

# SENIOR EVENTS

## events commemorate high school

writer ethan hunter

designer carissa long

photo creds kate moorhead

Graduation is quickly approaching, with seniors having only a few weeks left in school. Alongside the various finals and AP tests that wrap up the last classes of high school, different



Senior Ashley Feucht at Senior Breakfast catching pancakes. "I was really happy with Senior Breakfast because we haven't had a ton of opportunities to fully come together as a class this year, so when we can get together at events, it's always a great time," Feucht said.

senior events have been planned to send the seniors off in a fun, positive way. Though COVID has changed what many of the senior events look like, planning senior events has continued and evolved to ensure a proper send off to the class that has lost so much.

Seniors have already attended their Thanksgiving lunch, as well as the recent pancake breakfast that was held on the turf of Pioneer Field.

Senior Class Cabinet Adviser Laura Calland described the goal of the events that have occurred so far.

"We are focussing on the safety of the children, and we really want

to honor and give the students as much as we're able to," Calland said.

Kari Phillips, another senior class cabinet adviser, described the difficulties that are involved with planning senior events in the pandemic.

"Class cabinet and the advisers have met on several occasions, and we're really gauging interest in what the seniors want. Then, we've been meeting with Mr Smith, and he has met with other administrators from Central Office of what we can and cannot do," Phillips said.

There are more events planned for May, as graduation and senior picnic are right around the corner for seniors to look forward to.

Class cabinet member Leena Etilib described her role in planning the pancake breakfast, as well as what can be looked forward to for seniors.

"So, we just had senior pancake breakfast on Monday, and I did the little mini goody bags for all of the senior superlatives. And then next up we're planning for graduation and doing the senior salute" Etilib said.

Phillips also showed her excitement for the upcoming picnic, expanding upon what is in store for the seniors.

"Senior picnic is on May 20. Several food trucks including maybe Kona Ice (no guarantees) have all been brought up for the food. And then we're also bringing in Super Games, and they're bringing a slip and slide, and probably one other blow-up game," Phillips said, "The senior video should be done at that point, and we're going to view that as a class together as well."

At the end of all the celebration comes graduation, which will be distinctly different from years past with the parade, sunset event and final drive thru graduation on May 22.

Phillips weighed in on her perspective of what seniors are getting this year that other classes haven't.



Seniors Clara Storer and Abby DeShazo smile at Senior Thanksgiving. Seniors gathered for a meal and speeches on Dec. 3. They got to take pictures and talk about future events.

"The senior class is getting more than what is usually done at least in terms of graduation. It's not a traditional graduation, and I understand that's disappointing. However, they are getting three parts (Sunset Salute, Commencement Walk and Virtual Graduation) instead of one, all on graduation weekend," Phillips said.

Calland may have put it best when describing what she was most looking forward to as the year comes to an end and the seniors move on.

"I'm most looking forward to relaxing at senior picnic with cool kids and celebrating everyone in the graduation drive thru," she said.

## BACK IN BUSINESS

### clubs meeting in-person again

writer rachel lehmen  
designer keegan richards

Since the beginning of the school year, COVID-19 restrictions have made it difficult for school activities such as school clubs. Many clubs adapted by continuing to meet online, however, with the release of the COVID-19 vaccinations, the ability for clubs to meet in-person is becoming possible.

A new club called "A Kid Again", created by sophomore Autumn Predmore is a non-profit organization that provides adventures to bring support for families with a child bearing a terminal or life-threatening illness. Their first meeting was on March 18 in room 1201, and they introduced the club's goals and ideas.

"My mom used to work with

the Make a Wish Foundation and watching wishes come true came back to me. I knew that gathering other students to help families and bring joy was something I wanted to make happen," Predmore said.

Spanish Club is for any student in any level Spanish class to learn more about Spanish-speaking countries, practice the language and have fun at the same time. They haven't been able to do their traditional activities this year, but they still met online and now have planned some in-person events.

"We had an in-person, two-day movie event in April and have an outdoor scavenger hunt planned in May. Plans may shift due to changing guidelines, but that's the goal for now," senior and Spanish Club Co-President

Emily Jackson said.

The Beat is a club that focuses on rediscovering creativity and oftentimes they gather to just read, write or talk about other people's works while eating snacks. The club is not about forcing members to write or read, but more of giving students a safe space to be creative and share their ideas.

"Typically, we meet the first and third Monday of every month, and usually each month is centered around a theme. March's theme was time, so we looked at different stimuli and materials related to time. Some people wrote stories related to time, others wrote about different stuff, and during these meetings a lot of people read books too," junior Sorina Larsen said.

## THAT'S A WRAP

### performing arts coverage

writer rachel lehmen  
designer keegan richards

The performing arts have modified the way that they were able to share their performances. Whether it be getting specialized masks for singing or cutting a hole into a mask so they can wear it while playing their instrument, despite the obstacles, they still persevered.

Now, they are concluding the year with hopefully their last online performances ever. Despite it being more safe and convenient for people to watch, it takes a lot of time and effort for the people putting the performance together, and the performers having to record their parts at home.

"Since we can't do in-person

concerts, we have to record videos in class of us singing with the concept of the showcase. I think that it gives us more space for creativity for our concerts, when it's online," sophomore Aahana Bhadbhade said.

The choir also usually prepares for competition, but they also put on a big showcase that has the theme and music of their choice. This year's theme will be The Grammy's, and they will be performing Grammy-nominated songs.

"Playing in an orchestra has a lot to do with listening and watching the people you are playing with, so it became a lot weirder when there weren't a lot of people there to listen to," sophomore Madi Patton said.

Typically, the orchestra would be preparing pieces to perform at a

contest and graduation, which they will continue to do online. The band also does a competition with the other Olentangy high schools around this time of year but did an online concert instead on April 29.



Dr. Cox conducting a band performance.

## FUTURE PLANS

writer emma clute  
designer keegan richards

### life after high school

As the school year wraps up, many decisions about college and other senior plans have been made. The Instagram page, @oohsseniors2021, has also been keeping track of what the seniors are doing after high school and which colleges they plan on attending.

There has been a huge variety in the majors chosen by students. From criminology to physical therapy, many people have chosen subjects they're passionate about to pursue for the next four years.

"I chose special education as my major because I want to help students with disabilities grow in spite of their challenges and learn that, while their condition is a part of them, it doesn't define the entirety of who they are," senior Emily Jackson said.

Some students are pursuing more artistic majors that reflect their passion for music and performance. One of these majors is directing/production of theater and film.

"I knew I always wanted to stay in

the arts, but I also wanted to explore being on the business side of things," senior Emma Winder said. "I've been able to direct a few children's musicals the past two summers and I absolutely love it."

There's also been a variety of decisions on where to go for college, and many have opted to stay in the state.

"All of my family is in Ohio, and since I want to teach in Ohio after college, it's easiest to just get licensed to teach in this state to begin with, since requirements to be a teacher can vary slightly by state," Jackson said about her decision to attend Kent State.

However, some have opted to leave the state and go to a completely new environment, like the University of Texas at Austin.

"For my major, location really matters. Austin, Texas is a booming city for film and theater, and I knew I wanted to study somewhere that had a lot of real world applications nearby.

Being in Austin will allow for more job opportunities and connections," Winder said.

Unfortunately, it's impossible to consider college without also considering the future of COVID-19 and its possible impact on the next school year.

"Kent State has already announced that class sizes will be smaller to accommodate social distancing for at least the fall, but other than that and possibly mask mandates, I'm hopeful that by the fall, things will be pretty much the way they were before," Jackson said.

Seniors have also started making plans for life after college based on their majors.

"I plan on joining a production company and working on a team dedicated to creating films or theatrical productions," Winder said. "I'm hopefully going to learn all I can about the industry by playing different roles throughout my life."



Senior Emily Jackson, is going to Kent State, and Emma Winder, is going to The University of Texas at Austin.



## SARA BORTON

### senior pole vaults to school history

writer sam amonette

designer carissa long

permission to print MileSplit



Senior Sara Borton competes at Industrial Vault club. Borton said, "The season is going ok so far, I want to be more consistent around 12 feet. I still have some time to to get their though!"

Senior Sara Borton is involved with the track and field program and is one of the school's best performers. She competes in the pole vault events at track meets and is committed to the University of Tennessee. She plans to be a biology major there.

Pole vault, according to world athletics, is where "competitors vault over a 4.5-meter long horizontal bar by sprinting along a runway and jamming a pole against a 'stop board' at the back of a recessed metal 'box' set centrally at the base of the uprights. They seek to clear the greatest height

without knocking the bar to the ground."

The Tennessee women's track and field team is currently ranked No.19 in the most recent installment of the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) Track & Field Rating Index.

"I committed to Tennessee for a bunch of reasons. Tennessee fits me academically and athletically. The biggest reason for doing pole vault there is the division; the SEC is the most competitive division. I don't nearly match the expectations of the coaches, but out of all the schools, Tennessee saw potential and was willing to work with me," Borton said.

Borton's life has been influenced by her athleticism, and she has always had a fondness for sports.

"I started because my cousin did it in college. Due to my gymnastics and athletic background, my family thought I should try it. Since my first practice, pole vault has challenged me mentally and physically," Borton said.

She has had both physical and mental setbacks. "Pole vault has pushed me positively by pushing me to become stronger mentally. It has taken time away

Borton started with track and feild when she learned that pole vaulting may be more interesting. "My two cousins vaulted in high school and in college at Ohio State University. Because I was a gymnast in my past and I'm athletic, my whole family thought I should Give it a try," Borton said.



At Adidas Indoor Nationals in Virginia Beach, Virginia, Borton competes again. Borton said, "I'm surrounded by competition all the time, so it never gets boring. Many times I get upset because I'm not doing one thing correctly, and it bothers me. I end up running off fumes and do better."

from other things and makes me seek perfectionism," Borton said.

Borton's biggest struggle in this sport has been the toughness it has been on her mind. "I struggle mentally when I have to move up poles in the vault," Borton said.

Borton brings competitiveness, drive, focus and dedication to her sport and teammates, according to Head Track Coach Adam Walters.

"Sara has an amazing work ethic and is incredible at her sport. She has great determination and strength. I am excited to see her in the future," Walters said.

When asked about any advice for aspiring and current athletes, she said, "Embrace the grind, you will appreciate the lows when you embrace it."

The next track meet is Friday, May 7 against some Delaware County Schools.



## HYBRID VS FULL-TIME why hybrid is better for students

writer teresa christian  
designer teresa christian

The last time most students in the Olentangy district were on a hybrid schedule was all the way back in kindergarten. With red day kids and blue day kids alternating every day and every other Wednesday.

With everyone recently coming back together full time and in person, along with the school year coming to an end, it's easy to compare the two of which is better. After experiencing both types of schedules, hybrid is a better schedule because it brought many benefits to many different types of students.

The workload was not too much for most of my classes, and as for the "off days", most of the work didn't take long and wasn't too overwhelming

or complicated. The learning module of learning something in class, then going home to apply it that works for some students but not all. Personally, it fit my learning style well.

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Full time school promotes going to school, constantly zoning out and, trying to keep my head up and eyes open, all while still having to pay attention. Hybrid gave a nice rest-in between school days where students could catch up on some needed rest.

Depending on a student's classes, it's easy to argue on both sides about which is better, to be full time in one class versus hybrid. Certain classes require more time to be spent on and are harder when students aren't there every day.

The class size also was smaller for some classes, which was nice for students who like learning with a smaller group of people.

Missing out on annual events that the whole school can take part in was disappointing for some students. Depending on a student's grade, their response could vary, but for seniors, I'd argue that this was the biggest downfall of the schedule.

Though not getting to be with friends from the other group was hard, for this year, I would rate the hybrid schedule 4 out of 5 stars.

## MASKS NEXT YEAR

 more hassle than they're worth 

writer jake denner  
designer teresa christian

Masks being mandated during the next school year will be overly inconvenient and not line up with observable trends from other state mandates, either lifted or expanded.

At the personal level, masks are an inconvenience. Constantly breathing in the same air, without fresh air, causes the inside of the mask to become uncomfortably hot over the seven-hour school day. Due to the inconvenience, sports teams only have masks during team breaks, not requiring them on during play or sideline standby.

On a larger scale, disease trends of states with and without mandates

don't even support the mandates. According to The New York Times, in Texas, from the end of the Texan mask mandates on March 10 to April 1, new COVID-19 cases dropped by over 35 percent and the weekly mortality average dropped by almost 50 percent. In Mississippi, where mask mandates were dropped on March 3, from March 3 to April 1, new COVID-19 cases dropped by more than 57 percent and the weekly mortality rate dropped by 65 percent. Compared to a state that maintained harsh lockdowns and mask mandates, Michigan has a rise of over 300 percent in COVID-19 cases from March 1 to March 30.

Comparing New York and Florida shows another stark contrast. Florida

never imposed a mask mandate and has both a larger population share of people and vulnerable seniors than New York, which enforced a mask mandate and harsh lockdowns while Florida did not. However, since the start of the pandemic, Florida had 33,337 deaths and 2.05 million cases, while New York had 49,790 deaths and 1.87 million cases. New York still had more deaths and a higher share of cases for the population, at 9.59 percent to Florida's 9.53 percent.

Mandating students to wear masks unnecessarily inconveniences the students who do not want to wear them and the results from states that have gotten rid of or never implemented mandates are faring better than those that did.

## COVID-CATION summer plans for 2021

writer & designer taylor stewart  
illustration carissa long

### **freshman lauren jacob:**

“My family owns a lake house on Indian Lake, so we go up there almost every weekend in the summer. I also bring friends and family, and we boat, jet ski, tube, wakeboard and just spend time together.”

### **junior quinn shannon:**

“Since they’ve gotten the vaccine, the first thing my family is doing this summer is renting a house with my grandpa and cousins. After that, I might go to a camp at Notre Dame, but the rest of my summer is pretty flexible. With high school soccer starting up again, I’ll be at home and with friends most of the time.”

### **sophomore alex jung:**

“In stride of my academic career, over the summer, I plan on attending OSU and CCP courses. Along with that, I plan on attending high school soccer conditionings in hopes to make the soccer team. I am also hoping to spend more time with my friends and family having received the vaccine.”

### **senior andrew rose:**

“This summer, I plan on working a lot, staying in the gym to stay fit and get better at basketball. I have a senior trip with my freinds in the Outer Banks this summer, so I’m very excited for that as well.”

### **how to stay busy while staying safe during a pandemic:**

- Go to National Parks
- Watch the sunrise/ sunset
- Host a BBQ with family and friends
- Watch a new Netflix series
- Go kayaking
- Start a garden
- Exercise
- Learn new recipes
- Try a new local restraurant or local business
- Explore the Alum Creek Dam
- Read a book
- Go camping

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH AND PIONEER PRIDE BARS

writer & designer taylor stewart  
photos carissa long

### **MARCH**

Hannah Bell  
Jackson Keyes  
Aundraya Randolph  
Ryann Allender  
Zamir Fuller  
Jack Bryan  
Erin Duell  
Colin Hatfield  
Jay Tincher

### **PIONEER PRIDE BARS**

Jonathan Peterson - March 3  
Felicia Kidder - March 19  
Muskaan Gill - March 19  
Joshua Jenkins - March 19  
Aaron Lasky - April 16  
Andrew Barnes - April 16