



the County Chronicle

(April Fool's Edition)

Volume 68, Issue 3 - April 2023 | APRIL FOOL'S EDITION | 415 Dry Mill Road, Leesburg, VA | countychronicle.org



A PUSH FOR SCHOOL CLOSURE AFTER ZOMBIE OUTBREAK

Students and zombies participate in an impromptu race to lighten the dreary mood. Photo by Berek Harrison.

Berek Harrison & Ethan Kopp |
Staff Writers

Parents were worried after students never came home last Wednesday, especially since earlier that day students had texted home pictures of strange military trucks outside of the school. "After the trucks broke down, some of the harmful chemicals they were carrying leaked into the cafeteria food making it... arguably better, but unfortunately causing a zombie outbreak," assistant principal **Park Matterson** said before screaming and being disconnected from the call.

In the early hours this Thursday, central office made an announcement discussing the events in detail. Parents learned about the zombie outbreak, and it was revealed that the government was locking students and staff into the school to prevent the zombie virus from spreading.

The recently bitten, but somewhat coherent **Bade Wyard** also explained about how classes would continue. "Education is the sole pedestal we stand on, so we have decided to continue classes and normalcy," Wyard said, locked up in his concrete quarantine cell.

"Besides, we haven't cut the pay of the teachers yet, so they're going to have to continue teaching."

This outbreak is one of many problems plaguing the school and it's been causing students and teachers added stress. "I don't even know if I'll walk out of history class uninfected. It hasn't been like that since 'Nam," student **Mr. "Old Man McGee"** said.

The outbreak is causing teachers problems as well. "I've recently been having a lot of trouble teaching math," **Jarod "Mr. Math" Brown** said. "Students can't learn to solve oblique triangles when

they're being constantly attacked by the undead."

No one can be blamed for this, and the infected are just as annoyed as the uninfected. "Gr gr grow- www, braaaaaaiinnss, gr*w gar. Grrrrr, gra gar gar gar, g****ar!!!" the now zombified sign language teacher, **Barry Deuel**, said.

So far there haven't been any confirmed casualties, but the infirmary has seen an increase in students by 5000%. "Don't put this in the article, but I'm really happy about this whole thing," nurse **Patricia Pain** said, "Now I can **ZOMBIES, continued on page 2**

Marvel's beloved hero Tony Stark confirmed resurrection for phase five

Olivia DeWan | Editor-in-Chief

It would be an understatement to say that Marvel fans everywhere were devastated by **Tony Stark's** death in "Avengers: Endgame." The entire fanbase grieved for months before somewhat coming to terms with his passing, and made their unease known by writing a series of letters, posts, and emails to the Marvel directors in protest.

We thought their efforts were useless, but on January 31, Marvel:

It's True announced that the MCU was bringing Stark back to life.

"We received so much backlash that resurrecting Tony Stark was really our only option," director **Joe Anthony** said. "We love the fans and we want them to be happy. Their concerns about phase five are real, and we didn't want to lose people who have been loyal followers of the franchise for years."

The protest caught a multitude of attention, sparking fires in celebrities like **Beyoncé**, **Taylor Swift**, and **Ryan Reynolds**. Some

eventually went to the front steps of the White House with signs saying "bring him back" and "Stark 4 life," but the government kept the whole thing under wraps in an attempt to hide how drastic the situation was becoming.

In addition, at the World Peace Summit, which was negotiating the cease of nuclear power growth in North Korea, Swift and Reynolds flew twenty thousand miles on their private jet to bring attention to a more pressing issue: Stark's death.

The summit quickly went from

the boring, monotone topic of nuclear war to the heart-wrenching pain of Stark's death. All world leaders were swayed and signed a petition to bring Stark back that was closed with a wax seal containing solid gold flecks, pricing in at over two million dollars.

Next, instead of choosing to release a new album that fans have waited years for, **Rihanna** decided to write singles advocating for the resurrection of Stark. She even went as far as to pair up with **Imagine**

STARK, continued on page 2

ZOMBIES, continued from page 1 demand pay raises and the school has no choice but to accept.”

Last Monday, the new assistant principal **Eustace Bobbert** dealt with a unique scenario when a student’s head was bitten off by his teacher in the middle of English class. “Luckily, Ms. Pain was able to jerry-rig a device to put back the student’s head utilizing band-aids, lollipops, and soggy ice-packs so *student’s name redacted* is recovering as expected,” Bobbert said. “Hopefully, we can make sure the students are more aware during class so situations like this don’t happen again.”

Insightful students have managed to make the best of a subpar scenario. “I actually like the excitement that’s been added to all my classes,” sophomore **Belsan Giamporcuro** said. “Before the

outbreak, I was barely able to keep my eyes open, but now I have to stay on my toes or I’m done for sure.”

Other students are finding an opportunity to grow closer together. Though infected, senior **Kereb Nosirrah** has profound opinions on how the school community can reflect and grow from this experience, telling us, “GRAAAAAA!!!! GRAIAAIRAA!!! B-b-brain!!”

Students like sophomore **Quinn Holmberg** are joining Nosirrah’s cause because of her moving speeches. “She is so good at public speaking. Even if I don’t agree with the stuff, like giving over half my brain to the zombies, I’m still a loyal member of the group.”

In a recent school board meeting, parents broke out in protest, demanding students to be let out and school to be canceled. “I

thought I’d have to flee with my helicopter on the roof,” school board member **Piffany Tolifko** said.

Luckily, the protesters were brought down by SWAT and police who utilized tear gas and eerily zombie-like biological weapons. “I really thought we were going to have to use far more drastic measures to control the crowd,” police chief **Ganessa Vrigsby** said. “Luckily, FBI officials showed up and gave us a new and unique biological weapon to use.”

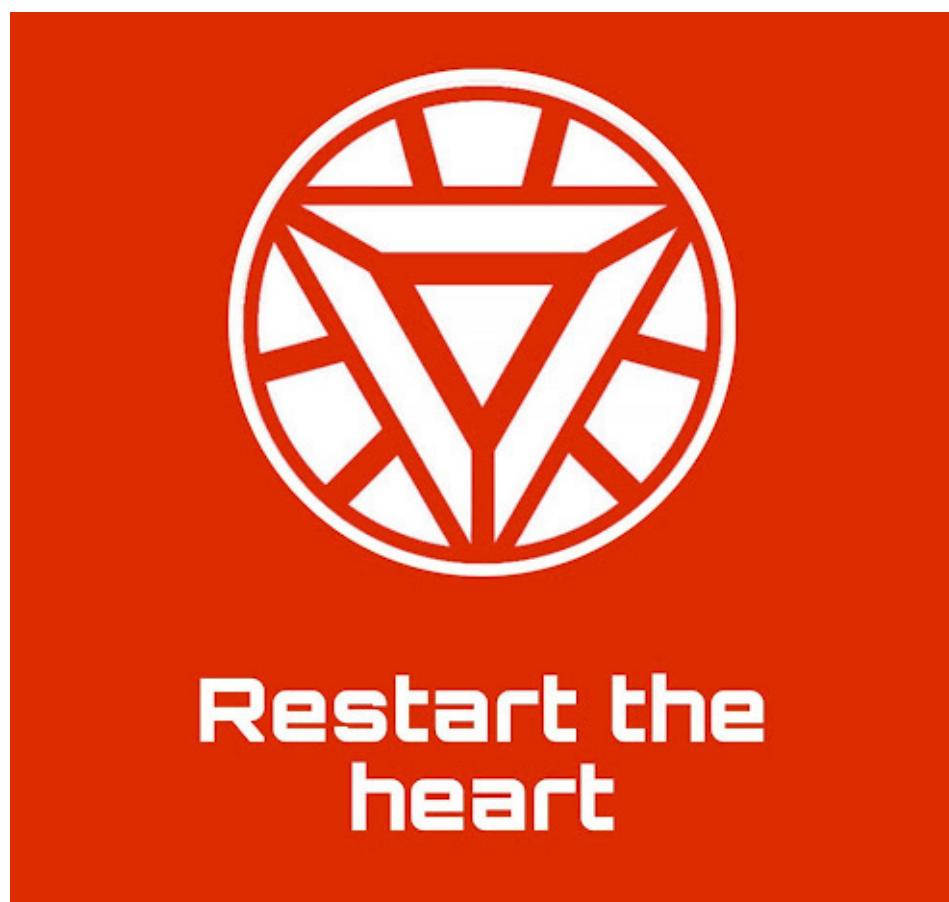
All the parents went into a mindless state where they wandered the streets, arms extended in front of them and mouths open before becoming once more conscious a few hours later.

“I have no clue where or how that weapon was made,” Vrigsby added. “It seems like it would need

some sort of large-scale testing to gauge its effectiveness.”

After the disaster of a school board meeting, many teachers went on strike by boarding themselves in the downstairs teacher lounge in an attempt to force the school to shut down, but soon regretted their decision when zombies gnawed through the ceiling material and asbestos insulation to reach the now-trapped teachers. Soon after, schooling continued, and there currently isn’t a definite date as to when this will all pass over.

If you’re alive and reading this, make sure to watch out for the library’s annual book drive. “We’ve really hoping this all passes over quickly because we’ve been working towards a super cool book drive and celebration for May,” school librarian **Bailey Books** said. “Really cheerful stuff :)” •



One of the many posters that were created in support of the petition to bring Stark back to life. Not only were these put up around schools all over the county, but they were also blasted across social media. Photo by Olivia DeWan.

STARK, continued from page 1 **Dragons** and **The Weeknd**. The team held several concerts where all profits went to efforts in resurrecting Stark.

“We had no choice but to agree to their wishes,” Anthony said. “Plus, all of us at the studio love Tony, so it was the natural thing to do.”

While the comics depict Stark’s death as well, Anthony encouraged the MCU to go “off script,” saying that **Stan Lee’s** writing just brought too much pain, and that it needed to be rectified.

Robert Downey Jr. was asked for a quote by the New York Times, but refused to give any information on the new development, saying he “didn’t want a **Tom Holland** situation.”

Regardless, the fans are thrilled, and have shown their appreciation and support by cosplaying at great venues and creating piles of fan art.

“I can’t reveal too much information at the moment, but I can tell you that his resurrection is going to

deal with the time stone,” Anthony said. “Don’t listen to the fanatics who say he’s staying dead, because I can guarantee that he’s not.”

Principal **Michelle Luttrell** even canceled classes for the week in celebration, demanding that all teachers play the entire Marvel series, a total of 49 hours and 56 minutes. Students were not allowed to leave school, having to stay for the entirety of the movies.

“It was the best day of my life,” freshman **Lacy Jane** said. “Everyone was so excited, none of us even slept!”

All other students were in agreement, and even went as far to write letters of thanks to the MCU directors.

“The support from the entire fandom just proves we made the right decision,” Anthony said. “This is the start of saving the MCU. I mean, how could we let Tony Stark stay dead? He’s the hero we all dream of having in real life.” •

School pool reopens after years of closure

Hannah Winegar | Staff Writer

Great news for students and the former swim team has just been announced: the pool on top of the school’s roof has recently been reopened for student use. In the coming month of April, students will be able to try out for the swim team without leaving campus.

The pool was closed down in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was too much work to maintain the pool and since no one was using it, it was decided the pool be shut down. As a result of this, the swim team had no choice but to disband for the time being.

Dinah Soares, a senior who was on the swim team, shared her ex-

citement with the re-opening. “I’m really happy that the school finally opened the pool back up. I remember when I was on the team, I would always admire the view from up there.”

School administrator **Kerry Oki** has had to go from overseeing building maintenance issues to blowing up pool floats due to lack of staffing. “I’m glad that most students were gullible enough to believe the pool was a rumor because we couldn’t have them going on the roof unsupervised looking for it,” Oki said.

With the upcoming 70 year anniversary of the school, the planning committee has opened up a country club right on campus, and as a part

of it, the school will start selling pool passes for student use after school hours and during the weekends.

The money from the pool passes will be used for remodeling the student bathrooms and to remediate the asbestos problems.

This opening of the pool may be great news to some, but science teacher **Bill Loney** shows concern. “I worry for the students’ safety. I don’t think this is a good idea, considering there are no safety rails to keep people from falling off. I honestly have no idea how this is even allowed,” Loney said.

Swim coach **Ella Vader** reassures everyone that they are working on making sure students will be safe. “We’re currently working on

making sure the roof is suitable for students and their safety. For now, we’ve put traffic cones around the area and danger signs to show not to walk past.”

In the years prior to the pool closing down, only one incident had been reported concerning a student falling off the roof. However, the student wasn’t injured because they had fallen onto a large pile of gym mats, which had cushioned their fall.

Oki has hired contractors to start mapping out construction for six foot fences with barbed wire. “The sooner we make this pool safe, the better. The last thing we want is to be put on national news again.” •

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New public information officer auditionees take the stage!



(Left) Taylor Swift at her audition for the position with her “Bejeweled” dress performing one of her recent songs from her new “Midnights” album. Swift was invited back to the Central Office building for a second time due to her outstanding performance and favorability from the school board members. (Right) Kim Kardashian and her sister Kendall Jenner in a fight before being removed from the central office building. Damages to the stage were minor but did require some renovations. Photos by AI Generated Staple Diffusion.

Cat Pizzarello | Managing Editor

Are you a good speaker? Quick to your feet and ready to make speedy decisions? Popular amongst the kids these days? Then you might consider auditioning to be the new public information officer for Loudoun County Public Schools. After the unfortunate and utterly devastating loss of LCPS’s former public information officer, **Wayne Barnolds**, auditions for the position are now taking place until May 10.

As a public information officer, the role requires you to be able to form and distribute media regarding urgent information to anyone affiliated with Loudoun County Public Schools. Many students may know this position due to their role of making the call for the well known “snow day.”

With such an important role, it is crucial to find the most qualified and admired person for the position. Up to this point, many of the students’ fan favorites from singers, actors, comedians, and even chefs have begun applying for the position and are currently auditioning for the part.

First to apply and very popular amongst many students is **Taylor Swift**, famous folk and pop singer. “My popularity amongst these younger people is an immediate reason why I think I could uphold this position,” Swift said. “I mean is it even a Question...?” Students who are fans of Swift point out that she would be great for the role due her breathtaking

voice. However with her current 2023 Eras tour, this position might conflict with her busy schedule.

Most known for his appearances in “Green Lantern,” “Deadpool,” and the newly released movie, “The Adam Project,” the next to audition is fan favorite **Ryan Reynolds**. Reynolds is well known for his comedic character, on and off the screen. “I would love to take the position, but going up against Taylor Swift? I have no shot!” Reynolds said.

Next, and more often known for his cooking skills (not so much his social skills), famous chef most notable for his cooking show, “Hell’s Kitchen,” **Gordon Ramsay** takes the stage. “The position is quite stupid if you ask me, but I’m hoping if I receive it I can influence those God awful meals they feed students,” Ramsay said. “Seriously, what idiot came up with the school’s meal plan?”

It seems Ramsay has other priorities in regards to the position. Parents have now begun to speak out about refusing him the position due to issues regarding Ramsay’s frequent use of inappropriate language and lack of empathy towards the students. “I am &?%! pissed! I would be great for the position!” Ramsay said.

Many more auditionees lined up outside the LCPS central office building, such as **Ellen DeGeneres**, **Kayne West**, and even **Lana Del Rey**. However, one of the most talked about auditions right now is that of **Kim Kardashian** and her sister

Kendall Jenner. Videos of their audition are all over the internet, reaching LCPS students everywhere.

Although their interview and application process went over quite smoothly, there was a mix up with their scheduled auditions, and both sisters arrived on the stage at the same time. This caused utter chaos between the two, and in Kardashian fashion, lots of drama. The entire camera crew for their show, “Keeping up with the Kardashians,” arrived at the central office building, and the drama didn’t end.

“Kendall obviously showed up for the wrong audition spot. She never lets me have anything and is completely selfish. I’m just trying to help the kids,” Kardashian said. Kardashian was so upset that she began crying and had to call her therapist all the way from Los Angeles.

“I know Kimmy is blaming this all on me. That &?%! just does not know what she is talking about, though! I think all that plastic surgery is getting to her head,” Jenner said. “I just want what is best for the kids and think I would play a vital role in helping Loudoun County.”

Auditions were closed for two days after the Kardashian sisters’ outbreak for minor repairs in the central office building, but has now resumed, and the applications for the job just keep coming.

In the most recent to audition, extremely famous singer, **Beyonce Knowles**, blew away the school

board members with her performance of “Single Ladies,” her original song. Students, parents, and staff members of LCPS surrounded the building hoping to get a glimpse of Knowles as she exited the building. “I just hope that I can make these kids happy and get information to all the people of LCPS,” Knowles said.

Decisions for the new public information officer will be made by August 1 before the 2023-2024 school year begins. The audition process has been long and strenuous, but there have been many quality auditionees that would be perfect for the position. •

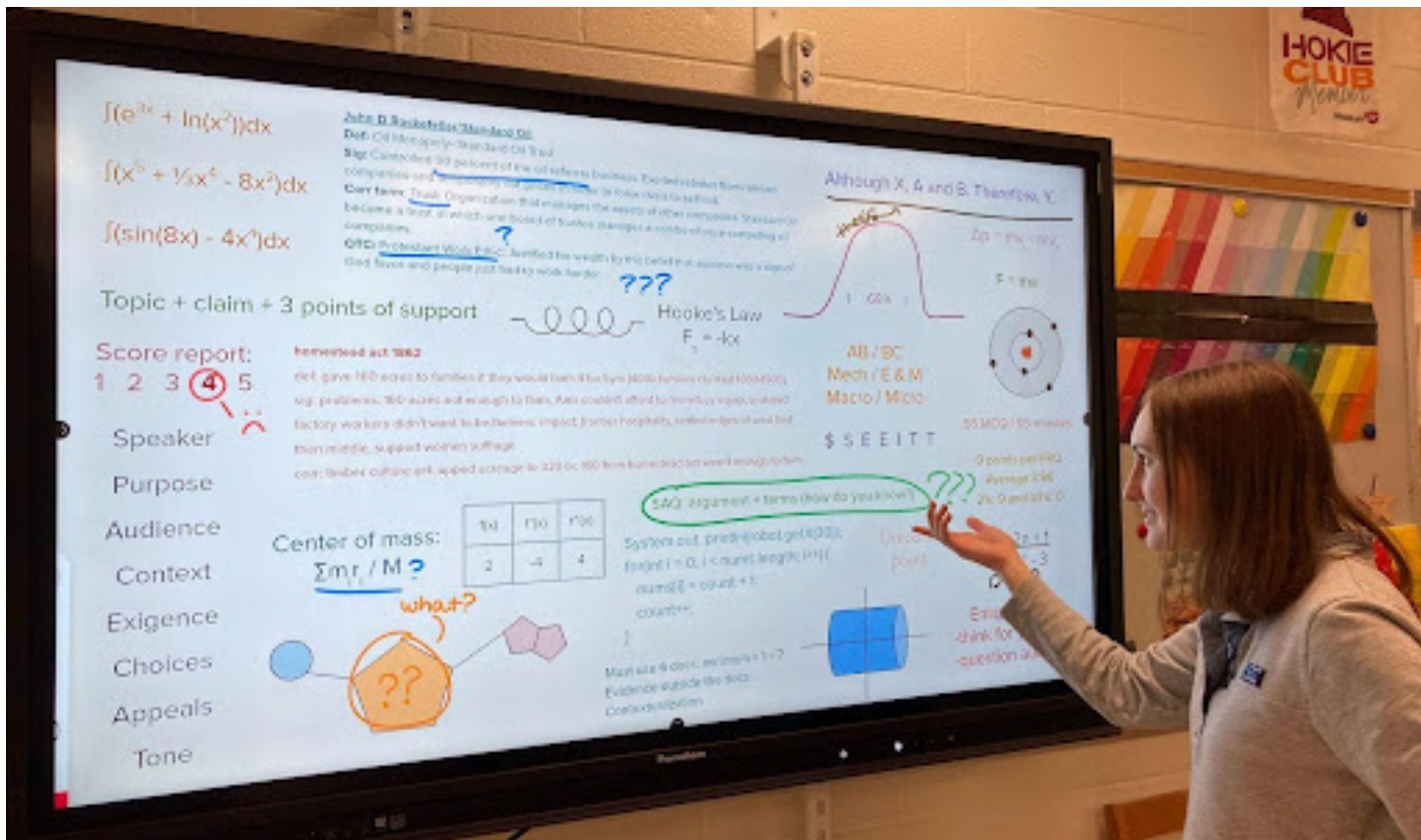
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Newly elected president dissolves student council and declares national emergency

by Kelsan Giamporcaro



College Board introduces new AP class: AP Exam Taking



Junior Casper Phillips studies an extensive slide including topics that will be tested on the AP Exam Taking exam. The exam has been described as “the crown jewel of APs” by College Board executive William Yale, and will include content and skills from all other AP courses, culminating in a final exam that will primarily test students’ memorization and critical thinking skills. Photo by Evelyn Kuzminski.

Evelyn Kuzminski | Layout Editor

A new class has joined the hoard of over three dozen AP courses available to high school students across the country: AP Advanced Placement Exam Taking.

The curriculum for this new class will include an in-depth study of every rubric used on AP exams, ranging from free-response calculus questions to rhetorical analysis essays. Students will be expected to demonstrate a thorough understanding of all AP rubrics, even those used on exams the student will not be taking.

“This course will be a rigorous and fulfilling addition to the AP course library,” College Board executive William Yale said. “We’re thrilled to be offering it to students. It’s truly the crown jewel of APs.”

Students are equally thrilled to be partaking in this new course. In the past, there have been complaints about the breadth of the AP courses and how it can be difficult for students taking multiple AP exams to sufficiently prepare for the different demands of each.

“All my AP classes are so different,” junior Mickey Donovan said. “It’s like I have to memorize formulas for Calculus and then how to integrate evidence for Lang.”

Other students have lamented the demanding time limit on each part of the AP exams. Students typically have one minute per multiple choice question on social science and English exams and two to three minutes per math question.

“I have two minutes to find the integral of some random expression,” senior Kayla Cumberbatch said. “Without a calculator. And it’s not just two minutes to find the answer. I have to read the problem, comprehend the problem, think of what theo-

rem I’m supposed to use, remember the equation for said theorem, then actually do the math. How am I supposed to do all that in two minutes thirty times in a row?”

Junior Patricia Goldenbirch shares a similar distress regarding the allotted time to write essays on the exam. On AP history exams, the recommended time to write the long essay question, or LEQ, is 35 minutes.

“35 minutes!” Goldenbirch said. “To come up with an argument, to come up with supporting arguments, to remember legitimate evidence that could have to be from any number of centuries on any number of topics, to remember the specific relevant context, then to write a coherent essay on all of it!”

But students anticipate this new AP course will be hugely beneficial to them.

“I’m so excited for it,” Donovan said. “I think it’ll really help me understand expectations on the other exams and help me get better scores.”

Goldenbirch agrees: “I think this class will make it more clear what’s really important for the exams. There’s a whole lot we cover in class, and only so much of it can be tested. I think this class will help me see what I need to really focus on to be successful on the exams and what might be a little less important.”

There has also been much positive feedback on the addition of the class from teachers.

“This will really help the kids,” AP Chemistry teacher Albert Bernstein said. “I know a lot of my students can get confused on what the AP exam is really going to be like and it causes a great deal of stress for them, especially when these kids are taking 4, 5 other AP classes that they need to be preparing for at the same time.”

But what will this highly anticipated new class actually look like? And who will teach it?

At LCHS, the class will be taught by Samantha DuGray, a first-year teacher. DuGray has had five children graduate from LCHS and is well-versed in many AP curriculums.

“Between all my kids, they must’ve taken at least 80% of the AP classes out there, and all of them did very well on their exams,” DuGray said. “I haven’t been a teacher myself, but I’ve had plenty of late nights with chemistry problem sets, literature essays, and art portfolios, so I do feel well-prepared to teach this class.”

DuGray has no experience in teaching, but she does have a strong STEM background; she worked as an AI researcher for fifteen years, undertaking many groundbreaking projects ranging from machine learning to gene analysis. DuGray anticipates the new AP class will be of similar rigor to her AI-focused career.

“It’s the same thing,” DuGray said. “It’s the same skills, the same amount of work, the same amount of unknowns. These kids will be doing just as much research and analysis as I was.”

Although the overwhelming response to this introduction of the new class has been of excitement, a few students have also expressed discontent over the fact that they will be expected to learn the requirements of AP courses and exams that they will not be taking.

“It’s a waste of time,” Cumberbatch said. “Why should I learn the rubric for the AP Physics exam? I’m not taking AP Physics! I need that brain space to understand what I need to do on my AP German and AP Gov exams!”

However, DuGray asserts that there is value to learning the re-

quirements of all exams. “It’ll be good for them,” she said. “They’ll understand what each other are going through in different classes and it’ll help build that sense of empathy. Plus, you never know. Kids change their minds all the time, so if they end up taking one of those other classes, they’ll have that extra boost of preparation.”

Then there’s the ultimate question: what comprises an AP exam that’s testing AP exam taking? The answer is probably what you would expect: it’s a bit of a mix of components of other AP exams.

There will be 55 multiple choice questions in a 55-minute time allotment - some stimulus-based, some not. There will also be a short-answer question section that will require students to write three short-answer responses in 40 minutes. Finally, there will be two essay responses, which students will be given 1 hour and 10 minutes to complete.

These essays will prompt students to analyze the most effective question type for different subjects and discuss how these different questions allow students to fully demonstrate their understanding of the subject matter. They may also be asked to argue the benefits of reciprocating information versus demonstrating a comprehension of it, and how multiple choice questions and essay prompts may contribute to that.

Like other AP classes, students have the opportunity to earn college credit by scoring well on the AP Exam Taking exam. Not all colleges accept AP exam scores for credit - and some will only accept certain scores for certain classes, varying the credit earned - but many schools have already announced their credit policy for this new class.

Some schools have decided not to offer credit for any score on the AP Exam Taking exam, but those that have are generally waiving their freshman seminar requirement for scores of 3, 4, or 5. Freshman seminars in college are often used to strengthen reading, writing, and discussion skills.

“We have decided that strong performance on the AP Exam Taking exam will be a good indicator of a student’s readiness and demonstration of the skills they need to succeed in a rigorous college environment - the same skills we teach in our freshman seminar classes,” College University’s admissions office said in a released statement.

“It’ll really let students get ahead in their college studies,” DuGray said. “Earning credit now can save a ton of money and time when you get to college later on.”

“I’ve never been more excited to take a class,” Donovan said. “I just know this is going to really pay off down the line.” •