

Upgraded Athletic Facilities Benefit AHS Community

by Amy Chen
Section Editor

Over the summer, renovations began on AHS athletic facilities. When school started again in September, the track was resurfaced, the old wooden bleachers were torn down with plans for new bleachers to be put in, a walkway and bathrooms were added, a new turf softball field was put in, and both the Maroon and Gold fields' turf was replaced. It was a massive project that took over two years to plan and \$3.2 million to accomplish.

The project was large but necessary for many different reasons. The Maroon and Gold turf fields were nearing the end of their lifespans and soon would not be able to pass the state-mandated G-max tests, that measure how a playing surface absorbs the shock on an object. The newly recarpeted turf fields are noticeably softer, spongier and a much safer. The increase in friction prevents athletes from falling and the rubber pellets of the field feel much more secure. The fields also dry more efficiently making early morning practices and rehearsals more enjoyable. Senior Danielle Jenkins comments, "The grass has a more realistic feel and the field will be much more presentable for the Arlington High School Marching Band Invitational."

The track was due for a resurfacing as well. After more



The new turf on the Gold field features a fancy anchor logo.

Photo by Sierra Gilette

than a decade of service school, the old track was at risk of not feeling like a track anymore. After so long, running on the track started to feel like simply running on pavement. However, this is no longer a problem thanks to the resurfacing job. Sophomore Amelia Jensen saying, "The track gives runners more lift and gives Arlington a better name."

The entirely new turf softball fields are the result of bringing the softball and baseball teams onto quite literally equal playing fields, with Arlington now being home to both turf baseball and softball fields. Director of Athletics

Michael Cring states, "...we felt like that would make it equal for the girls' softball team with our boys' baseball program, so they would have similar playing fields and they would be equal."

Those who enjoy watching and supporting Arlington athletes can now look forward to showing their school spirit with the comforts of larger bleachers, among the other new amenities. The old, wooden, and unsafe bleachers of the visitors' side have been torn down and are going to be replaced by November with higher bleachers that can seat up to 1,500 people. This will

provide more space for marching band competitions and large football games. These new bleachers will be for Arlington students and the old ones will be for those of the visiting team. The higher bleachers mean that both the press box will be higher, and visibility will be better with viewers now able to see 3,000 people on the field at an event. Not only should the new bleachers be better for the observers, but they will make spotting and competitions better for football and the marching band. Students have enjoyed the new changes that have come with this project.

New Year Brings In New Security Features

by Angela Ye
Section Editor

In preparation for a new school year, Arlington has undergone a number of changes. In the wake of recurrent gun incidents, a new security system has been implemented with multiple features intended to increase safety in the high school. Along with these changes came several issues with the bells and announcements, all of which have been topics of discussion amongst the faculty and students.

The new system is part of the Smart Schools Bond Act, approved by New York voters in 2014. This act, according to nysed.gov, invests in improved educational technology throughout New York state schools. Arlington district voters approved the Smart Schools Bond, and in turn, Arlington instituted the new safety measures starting last year. Enhancements in security are made in the hope of in protecting the students from serious threats; according to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been 304 mass

"... having the safety system is a good thing, even if the bells don't sound great for now." -Sophomore Saumya Gorti

shootings this year in the U.S. as of September 20, 2019.

A significant part of the safety improvements is the integration of the PA and security systems. Richard Carroll, 2021 House Principal and overseer of these changes, described the integration: "Now we have a PA system that's integrated into our phone system, and it is also tied into our automatic lockdown system." Digital clocks, which are connected to the PA and security system, were installed in all classrooms at the end of last year as part of the changes.

Another key feature of the upgraded safety system was the installation of lockdown buttons. These blue buttons are located throughout the school and students are encouraged to press them in a real emergency situation. However, the buttons are extremely powerful and once pushed, a fixed sequence of events begins that cannot be stopped. "Those buttons will call 911 automatically... Multiple police agencies, the fire

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Social Studies Electives Spark Interest

by Azalea Bailey
Staff Writer

Arlington High School offers a variety of electives that provide students with insightful education for recreational or résumé use, and to further help students develop their understanding of the world. The electives that are chosen to be taught at Arlington are meant to cater to the needs of the students and what the circumstances of the present call for. Just this year, two new social studies electives are being offered: 21st Century Issues taught by Ellen McCutcheon, and Black America, A 400 Year History taught by Courtney Grey.

21st Century Issues was an active elective years ago, and this year it has far exceeded the minimum of 15 students needed in order for an elective to run. 54 students signed up to take the course this year. The elective covers controversial topics that are often debated such as climate change, the death penalty, and the First Amendment in schools.

A student taking the course, senior Dakaia Andrew, stated,

"It's an interesting class. We talk about controversial current topics; it's an interactive class." Students are expected to have an understanding of today's climate and come to class updated on current events. McCutcheon noted, "I have a responsibility to establish an atmosphere in the classroom that encourages debate and discussion and that everybody feels a part of the class." In the spirit

"[Black America, A 400 Year History] is intense for me because of all the pictures and you actually feel that you're learning about how people of your race were treated back then."

- Senior Monique Macauley

of engaging conversation, Superintendent Brendan Lyons was a guest speaker for the course recently. "Students have a thirst for discussing and debating current issues that affect them now, or will in the future. Learning how to research an issue, gathering reliable sources and data and then debating that issue intelligently and with respect for opposing views is a crucial skill that students need,"

said Lyons.

Black America, A 400 Year History was added to the course selection guide this year because of Grey and Kathleen McClain, who teaches Spanish 3. They were talking about equity and other issues because they teach many minority students, and it just so happened that the social studies department wanted to offer a new elective. The department voted on

Black America, A 400 Year History, which had never run before, and Grey offered to teach it. The premise of the class is to examine 400 years of contributions of black Americans. Grey noted, "My focus is the positives, but you can't really understand and appreciate the contributions unless you start with the struggles and tribulations that led to the contributions." The course starts with

African kingdoms, then jumps to the Civil War, Reconstruction, civil rights, and ties those in with more modern events like Barack Obama's presidency and the Black Lives Matter movement. A student in the class, senior Monique Macauley, states that the class is "... actually educating us about how things were back then. It's intense for me because of all the pictures and you actually feel that you're learning about how people of your race were treated back then."

These new social studies electives are allowing students to have important dialogue about injustices of the past, present, and possibly the future. The classes 21st Century Issues and Black America, A 400 Year History are safe spaces where students can learn about issues that are important to them and their understanding of the world around them. Whether it's debating about a controversial issue in the news or learning about history from a slave's perspective, these courses provide valuable opportunities for students to broaden their knowledge.

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Should Halloween Always Be On a Saturday Or Keep With Tradition On October 31st?



Pro: Halloween should always be on a Saturday

by **Sierra Gillette**

Photo Editor

Changing the day of Halloween to a Saturday rather than having it fall often on a weekday has become the subject of recent debate. According to an article published in July by the *Chicago Tribune*, over 100,000 people signed a petition on change.org to change Halloween Day to the last Saturday of October. As of Friday, September 20, the petition has reached 148,177 signatures total. The petition was posted by the Halloween and Costume Association, asking the President of the United States to make the holiday official. Their mission is “to promote and grow the safe celebration of Halloween and year-round costumed events throughout North America.”

While some may be attached to the current date of October 31, moving the day of this beloved holiday would have many benefits to all members of the community. It would not only increase the opportunity for better celebration but make it safer to celebrate as well. When Halloween falls on a weekday, a work and school night for most people, scheduling conflicts arise. Working parents struggle to juggle the tasks of getting home, making sure homework is finished, and settling into costumes, while still being able to go trick-or-treating at a decent hour. Changing the day would not only give those responsible for small children more time to get everything done, but ample ability to make the holiday more enjoyable for themselves and their kids.

The day change would not just benefit young children and their parents. Anyone who really loves all that Halloween entails would appreciate having the extra time to get the most out of their day. Students would have more time to get ready before heading out with friends without skipping school and have the next day to

sleep in after being out late. For the working adult, this would alleviate the need to cut out early or possibly calling in sick to work the next day due to partaking in late-night festivities. Moving the holiday to a weekend would eliminate the usual attendance and attentiveness issues associated with Halloween for both working adults and school children.

Those who are truly committed to the Halloween spirit should see that changing the day to the last Saturday of the month enhances the holiday rather than disrespecting it. By making



Con: Halloween should stay on October 31 no matter what

by **Isabella Snider**

Section Editor

For generations, people around the world have put on costumes and spent the night tricking others and treating themselves to the confections given to them at the doorsteps of their neighbors. This celebration started back in modern-day Ireland. The Celts, who once inhabited the land, celebrated their new year on this day because it marked the end of the

dead returned to Earth.” Although the undead were associated with troublesome behavior, they were also believed to give the Celtic priests an insight into the future. To commemorate the occurrence, the Celts dressed up in costumes and sacrificed animals and crops in a bonfire. This 2,000-year-old Celtic tradition has evolved into one of the most beloved modern

(HCA) to move Halloween to the last Saturday of October every year instead of its traditional date. The main reason for this is to eliminate the hassle of working around school hours. For instance, with no school, trick-or-treaters have more time to get into character and parents can take the younger ones out earlier. Likewise, the fact that there is no school the following day as well allows teenagers to stay out longer. Although these perks are beneficial, they do not shadow over the pros of keeping with the annual ritual.

Having Halloween during the school week provides more chances to enjoy the convivial celebration. Students can wear their costumes to school and bring massive bags of candy to share with their peers. Teachers of all grades can plan thrilling activities to get the students in the holiday spirit while teaching the scheduled lesson.

In contrast, if this petition prompted a change, kids would have to wait all day to enjoy the nightly spooky festivities. After school, those who went to school in costume would be left with plenty of time to get their homework done. With homework completed and children ready to go, parents can take the younger ones out while there is still plenty of light.

The biggest reason for the HCA’s petition is the fact that trick-or-treaters cannot stay out long because Halloween is



Halloween safer, easier, and more convenient every year, the possibilities for better festivities and celebrations are endless.

harvesting season and the beginning of a harsh winter. According to the History Channel, it was believed that on the night of October 31, “the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred” and “the

holidays: Halloween. Through the years that followed, the holiday experienced a few tweaks, but the date stayed consistent. However, last year a petition was created by the Halloween and Costume Association

Pumpkin Spice Is Not Very Nice



by **Curious George**
Staff Writer

Greetings fellow students, teachers, and staff. It is my great pleasure to introduce myself to you as this year’s Curious George. Since we probably don’t know each other very well, I’ll share a little about myself to break the ice. I am a senior walking among all of you, unbeknownst by many, and I enjoy the color blue.

Another thing you ought to know about me is that I hate pumpkin spice. Every time I walk into a bakery, café, or Bath and Body Works, my nose is assaulted with the thick blanket of sickeningly sweet and savory holiday smells. Once September 1 rolls around, everyone pulls out their ads, billboards, and coupons advertising the latest in pumpkin fashion. People enjoy pumpkin spice varieties of all things

edible like pancakes and coffee, and that I can understand (to a point). However, if you ARE a person that enjoys the flavor, I have some knowledge to impart upon you. Artificial pumpkin spice flavoring contains about 340 flavor compounds. Since using real spices involves too much variability in potency, food chemists use synthetic materials to better create consistent flavor. According to the *Chemical & Engineering News* publication, cinnamaldehyde replaces cinnamon, eugenol represents clove and allspice, sabinene is used for nutmeg, and zingiberene is used for ginger. They find this specific blend of chemicals by using this funky gadget called a headspace analyzer. Essentially, it is a glass container into which a real pumpkin spice product is sealed and aromas in the form of gases are collected. The aromas are then measured by a gas chromatograph, which measures each component in its exact pro-

portions and can then be used to create the perfect synthetic blend. I do not know about you all, but I would like to be able to pronounce most, if not all, of the ingredients in my food. Cyclotene (maple and brown sugar) and vanillin (vanilla) also play a role in getting that sticky sweet taste you all know and, for some reason, love.

While sometimes these flavors can be appealing, I personally draw the line well before the nonedible side of products. Why someone would want to go around reeking of sugar and nutmeg from September to December is beyond me. I have never had the desire to keep pumpkin spice lotion and hand sanitizer on my person. Frankly, I do not know why anyone would. After even walking past the Yankee Candle store in the mall I have a headache. Imagine being cocooned in the stench all day. I could never do it. Between lotion, hand sanitizer, body

wash, face masks, hair products, candles, dog shampoo, and even deodorant. America’s obsession has gotten out of hand. Once again, I ask why people willingly douse themselves in the stuff.

Are people simply that invested in the holiday season? Is it for the aesthetic? If the latter is true, I would not be surprised if the consumption of pumpkin spice

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Local Elections Matter

by **Gigi Goldfischer**
Editor-in-Chief

It seems that we often hear reminders to vote, utilize your privilege of living in a democracy, and take action to directly make your voice heard. However, it is also not uncommon to hear about the crisis of low voter turnout, especially for local elections. Unfortunately, these less popular elections actually may arguably be some of the most impactful ones. Arlington social studies teacher Noreen Mills-Martin, who is running for the Dutchess County Legislature in District 8, tells, "Local elections are the most important elections. Many people vote in presidential or gubernatorial elections because of the high level of government. Frequently people don't vote in an election like this one known as an 'Off Year.' However, you as a citizen have more power in a local election by virtue of the fact that you are electing your neighbors who will represent you on a town council or at the county level. You have the power to determine your representative."

Though the presidential

election and midterms may seem like the only elections that truly matter in the big picture, the question of which politicians will represent one's city or county will actually impact a citizen's daily life much more than one or two people representing an entire state or nation. For example, local politicians typically have responsibilities related to issues such as local schools, policing and public safety, affordable housing, public transportation, and recycling options. Margaret Fallon, an Arlington social studies teacher who is running for the Town Council of Stanford explains, "People always joke about one vote making a difference, but literally last year in the town of Pine Plains, it came down to one vote...I would also argue that I completely believe that national issues are very important, but for most people, it's the local issues that affect them on a day-to-day basis -- the things

that are happening in their backyard."

No matter what issue you feel passionate about, voting on all levels will help you to voice your opinion and take action. There is also a long history of impactful American policies beginning at the local and state level. Policies such as environmental protection, marriage equality, minimum wage, gay marriage, and women's suffrage

are the very base of democracy upon which all else is rooted."

Voting should also be looked at in the broader context, as elections are a right and a luxury that many have been and still are denied. It took centuries of America's history and

it did not come easy. Eventually, however, the vote became a sort of equalizer in America; regardless of one's wealth, class, ethnicity, religion, gender, or anything else, every citizen gets to have one vote. There are also countless other countries in the world with tyrannies, monarchies, and other non-democratic institutions where citizens are denied the privi-

lege of having a say in their country's politics. Therefore, it seems almost disrespectful to simply throw away a vote that so many long for. So, on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, be sure to head out to the polls because this one counts. Even if you are not free on that day, New York State has early voting this year, so if you are registered to vote, you can participate in early voting at five different locations in Dutchess County from October 26 through November 3. Even students who are still not of voting age can still make a difference in these elections by encouraging and reminding parents and peers to vote. For more information on how and where to vote, visit www.vote411.org, and visit local politicians' websites to learn their opinions to decide who to vote for. Mills-Martin sums up, "Please vote. Election Day is the one day in our nation where everyone is completely equal. Everyone gets one vote. It does not matter who you are or where you live, so please use your power and vote".

"... I completely believe that national issues are very important, but for most people, it's the local issues that affect them on a day-day basis..."

- Social Studies Teacher Margaret Fallon

all had to begin on a local level before they eventually became national. Although a lack of action on a federal level may be frustrating, do not discount the importance of your community. Fallon notes, "Really, local governments are the engine of democracy. That's how our governments were created, this idea of having local control, and really everything flowing

Keep Halloween On October 31

Continued from Page 2 normally on a school night. On the contrary, this is a gift in disguise because it forces kids to come home early instead of allowing them to stay out too late when it is considered dangerous for young adults. Even parents of energetic, sugar-filled little rascals who refuse to go home can use the fact that they have school the next day as an extra push for their persuasion.

Adults and kids alike have honored the same tradition of dressing up and going

from door to door in search of sweets for longer than America has been a country. Although elements have been changed or added to the holiday, Halloween has always signified the very same beliefs of the ancient Celts from many years ago. Every year that we celebrate it, we are honoring those values on the day that was once held sacred. Breaking the tradition now would leave the ghosts of the Celts, who gifted the world with this holiday, in despair.

Stop Rushing the Holiday Season

Continued from Page 2 products leads to the psychosis that causes people to start decorating for Christmas in September. Fake Christmas trees, wreaths, and other assorted gift-giving paraphernalia have hit the shelves and are selling fast. Whatever happened to Halloween and Thanksgiving? As a nation, we have begun to push the holiday season earlier and earlier. At this rate, we might really start celebrating Christmas in July.

The timespan from September to December always feels so rushed, and there is always so much pressure to buy, buy, buy and give, give, give. If we left the calendar in the order it has been in for hundreds of years, I have a feeling we would be much less stressed during the season. Of course, there is something to be said for buying gifts early before malls are packed and stores

run out of toys faster than they restock, but how early is too early? Black Friday is when most people start, but even then we have to have Thanksgiving first. If your intention is to wake up at the crack of dawn and get in line for a shop, your focus will not be on spending time with family and friends and the turkey. It will be on rushing through the day to get to bed early just to get up early to buy presents for Christmas. You can see how the backup is created.

During the holiday season, stay safe and aware of the hypnotic capabilities of pumpkin spice, folks.

Until next time,

Curious George

Climate Action Club Meets



Photo by Sam Falk

The new Climate Action Club meets in Room 2509 on Wednesdays. Pictured is the club's first meeting on September 25. Contact advisor Jacob Lawrence (jlawrence@acsdny.org) with any questions.

Do you like to write, draw, or take pictures?

Come Join the Arlingtonian!

Our first meeting of the year will be after school on Tuesday, October 8 in room 2302.

Be there or be square!

Change Comes To the South House



Photo by Jasmine Zoha

South House Office Acting Assistant Principal Christopher Quaranto (left) and Acting Principal John Timm (right) pose in front of their offices.

by **Jasmine Zoha**

Section Editor

This year, the South House Office experienced a change in its administration. Previously the Assistant Principal, John Timm is now undertaking the role of Acting House Principal. Christopher Quaranto, who formerly taught at LaGrange Middle School, is now

tackling the responsibilities of Acting Assistant Principal. Hilary Roberto, the South House Principal until this year, has moved on to the role of Supervisor of Human Resources at Central Office.

Before before this year, Timm taught for 13 years in the Business department and worked as an assistant principal for eight years. As Acting House Principal, Timm

states that much of what he does now is very similar to what he did before. However, he also says, "My role, as Dr. Fanuele put it... is more proactive than reactive," in regards to handling situations that the office has to deal with. So far, the new position has entailed more responsibility, but he is still around the same kids that he has always worked with. Timm says,

"I watched them enter as freshmen, and I'm really excited to watch them cross the stage".

Roberto's new position is much different from her previous one. As the House Principal of the Class of 2020, she worked with students and teachers every day. In contrast, Roberto now meets staff members and students from all over the district. While she is excited to support the district in her new position, Roberto states that she does miss her senior class. Timm says about Roberto, "[I] know she's one phone call away, and I take advantage of that because she wants what's best for this group of kids as well."

Entering an administrative role for the first time, Quaranto is facing significant change. He has been a part of Arlington since he started kindergarten in this district. After graduating college, Quaranto taught at LaGrange Middle School for 12 years. One of the biggest challenges that he is dealing with now is learning how the systems in the high school work, as they are different from what he experienced at the middle school. However, since he is working with the seniors, this task is made marginally easier. Quaranto says that "The good [part] is that [the students] already know the systems... the bad part is, once I build the relationships, they're going to be gone". Additionally, Quaranto notes how he does miss the "little family" that he built at the middle school by saying, "... Not having that interaction is probably what I miss most." In contrast, one of the best experiences for Quaranto has been continuing to work with students and seeing the students that he has previously taught. "The best part for me is kind of seeing how Arlington has made them into what [the students] are today - moving on to, hopefully, bigger and better things," states Quaranto.

While Timm, Roberto, and Quaranto are all adapting to changes with their new positions, they are all excited for the years ahead. Regardless of their job titles, all three remarked on the common aspect that they are all looking forward to working with students and watching them grow.

New Year Brings In New Safety Features

Continued from Front

department, the EMS will come very quickly to our school. It will automatically set the lockdown system in place," explained Carroll. There are security cameras monitoring all lockdown alarms that can see the individual that sets off an alarm; the buttons must only be used in serious situations and not as a joke.

As a byproduct of the installation of the new system, the PA and bell volumes have been problematic throughout the first few weeks of the school year. The PA system is still being fine-tuned to accommodate the security changes. Students have mixed opinions regarding the new system. According to sophomore Brianna Nechifor, "The PA

The PA system is still being fine-tuned to accommodate the security changes.

system is messed up because of the new clocks and speakers. We, the students, don't even know the exact time a class ends, we only knew the position the minute hand was in... The bells changing pitch is so annoying and the morning announcements rarely ever work too." Sophomore Saumya Gorti voiced an opposing opinion on the subject; "Public spaces are not as safe as they used to be anymore and it's a constant worry nowadays. So having the safety system is a good thing, even if the bells don't sound great for now".

The effort to work out the defects and problems with the security system is ongoing, but many think it is worth it. In the words of Carroll, "It's designed to keep us safer and to enact a system quickly if a lockdown is ever warranted."

Students At Vassar Protest Climate Change

Friday September 20, 2019, students all around the world took to the streets during and after school to raise awareness about the crisis of climate change. These global climate strikes were inspired by 16 year old climate activist Greta Thunberg, who spoke at the protest in New York City. Millions of students attended protests in hundreds of countries, sending a global message of students' fear for the future of the Earth.



Photo by Gigi Goldfischer

Students marched at Vassar College on September 20 to increase awareness for the climate crisis.



Photo Courtesy of Emma Stack

AHS seniors Emma Stack (top left), Kayla Hartney (top right), Robyn Lemieux (bottom left), and Anna Spendley (bottom right) are pictured at Vassar College, showing support for the climate change cause.