

THE PROWLER

Quince Orchard High School — 15800 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 —   @qohs_prowler

MoCo vs. MD Government

Explaining the conflict between Marc Elrich and Larry Hogan

By JAY MOTIWALA
Senior Staff Writer

Has there ever been that one person that disagrees with you on almost every facet possible? You both think you know what's right, causing the tension between you two to stir to insurmountable levels. This seems to be the case with Governor Larry Hogan and Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich. From differing on policies, to even trading jabs towards each other on Twitter, these two have a long history of challenging each other. And that could have an impact on policy making for years to come.

This rivalry has now been heightened due to the impact of the coronavirus on Maryland. The choice of whether to open up schools has been a long-debated issue and has stoked the flames between the two politicians.

Recently, Hogan's decision to move Maryland into Phase 3 of the Roadmap to Recovery coronavirus plan has drawn criticism from Elrich, who said in a statement that the decision has "taken us [Montgomery County Government] by surprise" and that "we will continue to follow the data and science."

This decision was accompanied by a recommendation from Hogan on August 27 for MCPS to return to in-person schooling by the start of the second quarter, whether that be through

a hybrid method or a full school day. This surprise announcement caused an agreement to be created between MCPS and the Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA), the teachers' union, to notify teachers within 45 days if they will be returning to the building for instruction. This agreement has already been released by Montgomery County Superintendent Jack Smith, however this does not guarantee that schools are reopening, just that there is a 45 day notice for a possible reopening.

Smith said in a letter that, "this does not mean that in person instruction will begin in 45 days. Instead, it means that

we can reopen impact bargaining and do more in-depth collaborative planning for the eventual return to instruction in buildings."

This conflict between Hogan and Elrich has also extended into the opening of private schools within Montgomery County. At first, Montgomery County health officer Travis Gayles issued an amendment ordering private schools to remain online until October 1. However just three days later, Governor Hogan issued an emergency order that barred county officials from mandating that private schools must close. He instead allowed the private schools themselves to decide if they would like to reopen or not.

Their quarreling did not only occur this year, as one famous incident in 2019 involving these two executives did not involve public health policy at all, but a thin blue line. Hogan announced his strong approval for the American flag with a thin blue line drawn

on it, nowadays commonly referred to as the "Blue Lives Matter" flag, which is meant to say that the lives of police officers matter, and that their contributions to society are meaningful and not racially motivated.

However, Elrich forbade police officers from displaying this flag in Montgomery County. This could be due to the fact that "Blue Lives Matter" was a counter-movement created in response to the "Black Lives Matter" movement, which aims to end police brutality towards black people.

On Twitter, Governor Hogan bashed Elrich, saying, "I'm offended and disgusted that County Executive Marc Elrich has prohibited Montgomery County Police Officers from displaying a 'thin blue line' American flag." The next day, Elrich commented to Maryland Matters over his disdain towards Hogan for not increasing taxes to pay for public transportation projects.

Both officials clearly differ with each other on policies, and we have seen the effects of their bitterness towards each other over the years. Their differing political ideologies, Hogan being a Republican and Elrich a Democrat, also do not help fix their relationship. With COVID-19 still affecting Maryland and Montgomery County, time will tell how their professional relationship holds while faced with hardship and conflict.



IMAGES COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich (left) and Maryland Governor Larry Hogan (right)

COVID-19 vaccine causes America to deal with racist past

How American healthcare has mistreated minorities in history

By ANYA SESAY
Staff Writer

It's been looming over our heads since the mid-March explosion of the coronavirus, and keeping hope of some remnant of normalcy alive during these months of agonizing insecurity: a COVID-19 vaccine. Pharmaceutical companies have passed the point of human trials, but there seems to be one outstanding issue— the COVID-19 trials are lacking in minority candidates.

Due to the broad population the virus affects, it is imperative that people of all backgrounds are represented in clinical trials. "If you don't have enough people like you in those vaccine trials, you will not know if it works for you," Dr. Vladimir Berthaud, a physician at the Meharry Medical Group, said according to Kaiser Health News.

But, to this end, America will need to confront its history of unethical medical experimentation on marginalized peoples to create a COVID vaccine that works for everyone who'll need it. And

at the heart of our history lies a lamentable time in American history: The Tuskegee Syphilis project.

In 1932, a group of researchers in Tuskegee, Alabama came together to track the natural progression of syphilis. Six hundred men (most of whom were formerly sharecroppers and had never been visited by a doctor before) initially enrolled in the study under the impression that they were being treated for "bad blood"; they were also incentivized with free medical care. The participants were given placebos, even though penicillin was the suggested treatment for syphilis. The researchers in charge of the experiment convinced local physicians to halt treatment of the participants in the study. The researchers, in order to follow the illness's natural progression, watched as the participants went blind, insane, became severely ill, contracted heinous medical conditions, or even died as a result of their untreated syphilis.

It wasn't until the 1960s that Public Health Service (PHS) employee, Peter Buxton, spoke to the unethical nature of

the Tuskegee experiment. Buxton told his superiors at PHS about his concerns, and they formed an investigative board to look into the project further. The board decided, however, to allow the project to continue until all the participants had died and all data had been recorded from the experiment.

Buxton then leaked the story to a reporter, and it soon got around to investigative journalist Jean Heller of The Associated Press. She broke the story, and consequently the public was outraged. The experiment shut down immediately, but by this time, 128 of the participants had died, 40 had given syphilis to their partners, and 19 of the participants' children were born with syphilis.

Unfortunately, these kinds of trials didn't stop in Tuskegee. In Guatemala in 1946 — under the heading of an American researcher — nearly 700 prisoners, mental health patients, and soldiers were intentionally infected with syphilis non-consensually. The medical researchers involved wanted to determine if penicillin not only cured

syphilis, but could also prevent it.

These experiments traumatized participants and their families, and established still lingering wariness among people of color, particularly within the black community, regarding medical research. "Mistrust of the health care system emerged as a primary barrier to participation in medical research among participants in our study. Mistrust stems from historical events including the Tuskegee syphilis study," according to "More than Tuskegee: Understanding Mistrust about Research Participation," a qualitative research paper highlighting what keeps minorities from getting involved in medical research, but it doesn't stop there. The paper goes on writing that the medical mistrust "is reinforced by health system issues and discriminatory events that continue to this day."

As the progression of a COVID vaccine continues, the question will become: how will researchers get minorities to trust the healthcare system again, and will they be able to do it in the time needed?

Features

Read the must-knows for the 2020 Election

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IMAGE COURTESY OF STICKPNG.COM

Features

The show must go on! Find out what happened at this year's Emmys

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IMAGE COURTESY OF ALAN LIGHT

Sports

Learn about how COVID-19 is affecting the NFL

PAGE 11



IMAGE COURTESY OF PDA.PHOTO

Series: Racism at QO

Instagram account unmask reality of QO's racial environment

By SARA KLEMOV
Editor-in-Chief

It's June 23, and Quince Orchard students take a look at their phones to see a follow request from a new Instagram account called Black@QO. They open the app to view a new platform for students to speak up about racism at QO. A "safe" space for minorities at QO or alumni to share their experiences at school. "Completely anonymous" is written in the Instagram bio, with a Google form link below for students to tell their stories.

Many students began sharing their stories through this account. As of October 5, the account had 835 followers and 103 posts. Student's stories about their experiences of racism at QO captured how people of color (POC) felt as they walked through the halls of QO, in the classroom, and on the field or court.

"We did not expect it to be this large, because we didn't think there were this many racist experiences at this school," said one of the account owners, three QO students whose identities are known to Prowler staff but wished to remain anonymous for

this article. "We were thinking maybe like 200 [followers]. It was a very slow rising and after we started posting a lot, a lot of people started interacting with it," they added.

As a result of the awareness made by Black@QO and the recent Black Lives Matter protests, the QO community has been striving for a more equal and inclusive environment. Over the summer, the Student Government Association (SGA) held discussions about these problems. "There will be so many more discussions with SGA as

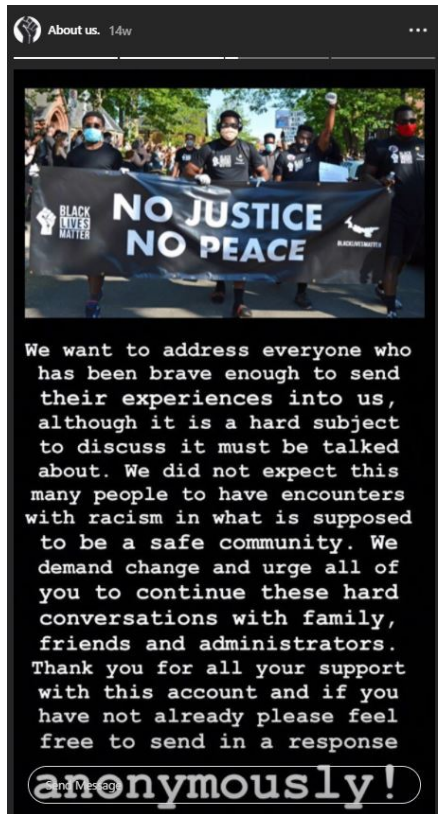
well, so we hope more students will get involved," said SGA President and senior Lauren Kong.

The QO administration is also including themes of racial and social justice in their monthly staff meetings. At one meeting in August, teachers were shown testimonials from students that discussed why POC students haven't felt safe and included at QO, and how they can change that.

Black@QO is continuing to post stories sent to them, as well as resources and little-known POC history.

"We did not expect it to be this large, because we didn't think there were this many racist experiences at this school." - one account owner of Black@QO

This image (right) is a screenshot of the Black@QO Instagram account story that gives gratitude to those who shared their experiences with them. It includes an image from a Black Lives Matter protest and also urges students to continue opening up and having the hard conversations with family, friends, and administrators.



This image (above) is a screenshot of the Black@QO Instagram account posts. The account owners would paste Google Form responses into an app called "Phontl" and add the fist symbol for every post. The fist is a universal symbol of solidarity and support, recently used widely for Black Lives Matter.

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The Prowler gladly accepts comments, concerns, and letters to the editor. Letters may be emailed to QOHSproowler@gmail.com, mailed c/o The Prowler to the school address above, or dropped off directly to Ms. Cooley-Klein in Room 241. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

ABOUT

The Prowler is published six times a year by the students of Quince Orchard High School, and it has been continuously published since the 1988-89 school year. To become a staff member, students should take Journalism A & B with Ms. Cooley-Klein to qualify for the Newspaper Production class.

"Thinking about race is very different for non-white persons living in America. People of color must always consider their racial identity, whatever the situation, due to the systemic and interpersonal racism that still exists."

We heard this in our student voice data:

My identity impacts my experience because some people really judge you and decide whether or not you are friends with them solely based on your race and socioeconomic status.

This slide was part of a presentation in a September 16 teacher professional development meeting, which followed up on the student testimonials that were shown to staff in August.

The Prowler will continue to report about racism at QO in this series, keeping you updated and diving deeper into the stories of QO students. If you have an experience to share or wish to be a source for this series, contact us via email at QOHSproowler@gmail.com or social media (Twitter/Instagram) @qohs_prowler.

The Notorious Ruth Bader Ginsburg

May her memory be a blessing

By *MLA RESNICOW*
Senior Staff Writer

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a trailblazer and a cultural and feminist icon. She passed away due to pancreatic cancer on Rosh Hashanah, a Jewish holiday celebrating the Jewish New Year. In Judaism, when a person dies on Rosh Hashanah it means they are a *tzaddik*, meaning a person of great righteousness, and a *tzaddik* she is.

"I ask no favor for my sex. All I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks."

-R.B.G.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BIJOU KARMAN, THE ATLANTIC

"I Dissent" is how R.B.G. expresses her disagreement to the other Judges on the Supreme Court and she is known for wearing her "I Dissent" collar.

Her achievements:

- Overturned hundreds of state laws barring women from joining the workforce, to rights, to jury duty.
- Graduated top of her class at Columbia University
- Became the first tenured female law professor at Columbia
- Argued six cases before project at ACLU
- Second woman appointed to the supreme court

"Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn't be that women are the exception."

-R.B.G.

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QO's 2020 AP test score breakdown

Are QO's scores comparable across the state?

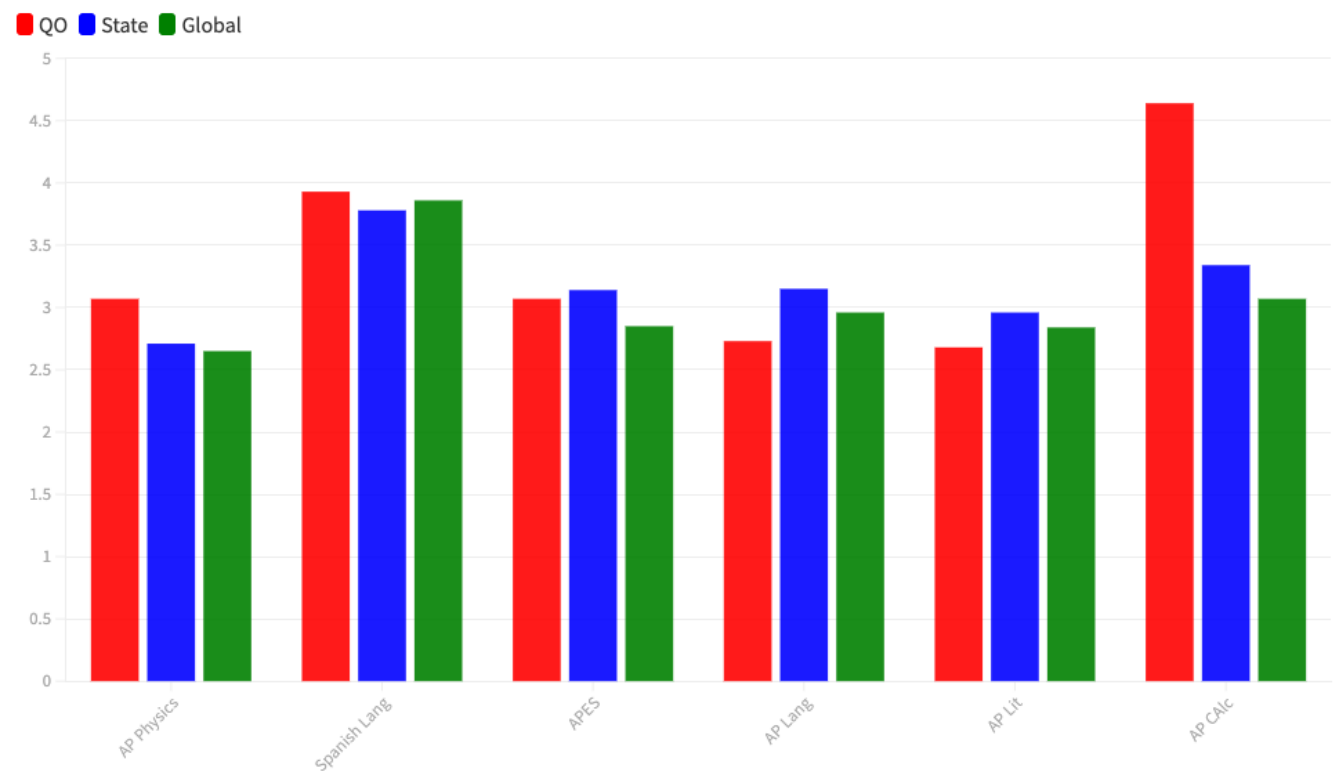
By MADDY FREEDMAN
Senior Staff Writer

Every summer, Quince Orchard Advanced Placement (AP) students experience a morning of stress as they open their AP scores, hoping for that 5 they worked so hard for all year. QO is a school known for its academic achievement, but how well does QO compare to the world and the state when it comes to AP scores?

After analyzing 2019-20 AP Exam data from the College Board and breaking it down, I can tell you that, overall, QO students performed above average in AP courses when compared to the globe. However, when compared to the state, QO did not do as well.

Out of the 30 AP classes QO offers, the breakdown is as follows: QO did better globally and state-wide in 12 AP courses. This data includes our notorious AP math courses, whose mean scores were all in the high 4's, while globally and state-wide the AP scores only averaged a medium to low 3. AP BC Calculus teacher Sonalben Patel says she "never gives up on any of her students and works with them as one big team," which can be proven in the scores her course receives. Our AP world language scores were higher than the state and global means as well.

Although QO had 12 courses with scores above both means, QO also had 12 courses with scores below both means. This includes three of the four



Breakdown graph of 6 AP courses taken at QOHS and how they compare to the global and state average

AP art courses QO offers, along with four of the five AP science courses. Now this might seem bad to some, but if you look at all of this data, you would realize many courses had scores just a few decimal points below the global and state averages. For example, Physics C Mechanics had a school mean of 3.59, a state mean of 3.95, and a global mean of

3.88. The last pattern that can be seen in 5 of these AP classes is QO scoring better than the global average, but worse than the state's average. One example of this includes AP Environmental Science, where the global mean was only a 2.85, QO's mean was a 3.07, but the state's mean was a

3.14. Although QO's mean was worse than the state's, it was only by .07, and was still better than the global average by .22.

This trend can be seen pretty much across all 5 of the classes who experienced a higher average than the globe but lower than the state.

QO students express opinions on online learning

More students prefer in-person learning to online learning

By NATALIA GARCIA
Staff Writer

Who would've imagined a year ago that the first day of the 2020-2021 school year would begin through a screen? QO students and staff have started to get settled into this new environment, but what do students prefer?

According to an online Prowler survey taken by 313 QO students, 71.6% preferred in-person learning, while 28.4% preferred online learning.

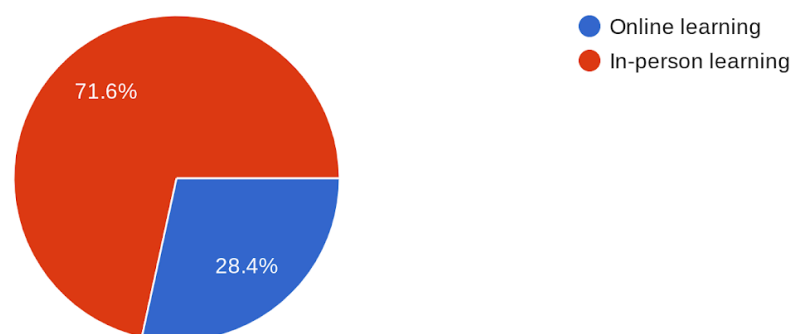
Sophomore Hayden Polsky is among the many students who prefer in-person learning. Polsky emphasized that this new version of learning was no one's fault, but still expressed his opinion that it gets boring taking classes through the screen. "There's not, like, that personal interaction that you would get in a classroom setting," Polsky said.

Polsky expressed how he would not have changed from Google Classroom to MyMCPS and would've not added the new StudentVUE. "I feel like they didn't offer a whole lot of support on how to navigate through the new systems," he said. "It [was] just kind of through the teachers [and] they were still trying to figure it out too."

Additionally, freshman Loren Fantasia also prefers in-person learning. Fantasia seemed very disappointed for her first year of high school. "I was just so excited to...meet new people and have HOCO, and we don't have any of that 'cause we're just sitting

What do you prefer?

313 responses



at home."

Senior Christiane Bonkougou, however, prefers online learning. Bonkougou explained how positively online learning has impacted her. "I'm honestly having the time of my life," she said. "I think it's good for me mentally, 'cause I needed a break and you can't get a lot of breaks when you're at school because you're worried about so many things. Online is more comfortable. You don't have to worry about how you look, and it's easy to get your work done."

She also said, in her experience, that teacher availability has been a grand advantage. "I feel like

SURVEY RESULTS FROM QO STUDENTS

the teachers have more time on their hands and you can email them at any time. I think [they're] able to give us more attention."

Junior Matthew Antolick also favors online learning; however, he says it is not perfect. "I think clubs should change and get their stuff sorted out," he said.

Anatolick had a last thought about the teachers. "I'm really proud of all the teachers for being able to make something that works. Even if it doesn't work perfectly, I think it's a great start for what we have."

VIEWPOINT

Just follow COVID guidelines: it's that simple

By NATALIE PRICE
Editor-in-Chief

I'm sure you've all been there: in the grocery store with your mom, in the gym with a friend, or seated at an outdoor table at a restaurant. The same vibrant, eye-catching sign is posted every couple yards, its instructions clear — wear a mask and social distance. Little footprints are placed on the ground directing people where to stand in order to keep six feet apart. Theoretically, it should all work out with everyone doing their part, but as you look around, you see people's masks "accidentally" slipping off their noses.

This is what it's been like around Montgomery County during the COVID-19 pandemic. While many have been setting good examples and properly wearing their masks (we thank you for that), it cannot be said for everyone. This needs to change.

Last month when I was checking out at the Giant in the Kentlands, a man entered without wearing a mask. I did not know this man, but immediately the employees at Giant asked him to put a mask on. He refused, claiming that he understood why people were wearing masks, but was not afraid to get the virus and thus shouldn't have to do the same himself.

News flash: people are not wearing masks solely to protect themselves. They are doing so as a common courtesy to protect immunocompromised family members, those of older age, and strangers whose situations they may not be aware of.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), "symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus." What this means is that while you may feel healthy and think you aren't carrying the virus, it could just be that your symptoms have not yet appeared. Thus, it is crucial that when in public, everyone wears a mask as a precaution to limit the spread of COVID-19 as much as possible.

But getting people to wear masks is the first step. The second step is to get people to properly social distance. Many believe that as long as they are wearing a mask, they can do anything, go anywhere, and come in contact with as many people as possible without receiving the virus.

According to Johns Hopkins Medicine, "While wearing a mask will prevent you from spreading COVID-19 if you have it and don't know it, physical distancing and frequent, thorough hand washing are still the best ways to avoid getting COVID-19." Hence, the most productive thing Montgomery County families can do at this time is to stay home and abide by these COVID-19 regulations, as overkill as you may think they are.

We all feel how difficult the situation is right now, and it is understandable if you don't believe your individual actions will make the situation any better. That's why everyone needs to follow these standards — because by working together, we can reduce the number of cases in Montgomery

County.

If you're still not convinced, think about going to school again. And I mean *really* going to school. Think about sports seasons happening. Think about prom. Seniors, think about graduation and beach week. Think about all of these wonderful events that you can help make happen if you just make smart choices.

"...physical distancing and frequent, thorough hand washing are still the best ways to avoid getting COVID-19."

-Johns Hopkins Medicine

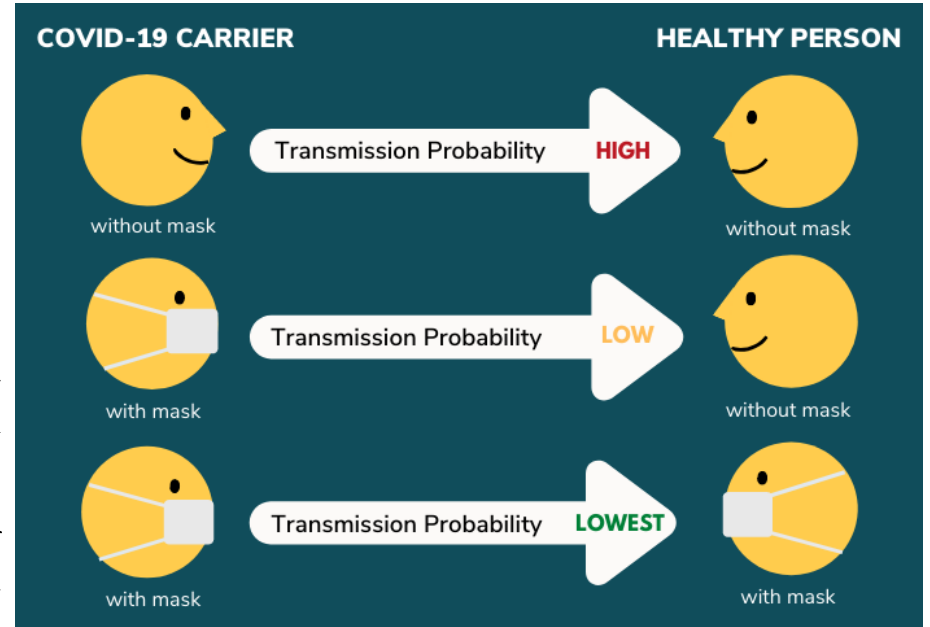


PHOTO COURTESY OF EAMC.ORG

In-Person To Online

How student activism has changed due to the pandemic

By MADILYN RUBERY
Staff Writer

Ever since Montgomery County Public Schools shut all its doors on March 13 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, students were forced to move almost everything online — including their voices.

When the Black Lives Matter movement took the United States by storm in early May, students began to use any platform possible to make themselves heard. Social media apps such as Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, and TikTok have been newly utilized during quarantine as a way to spread awareness and political standings.

With the start of the new virtual school year, MCPS students are now able to express their ideas with their classmates in a new environment. Without being able to sit in a classroom and converse, students can spread information and news from the safety of their own rooms.

Junior Olivia Pirnat is one of many who vouch for online activism. "I think that expressing activism is effective online (particularly at the moment) because it is a safe way to bring attention to problems to get more people involved," she said.

The age of social media has forever changed the face of student advocacy and politics, allowing anybody to safely get involved with just the touch of a screen.

The internet is a resource widely used by the younger generation, which includes the majority of the MCPS student population. Olivia Abdallah, a



PHOTO COURTESY OF OLIVIA ABDALLAH

junior at Northwest High School, believes that "young adults make up a lot of the population, but aren't able to get our voices and issues heard due to how young we are."

However, following the switch to in-person to online, youth thoughts and opinions are being broadcasted on a much larger scale. "We are the future," Abdallah adds. "We need to be educated on current issues as they

affect us right now and will continue to affect us."

QO junior Emma Lee Freeman is an environmental advocate who has been active online before and during the COVID-19 outbreak, and is passionate about the conservation of the environment. "People forget that we only have one planet and its condition gets worse and worse every day," says Freeman.

Freeman describes her transition from in-person to online activism as "smooth," due to her already being active on many online platforms. "Although I do understand how it may be difficult for other students," she says. "However, I strongly urge all my classmates to get involved in any way possible, as they have the power to make a change."

2020 Election: Trump vs. Biden

By SARA KLEMOV
Editor-in-Chief

Issue	Donald Trump (R)	Joe Biden (D)
COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Develop a vaccine by the end of 2020 and return to normal in 2021 * Make all critical medicines and supplies for healthcare workers in the US * Refill stockpiles and prepare for future pandemics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ensure all Americans have access to regular, reliable, and free testing * Focus on producing critical supplies in the US * Plan for the effective, equitable distribution of treatments and vaccines * Nationwide mask mandate
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Provide school choice to every child in America * Teach American exceptionalism * Promote high-quality educational opportunities for all students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ensure that no child's future is determined by location, income, race, or disability * Support educators by giving them pay and dignity they deserve * Prioritize the use of work-study funds for job-related and public service roles
FOREIGN POLICY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Stop endless wars and bring our troops home * Maintain and expand America's unrivaled military strength * Wipe out global terrorists who threaten to harm Americans * Build cybersecurity and missile defense systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Terminate the travel ban against people from Muslim-majority countries * End forever wars * Elevate diplomacy as the premier tool of our global engagement * Rally the world to address the climate crisis



Issue	Donald Trump (R)	Joe Biden (D)
HEALTHCARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Cut prescription drug prices *Put patients and doctors back in charge of our healthcare system *Lower healthcare insurance premiums *End surprise billing *Cover all pre-existing conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *All Americans will have a new, more affordable healthcare option *Stop surprise billing *Expand access to contraception and protect the constitutional right to an abortion
IMMIGRATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Block illegal immigrants from becoming eligible for taxpayer-funded welfare *Mandatory deportation for non-citizen gang members *Dismantle human trafficking networks *End sanctuary cities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Modernize America's immigration system *Reassert America's commitment to asylum-seekers and refugees *Tackle the root cause of irregular migration *Implement effective border screening
JOBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Cut taxes to boost take-home pay *Enact fair trade deals to protect American jobs *"made in America" tax credits *Expand opportunity zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Mobilize American manufacturing and innovation *Help ease the burden of care for working parents *Racial equity across the American economy

Presidential Candidate Pros & Cons

Pros

By SARA KLEMOV
Editor-in-Chief

Donald Trump, the current and 45th President of the United States, is running for a second term. Here's some insight on what makes Trump so appealing to some U.S. citizens.

Previous administrations focused on foreign affairs, resulting in American job losses and blue collar workers feeling of less importance to their country's leader. Trump's campaign, *Make American Great Again*, called for a priority of American citizens. In his term, Trump lowered the unemployment rate to 3.5% in February 2020; the most recent time prior to Trump's administration with that rate was in 1969, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Before COVID-19 struck, the economy was at its high with a GDP of 22 trillion USD in

February 2020, which is about 3 trillion USD more than when his term began, according to Macroeconomic Advisers. Trump also updated USMCA, a trade agreement with Mexico and Canada that advances trade, labor, and the free market between the three countries.

Trump's current campaign, *Keep America Great*, focuses on continuing to make America the priority, to keep his campaign promises, and ensure America is still a global leader.

As his first term is coming to an end, Trump has accomplished so much more than anyone has ever expected. Trump's administration has worked to create peace in the Middle East — with normalcy ties between Israel, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates — while prioritizing American businesses. Supporters see Trump as a man who gets things done, and that's why people vote for him.

Pros

By MLA RESNICOW
Senior Staff Writer

The Democratic nominee for the 2020 presidential election is Former Vice President Joe Biden. He was chosen mainly because he is a political moderate that can appeal to both Democrat and Republican voters. Biden's mission is to not only save the country's democratic system, but restore the country's health and safety. For example, Biden has a plan for how he will tackle the coronavirus outbreak in America so that citizens can get back to work and get our economy going safely.

Once he takes office, Biden will implement a decisive action plan

that includes free COVID-19 testing, development of a vaccine, and a decisive economic response, which starts with emergency paid leave for all of those affected by the coronavirus, and gives the necessary help to small businesses owners and essential workers to stabilize the American economy.

In addition, other than Biden's COVID response plan, Biden is dedicated to "Build Back Better" (the campaign's slogan) for racial equality, environmental sustainability, and caregiving and education. He is committed to end violence against women, gun violence, and anti-Semitism.

Biden will bring back the economy, keep the public healthy and safe, and represent American's wants and needs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

By ANYA SESAY
Staff Writer

No surprise that President Trump has received a considerable amount of backlash during his first term — particularly from the younger generations. According to a 2017 survey of high school students, headed by associate psychology professor Aaron Metzger of West Virginia University, this opposition can be attributed to President Trump's lack of empathy regarding issues of discrimination. "Over half of the youth [study participants] who dismiss Trump viewed his policies as potentially biased or loaded with discriminatory rhetoric," according to the study's findings. One participant in the survey called Trump out

Cons

saying "[Trump] is misogynistic and sexually offensive..."

Since 2017, it seems not much has changed. On Twitter and Instagram, mostly populated and used by young people, anti-Trump hashtags like #votehimout, #ihatetrump, #cheetoman, and more have continued to circulate.

Additionally, during the first presidential debate of the year, when questioned on whether or not he would condemn white supremacy Trump responded, "Proud Boys stand back, stand by... but this is not a right wing problem." After watching the live debate people ran to social media retweeting and reposting statements like, "Donald Trump will not denounce white supremacists because he is one," and, "anyone who cannot unequivocally condemn white supremacy is racist and unfit for the presidency."

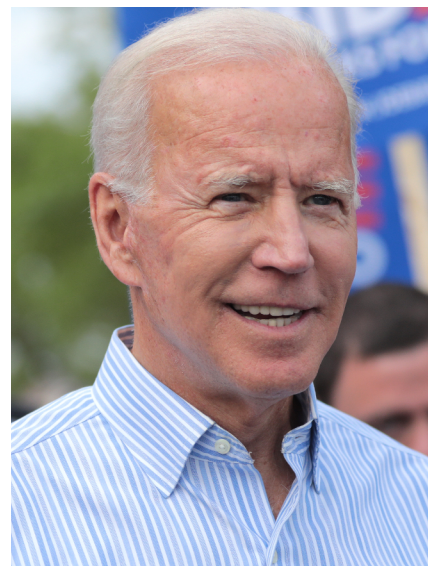


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

By ANYA SESAY
Staff Writer

Joe Biden: former vice president, and current Democratic presidential candidate. Since his nomination, recent hashtags like #SettleforBiden have become more prevalent on different social media apps. Here's why.

Many young voters (those under the age of 45) find Joe Biden's considerable con to be his centrism. "Younger democrats are [just] more liberal and anti-institutional," according to FiveThirtyEight. "The left-leaning but gray-haired commentators on MSNBC have been deeply frustrated by the rise of Sanders. Conversely, it's hard to find much Biden support on Twitter, which tends to be used by younger people."

Cons

During the Democratic primary race, entrance polls were taken in Iowa and Nevada, and an exit poll was taken in New Hampshire, which revealed that Biden never hit double-digit percentages with voters under 45. While Sanders, a much more left leaning candidate, broke 55% with the same age group. Once Biden won the primary, though, youth support shifted back to him. According to CNN, back in August, "[Trump's] net favorability with those under the age of 30 averaged... about 35 points worse than Biden's net favorability rating." The portuding problem with this though, is that the youth may not vote. Historically, according to the "Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, November Voting and Registration Supplement," younger people have always voted less than the older generation. Could this present challenges for Biden this November? We'll just have to wait and see.

Trump vs. Biden: who is most fit?

By RILEY SMITH
Staff Writer

Donald Trump, 74, and Joe Biden, 77, are the two oldest presidential nominees in the history of our country — but what does this mean? We've seen the news jump on each candidate for any mishap they make, but how much of this is because of their age?

Biden has been constantly called out for gaffes he's made during speeches and TV interviews. Whether that is forgetting the words to the declaration, stating, "All men and women created... by the — you know — you know the thing," or him saying regarding the Coronavirus, "We have to take care of the cure. That will make the problem worse, no matter what," the culmination of Biden's gaffes during his candidacy for president have worried many. However, in a recent interview with CNN, Joe Biden's wife, Dr. Jill Biden. Defending her husband's gaffes, she said, "You cannot even go there. After Donald Trump, you cannot even say the word 'gaffe.'"

Many have also criticized the health of President Trump. Videos have shown him having difficulty going down a ramp at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and drinking a glass of water with two hands. Most recently, following a visit to Walter Reed Medical Center, without any prior context, the president tweeted, "Now they are trying to say that your favorite President, me, went to Walter Reed Medical Center, having suffered a series of mini-strokes. Never happened to THIS candidate - FAKE NEWS."

Regarding the president's mental health, after taking a cognitive test in 2018 that is often used to detect early dementia, the president said, "They [the questions] get very hard," and later suggested, "I guarantee you that Joe Biden could not answer those questions."

Whether you believe that Biden or President Trump, or both, are in poor health, this election may be the most important election of our lifetime. The next president may very likely appoint at least one Supreme Court justice, will have to act on our country's civil rights issues, and manage climate change. Although both of our candidates may be elderly and flawed, and since writing this article president Trump has fallen ill with COVID-19, the decisions that our next president makes will likely make an impact for decades to come.



PIXABAY



Scan this QR code to be directed to the Maryland voter registration website.

Virtual learning experiences between freshmen and seniors

By KAILY PAULINO
Senior Staff Writer

For years, many young students look forward to the experience of going to high school. It is exciting to think about attending hair-raising sporting events, being part of an array of clubs, and going to memorable parties to dance away the stress of class. However, those thrilling thoughts and feel-good moments are limited due to the new virtual learning system in Montgomery County.

Disappointed at what COVID-19 has done to everyone for almost a year, students have had to deal with new and unexpected experiences during virtual learning. Nevertheless, as we can imagine, these experiences are drastically different for each grade.

As seniors, students strive to be a part of everything and make unforgettable moments with their loud, school-spirited energy. Senior Shajia Jafri managed to get used to the whole new learning atmosphere, though she felt a bit intimidated at

first when finding out she would have to be present in Zoom meetings every single week. "It's harder to communicate to teachers if you need extra help," says Jafri, but she feels better that, with regards to schoolwork, "the difficulty level is still the same." Luckily, academics are not negatively affecting most seniors like Jafri, but this year is their last chance to experience football games, homecoming, pep rallies, talent shows, spirit week, parades, and possibly prom with their closest friends.

As for freshmen, all they hope to do is make as many friends and have as much fun as possible. Freshman Derya Kravitz says she is having a harder time being more social because she lacks the opportunity to have the little everyday side conversations with nearby peers. "I would've liked to have been able to see my new school and new people," Kravitz adds. Freshmen have a few more years to try to experience the



COREAXIS

fun school spirit, but it will be hard because they have not gotten to know where they fit in yet and have not found their group of friends.

Let's count on attending school and making these uncertain times

much easier in the second semester, with hopes of going back to a "somewhat normal" high school experience. With all of our Cougar spirit and pride, together we can make this a memorable school year.

Spooky season is still on! *How to safely celebrate Halloween this year.*

By FIONA FEINGOLD
Staff Writer

Just because there's a pandemic going on doesn't mean you can't have a happy Halloween! There are plenty of activities you can do to have a fun holiday and enjoy the frights and delights of the classic season.

There are so many wonderful Halloween movies available to watch in every genre. *A Quiet Place*, *Bird Box*, *Psycho*, and *The Shining* are all great horror movies. If you prefer something a little more family-friendly, there's *The Addams Family*, *Beetlejuice*, and *Ghostbusters*. If you decide to watch a movie on Netflix, you can download the Netflix Party plugin on your computer and watch with your friends. You could also opt to watch a movie outside. There are plenty of drive-in movie theaters nearby, such as the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema in Northern Virginia. You could even get a projector and have a movie night in your backyard.

Additionally, many haunted houses are still open and operating under COVID-19 guidelines. At Markoff's Haunted Forest, everything is entirely outside, though all groups must still social distance and wear masks. Field of Screams is also open for visitors.

Furthermore, there are also lots of

Halloween sweets and treats you can bake at home to fully get into the holiday spirit. *Delish* has a lot of tasty Halloween recipes on their website, such as Monster Munch (a trail mix made up of kettle corn, pretzels, m&ms, and more!), S'mores Stuffed Cookies, Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Cookies, and Ghost S'mores Dip, which is made from ghost Peeps and chocolate chips.

Finally, if you still want to see your friends, you could host a virtual Halloween party on Group FaceTime or Zoom. You could also opt to see them in person while wearing a mask and/or remaining six feet apart.

As you can see, despite everything going on in the world right now, Halloween can still be just as fun, even with some extra precautions in place.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, please stay at home and get tested. You can get tested for free at any of the Montgomery County testing clinics. Call the Testing Helpline at 240-777-1775 if you need help finding testing, and check out Montgomery County's online COVID-19 Information Portal for up-to-date news about testing at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing.html>.



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A batch of pumpkin chocolate chip cookies baking in the oven.



PIXY



ERIC BIRD VIA THE NOUN PROJECT



FLICKR



JOLIE MOWREY VIA PIXY

VIEWPOINT

My take on the 2020 Emmy Winners

By MATTHEW MINTON
Editor-in-Chief

On September 20, all eyes in Hollywood were glued to their television screens as the 72nd Primetime Emmy Awards took place. The ceremony looked very different this year, as COVID restrictions made it impossible to have all of the attendees in the same room. Host Jimmy Kimmel took the stage alone as the nominees tuned in virtually from all around the world to see the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences reveal their picks for the best work in television in the past year. The lack of a live audience made for some challenges, and many of the attempts at humor left an awkward impression, but what made this year's show ultimately a success was the beautiful showing of representation and true, diverse talent in not only the nominees, but the eventual winners. Let's break it down.

The first part of the show proved to be a *Schitt's Creek* sweep, as the final season of the highly beloved *Schitt's Creek* swept all of the Comedy Series Awards, including the four acting prizes, directing, writing, and the ultimate top prize — Best Comedy Series. Not only is the show extraordinarily funny and heart-warming, but it also showcases a beautiful gay relationship; the show's award success is extremely important



The big winners of the night (left to right): *Succession*, *Watchmen*, and *Schitt's Creek*. Photo Credit: *Vox*

for representing the LGBTQ+ community in a positive light.

Next, the categories for Limited Series saw *Watchmen* win big for Regina King in Best Actress, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II in Best Supporting Actor, Best Writing, and ultimately the top honor of Best Limited Series. *Watchmen* is one of the best shows to come out in recent years, and easily the most relevant for our times, as it digs deep into themes of police brutality

and racism. The show depicts the tragic events of the 1921 Tulsa Massacre, one of the worst acts of racial violence ever. The massacre has gone largely forgotten in history classes, driving home the need to tell black stories and use them to empower a better and more educated future. *Unorthodox* and *Mrs. America* also took home awards in the Directing and Supporting Actress categories, respectively.

Finally, the drama categories saw

some major but extremely deserving surprises. Although *Euphoria* was sadly snubbed of many top nominations, Zendaya managed to pull off a win for Lead Actress. Her performance as a teenager struggling with drug addiction is so compelling to watch and deserving of the award. *Succession*, which is excellent, ultimately won for Best Actor, Directing, Writing, and Drama Series. The show follows a dysfunctional family running a top media conglomerate as each member of the family acts in their own self-interest. The show ruthlessly emphasizes how the corrupt individuals at the top of society will do anything to gain power, no matter the cost.

Ultimately, with a record-breaking 38 black nominees total and such amazing talent honored throughout the evening, this year's Emmys were a success in many ways. Throughout the evening, the importance of telling diverse stories was rightfully highlighted, and all the top winners from *Schitt's Creek* to *Watchmen* and *Succession* were extremely deserving and worthy of award recognition. As award shows such as the Academy Awards are on the horizon for the near future, the Emmys proved that even in such difficult times, recognizing the work of talented artists is still very much possible.

Chadwick Boseman passes away at age 43

By STACY SHIN
Senior Staff Writer

Chadwick Boseman, the brilliant American actor, died on August 28, 2020. He was only 43.

Boseman was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2016, which came as a devastating shock to the public after his death. A tweet on his official account was posted by his publicist confirming his death at 10:11 PM. "A true fighter, Chadwick persevered through it all, and brought you many of the films you have come to love so much," the statement read. "From 'Marshall to Da 5 Bloods', August Wilson's 'Ma Rainey's Black Bottom' and several more, all were filmed during and between countless surgeries and chemotherapy."

Boseman was born in 1976 in South Carolina. He attended Howard University in Washington, DC to receive his Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree in Directing, and then went on to attend the British American Drama Academy in Oxford, England.

Boseman had smaller roles in movies and TV shows including *Lincoln Heights* and *ER* before he landed his breakthrough role in 2013. Starring as legendary baseball player Jackie Robinson in Brian Helgeland's *42*, Boseman caught the attention of many and his career continued to soar. Only a year later he signed to portray James Brown, or the Godfather of Soul, in Tate Taylor's *Get On Up*. Boseman's co-star Viola Davis tweeted after his death: "Chadwick... no words to express my devastation of losing you. Your talent, your spirit, your heart, your authenticity." Boseman also played the

young US Supreme Court

Justice Thurgood Marshall in the film *Thurgood* (2017).

Boseman is most known among young people for his emulation of the

records and made an estimated \$218 million domestically over the course of four days. The film went on to receive an Academy Award for Best Picture in 2018. It was the first major superhero



dream for a black superhero to reach the big screen when he joined the Marvel Cinematic Universe as T'Challa, King of Wakanda, also known as the Black Panther. He did not take this responsibility lightly and truly transformed into his character as a symbol of pride to Black audiences. Pressing for the characters to speak in authentic South African accents and leading meetings on African spirituality and symbolism, he truly took his role to the next level. He first appeared as T'Challa in *Captain America: Civil War* before starring in Ryan Coogler's *Black Panther*, which crushed box office

movie with a Black protagonist and majority-Black cast, and received admiration from critics across the world for the influential performances by Michael B. Jordan, Angela Bassett, and more.

Boseman acted alongside other Marvel heroes in *Avengers: Infinity War* and *Avengers: End Game* in 2018 and 2019, respectively. Many of those actors posted on their social media to commemorate Boseman's death.

Chris Evans (Captain America) wrote: "Chadwick was special. A true original. He was a deeply committed and constantly curious artist..."

Jeremy Renner (Hawkeye) described Boseman as "an inspiration, a warrior with a big kind heart that [he'll] never forget."

Robert Downey Jr. (Iron Man) wrote: "Mr. Boseman leveled the playing field while fighting for his life... That's heroism..." with the hashtag "#Chadwickforever."

Chris Hemsworth (Thor) described Boseman as "one of the kindest, most genuine people [he's] met."

Even politicians revealed their remorse. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden tweeted that Boseman "inspired generations and showed them they can be anything they want — even superheroes," and Kamala Harris, the Democratic Vice President nominee, tweeted that he was "brilliant, kind, learned, and humble. He left too early but his life made a difference." Neither President Donald Trump nor Vice President Mike Pence spoke on his passing.

Although he left far too soon, Boseman's legacy will continue for generations as one of the pioneers for Black actors in Hollywood. He inspired millions across the globe through his performances. Rest in power, Chadwick Boseman.

"Chadwick was special. A true original. He was a deeply committed and constantly curious artist..."

- Chris Evans

MPSSAA Announces 2020-21 Sports Seasons

Maryland State Superintendent Karen B. Salmon announced a plan to start fall seasons October 7th, however, Montgomery County is not expected to adapt this plan

By ADAM GOTKIN
Staff Writer

After over a month of waiting that felt like a year, the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) announced its plan for all three sports seasons to take place in the spring on September 11th. The plan consists of all three seasons playing for five weeks, with 20 days of practice before the season starts. This rules out the possibility of fall sports starting late, a decision that many states, including Pennsylvania and New Jersey have made.

The five-week sports seasons would include any possible playoffs, which for football especially, creates a situation where any playoffs are unlikely. The normal high school football season in Maryland is nine weeks of regular season play, followed up by five weeks of playoffs, and that would be impossible to fit into just five weeks. Some have proposed skipping a regular season and going straight into the playoffs. However, that is extremely unlikely.

This decision—to have each sport play a five-week season—has been controversial for all sports. However the spring athletes are the most affected and upset. Spring sports athletes were hoping to have a longer season than the rest, as they had lost their entire season the year before.

Anthony Spano, a junior lacrosse player, was extremely frustrated with



The Quince Orchard Varsity Football Team warms up for a game against Northwest Photo Credits: Adam Gotkin

the MPSSAA's decision to not give the spring sports a longer season, saying, "I think it is absolutely ridiculous how the MPSSAA did this to spring athletes. Most spring athletes last year got a few scrimmages in at most." Spano emphasized his frustration about the lack of a full season, noting: "It is completely unfair to the spring athletes... We have the very last season

in the schedule, which sucks because some of the season will be after graduation. This means we might be missing players while they are at beach week and at other senior activities. Which again screws over spring sports."

Coach Kelly, the head coach of the varsity football team, has been outspoken about wanting to play this season on twitter, posting a tweet last

month saying, "MD should definitely be playing right now... HS all over the country are doing it safely!!! The science says we can do it."

There is a possibility that things will change, as there is so much unpredictability in the world right now, but if everything stays the same, the spring will be jam packed with high school sports.

Nationals fail to defend title in unprecedented MLB season

By BEN STROBER
Editor-in-Chief

"Go 1-0 every day." This was a common phrase from Washington Nationals manager Dave Martinez during the team's magical 2019 World Series championship run, defeating the scandalized Houston Astros in seven games. The Nationals overcame a forgettable 19-31 start that season to finish 93-69.

But for many people in the world, 2020 has been a rough year to "go 1-0 every day." COVID-19 forced the shutdown of schools, businesses, and of course, Major League Baseball. For many months, commissioner Rob Manfred and the players had a difficult time working up a plan for the 2020 season. After many weeks of failed negotiations, baseball would be returning: However, this isn't anywhere near a "normal" baseball season.

The MLB decided on a 60-game sprint season for the teams to play starting late July. Coming off their World Series win, the Nationals' expectations were still high even

though they lost their star Anthony Rendon to free agency. Even without Rendon, the team was excited to have re-signed World Series MVP Stephen Strasburg to a brand new 7-year contract. They also signed relief pitcher Will Harris from Houston and a new first baseman Eric Thames from Milwaukee.

From the get-go, however, things started to go wrong for the Nationals. Just hours before the first game versus the Yankees, Juan Soto tested positive for COVID-19 and was unable to play for the first ten games of the season. The worst part about this was that his test was also later discovered to be a false positive even after he had quarantined. The Nationals' offense struggled at this point without their young star as they struggled to get to .500.

Things only would get worse as ace pitcher Stephen Strasburg was dealing with nerve issues in his hand that determined he would need surgery and be out for the year.

Now the Nationals were down two pitchers in their starting rotation, because before it even started, Joe Ross, along with Mr. National Ryan Zimmerman, both opted out of playing this season.

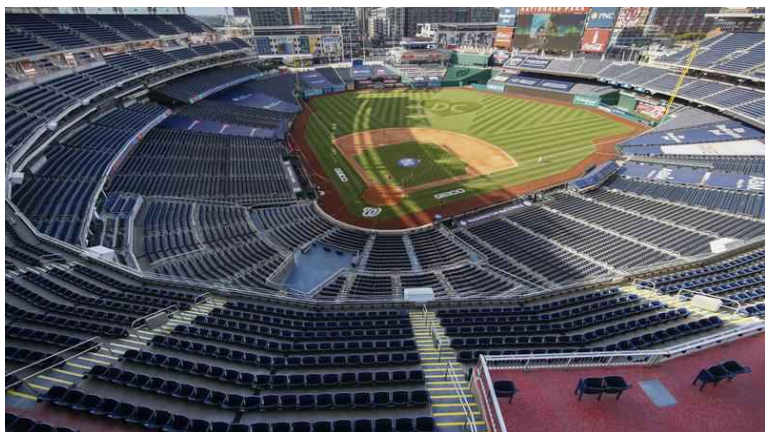
As the short season went on, the Nationals were unable to get hot as they did in the year prior and quickly were running out of time. Young stars Soto and Trea Turner both had career-best years as they led the team's offensive production, which unfortunately was greatly lacking from the rest of the team.

The Nationals continued to play inconsistent baseball throughout the rest of the season, which eventually found themselves looking from the outside into the postseason. Martinez was disappointed but thankful for the health of the team. In a *Washington Post* article, Martinez said, "For me, it was a disappointing year but I'm really happy no one got sick." As for next season's plans, Martinez said he needed "to focus on what was done well" and then the team can "build from there."

The Nationals finished the season 26-34, tied for last place in the NL East and did not qualify for the playoffs. Max Scherzer, who had an expected great year as the team's top pitcher, said in a *Washington Post* article, "We will use this season as a way to see how we can improve for next year." He then finished off by saying, "We'll be back." Scherzer finished his season with a 5-4 record and 92 strikeouts.

To look on the bright side, 21-year-old Soto won the Major League batting title with a .351 batting average, becoming the youngest player to ever win this award. Soto also led the National League in OPS, OBP, and multiple other batting categories. Turner also led all of the MLB with 78 hits on the season.

In a season that should have been filled with post-World Series ring ceremonies and joyous fans attending Nationals Park, it instead turned to be one filled with unfamiliarity. It's unfortunate that the Nationals never got to experience the typical victory lap that the World Series champions



AP PHOTO/ALEX BRANDON

Nationals Park sits empty as the team and ballpark staff prepared for the first fan-less game in stadium and franchise history.

"For me, it was a disappointing year but I'm really happy no one got sick."

-Dave Martinez

Capitals leave bubble early, find themselves looking for another coach

By **JAKE ZAIDERMAN**
Staff Writer

During the Washington Capitals' magical run in 2018 under head coach Barry Trotz, the Caps looked fast and physical. They had finally overcome adversity. They finally beat Pittsburgh and advanced past the second round. There was a different feel in the locker room, players said after the season. However, after their championship season, the Capitals have had two embarrassing playoff exits, both coming in the first round. They looked slow and sluggish during the postseason. In two playoff appearances under Todd Rirden, who was promoted to head coach after Trotz resigned and signed a deal to coach the rival New York Islanders, they didn't come to play.

They looked like they didn't even want to be there. Rirden was the defensive assistant prior. However, during his tenure, the defense struggled mightily. The Capitals constantly were beat on the fast breaks, out-hustled. They didn't have the same fire they did under Trotz.

As a result, Rirden was relieved of his coaching duties this past off-season and immediately signed to go back to Pittsburgh and take on an assistant coaching role.

Meanwhile, the Capitals had to conduct a coaching search to find the man who would put the spark back into the locker room. They had three primary candidates in Gerard Gallant, Peter Laviolette, and Mike Babcock. All three candidates had good resumes,

with Laviolette and Babcock having won a Stanley Cup with the Hurricanes and Red Wings, respectively. Gallant and Laviolette were the top two choices, while Babcock wasn't the man who would fit the mold. On September 15, the Capitals made their decision and hired Peter Laviolette as the 19th head coach in franchise history.

Brian MacLellan, senior vice president and general manager of the Capitals, had this to say about his new coach from the press release, "I think [Laviolette] checks a lot of boxes for us. He's got a lot of experience. He's got a track record of accomplishment. He does a good job motivating players, holding players accountable. I like the structure that his teams play in. Again, he has had success. He's won a Cup. He's

been in the Finals. He does a good job of re-establishing teams' identities. So all those things factored into him being a great candidate for the situation we're in, and I think the team is a good, good match for him also as a coach."

Jack Mendelow, a junior and hockey player for Quince Orchard, likes the coaching hire for the Capitals, "I'm interested to see where this goes. He implies a lot of discipline which I feel this young team needs."

MacLellan realizes that the team's core of Ovechkin and Backstrom only has a few years left in the window to win another championship. This hire was a great one for the organization in hopes of keeping the window open a tad longer and winning at least one more Stanley Cup in the process.

Baltimore Ravens defeat Washington Football Team 31-17

By **JULIA DIETRICH**
Staff Writer

The battle of the beltway: the 2-1 Baltimore Ravens traveled the 38 miles to Landover, Maryland to defeat the 1-2 Washington Football Team 31-17.

Both teams came into this game hoping to shake off a loss and both teams had players looking to make a comeback.

For the Ravens, that player was tight end, Mark Andrews, who dropped a few passes against the Kansas City Chiefs during Monday Night Football, but was able to get into the end zone twice against Washington.

"Last week things didn't go quite my way," Andrews said in a press conference. "It felt great to get two touchdowns, you know, catch the ball a little bit."

For Washington, that player was Quarterback Dwayne Haskins, who had four turnovers, including three interceptions, against the Cleveland Browns. Haskins, however, had no turnovers attributed to him in this game.

"I thought he threw some really good balls," said Washington's head coach Ron Rivera in a post-game press conference. "He made some really good decisions."

Unlike Haskins, Ravens QB Lamar Jackson threw his first interception of

the season that led to a field goal by Washington. However, Jackson made up for it with a 50-yard run that finished in the end zone.

Another key performance came from Ravens punter, Sam Koch, who after a fake punt on 4th down became the only player in NFL history with a minimum of 7 passes and 100% completion.

"We had some huge, very important conversions," said Ravens head coach John Harbaugh in a press conference. "We didn't have gigantic plays, but we certainly had conversion plays."

All of the big plays and small victories came together to give the Ravens four touchdowns and a field

goal that ultimately triumphed over Washington's two touchdowns and one field goal—leaving the Baltimore Ravens 3-1 and the Washington Football Team 1-3 after 4 weeks of this unusual season.



EBONYBIRD.COM

The Ravens defense and Washington Football Team offense line up for a snap.

2020 NFL season start: protests and injuries abound

By **JULIA DIETRICH**
Staff Writer

When the reigning Super Bowl Champions, the Kansas City Chiefs, first met with the Houston Texans on the field to start the 2020 NFL season, it was for a moment of unity in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. As the two teams stood with their arms linked, they were met with a chorus of boos from the 17,000 masked fans spread throughout a stadium meant to hold 76,000. The game hadn't even started and it was obvious this season is going to be like no other.

Pre-season games were canceled, and extensive COVID-19 precautions were put in place in late July, one of the most notable being limited or no fans present, with fake crowd noise and cardboard cutouts of fans as a replacement.

"NFL in 2020 will not look like other years," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell stated in a letter to fans. "These adjustments are necessary to reduce the risk for everyone involved."

Some teams have been able to adjust to the no-fans environment, as the Baltimore Ravens were able to blow out their first two opponents. The newly named Washington Football Team was able to pull off a comeback from a 17-point deficit against the Philadelphia Eagles to start their season 1-0.

Others struggled: Tom Brady had some issues adjusting to his new team, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and multiple teams have lost players due to numerous injuries, with the San Francisco 49ers being hit the hardest.

"It's heartbreaking," 49ers left tackle Trent Williams said in a *Niners* article about losing fellow player, Nick

Bosa, to a torn ACL.

However, some coaches don't seem to be as worried.

"We were all knocking off the rust," said Kansas City Chiefs Head Coach Andy Reid in a *Washington Post* article, "but I'm proud of the guys."

Before all of the COVID-19 precautions were decided, there was another announcement: the NFL would reverse its position and allow kneeling and other forms of peaceful protest during games in response to the protests started by the murder of George Floyd. "Protests around the country are emblematic of the centuries of silence, inequality and oppression of black players, coaches, fans, and staff," Goodell said in a social media post. "We, the National Football League, believe black lives matter." However, despite protests and the occasional foggy face shield, once the game starts, football is still football.



NFL
WQOW.COM

Athlete of the Month

Profiles of Four QO College Athletics Commitments

BY KENDALL LUMSDEN
Senior Staff Writer

GIRLS LACROSSE

Emma Christensen



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMMA CHRISTENSEN

Senior Emma Christensen of girls lacrosse knew Virginia Tech was the right school for her as soon as she stepped on campus three years ago. "I loved the whole atmosphere. I love the coaches, and players, and literally everything about the whole atmosphere," she said. Her other offers included Stony Brook University, Towson University, Bucknell University, and University of Oregon. She acknowledges her teammates and family for making her journey the best she could have wished for.

GIRLS SOCCER

Carli Sullenger



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLI SULLENGER

Junior Carli Sullenger had always dreamed of playing DI soccer in college. Knowing that she wanted to go to a military school, she wrote to West Point, who then started attending her games. "A year later (the summer before sophomore year), the coach offered me a spot in person and that's when I verbally committed," she said.

FOOTBALL

Ryan Barnes



PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN BARNES

After realizing that football was the sport for him, senior Ryan Barnes stopped at nothing working to his ultimate potential, committing to University of Notre Dame. His hard work paid off when he became one of the top 50 prospects in the country for his position and received an astounding 33 full Division I scholarships during his junior year. "Notre Dame has always been a school that I loved and hoped to play for one day, and once they offered me a scholarship, I knew it would be one of my top choices moving forward in my process," Barnes said. "After months of talking with coaches from all over the country and learning more about their schools, I realized the best place for me to develop as a person and player was Notre Dame."

Dante Thompson



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANTE THOMPSON

Senior Dante Thompson describes his journey to committing to Robert Morris University as "a long road" with lots of "hard work and dedication," starting at the age of five when he began playing football. He had other offers from Morgan State University, Saint Francis University, and Lake Erie College. Thompson said he chose Robert Morris because it is a "great academic school and the coaches checked up on me every day and made me feel like I was wanted."