to save our beautiful planet.

Our generation is the last chance.

## Editorial: Amend path to the advanced diploma

**F**rom the time we chose courses for the 8th grade, many Marshall students will remember being encouraged by our counselors to pursue an advanced diploma. However, the advanced diploma's foreign language requirement discourages some students from picking up real world skills.

The Virginia General Assembly's HB340 would have altered that outdated requirement. It would allow students to take two different routes for achieving an advanced studies diploma: taking Career and Technical Education, or taking a foreign language. The bill would have allowed students to get the best of both worlds by allowing them access to both the CTE and the foreign language

advanced diploma if they so desired.

Graduating with an advanced diploma is the norm at Marshall. According to the Virginia Department of Education, 66% of the graduating class of 2021 was awarded an advanced diploma. But the foreign language requirement is a one-size-fits-all approach that doesn't recognize the individual skills of each student. A mere 9% of Marshall students with disabilities graduated with an advanced diploma last year, compared to 19% of students with disabilities across FCPS. Marshall also falls behind FCPS in advanced diploma attainment among economically disadvantaged students.

Students with other skills, such as CTE, are just as deserving of an advanced

studies diploma as their peers who do take foreign language for years as long as they take the same number of courses and earn the same number of credits.

Alas, special interest groups were able to lobby against the bill and kill it in a senate committee despite it passing the house with bipartisan support. The groups grossly misstated the facts of the bill, saying it would end foreign language instruction in Virginia schools. That's hogwash; this bill was about recognizing that students have different needs. It's sad that these lobbyists in Richmond view this as a zero sum game where CTE has to lose in order for foreign language to win, and it's a shame that our legislature killed this bipartisan measure.

# The price of college:

*Financial aid scams, with college and career specialist Gardner Humphreys*

by reyna berry

**F**inancial aid scams are an ongoing issue in high schools, but risks rise during the spring when students are looking to apply to colleges.

There are many options for financial aid, or money students can use to pay their college tuition. However, College and Career Center Specialist Gardner Humphreys said some programs do more harm than good.

Humphreys said he's working to provide students with resources to identify and avoid financial aid scams and offer tips on other ways to pay for higher education.

"People just get stressed about affording college," Humphreys said. "Whenever people are afraid of something, that's a great opportunity to try to take advantage of them."

He said students should look out for any companies making financial aid appear harder than it is.

"I tell people to look out for things promising money, [and] people who are saying that the process is impossible or super complicated and that you need an expert," he said.

Humphreys also said to be cautious if the company requires any fees to enter.

"And of course, any place that asks for a fee to do something like filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or look for scholarships," Humphreys said.

Financial aid and scholarship information are available on public websites, Humphreys said, like Finaid.org and College Board.

"None of it's under lock and key," he said.

Fairfax County Public School has information on the Naviance website about local scholarships too, which Humphreys said are easier for students to win.

He also said he tries to show students that college financial aid advisors are there to support them.

"People should know that colleges do want to give them the amount of aid that they can," he said. "Once the college has decided to accept you, they do want you to attend and they do want you to be able to stay in school and not drop out because you can't afford it."

If students do come across a financial aid scam, Humphreys said, they should report it to the Federal Trade Commission's website.

## FBLA, Business students visit TopGolf

by emma mobley and josie hamilton

**F**uture Business Leaders of America members and IB Business students had the opportunity to learn about TopGolf as a business.

"It was a lot of fun," IB Business student and junior Preston Balisky said. "I really enjoyed getting to learn about how the business works."

Students first learned how TopGolf functions as a business and how they faced challenges through COVID.

"They were able to deal with the pandemic and use certain strengths of their service to their advantage," senior and FBLA secretary Katie Murphy said. "I learned [about] their idea behind branching out with venues around the country as well as around the globe."

Afterwards, students experienced all aspects of TopGolf, which include testing several golfing modes and their menu, which accounts for around 60% of all revenue.

"TopGolf is different from regular golfing because of the tracking system

they have inside the golf balls allowing you to see speed and other statistics you don't normally get to see," Murphy said. "You can play games and compete against your friends through their technology."

Having an interactive field trip helped both Murphy and Balisky, who said they better understand real world businesses.

"I got to learn about how TopGolf works and implement what we've learned in business or with real world situations," Balisky said.



EMMA MOBLEY/RANK&FILE

Juniors Jake Peksens, Alex Rothman and Ava Grim test golf modes.

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# From Marshall, around the world and back again

by marie kah

Timothy Ghazzawi went from student to teacher to traveler, and two years ago returned with a new role as an English teacher.

In 2008, Ghazzawi graduated from Marshall. Now, 14 years later, he's helping students meet the same goal.

"I went to Marshall as a student, so in a way teaching here is a full circle experience," Ghazzawi said. "There is a familiarity with the school, and I recognize some of the teachers who were there when I was a student."

After graduating, he continued his education at the University of Maryland, and by 2013, Ghazzawi graduated with both his bachelor's degree in English language and his master's in secondary education and teaching.

After working in Prince George County for six years and a middle school in Washington D.C., Ghazzawi took a year off teaching to travel.

"A couple of years ago I took a year off teaching in order to travel," Ghazzawi said. "I bought a one-way ticket to Ecuador. I also toured New Zealand and Australia, [and] I then went on to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt."

Ghazzawi returned to teaching at his alma mater last school year where he said he built particularly strong bonds

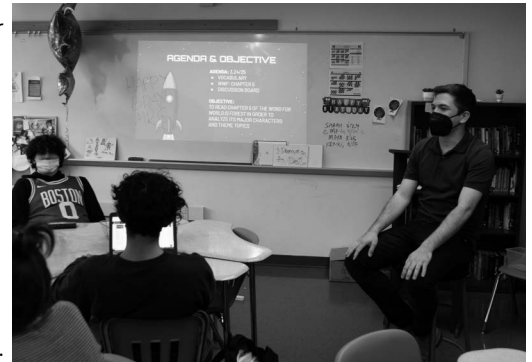
with the class of 2022.

"I met the class of 2022 in my first year of teaching and tried really hard to get to know them in a kind of goofy way," Ghazzawi said. "[I] developed a strange close relationship, coming this year I was able to put faces to names."

Ghazzawi also coaches boys varsity tennis at Marshall after playing as a student.

"Tennis was really the only sport I was good at," Ghazzawi said. "Some people like team sports, but I love the individual aspect of the sport. I've taught a few of my players myself, and I've gotten to know them. It's just a really good group of guys that I've got."

English teacher Timothy Ghazzawi presents the agenda and personal objectives of the day to his 7th period Language & Literature class.



MARIE KAH/RANK&FILE

## Table Talk with *Gerald the GCM Now Puppet*

We sat down with the man behind the puppet, junior Neil Dongre, to get the scoop on GCM Now star, Gerald the Puppet. •compiled by reyna berry and melanie george



REYNA BERRY/RANK&FILE

### How did you name him?

On Instagram we had a poll where people would decide the name, and they picked "Gerald (from accounting)." So that's his name. Now, I personally liked George, because George C. Marshall. It's also red and blue. But you know, close enough.

### What was Gerald's debut like for you?

When [Gerald] made his debut, I didn't even watch the GCM video when it aired in class, because I was just that embarrassed. But then I realized that it's not really a big deal. It's not like my personal reputation is that affected by it, and it doesn't even matter if it is anyway because I'm just doing something that I like to do.

### What's it like as the hand of the puppet?

It feels like an entirely separate character in the sense of I'm almost like an actor, except [it's] only from the wrist up. [Gerald] can fulfill a lot of roles, in a sense he's almost like a separate cast member because he's just that versatile. He's just a temporary one, in a sense that this is kind of malleable. I'm open to ideas because he isn't a permanent fixture. It's like he's more of an idea than a particularly permanent fixture.

# A day with Dean

## *One sophomore's plan for stardom*

by josie hamilton and ben pyatt

“Other people when they go home, they play video games to feel better,” sophomore and Statesmen tennis player Dean Rostom said. “I play tennis.”

Each week Rostom, a three-star tennis recruit according to the Tennis Recruiting Network, wakes up and trains from 6 to 7:30 in the morning. His schedule is structured so that he gets out of school at 1:20 and trains for two to four hours in the afternoon. Rostom takes two on-line night classes per week to make up for the missed content, and on weekends, he does workouts or additional tennis tournaments.

“Right now I’m working on becoming top 300 in the nation,” he said. “Hopefully by the end of summer, [I’ll be] top 100. I want to play in college, hopefully D1, and maybe I can eventually go professional.”

Rostom started playing tennis with his parents at three years old.

“I was the first child, so I always had to go with them [to play tennis],” he said. “I’d watch them and then eventually they gave me a racket to

play.”

Despite playing tennis as a young child, Rostom said he didn’t take the sport seriously until seventh grade.

“I had a very hard time making friends,” Rostom said. “That’s when I started taking tennis seriously, because I had nothing else to do. I made a lot of friends through tennis and then it also helped me build my confidence.”

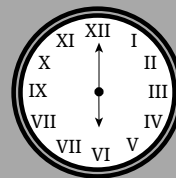
Rostom said his favorite part about his play is his forehand, but if he had to pick one shot to hit all of the time, it would be his serve.

“That’s the only shot that no one else can affect,” he said. “It’s just all me, and I have full control over that shot.”

At first, Rostom was not planning to join the tennis team at Marshall, but said his friends talked him into it. He said he wants more cheering at games, especially when they go to other schools.

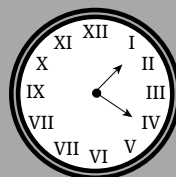
“Cheering is like a very big part of the mental side of tennis,” Rostom said. “I feel that the other schools do a good job of cheering and we need to work on that.”

### Dean’s Daily Agenda



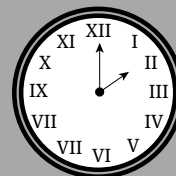
6:00 a.m.

Get up two hours before school and head to morning training



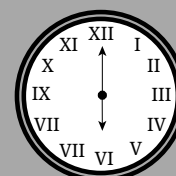
1:20 p.m.

Leave school for afternoon training due to modified schedule



2:00 p.m.

Continue training in the afternoon



6:00 p.m.

Attend post-practice workouts



RISHI VANKA/RANK&FILE

Sophomore Dean Rostom poses with his teammates before winning their match against Wakefield, 9-0, on March 22.



# Three-sport senior chooses collegiate soccer

*A look into the future of a unique senior athlete*

by josie hamilton

Senior Rylie Hughes is a standout athlete on the track and basketball court but decided to play her spring sport, soccer, at the college level next year.

Hughes, a starting winger for the girls varsity soccer team, is committed to play Division II soccer at the University of Central Missouri.

"I decided to go to UCM because I love the facilities, the team and coach, and I have a lot of family close by," Hughes said.

Hughes was top five in the district for the 100-, 200- and 400-meter runs in track and made first team all-district and second team all-region for basketball as a senior. Despite her many honors, Hughes said soccer has always been her favorite.

"Soccer has always been my first love," she said. "I have always been more drawn to it over any other sport I've played throughout the years."

Hughes recognizes the work and

dedication needed to be a college athlete.

"I'm going to get my endurance and strength level much higher and work on technical skills and touch on the ball so I'm ready to play at a higher pace in college," she said.

After two successful years playing varsity soccer, Hughes has established a leadership role on the team. Underclassmen teammates said they look up to her both on and off the field.

"She has good communication skills and inspires us to compete against better teams," first year varsity player and sophomore Nataly Jadrijevic said.

Jadrijevic said her teammate's work ethic stands out.

"She makes us all work to her level because we know that she's committed and has a higher work ethic," Jadrijevic said. "We work hard when she's around us because we all are inspired to be like her."

As for the current soccer season, Hughes said she has high hopes for the



COURTESY OF DL ACTION SPORTS

Rylie Hughes signs her letter of intent to play soccer at the University of Central Missouri on Nov. 10. Hughes and her teammates picked up their first win of the season on March 22 against Jefferson with a score of 4-2.

team.

"I'm really excited to play with this new team," Hughes said. "I think we have a lot of diversity and I think we can go far with this season if we work hard and put our minds to it."

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