



MARRIOTT'S RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS:

THE STALLION



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MRHS Students Voice Their Opinions On New Break



Faith Schanck
Editor-in-Chief

For the 2016- 2017 school year, Howard County has implemented a new break schedule for all of the high schools in the county, which is a 30-minute break every Wednesday, which will focus on academic support instead of relaxation.

When coming back to school, MRHS students were looking forward to at least having break every Monday and Thursday as they had in previous years but little did they know that this year break was going to be very different.

Not only did MRHS modify its break schedule but also so did all of Howard County. Howard County has made a uniform break schedule for the whole county, which allows for 30 minutes of break every Wednesday. MRHS principal, Mrs. Goldeisen commented on the standardization of break, "The county needed every high school to be on the same break schedule to meet digital class schedules, ARL student schedules, and to structure it to have an academic component." Instead of it being used for relaxing, it is now used for a combination of academic support and relaxation.

The new schedule is set to have alternating Wednesday of academic support and normal break. Some students do not like this new schedule and do not think they will utilize this new break. "I don't really think I will use it because I do not think I need academic support every week but every once in awhile I am glad I have it," said Sophomore Lucy Hebner.

Most students understand why the county changed the break, so that

how it is very structured and you cannot just go where you want and get help from who you want," said senior Dejah Owens.

Along with this new break schedule, the academic support has even more guidelines. If students are scheduled to go to their 1st period but they have a test in 4th period they have to get a pass from their 4th period teacher so they are allowed to join that class during break. "I like the educational component we added to

on some Wednesdays and some structure on some Wednesdays. It helps us meet the county standard but still allows us to give students some downtime on those opposite Wednesdays," said Mrs. Goldeisen.

"One thing that I really don't like about it is that I only can go to get help on every other Wednesdays. What if I need help on a Tuesday? The fact that there are so many rules makes it hard for me to get the help I need. I just wish it was more similar to last year," says senior Maggie Malone.

One aspect of this new change in schedule that really has affected MRHS students in particular is the fact that students can no longer relax at break. Having that 20-minute break twice a week was very important and many students needed that break to help them keep on top of their schoolwork.

"I really miss break last year! Having that free time saved my grade multiple times. I did not realize how much I loved it until it got taken away," said sophomore Sabrina Amaral.

This year many MRHS students have to adjust to a new, different, and more structured break schedule. which some students like and dislike.



Now, students are no longer able to wander during break, but instead they have to go to a preassigned location.

everyone could get academic help, but some students wish it were not so strict, instead allowing students to talk to teachers freely.

"I think it is a good thing and a good idea, but I really do not like

break this year so that students can get support during the school day at least once a week for 30 minutes. It was like a compromise to give students something similar to last year with having some freedom

Summer Flood Tears Down Old Ellicott City



Emily Paul
News Editor

July 30th brought the most devastating flood that historic Ellicott City has ever seen. Dozens of pictures showcasing the wreckage have popped up online, rending the hearts of many students who visited often. The flood may have stopped Ellicott City, but it won't keep it down with the many fundraisers pouring in support.

Living in Ellicott City, flash flood warnings through text notifications and TV warnings is not uncommon. The majority of the time, it seems unnecessary; but in July, it was more than needed. The 6 inches of rain spread out between two hours was not irregular; but with flooding from the Patapsco river increased the damage. Water levels reached windows and storefronts; the sidewalk in front of Marielle Salon completely caved in. The street is open to foot traffic, but the large majority of stores are closed due to damage. Businesses left untouched are struggling with the lack of

visitors to the historic town.

Even students at MRHS are affected by the flood. Sophomore Julianna Dorsche, is one example. "...I'm personally affected because we have to go the back way to church, because we usually went through main street which is closed...I would go about every week, and sometimes we go window shopping and into the shop; but we can't do that anymore." Says Dorsche.

Junior Audrey Hager was a frequent visitor to the historic district, but hasn't visited since the flood. "I wouldn't say that I'm really affected; it's not like I was there or I knew someone hurt, but it's pretty sad that Ellicott City got flooded. I used to go a lot with my friends, and it sucks that the street

won't be open for a while." Hager states. "But it's more important to focus on the recovery right now." Luckily, there have been plenty of donations, GoFundMe's, and



The destruction in Old Ellicott City after the flood occurred.

fundraisers set up to aid the people of the historic district.

The Fifth Annual Main Street Music Fest has been relocated to Merriweather since the flood. All of the funds earned from the festival will be given to those affected by the flood; and many more fundraisers and donations can be found under the hashtag, "EC Strong."

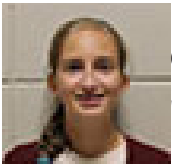
Even a Columbia businesses are raising money for their Ellicott City neighbors. The small clothing shop, "Roll Up N Dye," travels to each of the fundraisers, peddling the cheerfully dyed shirts with the white phrase, "EC Strong" emblazoned on the front of every shirt.

Elyse Gottuk, sophomore, will be going to the Merriweather fundraiser. "I'm not really one to go to fundraising events, especially since I don't know where they are. I know people who are doing some fundraising events, so I will donate to those, and probably going to the music fest." Says Gottuk. Both Hager and Dorsche will be attending as well.

"I mean yeah, definitely. ...because we really just want Ellicott City to recover, because it's a very important part of our lives, and it's sad to see the town in such a condition." Says Dorsche, dedicated to bringing her hometown back from the brink.

With so many fundraising programs, and a determined community on standby, Ellicott City won't be wrecked for any longer than it needs to be.

Mrs. Goldeisen Joins MRHS as the New Principal



Grace Underwood
Staff Writer

When Dr. Kaufman retired after the 2015-2016 school year, Marriotts Ridge received a new principal, Mrs. Goldeisen, who is coming from being principal at Mount View Middle School.

When interviewing Mrs. Goldeisen, she expressed her excitement about her new position. "I have taught high school students for ten years and loved that age group. The transition between the high school and middle school was smooth because I know the families." Mrs. Goldeisen stated as she talked passionately about the school.

Many students who have come from Mount View Middle School know Mrs. Goldeisen, they had her as a principal before coming to Marriotts Ridge.

"Her smile that greets us coming off the bus helps start the day off positive," says sophomore Megan Blackman who had Mrs. Goldeisen as her principal in middle school. Mrs. Goldeisen stands outside with pom-poms cheerfully greeting students as they walk into school on the first day.

"I love standing out at the bus loop or drop off and it's a fantastic way to start the day," states Mrs. Goldeisen.

"She brings a positive vibe

spirit, watch students learn, be with their clubs, and watch them in sports." Mrs. Goldeisen states. She really loves the school and working with the students.



Principal Goldeisen joins MRHS with a smile.

and is really encouraging and understanding," says freshman Grace Tolle. Mrs. Goldeisen is known to most of the students as a very bright and happy person principal.

Mrs. Goldeisen is very focused on the students and their activities at Marriotts Ridge which is a characteristic of a truly dedicated principal. "My favorite thing is being able to increase the school

The freshman class 2020 coming from Mount View may have Mrs. Goldeisen as their principal for seven years before they graduate. "It's exciting to see how they'll grow and see them in their classes. I don't know how they feel about it but I love it," states Mrs. Goldeisen.

Though most students know Mrs. Goldeisen already from their middle school some students

are just meeting her for the first time. "She's super nice and dresses very brightly," says senior Brooke Conley. Students have only good things to say about Mrs. Goldeisen which shows the positive impression she is already making on the students who are having Mrs. Goldeisen for as a principal for the first time.

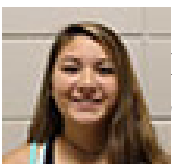
Many aspects of Marriotts Ridge have changed since last year and some policies and procedures remain the same, but concerning Mrs. Goldeisen, the students think she will bring a positive change to the school.

"Her enthusiasm," says sophomore Tyler Colburn "will bring a positive change to the school."

The students believe Mrs. Goldeisen will bring positive changes to the school and would like to see something's changed by Mrs. Goldeisen.

The students and teachers are looking forward to supportive impact Mrs. Goldeisen will bring to Marriotts Ridge and its families. Since Mrs. Goldeisen is so focused on the students, whatever changes are made will be motivated by her goal of improving the students' learning environment.

Howard County Implements a New Food Policy



Kellie Malaney
Staff Writer

Starting at the beginning of the 2016-17 MRHS school year, there is a new school policy put into effect restricting food outside of the cafeteria in order to protect students from potential food allergies.

In the previous years, MRHS students were allowed to eat food in the commons and in the hallways during lunch and break times, but changes have been made that upset students.

"I think we should definitely be able to eat outside of the cafeteria because the students get hungry and this can distract their attention from class, especially those who have D lunch. If the students can prove they are able to clean up after themselves, they should be able to eat in classrooms and hallways," says junior Christy Ahn.

A factor that contributed to this new policy being created was the amount of trash around the school. Since there were too many students leaving food and wrappers on the floor during break and throughout

the school day, a new rule had to be made. The goal of this policy is to reduce the amount of trash around the school which also helps to prevent students with food allergies from being affected. However, not all students feel that it was important this new action was implemented.

"I guess it's sort of important because it keeps people from leaving their trash around school during Mustang Time and after school, but I still believe we should be able to eat in classrooms because a lot of people get hungry during class," says freshman Gaby Jantac.

Hunger has an educational impact because it can be distracting to students during class. Ahn said, "If a student can eat something small like a granola bar during class, their brain is more likely to be actively focused and do better in school. When you are hungry, you sometimes get light-headed and don't feel as well."

If students eat in classrooms while

still keeping the school clean, then there won't be conflict with someone accidentally coming in contact with something they are allergic to.



MRHS Students dislike the new food policy which prevents them from eating in the commons.

Jantac said, "My friend is severely allergic to peanuts so she has to constantly be careful she doesn't touch anything that has had peanuts on it. Sometimes she can't tell if things had come in contact with peanuts and she will get hives because a previous student has a peanut product at that desk the class before, so it can be dangerous for her." It is be-

coming the school's job to protect students from their food allergies, so they are only allowed to eat in the cafeteria. Although this new policy has become well known among the staff and students, it has not been strictly enforced by teachers so far this year.

Many students feel that teachers will not enforce this rule as much this year as long as the students keep their classrooms clean. "I don't think most teachers will care, but it mostly depends on if their classrooms are messy or not. If students tend to leave food in their classrooms on a regular basis, I think they will enforce the rule more that they are not allowed to eat in their rooms. If they prove to the teacher that they can keep it clean, then they shouldn't have a problem with it," says senior Maggie Malone.

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Another Successful MRHS Homecoming/Spirit Week



Bri Held
Features Editor

As the leaves began to fall and the costumes began to call, Marriotts Ridge High School began wrapping up its annual 2016 Spirit Week and the “Day at a Concert” Homecoming Dance, which took place between September 26th- 29th.

Students are now beginning to ease back in to the first few weeks of school, which can be stressful and seem to move kind of slow, but once Spirit Week arrived, students began to feel settled in and excited to show off all of their school pride.

There was a lot to start considering before the big week arrived: where they will buy outfits for spirit week, what dress they should buy for the dance, and who/if they took anyone to the homecoming dance.

Senior, Katie Sharbaugh explained, “This week is my favorite time of the year because I love looking for homecoming dresses with my friends, and going all-out (wearing everything that I own) for spirit week.” Sophomore, Brandon Held also stated, “I love spirit week because we have break everyday and I get to dress up weird

with my friends.”

The best part about spirit week is that students get this one week to wear crazy costumes based on what theme is for that day. SGA member Caitlin Ohnmacht explained, “This

to get the week started with some patriotic pride.

Sophomore Katie Thompson said, “I was so excited to dress in all red, white, and blue, because I am proud to be an American, and



Seniors dominate at the pep rally and enjoy their final MRHS class day.

year I will be announcing at the pep rally this year, and we will have break everyday, but Friday, and play a game everyday. I am really excited to see how spirit week goes this year, I think it could be one of our bests!”

On Monday, the first day of spirit week this year, the theme was USA Day. This was a great idea

am excited to go all out.”

Tuesday was Tacky Tourist day, which means it was time to invade your grandparents and parents closets to find crazy vacation clothes to wear to school! Wednesday was Twin/Dynamic Duo Day, which is a great time to gather with your closest friends and think of some creative ideas to match with them!

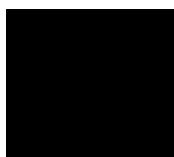
Junior Sheila Clevenger said, “I’m so excited for this day because my friends and I are all being average Joe’s, from the movie Dodge Ball!”

Senior, Casey Sullivan also explained, “I am very excited about Twin day because my friends and I are all dressing as the globo gym team from Dodge ball, and so it is like we are going against the juniors!” Thursday was theme day; freshman is classical/folk music, sophomores are country music, juniors are rock n roll, and seniors are disco. The last day of spirit week is Class Day, and this day students compete against the grades at the pep rally to win the class trophy and the end.

When asking the underclassmen if its fair that seniors win the trophy every year, Senior Lewy Anania, and freshman Emma Miller, can both agree that it is fair because we all wait for this moment in our high school lives, to win the trophy, and its definitely worth the wait.

At the end of the week, the mustangs had there homecoming game against Centennial. Despite the loss, everyone showed great school spirit, and one of our biggest turnouts yet. The following day was the big homecoming dance that took place on October 1st 2016.

SGA Has Been Planning Big Things for the 2016-2017 Year



Donny Kim
Staff Writer

The Marriotts Ridge High School Student Government Association (SGA) is preparing for spirit week, homecoming, and several charity drives. The first spirit week of the school year will be held between September 26th and September 30th. Homecoming will commence on the evening of October 1st from 7 to 9:30 pm and tickets will cost 20 dollars each. Throughout the school year, several charity drives will be arranged such as the Canned Food drive.

SGA is a democratic, student run unit that represents the view of the student body. They work to project the views and opinions of students to the Board of Education. The SGA oversee all student clubs and are often involved in many events in Howard County. It is their job to advocate the voice of every student in Marriotts Ridge.

Spirit week will have many new themes this year, as well as homecoming. The themes will be, USA day, tacky tourist, twin or sidekick,

day at the concert, and class shirts respectively.

Jack Crossan, a junior and the parliamentarian of SGA, said “Every class has a different theme on Thursday.” The day at the concert theme will be different for each grade level, seniors will get pop or disco, juniors will get rock and roll, sophomores will get country,



SGA President, Caitlin Ohnmacht, attends pep rally with a lot of spirit.

and freshman will get folk or classical music.

Class shirts for the theme on Friday go on sale for 15 dollars between September 19th and 30th during all lunches. The Pep Rally

is on Friday, the last day of Spirit week, and will take place in the later part of the school day. Also, there will be break everyday in the duration the week.

During spirit week, new games will be held Monday through Wednesday during break time. A new concept called the Lip Sync battle will occur on Tuesday. New games are

expected to be implemented in the Pep Rally as well.

Abeku Abercrombie, a senior and member of the SGA executive board, said “Homecoming’s theme is

Day at the Concert.” It is planned for the theme for the Homecoming Dance to be the same as theme on Thursday. If a student buys a ticket for the dance, he or she is expected to be at the dance before 8 pm.

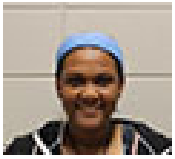
No one will be allowed in after that time. During the Homecoming football game, which is on Friday on 7pm, the Homecoming king and queen will be presented during half-time. It will be an event that no student will want to miss.

Many charity drives and fundraisers are planned to be launched during the school year. Drives like the Maryland Canned Food Drive and Toy for Tots will be brought back. “We are thinking of doing school supply drives.” said Aayushi Roy, a senior and the SGA treasurer. SGA is thinking of bringing in new drives such as a school supply drive for people who can not afford basic supplies for school.

The SGA is planning new games for spirit week, new charity and drives. Also they are bringing back old themes for spirit week but are also creating new ones as well. Homecoming will have a new theme and will have its queen and king crowned during the halftime during the football game on Friday. Many new thing are expected to be put in from SGA. If any students have problems or want their view to be known, make sure to report it to the SGA.

THE STALLION

Get to School on Time and Beat the Morning Rush



Tiye Lillard
Staff Writer

As students at Marriotts Ridge High School scuffle against their newly adjusted sleep schedule to get to school on time, many are beginning to seek words to the wise that can help them to avoid the dreadful, embarrassingly scribbled note written during their car ride, and confusing note exchange when they enter that late-pass line in the morning.

First key to success is to “Plan ahead. Being on time is late.” Says Chinese teacher Hui Liang. “If you’re ahead of your time, there’s no rushing. For teachers it’s our obligation to be on time. Being late can ruin our reputations. Not only that, but to be late is a bad example for the students.”

Understanding that teachers have to beat the morning rush, as the students are very interesting. They wake up earlier than us and are in the classroom with smiles on their faces and attitudes that say “You students may be in a worse mood than I am, but I’m ready to get you brain juices a flowing.” Anyway.

What about students? What can

they do in advance to beat this so-called morning rush? For starters “At night I prepare my clothes that I’m going to wear the next day,” explains sophomore Gabriella Spe-

Sleep is also a very important contribution when preparing yourself for the next day, which Gabriella also explained saying, “I try to get as many hours of sleep as

my parents bring me.” No matter the means of transportation to Marriotts Ridge High School, always keep in mind that with a population with over one thousand students will have traffic.

Some students even have to take it to extremes, like sophomore David Seaburg in an attempt to get to school on time saying “If you’re going to beat the morning rush leave your house early, or call an Uber. I’ve had one take me to school before.”

While not something most students should do, allowing a stranger to drive them to school. They could always confuse your destination from take me to Marriotts Ridge High School,

to, Hey what’s your basement look like? Just be careful, but overall get here on time. No matter what you have to do. Beating the morning rush just requires an overall good amount of sleep. A good breakfast, organization, and a form of transportation. Can you do it?



Many MRHS students have a hard time making it to school on time due to traffic.

nard. “I also make a to-do list for the things I have to do during the next day and night. I do this and other students should too to be prepared for everything they need so that way they don’t stress during the day or morning. They’d be on time.”

I can, also breakfast.”

Even Freshmen go through the same problems when trying to get to school on time. Taken from one, Montara Clay claims, “I wake up at a certain time and I rush. There’s always a lot of cars that get in the way of the school bus or car when

Environmental Club Strives to Make a Difference



Meghan Quinn
Staff Writer

Attention all environmentalist, if you’re looking for a way to make Marriotts Ridge and the community more green, head to room 234 and see Mrs. Kol Tuesdays after school for environmental club.

In a time when pollution and human impact on the environment is dangerously high, people want to know how they can do their part to help the Earth.

President of the club, junior, Riley Spickler, says the reason she joined was because she “love[s] the environment and want[s] to do everything [she] can to protect it.”

Some things the club does include recycling (batteries, ink cartridges, markers), tree planting, and stream/grounds cleanups. Not to mention these are only some of their past projects. Spickler says the environmental club is welcome to everyone and would love to hear new ideas.

One reason kids don’t join the club is partly because they don’t know exactly what they do.

When several students were asked what they thought

environmental club does, they responded mostly about the blue recycling bins. However, most

When senior Gabby Peitsch was asked if she would join environmental club, she said, “Yes,

is a good thing.”

Riley Spickler said “the reasons I joined environmental club were because of my family and my love for the environment. Also, my family recycles a lot, and my older brother was the previous president of the club.” Another thing that attracted her to being the president was she wanted to be a leader and help out around the school any way she could.

In order to attract new members to the club Riley wants readers to know all members are welcome. Members will go around and collect the blue recycling bins on Tuesdays, so any help is welcome. New members can expect to help clean up our local environment

In all of the explored universe, there is only one known habitable planet, and that is Earth. Over the last century it has been polluted more than it ever has, so

we need to do whatever we can to reduce pollution, and allow natural resources like trees to replenish faster than they are being cut down and used.



MRHS Environmental Club starts off the school year hoping to help make a difference.

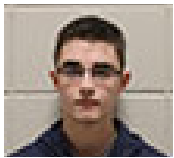
students did not know that the club also recycles batteries, ink cartages, and markers. Along with these projects they also clean up the school grounds.

because I care about our future on the planet.” Junior Tascha Mills had similar thoughts saying, “Yeah, the idea of cleaning up the environment and making the world a better place

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Four Shows that will Get You Out of A “Show Hole”



Daniel Hatfield
Opinions Editor

Stuck in a “Show Hole” as those Amazon Fire TV commercials suggest? Looking for something new to watch, but don’t know what to watch? Check out these four shows coming out this fall.

The first show is *the Good Place* a sitcom about a girl named Eleanor Shellstrop (Kristen Bell) who dies after an “unfortunate accident” having to do with runaway shopping carts and a billboard truck. She ends up in “the Good Place” a politically correct version of heaven that supports every religion’s views on it. But the more she stays in “the Good Place” the more she realizes that she doesn’t belong there, and that it was a mistake for her to end up there. So she decides to use the opportunity that has presented itself to correct her behavior and show that she belongs there.

The Good Place also stars William Jackson Harper, who plays Chidi Anagonye a deceased ethics professor who is Eleanor’s soul mate. And Ted Danson who plays Michael who is the architect of the neighborhood they live in. The series can be watched on NBC or on their website and came out on

Monday September 19 and at 8:30.

The next series that is a must watch for anyone in a “show hole” is *Marvel’s Luke Cage*, the newest addition to both the Marvel Cinematic Universe and Netflix line up of shows. The show is about the Marvel super hero Luke Cage who gained his powers



The Netflix poster for the hit show Luke Cage.
photo courtesy of Screenrant.com

through a botched experiment that gave him superhuman strength and unbreakable skin. Luke Cage becomes a fugitive on the run who ends up in Harlem where he decides to use his powers to help other people.

This series is a follow up to his supporting role on *Marvel’s Jessica Jones* and will set up the Netflix MCU for the future release of *the*

Defenders, which will feature Daredevil, Jessica Jones, Iron Fist (whose solo series is coming soon to Netflix also) and Luke Cage among others.

Marvel’s Luke Cage will star Mike Colter, who is best known for his recurring role as Lemond Bishop on CBS’ the Good Wife, will play

the titular character L u k e Cage. The show will be aired on Netflix and will be released on Friday September 30.

Another great series coming this fall is

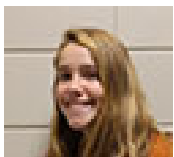
Speechless. The show is a sitcom about the DiMeo family who are trying to help one of their children, who has cerebral palsy, by moving their whole family of five to a new place so that they can make his life a little better so that he will finally have a “voice” or a person who will speak for him. The series stars Minnie Driver who plays Maya DiMeo, John Ross Bowie who plays

Jimmy DiMeo, Mason Cook who plays Ray Cedric Yarbrough who plays Kenneth the voice of J.J., Kyla Kenedy who plays Dylan DiMeo and Micah Fowler who plays J.J. DiMeo the one who suffers from Cerebral Palsy. The series will be aired on ABC on September 21.

The last show that will certainly get anyone out of a “show hole” is *Designated Survivor*. The show is about Tom Kirkman (Played by Kiefer Sutherland), who is the Housing and Urban Development Secretary to the President of the United States; he is named the designated survivor for that night’s State of the Union address. When a bomb goes off during the event, killing the President and all of his cabinet, Tom finds himself as the leader of the free world—a position he and most of the other people working with doesn’t know if he can handle.

The series also stars Natascha McElhone who plays Alex Kirkman, Tom’s wife and Kal Penn who plays the speech-writer Seth Wight who had a small recurring role on the seventh season of the hit show *How I Met Your Mother* as Kevin Venkataraghavan. *Designated Survivor* debuted on Wednesday September 21 and can be seen on ABC.

Students and Staff Clear the Water Bottle Dispute



Jacy Lubbehusen
Staff Writer

The students and staff at Marriotts Ridge are in conflict about the new water bottle policy, and more clarity on part of the administration may be the key to reaching a resolution.

“There was miscommunication,” said Mrs. Goldeisen. “The fact is that we’re a green school and we want students to hydrate during the day. We would like to have students bring in a water bottle, that is clear, but we decided as instructional team leaders that since we’re a green school bringing water in a different container is okay.”

Some students such a sophomore Cooper Stepke are under the impression that a ban on water bottles that aren’t clear is a currently enforced policy.

“I get where the school is coming from on this matter because kids could bring in things other than water and I know that’s a big deal” said sophomore Cooper Stepke.

“Yet water bottles that aren’t clear, some people like them, and some of them are fashionable, and people

enjoy carrying them around and they are much more convenient, It’s good for the environment, so I think non-clear water bottles should be allowed” Stepke continued.

The policy is that water bottles must be filled with water only, no other liquids are permitted. Some of these banned liquids are coffee and juices. The reason these drinks are not permitted is because they cause dirty spills, and staff can’t be sure what’s really in the drink.

“Students are not permitted to have drinks other than water. For example, students cannot have coffee drinks,” says Assistant Principal Mrs. Senisi.

The students at Marriotts Ridge

High School believe that it is unfair for them to be unable to use their very expensive water bottles, and are continuing to vocalize unwarranted frustration.

“I think the clear water bottle rule is unfair towards students who

buy expensive water bottles because no matter what water bottle you have it does the exact same thing, it keeps your water cool so you can hydrate during school” says sophomore Jessie Burd.

The main water bottle students would like to use is the new S’well water bottle. This bottle is shaped like a clear water bottle yet it keeps your water cool throughout the day with a

unique insulation. This bottle has become extremely popular, and expensive, and students would like to be able to use these water bottles.

“I spent a lot of money on my [S’well] water bottle that keeps my water cold and I don’t want to use a water bottle that doesn’t keep my water cold” says sophomore katie Thompson.

Some people’s parents don’t buy clear water bottles. If a student doesn’t have clear water bottle, but they want a drink throughout the day and for lunch, them may only have non-clear water bottles.

“Not everyone has clear water bottles, and not everyone prefers using clear water bottles, especially plastic water bottles which are preferred [by staff]. Those are bad for the environment” said senior Jocelyn Schmitt.

Students prefer these non-clear water bottles because they keep their water cold and are better for the environment.

Though not all students realize it, these water bottles have been approved by the administration as long as they are used for water.



The Regulation water bottle that the school has approved.

THE STALLION

MRHS Students Discuss Instagram Stories



Svadhi Prasad
Staff Writer

On August 2, 2016, a huge controversy broke out on the Internet due to the fact that Instagram stole the idea of Snapchat's stories. Two months later, students at Marriotts Ridge High School are still talking about the topic of Instagram stealing Snapchat Stories.

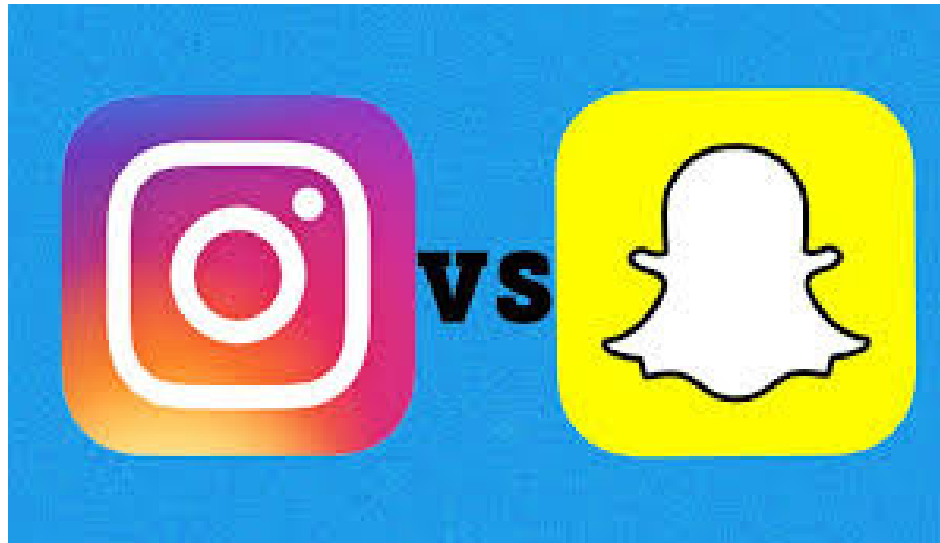
Instagram has recently introduced "stories," a tool that is available to viewers for 24 hours only. This feature was originally made for Snapchat, but now Instagram has created a feature nearly identical to Snapchat's story. According to Josh Constine, Instagram CEO Kevin Systrom admitted, "Snapchat deserves all the credit, however it isn't about the invention. It's about what you do to it". Instagram stories are circular bubbles at the top of one's Instagram page and each bubble contains a picture or a video that lasts up to ten seconds. This is the same with Snapchat, causing issues between the CEO's of the two companies.

Several students had different ideas and opinions on the controver-

sy. Megan Blackman, a sophomore, states, "I think snapchat stories are a good idea because I follow some pretty intense photographers and it's cool to see their journey and pictures".

because it's basically copying ideas from other apps. Its kind of like plagiarism," Geoffrey Osten, a junior, said.

Fellow junior, Emily Koller added on by saying, "It's like when



Instagram Stories Vs. Snapchat stories, Which is better?

Photo courtesy of Mashable.com

Jessie Burd, also a sophomore, believed that the situation could go both ways. "I think it's both efficient and stupid because then you don't have to get two apps on your phone, but then you can't snapchat individual people so I could see how it would go both ways".

However, some students were harsher. "I think it's really stupid

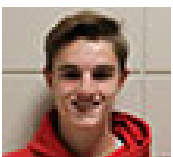
you're writing an essay and you go on Wikipedia, even though you're not supposed to go on Wikipedia, but everyone does. And you see a definition of a word and you copy it down. But then your teacher yells at you for it. How are you supposed to summarize it differently? It's literally the universal definition."

The majority of students believe

that Instagram stealing Snapchat stories is unnecessary. Senior Jocelyn Schmitt rolls her eyes saying, "No one even watches Instagram stories, so what's the point?" Freshman Archana Swaminathion says, "I don't like it. There was a reason the two apps were set apart, but Instagram just copied snapchat". Why does Instagram still continue to keep having Instagram stories if the majority of users disagree with the practice? A plausible reason perhaps, is because Instagram believes that their "creation" is beneficial and important to Instagram users.

Instagram didn't even bother changing the name of this new update, leaving it as stories. This is the same name for Snapchat. Copying the feature irked competition between the two different companies. This brought the society's attention and then it became a huge deal. People from all over the world talked about it and gave their opinions about the issue. Students at Marriotts Ridge High School also had different views. While Snapchat and Instagram are widely used around the world, there are several competitions between the two because Instagram copied Snapchat stories.

BYOD: A Shocking Success or Resounding Failure?



Alan Wright
Staff Writer

Despite much controversy since its introduction in 2015, Bring Your Own Device policies, seem to be leaving a mark on students across Marriotts Ridge. BYOD has been a topic of debate for many schools across the county since the rise of smart phones. Controversy over when phones should be used in class sparked many debates.

Many people are already looking to reform the BYOD system, and students at the Ridge are no different. "I would fix BYOD by creating specific times in class when we [Students] can use our phones," said Junior Geoffrey Osten. Other students feel that they should be allowed to use their phones freely after tests, and if they have finished all their work before the end of class. Overall, the usage of phones during class has been the biggest issue BYOD has faced.

Another issue up for debate is whether or not BYOD has actually enhanced students' learning capabilities. When asked, Ridge students gave mixed answers. "Although I enjoy using my phone in

class, I would not say that it has helped improve my grades," said Junior Luke Blessing.

This response is very common among students who do not use their phone as a tool for note-taking. The tradition paper and pencil seems to be a much more popular choice of note-taking.

Where BYOD is making a positive impact is on classwork and homework. Students now have the ability to complete classwork and homework on their computer or phone without using a single sheet of paper. Online assignments are becoming more and more popular among teachers, and teachers like Mr. Meinhart have even started to post quizzes online.

BYOD, in this regard, has helped students stay more organized and helped prevent them from forgetting to turn in assignments.

"BYOD has increased productivity among students by allowing us easy ways to type and share documents for school," said Junior Cooper Grill. In this regard, BYOD has

learn better with digital tools," said Junior Geoff Osten.

BYOD initiatives are very common throughout the country, including in states like Florida, New York, Utah, and Oregon, according to the US Department of Education.

These policies have a direct link to the digitalization of the 21st century.

The Huffington Post reported that of 400,000 students who took the Speak Up Survey, half said that they are using their mobile devices while doing homework. The same report also claimed that students would benefit more if mobile devices were made available to them in school.

These reports as well as the various BYOD policies throughout the country all seem

to point to the fact that BYOD has been making a positive impact on students, and Marriotts Ridge is certainly no exception to that rule.

been an overwhelming success.

Students have also praised BYOD because it allows for more diversity in a learning environment.

"BYOD has helped students who



The sign that shows the rules of the Bring Your Own Device Policy that can be seen around the school.

THE STALLION

It's Beginning to Look a lot Like Allied Sports Time

Erin Clarke
Staff Writer

As the fall weather approaches so does the beginning of Allied sports, which has been a year-round staple at Marriotts Ridge since 2010. Starting with soccer, then bowling, and ending with softball in the spring, students can learn a lot about teamwork by participating in the program which has games on Monday and Wednesday from 3:00-4:00 p.m. after school. The program has a lively bunch of players this year and everyone in it is very excited for the season to start.

Allied Sports gives students with special needs the opportunity to play sports while being able to socialize and make new friends. It also gives other students the opportunity to help out and become peer helpers.

After being asked what she was most excited about for soccer season, Coach Kim Burke responded by saying, "We have a great group of people this year so I'm very excited to start seeing everyone and working with them."

Junior Mark Claycomb said, "I am excited to get back on the field and start shooting goals."

When people think of Allied Sports, they only think of the players who are playing, but a lot more people

are a part of the program than one may think. The program consists of the players, peer helpers, coaches

of a playful rivalry."

Still, senior peer helper Hannah Shim states, "I believe Centennial

to step up into a leadership position; Josh Vargas is also a great contender.

Coach Burke believes he is one of the strengths of the team, she said, "He has lots of experience and in ways he is the assistant coach because he keeps everyone together on field." However, some strengths can be the attitude the team has at the games.

Hannah Shim says, "Our strength is positivity," while Mark Claycomb says, "Shooting is our strength." No matter what their strengths, all three of them believe that they also have things they can improve.

As far as improvements, Coach Burke says, "We can always work as playing as a team and we strive to work on our skills like working as a team." Teamwork is at the core of what Coach Burke wants them to learn.

Communication is also a major factor in playing a good game. Mark Claycomb says, "We could work on communicating," and it is exactly what they hope to get better at.

Allied Sports has great team this year and MRHS students are ready for the season to start. For additional information, visit room 352, Coach Burke's room.



Allied Soccer Players playing in a game.

and of course all the support they receive from families and friends.

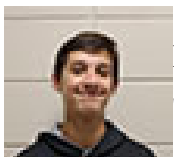
It is not all fun and games with the Allied Program. Starting with their first game on Wednesday, September 21, the Marriotts Ridge team will encounter many worthy opponents during the season, one of them an old coach and teacher from Marriotts Ridge. Coach Doodigian, who now coaches the Reservoir Gators, will be coaching one of their competitors and, as Coach Burke says, "We have fun when we compete with them, it is somewhat

or Mount Hebron will be our toughest opponent," she continues by saying, "They both have rather large teams but we definitely have a great chance of beating them."

As far as leadership goes, both Coach Burke and Hannah Shim agree that Mark Claycomb will begin to fill that position. As Coach Burke states, "Mark sings the national anthem at all our games, including countywide games. He tends to rally team together and we tend to work around Mark."

Mark is not the only player going

Fantasy Football's Return: An Exciting Reality

Daniel Rotter
Staff Writer

Fantasy Football has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 1963, where Cleveland Browns running back and now National Football Hall of Fame member Jim Brown was likely the first pick in that draft. Its growing popularity increases with each coming year, and with the calendar turning over to the beginning of the season, football fans know it's that time of year again!

Fantasy football is an enjoyable and competitive experience for all age groups and it is a great bonding experience. Junior Zach Siegel says why he enjoys playing: "I enjoy playing fantasy football because I like the competition between friends and family, and the good nature it brings out in all of us."

One of the best parts of fantasy football is picking your first round draft pick who will lead your team to the "promise land". Many people

strategize who will be available at their pick and how they can plan their draft around this player. People always have differing opinions on players, which makes fantasy football fun.

When asked about who his favorite player to draft is, senior Max Mahon said, "[New York Giants wide-receiver] Odell Beckham Jr. because he's very good. The Giants are my favorite team, and it's fun to watch him get points for my fantasy team, while watching the Giants win."

The most difficult spot for many is the decision over which to pick should they be fortunate enough to score the number one overall pick in the draft. Everyone ranked highly will obviously be a key contributor on any fantasy team, and it is important to make sure the right guy to carries the team to glory.

Sophomore Brandon Tseytlin shares his insight on which he would select, "My #1 coming into this year is [Pittsburgh Steelers wide-receiver] Antonio Brown. [Washington Redskins cornerback]

Josh Norman who calls himself the best corner in the league can't stop him. He'll beat everyone."

Antonio Brown was a consensus number one overall pick for fantasy football experts, and as a result of that he was taken in that position



The official NFL logo.

in many drafts. So far this year (up to week four), Antonio Brown has produced for the owners who drafted him, putting up 369 receiving yards and four touchdowns.

A surprise to many this year, Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan has been putting up passing yards at a career rate and is the current top scorer in all of fantasy football. After burning the stout Carolina Panthers defense with 503 passing yards, he looks like he is a legit

fantasy starter for the remainder of the year. Another player who has surprised many so far this season has been Tennessee Titans running back DeMarco Murray, who appears to be having a career revival after a down season last year. Murray has accumulated 340 rushing yards and five touchdowns so far and looks to be in line for many more.

Many Marriotts Ridge students compete with each other in the same league, and they are able to have fun and communicate to each other because they see one another on a daily basis.

Junior Hunter Reeling tells us about his league with Marriotts Ridge students: "I've played in the same league for the past three or four years with a lot of the same people from this school. It's really fun because you get to see them everyday and trash talk and discuss trades face to face instead of over text." All football fans be sure to get online and set those lineups each weekend, so that you can defeat your fellow league members and pave your path to glory!

THE STALLION

There is No Rest at Halftime For These Lady Mustangs



Kendall Jackson
Staff Writer

Hard work and dedication are what it takes to participate in sports, and the Marriotts Ridge varsity cheerleaders experience this first hand on a daily basis. With upcoming competitions on

October 8th and October 17th, these Mustangs hope to put this to the test.

Cheerleading is an essential part to our sports teams, games, and overall our school spirit. The Mustangs' job is the keep everyone cheering and excited all throughout any game that is going on, whether it be football, or basketball, or any sport. But it is a lot more than just showing up on game day.

Cheering takes tireless effort and a lot of dedication. They practice as much, if not more than most of our sports teams, and have expectations just like every other team at Marriotts Ridge. On top of performing at games, the girls participate in multiple competitions throughout the fall season, which also takes an unbelievable amount of concentration and effort.

"We prepare for competitions by

practicing from 2:30-4:30 every-day, going over pyramids and every cheer in order for us to be successful." said senior Paige Jones.

competitions. One could only imagine the work it takes to do that.

When asked if the team had any goals for the season, sophomore

Delaney Haggins said, "Our goals for the season are to definitely improve from last year, work on jumps, and tumbling and placing higher than last season." The team placed 4th in counties last year, and lost a lot of seniors last year, which makes for a lot of improvement and rebuilding.



Junior Lily Vasquez cheering at pep-rally.

Different stunts and routines could take up to two months to master for

"There are a lot of differences from last year" said Haggins, "...but

the biggest would have to be all of the new people and teaching them the process and helping them get better."

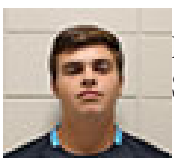
"Having new additions to a team could be a hassle for anyone, but the way the way that the new girls have adapted to our style, and caught up so quick amazes me." says junior Emma Parks.

On top of preparing for competitions towards the end of the season, there is still the task of performing every week at football games. With a lot less preparation time than they have for competitions, the girls have to kick it into overdrive in order to be ready to keep the crowd into the game.

"It takes a lot of preparation for games," said senior Ladejah Owens. "We have to practice our sideline alignments and our positioning 20 minutes after every practice until we are sure we have it down." The girls also have to work on their quarterly routines, which differ based on the game and the quarter.

There is a lot of preparation and hard work that comes with being a Marriotts Ridge Cheerleader. More than probably anyone imagines that it would take, however, in reality, it is one of the harder sports, and one of the most essential to make sure everyone supports our Mustangs.

MRHS Boys Golf Team Hopes to Make a Comeback



Matt Rumrill
Staff Writer

The Boys Golf team looks to make a run at their 5th consecutive state championship this year with seniors Jackson Courtney and Nick Mejia leading the team as they head into their next match on September 27 at Hobbits Glenn. The county this year is filled to the brim with quality teams, such as Glenelg and River Hill according to Nick Mejia and fellow senior John Syzmanski. The team has started undefeated so far, and plans to stay on course all the way to the state finals.

The last time the Boys team lost was when the seniors were in the eighth grade, all the way back in 2012. If they can pull off an undefeated season, Nick Mejia and Jackson Courtney will be undefeated for their whole high school careers, which not many people have ever accomplished in Howard County.

Jackson Courtney said, "Playoffs should be interesting this year with a lot of teams in contention for the county and state titles."

Nick Mejia added, "I think we have a great team, so our chances are pretty high."

And if the success of Mejia and Jackson aren't enough to get students excited about golf, Ryan

Lee hit the first hole-in-one ever for the boys recently. The reaction from the golf team and spectators was the same: amazed by this unbelievable feat. This was the first hole-in-one in history for all of Howard County, and it came from a Mustang. Senior Nick Mejia said, "It was really cool to see someone make history in such an exciting way. We were all thrilled for him."

This is a very special year for the especially the seniors, because the dynasty that has been Marriotts

Ridge Boys Golf may come to an end after this year. Seniors Jackson Courtney and Nick Mejia have been stars for the team since their freshman year.

The absence of Bennett Buch, who



MRHS Boys and Girls Golf teams pose for a picture.

is now playing golf at Maryland, seemed to be a challenge for the team this year, but Nick and Jackson have led the team to victory thus far. Jackson recently had a phenomenal match, tying the county record for points in the match. On his last putt of the day, he had a difficult opportunity to set the new county

record, but barely missed and settled for tying the record. His final score for the day was 4 below par.

In his interview with Brent Kennedy, a reporter for Howard County Sports, Jackson said, "I was pretty bummed, but then again I did tie the record and that felt really good to finally get some success." This great performance was clutch, as it led the Mustangs past top tier team Glenelg. Jackson led the team with 31 points, Junior David Stephens and John Syzmanski had 25 points, and Nick Mejia scored 23 points for the team.

The next match will be the county tournament, individually won by River Hill's Derek Gold last year. Jackson Courtney came in second place last year, but hopes to win it this year as a senior. County championship in hand or not, Jackson Courtney and Nick Mejia will forever have a legacy at Marriotts Ridge for Boys Golf.