

# The Troll



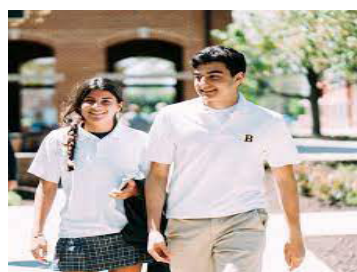
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Oakland Mills High School

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## Beneath The Headlines



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## OM Will No Longer Run on Dunkin

*It's Lights Out For the Local Dunkin Donuts*

Avery Oduro-Dompreh  
Staff Writer

It comes as a surprise to the Oakland Mills community, and a major blow to Oakland Mills High Schoolers, that the Oakland Mills Village Center's Dunkin Donuts will be permanently closing on April 4th. This is a result of OMHS parents and community members urging a petition to have the location closed, because of the proximity it has to the school. This prompts students to break school conduct and leave the campus in favor of visiting the fast food joint. Not only does the petition



ing community view this as a disruption of the student's learning, but also a huge safety concern. As a result, on March 28th the Dunkin Donuts headquarters broke their silence and revealed that they'd be permanently closing the location.

Of course, this has caused a discrepancy between the community with students being outraged. An

anonymous sophomore at OMHS exclaimed "This sucks. Pizzaman doesn't even open until 10:30!" Ola Odeseye, a junior at OMHS, came to a similar sentiment saying "I'm very upset, I love their hashbrowns. That's so not fair to everyone." Surprisingly, even some OMHS staff are against the closing of the Dunkin Donuts. This is evident with

Ms. Anderson-Little, a teacher at OMHS, and Dr. Fink, the school's principal, stated "I'm very upset about this. I go to the Dunkin like two or three times a week. They know me. I also get to see OM alumni faces everytime I go" and "That is a shame because of how much they support the growth of the village center and provide lunch for the student body." However, the school's staff whose responsibilities are more directly catered to student protection are all for the closing.

*Continued on Page 20*

## Graduation Update

*New Changes to Come*

Oba Aofolaju  
Staff Writer

Years of academic studies lead up to graduation, which is the finale, the closing of one chapter and the beginning of a new one. However, this year, graduation may look a little different than we are used to. According to administration, graduation has been pushed back to June which may impact seniors who wish to attend the annual senior week celebration held in Ocean City, Maryland. The late graduation date

also means that the seniors' last day of school will also be later than anticipated. Graduation is set to be held on Wednesday, May 31st, 2023 at 7 pm on the OM football field. This is a shock as Oakland Mills was given the last slot for graduation.

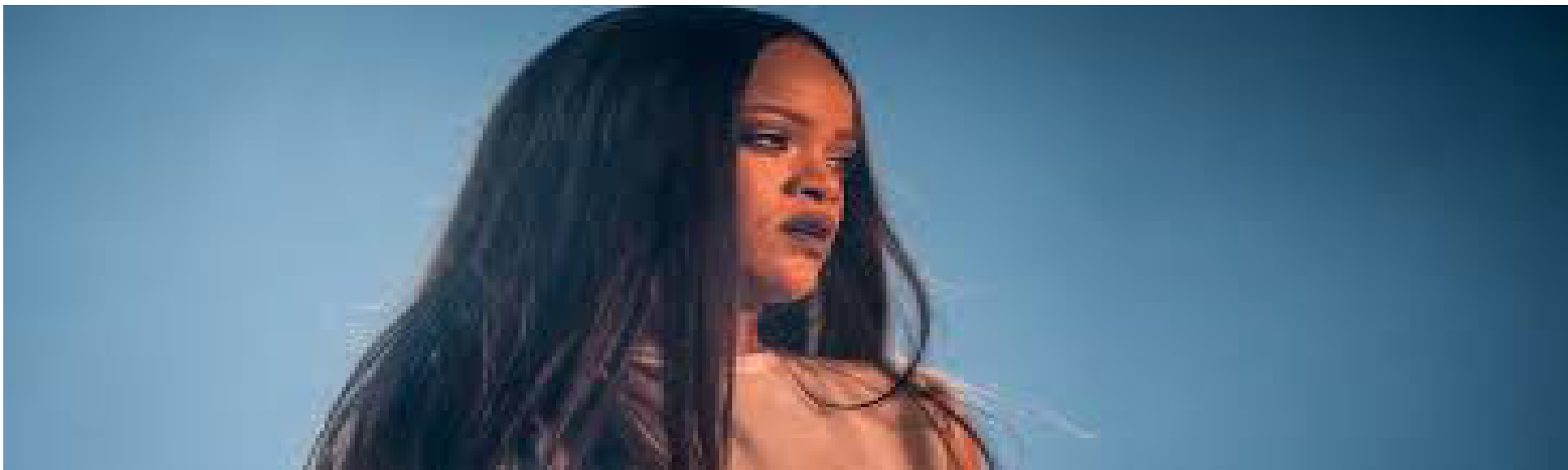
Other than the venue, we can expect to see several new changes to the traditional ceremony. Students can only bring two guests to the event this year, and giving out extra

tickets is prohibited. Parking is also limited in some areas and must be paid for in advance. Graduation caps and gowns will be orange, not black as they have been previously. The reason behind this change is due to the Josten company designs that they made for our school. To help graduation run smoothly, children under the age of 12 will not be allowed to attend. Graduation will begin with the choir leading the crowd with the "Star Spangled

Banner" and conclude with a performance from our very own choir teacher, Dr. Coleman. Cameras and phones will be prohibited during the commencement ceremony. County-issued photographers will be photographing the event and can be asked to take pictures as needed by the audience.

The Scroll wishes all the seniors the best as they close out their high school careers. Much love to the class of 2023!

Rihanna’s New Album  
Long Awaited New Music



Amy Dominguez  
Features Editor

Attention all Rihanna fans! The most anticipated album finally has a release date! Many fans from all over the world have been waiting many years for Rihanna to release a new album since her last album, Anti, in 2016. This past week, Rihanna released a

Twitter statement stating, “R9 will be released on April 4! Thank you all for the love and support.”

Her newest album containing 11 songs will be released on April 4th, 2023. Following her Super Bowl performance, there was a massive amount of hype for the new album. Many fans wanted the album

to be released as soon as possible, and Rihanna finally made it happen.

R9 does not disappoint. Many fans are excited about the new album, and the hype will only grow when the album is officially released. A few days before the album release, Rihanna celebrated with partner A\$AP Rocky. Tabloids

show the pair having a fancy dinner together, celebrating with their friends and family.

Many fans continue to hype up the album. It might even be a contender for Album of the Year! Be sure to check out R9 now, available wherever you get your music!

Goodbye Canvas!

HCPSS to Switch Learning Management Systems

James Wheelock  
Staff Writer

This year will be the final year Canvas will be active in the Howard County Public School System. The Board of Education has decided against using the educational assistance tool, and plans for what comes next have yet to be announced. Canvas was used as a streamlined service for many school related tasks like assignments, quizzes, and accessing grades. Without this, students will not be able to access anything from Canvas, meaning all data for students will be removed. This sudden termination of

Canvas has started an uproar in some teaching communities. Teachers are split on the termination, with the strongest opinions coming from teachers who had taught outside of Howard County before.

The outcry from both sides has been heard county-wide. Rayan Omar, a junior at Long Reach High School, said, “I wouldn’t care” since he only uses Canvas to view his grades.

Teachers of Oakland Mills have surprisingly not shown much care about the situation either. OMHS English



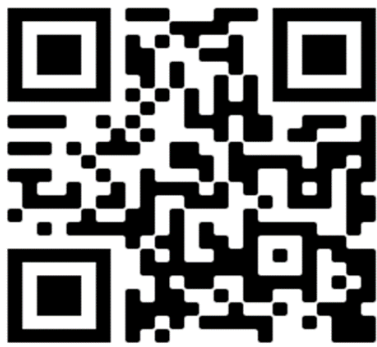
teacher Ms. Natario claims she, “... would rejoice” since some colleges are going back to their roots of using less technology which she believes will also happen to high schools. The shutdown of

Canvas in Howard County has prompted the speculation of many across the county. Parents of students have begun to panic when realizing they might not be able to keep up with their children’s academic career as closely as before. Stressing about this issue, the Board of Education has begun to receive numerous emails wondering what will replace Canvas in the coming years. The Board has yet to speak on the new system but a statement is planned to release before the next year of school that will reveal the program and presumably resolve all parental concerns.

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## No More Phones? New Dress Code?

### *Take a look at OMHS's Newest Set of School Rules*

**Rebecca Fairbanks**

*Managing Editor*

In the beginning of each school year, students and faculty are reminded of the school policies that are in place to keep an orderly and safe learning environment. As this school year has progressed, it seems many of us have lost sight of some of those rules and strayed away from the orderly learning environment that we would all like to have.

The new rules and regulations that were presented at the start of the third quarter in Scorp Time classes have been seemingly ignored. But do not worry, I am here to let everyone know about each and every rule so that we are all on the same page and on the way back to a wonderfully, organized, and orderly school environment!

The first set of rules is about hallway etiquette and proper classroom behavior. Complaints, especially from teachers about classroom and hallway behavior by students, have led administration to modify current rules to make them more strict and result in a more organized school environment.

#### **No phones in the classroom**

If a student is seen with a phone, teachers are required to immediately confiscate it. The parent/guardian of the student will be required to come to the front office to get the student's phone back. Teachers have reported an increase of students being distracted because they are on their phones. This rule will hold students accountable in the classroom and create a more focused learning environment. It also will teach students proper manners in the classroom and to be respectful of teachers and their lessons. **Students need to walk in single file lines in the hallway and use inside voices.**

All students can agree that walking in these hallways is a challenge and can be dangerous. To eliminate the danger and chaos of traveling between classes, cones and hallway dividers will separate the hallways in half to force single file lines and walking in an orderly fashion. Any students that cross the lane dividers, touch the cones, or that scream will be reported by hallway monitors and receive a consequence.

#### **No use of profane language**

Anyone who walks down the hallway



is destined to hear one or more students use profanity. This will be no more. Any student who uses profanity will immediately be sent to the principal's office and receive a consequence. If a student is caught using profanity more than once, they could qualify for suspension. OMHS has installed new security cameras that record both audio and video throughout classrooms and hallways, enabling all students using profanity to be caught and punished.

#### **Conduct cards will be issued to all students**

Conduct cards are a great way for students to be held accountable for their actions. Each time a student is caught breaking a school rule, they will receive a demerit. If a student loses their conduct card or receives four demerits, they will receive an automatic detention and a week suspension from school activities.

The next set of rules are about the dreaded school dress code. There have been many complaints from students, faculty, and parents about certain articles of clothing that have been seen around the school, and our administration wants to put a stop to it.

#### **No crop tops or shirts that show mid-riffs**

This rule is being put in place to preserve the idea of modesty. Many of the complaints have discussed the point that there is a lack of modesty in the school because of the amount of bare skin that is shown from both male and female students, which has also been deemed as distracting for a school environment.

#### **No unnaturally colored hair**

This rule bans the option for students to color their hair a color that is not natural. Natural hair colors include brown, blonde, black, or natural red. People have reported that unnaturally colored hair is a distraction in the classroom, especially brightly colored hair.

#### **No ripped articles of clothing**

This rule does not allow any students to wear clothing that has rips or lacerations in it, whether that be jeans, leggings, or shirts. Many complaints have been raised because of ripped clothing, stating that it is immodest and inappropriate for a school environment. Also, some students have experienced bullying from wearing ripped clothes with other students making rude comments that they got their ripped jeans 50% off, raising the assumption that a student has no other option to wear clothes without rips, which is not always true.

#### **No more than one ear piercing can be worn**

Some students and faculty have raised complaints that students wearing jewelry on their face (whether that be on their nose, lips, or eyebrows) or many ear piercings is distracting within a school environment. This rule intends to help to create an appropriate school environment.

I spoke to one of our assistant principals, Mr. McCaskill, to get an administrative perspective about these new school rules and regulations. When asked about the new dress code policy, he expressed that he is happy these rules are being put in place because they will force students to focus more on their academic responsibilities rather than theirs or someone else's appearance, which will aid in making the classroom environment more focused. McCaskill does believe that enforcing the new phone policy will be the most difficult, but he "believe[s]" in the teachers to stick to these new rules." He also explains that he hopes that "students at OM will understand that we are trying to make the school more safe and academically friendly, therefore, changes are necessary." It is great to have a very supportive and motivated administration that is striving for the best possible school environment!

It is important that the entire school body is aware of these new rules so that we can work together to make OM even stronger together and a better place for everyone. If anyone has questions, comments, or concerns about these new rules, all teachers and administrators are happy to answer them!

# Taylor Swift Announces Retirement

## Ending Career After Era’s Tour

**Beatriz Alves**  
*Staff Writer*

For those who do not know, Taylor Alison Swift is an American singer, songwriter, actress, producer, and director. She has been famous worldwide for her songs, her brilliant songwriting, and her great ability to tell stories through her music. Swift has been part of the music industry for over a decade and she was even named the Artist of the Decade by the American Music Awards in 2019. Even though she has a big amount of haters and people who dislike her music, she’s still pretty well-known around the entire world. Swift adores her fans very much, but lately, she has been disappointing Swifties...

First, she started disappearing from the internet and has not been communicating or letting her fans know if she is working on new music. She usually releases songs and albums pretty quickly, or, she is at least very active on social media. She also has not toured ever since her Reputation tour four years ago. Now, she’s finally letting everyone know

that she will officially be retired from music forever. According to Swift, “music does not make me happy like it used to before.” She also stated how tired she was, and how ever since what happened with her manager Scooter Braun, music has lost the spark and glamor it once had. “It is for the best and I hope my fans will be able to understand what I’m going through. It was a fun and long journey, but I’m ready to rest and let it all go. I’ll never forget this,” said Swift after announcing her retirement on social media.

This may be hard news to take for some people, es-



pecially her fans. I gathered thoughts from some students at Oakland Mills about the news. “I knew she was going to do it one day, I just wish she’d release one more album. It’s sad, she had a good run,” stated sophomore Ricardo. Senior Brandi said, “honestly, I’m going to miss her cool, catchy songs.” “I’m not a fan of hers, but I do admit she has good songs and is talented,” stated an anonymous freshman. “I don’t listen to her songs and I find her a bit annoying, but if I’m being honest, she did have an impact on music,” said junior Susie Joseph. “She’s talented and a good

musician. My mom will be sad to hear this,” said freshman Amanda Witherspoon. But it’s not all entirely over yet. Swift announced that she will go on tour starting on March 24th for her farewell tour. It’s a very sweet and nice way of saying goodbye to her fans and her career. If she actually goes on tour, it may be her biggest concert ever. Her last concert Reputation broke many ticket sale records. She became the third highest-grossing female concert tour of all time and the highest-grossing tour ever in the United States and North America.

Swift has been trending on social media, especially Twitter, where people are letting her know how they feel about her retirement. Her fans expressed that they are pretty excited about her last concert and that they still love her and will always love her. Seems like this tour might be the perfect way of saying goodbye and thank you to her fans. Bye, Taylor, we will miss you!

# Tay K : Free From Jail

## Notorious Rapper Free After 5 Years

**Gabe Jimenez**  
*Staff Writer*

After being incarcerated back in 2017, the notorious rapper Tay K has finally been released on parole. The Texas-based rapper walked out of Bexar County Adult Detention Center last Saturday. Tay K made the following statement on his Twitter account, “I recognize and deeply regret that my immature decisions as a teenager would lead to something like this that I can’t take back.”

The artist, whose legal name is Taymor Travon McIntyre, was convicted on charges of murder and three counts of aggravated robbery. Tay K’s attorneys said that Taymor will not serve any more time in prison in exchange for a plea deal. Instead, he will now need to complete 300 hours of community service and check in with a parole officer every month.

Tay K is most known for his hit album

Santana World, which he recorded while a nationwide manhunt was looking for him. His hit song from that album “The Race” reached number 44 on the US Billboard Hot 100 and got certified platinum by the RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America) in January 2018. Tay K’s management team would release his debut album, Santana World, one month after his arrest on June 30, 2017.

Tay K states that with this once-in-a-lifetime chance, he will make sure to give back to his community and educate young people that being involved in gangs will only lead to violence and destruction. It’s great to see people try to help the youth and change for the better after living lives that have only affected people negatively for so long.





The Late Table  
New Policy Bound to Stop Traffic



Lauren Kai Kai  
Staff Writer

As a senior, I know how difficult it can be to get up in the morning. Waking up at the crack of dawn to get in the inevitably long line on the way to school is my least favorite part of the day. But there might be a change coming to this routine very soon. There is chatter among the administration and staff about a new policy coming to Oakland Mills. Students who arrive after the 7:25 bell will not only have to report to the late table, but their parents will have to wait with them. The amount of tardies has reportedly reached record highs, and the school system has decided that enough is enough.

Starting the week after spring break, parents will be required to sign their child in and give a valid reason for the tardy. This new era reminds me of my elementary school days when my parents

would have to walk me to the office. However, I thought the days of being escorted into a school building by an adult were over. I stand corrected.

Although this rule is not exciting, it may be the best thing for the student body. On average, there are around 100 students who arrive at school late and have to sign in between 7:30 to 8 AM, according to one of the late table attendants. So this new policy may be the final push that OM needs to get moving in the right direction.

On the other hand, if everyone is on time, the morning line traffic will be even worse. The line often wraps around the block, disturbing commutes along Kilimanjaro Road. With the institution of this new rule, the school increases the probability that everyone will arrive at one time and the amount of tardies will increase as a result. So, is this rule actually going to help? It may be ideal on

paper, but in practice there may be some unforeseen complications. If the attendance system really needs to be altered, I suggest staggering times. Each grade level can come in during a different 30-minute window. That way, people are not bumper to bumper on the road.

With that being said, students do not have a say in what happens to the late policy. Failure to comply with the rules will have severe consequences. “If they don’t bring their parents in, we will have to put them in ISS [in-school suspension] until their parents come to sign them in,” Coach Brewington explained to me. So, I’m disappointed to say that OM parents might be seeing a lot more of the school in the future.

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# Chick-Fil-A is on the Way!

## Popular Chain Restaurant Replacing Beloved OM Eatery

**Kylee Hoffman**  
*Editor-In-Chief*

With changes to the Oakland Mills (OM) Village Center already in play, it comes as no surprise that another beloved OM business is closing its doors for good. The owners of Pizzaman, the popular pizzeria and teen hangout spot, have decided to change course and shut down their restaurant. Pizzaman’s doors will close officially on April 25th.

However, do not worry my friends, something even greater is finding a home in the rundown parking lot behind the Dunkin Donuts. That is right, Chick-Fil-A is coming to the 21045! Set to break ground in early May, Chick-Fil-A will offer delicious food, fast service, and a much needed economic boost to this



community.

Founded in 1946 by S. Truett Cathy, Chick-Fil-A has built a name for itself. With a total revenue of upwards of 11.3 billion dollars, it is no surprise that Chick-Fil-A has the funds to build a new location and a desire to target a high school community.

New job opportunities will certainly come to the OM community with the newest addition. Chick-Fil-A is notorious for hiring high schoolers to staff their restaurants. They pay well and offer flexible hours, health insurance, free food, and college scholarship opportunities. With students

needing to work close to home, Chick-Fil-A will serve as an incredible workplace option.

Many OM community members are excited by the announcement. When told the news, seniors Chaz McPhillips and Eric Taylor responded with a plethora of positive emojis. However, some students were disappointed. Senior Stephanie Okoma said, “Pizzaman is a classic! They’ve been there for years... chick is so standard”

While it is sad to see a community favorite shut down, Chick-Fil-A will serve as a wonderful opportunity for much of the OM community. It will serve the entire community and make for a wonderful, modern upgrade to the shopping center.

# Unidentified Flying Object at OM

## Are Aliens Among Us?

**Takumi Shinkai**  
*Staff Writer*

On the 13th of February, an unidentified flying object crashed on Oakland Mills High School’s baseball field. Authorities refuse to call it a UFO and the whole situation was initially hidden by the U.S. Air Force. Here is what we learned from our secret information network.

Around 2:00 am on the 13th of February, residents of Oakland Mills heard a loud noise. Soon after, smoke and several fires were spotted on and near the baseball field of OMHS. After identifying the source of the noise, some residents went to the object, which was laying on the ground. Witnesses say it looked like a bowl, and there were two doors, one of which was broken. They heard several mechanical noises from inside the object. Witnesses



Photo Credit: Malcolm Brooks

insist that it was a spaceship and that it must have come from another planet.

One resident called the police at 2:08 am, and two officers came to the scene. Witnesses say that the officers couldn’t do anything, but were seen contacting someone before approaching the UFO.

Around 2:30 am, five military vehicles and two trucks with cranes arrived at the scene. Witnesses report about 40 soldiers and several people in white protective gear, likely researchers. They spent 20 minutes placing the UFO in a truck, and the vehicles were seen in the area until 4:00 am. Although reports of this case

have been made internationally, the U.S. government has stayed silent. White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre has repeatedly declined to comment on the situation.

Don Fieger, a UFO specialist, alleges that the UFO seems different from other ones that have been seen in the past. He also says it is very rare that UFOs land in residential areas and are seen by a lot of people.

Mick Frey, a specialist in aerospace engineering, says that its shape is very inefficient for flying, and there seemingly isn’t any power source. A lot of details are still being covered by a veil of mystery.



Tom Brady Unretires... Again!

The Immortal Legend Announces his Return to the Game

Avery Oduro-Dompreh  
Staff Writer

Tom Brady is a three-time MVP, one of two unanimous NFL MVPs of all time, a record 15-time Pro Bowler, another record holder with seven championships and five Super Bowl MVPs, 89,214 passing yards, and 649 touchdown passes. With all these records and all-time accomplishments, it would be more than appropriate for him to hang it up, especially at age 45. So he did, on February 1st, 2023, Tom Brady took to social media to relay his decision to end his illustrious career and “let you guys know first.” Brady was clearly emotional, and a year before already claimed he’d leave the beloved game, only to come back. Now, in

many fans’ minds, it would be absurd for the fulfilled player and widely believed greatest player of all time to go back on his word again... but he’s done it. On March 29th, in an exclusive interview with Stephen A. Smith, Tom Brady openly admitted that



staying away from the game was far too difficult, “it’s like a drug to me, I need to throw, I need to play and I need to win.” Smith questioned him on whether his age or body would hold him back from performing at the level he so covets when Tom Brady

became irate and ended the interview. Since his retirement was already confirmed at the time, as of March 15th, Tom Brady is no longer under contract for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and is an unrestricted free agent. During the interview, Brady released his top five destinations: Miami Dolphins, Los Angeles Rams, San Francisco 49ers, Tennessee Titans and Las Vegas Raiders. With arguably the greatest resume in NFL history, it’s plausible that many teams would be willing to move players or assets just to have Brady on their roster, if not as their starting quarterback. So tell everyone you know, BRADY IS BACK!

We Need Your Service  
More Hours Added to Requirement

Theresa Eru  
Staff Writer

On April 1, 2023, the Howard County Board Of Education announced plans of updating service hour requirements for all HCPSS students. Instead of the original 75 hours, it could potentially increase to 90-100 hours of service. The BOE said that Howard County students are not as involved in the community as in other counties, and they believe that this will be a step in the right direction for improving the school system. If the plan gets approved, it will take effect in the 2023-2024 school year. This means that all students, including the ones that already have 75 hours, must complete an additional 15-25 hours of community service to ful-



fill the new requirement. On top of that, in-class opportunities to earn service hours at Howard County middle schools will cease, which means that students will have to seek volunteer opportunities on their own. Although the plan is not in effect, it could potentially stir some trouble. “It was so abrupt, I honestly thought it was an April Fool’s prank!” said an anonymous sophomore.

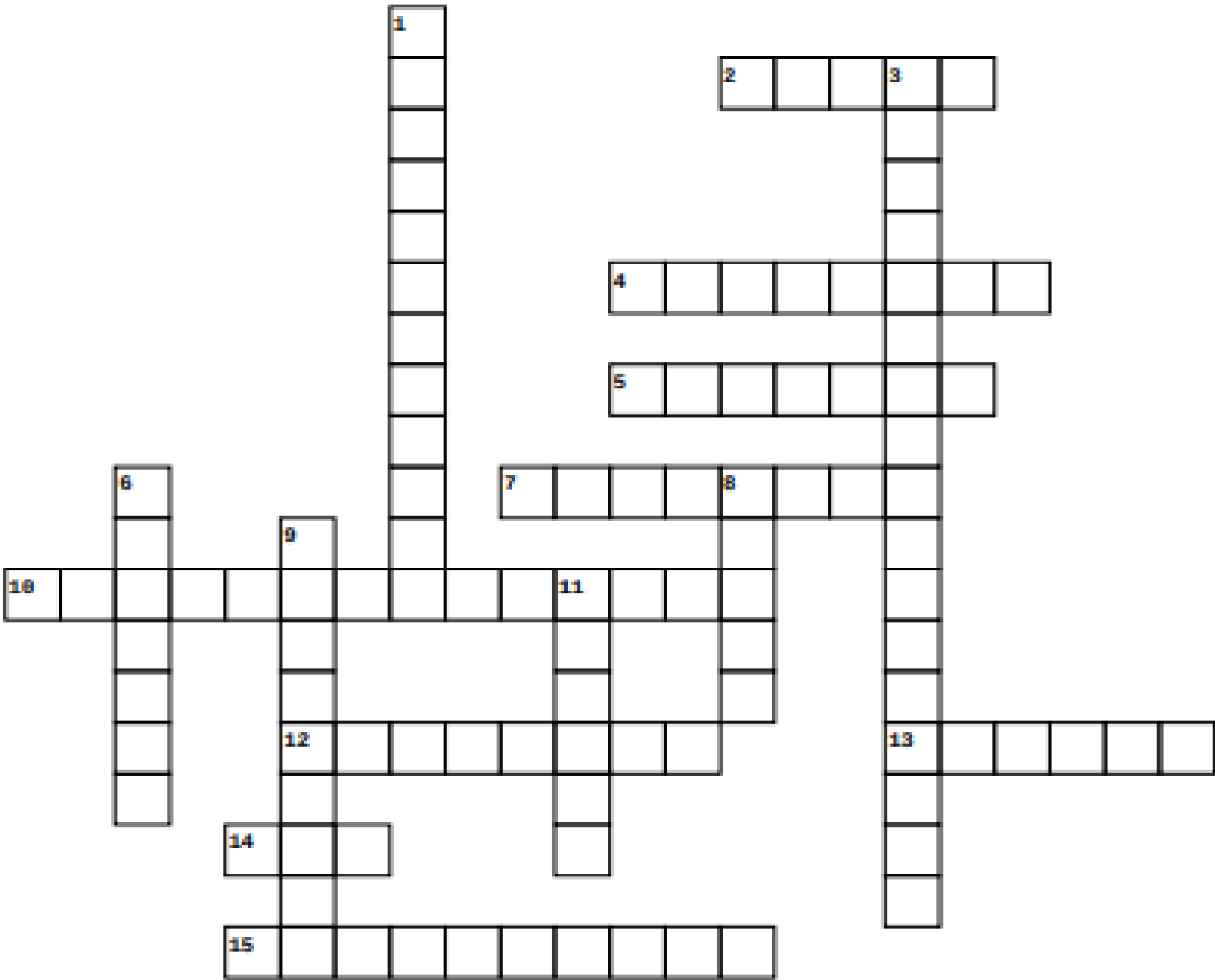
Many others have also expressed their issues with the plan. The BOE has already prepared for the backlash, saying that it is a great way for students to improve their academic portfolio for colleges and careers. Only time will tell whether or not the update on service hours will get the go-ahead. But for now, it is a waiting game.

OM Will No  
Longer Run on  
Dunkin  
Continued from  
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The SRO of the school, Officer Garrett relayed “This will impact the safety of our school in a positive way. I don’t think the students of OM understand the safety issues involved with them leaving campus” and Ben Nunley, a security guard at OM, echoed “This sure will make my job a lot easier. It’s been challenging trying to get kids to stop leaving the building.”

Unfortunately, for those in the community who are against the ac-

tion it is too late. With the Village Center’s Dunkin permanently closing an economic hole is formed and a fan favorite is gone. For those concerned about student’s safety, this will hopefully keep students on campus and under the supervision of trusted adults and staff.



Across

- 2. The biggest dance in high school
- 4. She's an "Anti-hero" who has "Bad Blood"
- 5. This is a person who "Gotta Blast" to get "Lemonade"
- 7. Clothing restrictions
- 10. The war that hit one year in February
- 12. An NFL quarterback who's coming out of retirement
- 13. \_\_\_\_\_ Fools Day
- 14. What TV platform is removing shows
- 15. Where Juel went on March 7th

Down

- 1. What Oakland Mills runs on
- 3. What does MLB stand for
- 6. Nancy tells us all about prom \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Where all grades are posted
- 9. Where you go when you're late for class
- 11. She's about to release new album