

## Gaithersburg Gets a New Principal

By Matthew Watson

After 11 years of serving as Principal of Gaithersburg High School, the time has come for Dr. Christine Handy to pass the torch.

Starting July 1, for the 2018-2019 school year, Mr. Cary Dimmick will become the new principal of GHS, as Dr. Handy steps down from her role.

Dimmick is the current principal of Sligo Middle School in Silver Spring and a 24-year resident of Montgomery County. Starting out as an elementary physical education teacher, Dimmick worked his way up to high school and was then recommended to pursue administration. GHS will be a new challenge for him, especially since student enrollment is nearly three and a half times that of Sligo, but this fact is not daunting to Dimmick.

"I truly, truly, love what I'm doing, [and] not everyone can say that," Dimmick happily explained. "I really love being in the schools, and I'm so excited about coming [to GHS]. I'm hearing so many amazing things about the kids and the staff, so I'm just ready to get started!"

For short-term goals, Dimmick seeks to form good relationships with the students and will get to know the different clubs that are offered at GHS, a school with "a rich tradition, one that goes back so far" Dimmick remarks.

As for long-term goals, he is interested in increasing the graduation rate and helping students become more academically involved. "It's hard in a school of 2,500 kids," Dimmick notes, "But we're really trying to get to know each and every kid the best we can, and try to provide them with as quality of an education pertaining



Photo Credit: MCPS

to them as we can."

This change in administration is a result of Dr. Handy being elected president of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, where she'll be Chairman of the Board of Directors and advocate for principals across the nation.

When asked about what she will miss about GHS, Dr. Handy heartfully responded with "Everything. I've been here for 11 years, and it is part of my soul, part of my heartbeat, [and] what drives me everyday"

Dimmick will pick up where Dr. Handy has left off, as he wants to "encourage

students, and really help them find their direction."

He further expressed an emphasis on "adults pushing kids' interests," explaining how a college professor helped him discover that his passion wasn't in police work, but with teaching, and now, administration.

As the focus of high school is getting students ready for college and careers, Dimmick is looking forward to the opportunities he'll have to help students learn, grow, and prepare for their future. He wants students to "keep an open mind

about education, all the different things in this world you can do and make a career out of. Challenge yourself and go out there!"

This shift in school leaders means students can expect changes next school year. This may feel different for kids, especially since Dr. Handy has been leading the school for 11 years.

She knows students are ready for the adjustment and advises all students to "Keep being amazing... and to keep up their Trojan Pride, and really show Mr. Dimmick what Gaithersburg is all about."

## Are Gun Control Laws in Our Hands?

By Andrea Paredes Rodriguez

Gun control laws have reached a peak in debate, and the American youth are at the forefront of the discussion, leading protests and speaking boldly to lawmakers about student safety.

On February 14, the deadly shooting in Parkland, Florida resulted in the killing of 17 students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

The shooting sparked a new chapter within the ongoing argument of gun law reform, with many students calling on lawmakers to make it harder to access guns, especially for young people.

"I think it's great that they're saying 'thoughts and prayers,' but it doesn't do anything. And after every single shooting that's what they say over and over, but nothing ever changes," said Carly Novell, a student from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in an interview with Time magazine. Novell hid in a closet for two hours to escape the gunman.

The day following the school shooting in Parkland, a Clarksburg student, Alwin Chen, was caught in school with a loaded weapon and arrested. Chen was sentenced to four months in prison, along with therapy, reported by TheBlaze on April 25.

On March 20, another shooting took place at Great Mills High School in Lexington Park, MD. Austin Wyatt Rollins opened fire on an ex-girlfriend before first period and injured another student, before turning the weapon on himself, after the

school's Resource Officer intervened.

"It hits home for a lot of people because you just never know and we can't control it unless we do something like walkouts and marches," said GHS freshman Gabrielle Mattson. In an effort to make



change, students have been speaking up in numbers through protests and school walkouts since February.

However, some wonder why students waited until after the tragedy to speak out. "People say things after mass shootings because there's a lot of people who fear having a voice and being the odd one out," said sophomore Jaylen Austin. "It's a lot of pressure when you're the only voice being heard."

The organizers of the Inaugural Day Women's March planned a nationwide walkout for March 14 that lasted for 17 minutes – one minute for each life lost in

the Parkland shooting. This was the first organized effort to bring together teenagers across the country, explained the Associated Press. Thousands of students participated in the walkout, including those in MCPS, but some schools began threatening to punish students for taking part.

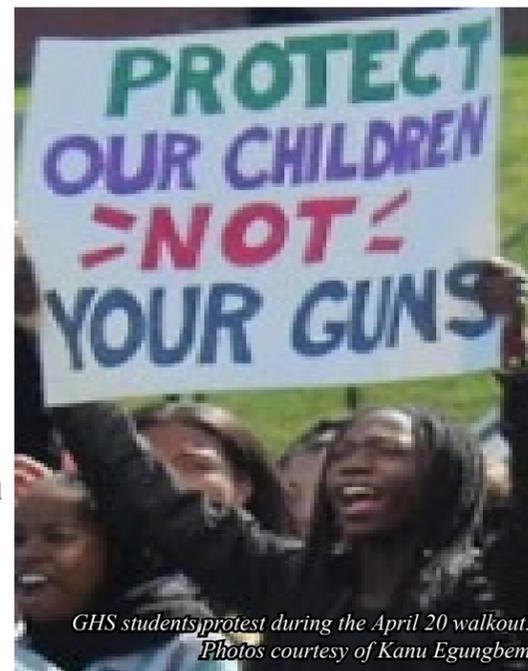
"We want our Congress to know that some of us will be old enough to vote in the midterm elections, and the rest of us are going to be able to vote in 2020 or 2022, and they're going to lose their job if they don't do what we want to keep us safe," said Fatima Younis, a student organizer with the group Women's March Youth Empower, one of the lead coordinators of the walkout and a student at Frederick Community College in Frederick, Maryland.

The March for Our Lives took place on March 24 in Washington D.C. and student protestors gathered to call elected official's attention to gun reform. Student advocates from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School led the protest and the event attracted support and attendance from celebrities and government officials alike.

Demonstrations were also held on April 20, in commemoration of the Columbine High School shooting which occurred in 1999,

also brought awareness for gun control. High schools across the country organized walkouts and students marched peacefully in an effort to get their voices heard.

"[People are realizing] that it's a big deal and it means something, and voicing your opinion could make a change," explained Mattson, one of the organizers for the April 20 GHS student walkout. "When you teach kids that standing up for something could make a difference, it helps kids want to go make a difference. Your voice does matter."



GHS students protest during the April 20 walkout. Photos courtesy of Kanu Egungbemi

# Teens for Governor

By Matthew Watson

Six Kansas teenagers are running for state governor after the discovery of a loophole within Kansas law that does not restrict the age for someone to run for office.

The running of these teens has caused lawmakers to seek the enactment of a bill that requires future candidates for any government position in Kansas to be at least 18 years old and have been a resident of the state for at least four years.

These high school students have received criticism from many adults, and even mockery by networks such as Fox News.

But to those who might think that these teens are running just as a stunt or joke, Jack Bergeson, the teen who started the movement, thinks otherwise.

"I may be too young to vote, but I am not too young to see the problems in Kansas that the government should be, but is not, working to fix," Bergeson stated on his official website. "As a student of the Kansas school system, I am inspired to make changes to education and infrastructure through a simple tax reform plan that will benefit the middle and lower classes...overlooked by our current administration."

Bergeson further expressed the need for a strong voice for Liberals and Moderates in a mainly Republican state such as Kansas.

"I personally think that the young people of Kansas are doing great things for the future," noted Helen Snyder, junior and secretary of the SGA. "While it

might seem unethical that a minor would be a part of big decisions regarding the state, I believe that it is their right to have a voice in their community."

Five other teens have joined the race following the 17-year-old Democrat's initial run. Such teens include 18-year-old Dominic Scavuzzo, Republican, who seeks to raise the minimum wage and work towards legalizing marijuana if elected, and Lucy Steyer, Democrat, who began her run for secretary of state in November, excited to "engage young voters and to engage political involvement among all ages," the 17-year-old told The Hutchinson News.

When asked if she would support a Maryland teen running for state governor, Snyder replied, "I would be skeptical of the idea...but I do believe that there should be a way that they could have their voice heard."



Original Artwork by Amilcar Arce

**If you were governor,  
what impact would you make?**

**"I would increase the budget for the school system and fund more clubs and activities."**

-Jack Schelling, sophomore

**"I would improve lunches so students could have better food at school."**

-Teddy Chavez, freshman

**"I would improve the lights in neighborhoods."**

-Kelvin Boakye, sophomore

**"The first thing I would do is start programs for kids who drink or do drugs."**

-Noah Castro, sophomore

**"I would want to raise awareness about groups and clubs in schools."**

-Enrique Antonio Chaurand, senior

**"I would bring in more security into schools. I would make sure teachers have better safety training to make sure the students are safe."**

-Aly Segovia, sophomore

Compiled by Rachel Allen

# 'Avengers' Leaves Students Surprised and Sore

By Evan Handy

**"I knew it was going to be good, but I wasn't expecting it to be *that* good. I like the way Thanos was used, and how he was super strong. He wasn't your typical Marvel villain, and while it was a rough watch, it was still fun."**

-Albert Cabutaje, junior

**"It was an overall great movie. A shocker to most. The characters had great backgrounds and development leading up to it, and I cannot wait for the next one to come out."**

-Luna Rodriguez, freshman

**"In Marvel movies, every hero is so relatable. 'Infinity War' brought many fans of different heroes together and showed [that] the superheroes aren't always going to win, they can't always save the civilians, and they're going to have their downfalls."**

-Marcelo Sanchez, sophomore



The much awaited Marvel film "Avengers: Infinity War" has hit the big screen, and it has taken the world by storm.

With a cumulative ten years of production and several years of speculation and suggestion, did it truly live up to the hype?

The short answer would be a definite yes. With an 8.9 out of 10 on IMDb, an 84% on Rotten Tomatoes, and a 5 out of 5 on Common Sense Media, most agree that the film was a smashing success. Add that to its record as the highest grossing opening weekend at a whopping \$257,698,183, and this movie has the potential to be one of the fiscally greatest films of all time.

But the movie is far from the rainbows and sunshine that its numbers project. Many have marveled over the movie's now notoriously dark writing, which have left many feeling upset

"It kinda hurt watching the movie," said junior Albert Cabutaje. "I was hoping it would turn out better."

With a genocidal main antagonist and a penchant for bloodshed, it's no wonder the film has left many surprised and somewhat sore. Yet the numbers don't lie, and with high reviews and plenty of exposure, it appears the movie's dark tones haven't put too many off.

"I think a lot of people thought that it would work out differently than it did," said junior Eric Hoang. "I can see why some people would get upset."

And despite feelings of sorrow at the movie's dark plot, even the disgruntled admit it was a fun ride.

"It was still a great movie," said Mathieu Landry, senior. "It went against all expectations and I can appreciate the change in narrative."

**"I thought the movie was great. It was a huge shocker, and there were many, many plot twists leading up to the end, which was a huge surprise. Overall though, I think it was a great movie and I can't wait to see the next one."**

-Natalie Springer, freshman

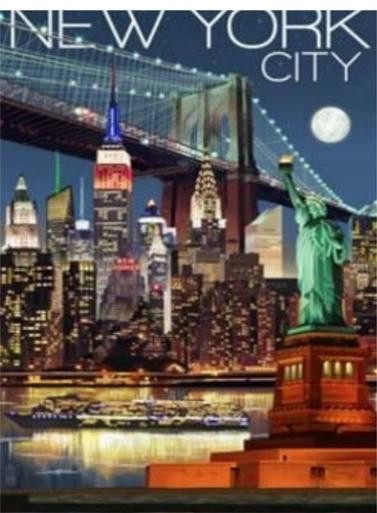


# Summer Travel: How Far Will You Go?



Compiled by Rachel Allen

**New York City!**  
"I am most excited about seeing the city and shopping."  
-Briana Bell, junior



AllPosters.com

**New York City!**  
"I am most excited about seeing my extended family."  
-Julianne Barros, freshman

**Moscow, Russia!**  
"I am most excited about meeting family."  
-Valery Simonyan, sophomore



Moscow.Info

**Atlanta!**  
"I am most excited about going to the beach, seeing family and riding roller coasters."  
-Angedes Makuikila, sophomore

**Honduras!**  
"I am excited to see all of the landscape and my family."  
-Kimberly Castillo, freshman

**Spain!**  
"I am most excited about seeing the views."  
-Mia Aguiar, sophomore

**Philippines!**  
"I am most excited about being away from this place."  
-Adam Barcia, sophomore

**Morocco!**  
"I am most excited about seeing my family."  
-Hana Khalafallah, junior

**Iceland!**  
"I'm most excited to hike on volcanos and take pictures."  
-Kanu Egungbemi, senior

**Cancun, Mexico!**  
"I am most excited to see the beach and my family."  
-Chris Morones, sophomore

**Canada!**  
"I am most excited about visiting my family."  
-Okitto Bailey, sophomore



WorldAtlas.com

**Miami!**  
"I am most excited about going to the beach because I want to get tan."  
-Lesly Alvarado, sophomore



visiflorida.com

**Florida!**  
"I am most excited to see palm trees and the weather."  
-Christian Marsh, senior

**Louisiana!**  
"I'm most excited about seeing my grandparents."  
-Riley Coleman

**El Salvador!**  
"I am most excited to see places and meet new family members."  
-Diego Daza, sophomore



mapsland.com

**El Salvador!**  
"I am most excited to see my pets that live there."  
-Sabrina Cruz Hernandez, junior

**El Salvador!**  
"I am most excited about riding my horse!"  
-Erika Ramirez Aguilar, freshman

# Congratulations Graduates!



Photo courtesy of Mrs. Nilda Keres

Dear Gaithersburg High School,

*With a heavy heart I leave you  
Still full of Trojan Pride  
A wonderful journey we both shared  
I really enjoyed the ride*

*These halls we walked together  
Now permanent memories  
To Parents, Students, Staff, and Friends  
You became my family*

*I'll never forget Homecoming  
And Pep Rallies full of pride  
These are things I'll cherish  
Even though they made me  
nervous inside*

*New Clubs brought us all closer  
Team awards we still display  
And things folks thought would break us  
Brought us closer—we do not sway*



## Principal's Farewell



hessedu.com

*As State and District Champions  
Together we made the trip  
AP participation and scores went up  
Blue and Gold became Blue Chip*

*With committed staff and a new school  
Our spirit was hard to hide  
We are Trojans together  
And always full of Trojan Pride*

*I'll never forget the After Prom  
Great Parents and Great Mayors  
And #mygaithersburg  
Refuting all naysayers*

*International nights were amazing  
So were Football, Baseball,  
and Basketball games  
Our Poms, Chorus, Band,  
and Cheerleaders  
Too many to try and name names*

*Track, Swimming, Softball, Gymnastics,  
Bocce, and Tennis  
Wrestling, Field Hockey, Soccer,  
Lacrosse, Volleyball, and ROTC  
Academies, CTE, PLTW,  
AOF, and AOT  
Made GHS a better school  
For all the world to see*

*I want you to know I love you  
And I'll miss you everyday  
What an exciting time we had  
More than mere words can convey*

*Trojan Pride Forever  
Now wouldn't that be dandy  
What an incredible journey it has been—  
Love Dr. Christine Handy*



Photo Courtesy of Dr. Handy

## THE TROJAN TIMES STAFF

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Andrew Howe  
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Kanu Egungbemi  
Nery Espana  
Rosie Guevara  
Kevin Montique  
Melanie Rojas  
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