



The Pulse

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Coach Markiewicz steps down

Chuck Markiewicz retires as the head coach of Arundel football after a decades-long career

By Rachel Heller

At 6 years old, Chuck Markiewicz had his whole future planned out.

During his time at Odenton Elementary School, the puzzle pieces for what would later become a decades-long career started to fall into place. His grade school achievements didn't take place in the classroom—Markiewicz, 62, noted that he wasn't a great student—but in the gymnasium. In his physical education class at Odenton, Markiewicz broke the school's burpee record.

That's when he found his calling.

"I decided I wanted to be a Phys Ed teacher," said Markiewicz. "I wanted to be the

head football coach at Arundel High School."

In 2001, Markiewicz fulfilled his childhood dream of head coaching football at his alma mater. 17 years later, his dream is winding down to a close. Last month, Markiewicz, the winningest coach in Anne Arundel County history, announced his retirement from coaching the Wildcats.

Arundel Principal Gina Davenport and Athletic Director Kevin Necessary were one of the first to be informed of his decision, along with Markiewicz's football players.

Markiewicz's retirement was not a complete surprise to Necessary. He says he had an idea that the day was c-



Photo via arundelathletics.com

oming, but he counted his blessings each year that Markiewicz remained on Arundel's staff.

"I was happy that he was able to end this thing the right way on his own terms," he said.

Before becoming the athletic director, Necessary was on Markiewicz's staff as wide receivers coach from 2002-2014.

"I have a good handle on

what successful coaching looks like, and a lot of that comes from working under Coach Mark."

Arundel's athletic department contains 23 varsity programs, but Markiewicz saw this as more than just 23 teams. He viewed it as the Arundel Athletic Department. Necessary notes that this mindset was evident at school workouts; the coach wanted every athlete, no m-

atter the team, to transcend the boundaries of their respective teams and workout together and support each other.

According to Necessary, the first day of football every year was always something he looked forward to. This was all thanks to how Markiewicz approached the day and made it special for **Read the full story at arundelhighnews.com**

Arundel adopts new single-color graduation gown policy

By Rachel Heller
And Maddie McLean

On December 1st, Arundel High School announced their school-based decision mandating seniors of 2018 and future years to wear single-color green gowns for graduation. Arundel's policy has been put in motion by Principal Gina Davenport to emphasize school-wide unification.

The decision was first made known to the public via a tweet by the official Twitter account for the Class of 2018, run by the Senior Class officers. The tweet identified the new gowns as green with a white stripe on the sleeves, and labeled the policy as a decision made by the Board of Education. The account later made a follow-up tweet, reporting the

misinterpretation behind who mandated the policy and correcting it as a school-based decision.

Following mixed feedback from Arundel students and parents, Davenport later released a letter to parents and guardians of graduating seniors, clarifying misinformation and explaining the policy.

In the letter, Davenport further dissolved misinterpretations behind the decision's origins and defined it as a school-based decision. She explained the reason for the new policy as "a further step to emphasize the need for unity, particularly in what is often a very divisive society."

Regarding senior photos that some students had taken in white gowns prior to t-



he decision, Davenport said that she's contacted the photography company Lifetouch to make accommodations. Students who desire photo retakes will be offered a free sitting fee with Lifetouch and a 20% discount for new pictures.

In closing, Davenport inf-

ormed parents of a meeting that she called with the Senior Class officers, following the feedback she had received. They discussed postponing the enactment of the decision, and the officers agreed that the class of 2018 should be the first class to adopt the new policy.

In an interview with The Pulse, Davenport discussed how the policy originated. "I was listening to the radio, and I was hearing another story about someone else who was fired from their job for misconduct, being inappropriate, and I was thinking about all of the different social structures we have in place that really keep people separated. . . . Caps and gowns are one of those things that we do here at Arundel that still divide us by gender," she said.

Arundel senior Kyler Hewitt is of the group that supports the new policy, citing the change as beneficial for trans students like himself. "it is more equal and safer for trans and non-bin- **Read the full story at arundelhighnews.com**

American Film Studies gives students a glimpse into the film industry

By Leah Ogden

For most people, watching movies is merely a pastime. But believe it or not, Arundel offers a class that allows you to watch and study films for a grade. This class is American Film Studies. While plenty of the current students in the class are taking it solely because it's fun and they enjoy watching movies, it's worth noting that this experience could help you realize that you ha-

ve an interest in the industry and the ways and reasons that films are made.

The format of the class should be familiar; it's similar to normal English classes in the ways that you get to research, develop arguments, and write essays. However, the content focuses on the historic and artistic value of film; the curriculum moves through studying things like film production and related car-

ers, genres and their purposes, and visual aspects, such as design and cinematography.

The students will learn how to apply their gained knowledge of these topics and the purposeful details of film to their very own film reviews, giving them an opportunity to showcase their refined opinions.

The class could be valuable. **Read the full story at arundelhighnews.com**



Photo courtesy of Cezary Gurbada

Singing through the pressure

Arundel theater company enters thick of musical season stress

By Laura Bonnington

As musical season gets ready to start up again, the stress of all the perils that go along with 4-day-a-week rehearsals and what it takes to put on a full-scale musical, begins. Members of the Arundel Theater Company shared what stresses them out the most about theater season in preparation for the coming months.

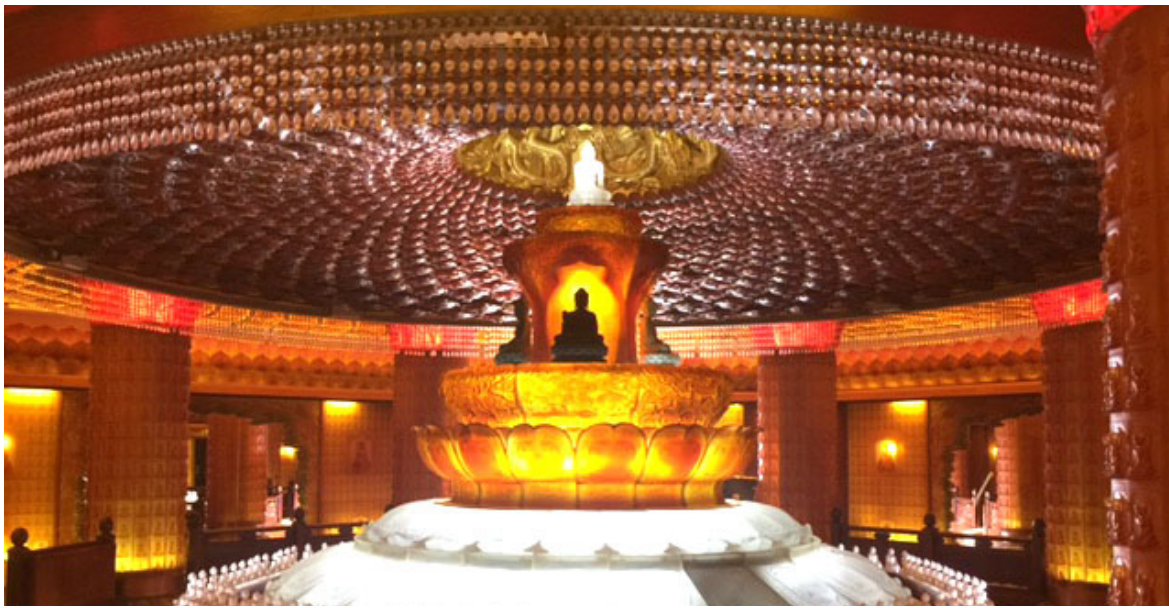
Theater is often stressful before rehearsals even begin. Senior Katelyn Shibilski said the most stressful part of theater season for her is "waiting for the cast list to come out." The process of auditioning and waiting for the cast list can be ruthless. You are given a number and have to wait for your number to be called before going into the choir room, where you sing 16 bars of your audition piece before being able to go home and relax. However, audition season isn't just stressful for the students. Mrs. Minor, Arundel's theater teacher, and producer of Arundel's past three musicals, said, "I would think the audition stress [is the most stressful part of the season] because there's such a large talent pool and you want everyone to be happy, but it's all about what the production team wants and who they're look-

ing for in a character."

When the cast list comes out, no matter what happens, it is an instant relief. There's finally a weight off of your shoulders because the cast list being posted means that it's time to begin rehearsals, and rehearsals are where all the magic happens. Scripts and dances are learned, and on the weekends, sets are constructed and painted while costumes are sewed and fitted. There's a certain bond that forms between the cast through rehearsal. It allows the audience to see the natural chemistry between everyone's interactions and create the best show possible. Everyone's hard work comes together to create a 2 1/2 hour show in 2 1/2 months.

Any student involved in sports or other after school activities knows the struggle of balancing the activity with enough time for school work and friends and family. According to Senior Kendra Dolinka, balancing theater with other responsibilities stresses her out because, "Theater is an activity that you must be prepared to sacrifice a lot of time for. It's difficult to balance rehearsal with school, but it's always worth it." Minor has **Read the full story at arundelhighnews.com**

A trip to China: the journey of a lifetime



By Aubrey Bacon

My decision to go on the recent school trip to China was abrupt and out of my character. I don't know what sparked my sudden certainty that I just had to go to China, but whatever it was, I'm glad it happened. Having never left the country prior to this trip, I was slightly nervous about the flight. The longest flight I had ever been on, and the only flight I might add, was a flight from BWI to JAX airport in Florida which took less than two hours. The flight from Dulles to Beijing however was a whopping 14 hours, so it was a drastic difference to what I had been exposed to before.

There were several peculiar things on the flight with Air China. The most shocking and unfortunate from the list was that all cell pho-

nes and electronics had to be turned off during the whole 14 hours; airplane mode was not sufficient enough. This was a rude awakening to everyone in our group who were more than ready to listen to their music and read books which of course were all downloaded on our phones. But I wound up being thankful because it forced me to listen to Chinese music through the entertainment system that they provided us which was a touch screen TV that popped up out of our arm rest. The band that I enjoyed the most was G.U.T.S. Even though I had no idea what they were saying, I really enjoyed their sound.

When we arrived in Beijing I was a little worried about going through customs. It seems as though China is viewed as this very

strict and secure country which appears dominating, but in reality, getting into China was significantly more relaxed and speedier than when I was trying to get back into my own country. And this was pretty much true throughout almost all of eastern China: every museum and visitor site appeared to have strict security which consisted of several guards and a conveyor belt which ran your belongings through a screening process. However, on several occasions the machines didn't work, as they would turn red and beep for every item that went through. Instead of having to wait for security to fix the machine or hand check our items, they would just wave us through anyway—which **Read the full story at arundelhighnews.com**



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Want to contribute your own articles?

The Pulse is a joint effort of Arundel's Newspaper/Media Production/Journalism classes, and the Arundel Student Journalists club. Arundel Student Journalists club meets every Tuesday during Pride Period in Mr. Perraud's room (F104). If you cannot be in the classes or the club, but still want to contribute, articles and arti-

cle ideas may be sent to The Pulse's editor-in-chief's contact information, listed below.

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Internet access restored after pipe burst rocks Anne Arundel County Public Schools

"The water leak caused several applications to go down and schools throughout the county to be affected."

Movies to look out for in 2018

"New year, new movies! Films that have been in production for a while now are finally coming to the big screen."

Spanish students explore New York

"It offered a chance outside the classroom to apply what they've learned."