

The Frontier

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Olentangy Orange's Parent Newsletter

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ONE ACT PLAYS putting on one last show

writer keegan richards
designer carissa long

O rangelight Productions is carrying on with traditions even through this pandemic. As the department always has, it continued the rotation between a middle school play and the student-directed one act plays, with the eight they had this year.

The one act plays sound exactly like what they are. They are individual, one-act plays that students direct. All eight plays were performed over two nights, Friday, Jan. 29 and Saturday, Jan. 30.

"The student-directed one act plays are a bunch of individual plays directed by students in our theater department. The eight productions this year were: 'Twitch', 'Actions News: Now with 10% more action', 'From the Mouth of Babes', 'I'm Pretty Sure This is Your Fault', 'Blind Date, Say

Nothing', 'On the Porch, One Crisp Spring Morning', '1955 1985' and 'Small World,'" sophomore Casey Forrest said.

He was a part of the set crew, a group of students who help with the behind the scenes work that happens with theater.

"I helped build sets, and I worked with directors to create props for their plays. Also, during performances, I was the person moving the sets on and off stage," Forrest said.

It's hard to talk about anything without mentioning COVID-19's influence on it, and these plays were not different. Because of the pandemic, the plays have A and B groups, just like school.

"The actors had rehearsals based on a group system, like our hybrid schedule. There were B and A plays and the play actors were in determined what days they rehearsed," Forrest said.

They worked hard this year to have the plays go well, having scheduled rehearsals pretty frequently.

"We had rehearsals scheduled for every week day and sometimes we had



crew days on Saturday that we used to build sets," Forrest said.

But, of course, there was more than just actors and stage crew involved in the production of a play.

"I was the director of Small World. Small World is about six people going on a blind date, throughout their seemingly normal first date. It's revealed that they are all not what they seem," senior Shannan Johnson



photo credit: Teresa Christian

MAKING ADJUSTMENTS scheduling classes for next year

writer taylor stewart

designer jake denner

As students all know, this year has been like no other, causing many changes in their everyday lifestyles. With uncertainty on what even the next week is going to look like, it's difficult to plan something that's a year away.

One of the major changes was the scheduling process for next year's school year; the process of scheduling between now and previous years definitely has a few major changes, including a tighter timeline to get everything done, less time for counselors to meet with the students, everything is being worked digitally, and a video made to explain the requirements for each grade.

"One of the changes students will notice is that our class meetings were not held due to our COVID capacity restrictions, hence the video that was played in second period instead," Assistant Principal Garry Young said.

A huge role in scheduling is making the difficult decision of what students are going to pursue for the next year. This year's scheduling process can create more stress among students making this new change rather difficult.

"The biggest thing is there is not as much facetime in general, so I think students are a little more stressed about it because they might have more questions, and may be a little confused," Guidance Counselor Sarah Hanna said.

One relief for students is they can still change the original courses they selected if a student changes their mind for their next year. A little stress can be taken off of students knowing what they write on their Course Selection Guide does not have to be 100 percent final.

"If you need to change a class between now and the end of the year, you'll stop by student services and pick up an orange schedule change request form," Hanna said.

One thing this past year has taught students is they will never know what will happen next. Needless to say, most hope this process will go back to normal, while keeping the better things learned from this year's changes.

OHIO STATE TESTS the prelude to state tests

writer jake denner

designer jake denner

The Ohio State Tests are soon for graduating classes. Students will have to take the end-of-course exams for their corresponding classes in accordance with state rules.

The state reworked requirements from last year so each graduating class has different requirements. It is important that students understand the graduating requirements, which can be reviewed on Schoology.

"The testing procedures have not been determined. We are operating under the assumption that testing will proceed as normal unless otherwise determined" guidance counselor Matthew Brown said.

This year is similar to previous years in scheduling, with the state giving districts a designated window during the second half of the year.

"Based on the current status of

federal and state law, districts should be making plans for students to take the relevant end-of-course exams. Due to technology and test security requirements, there is no option to remotely administer state tests. All testing must be done in person," according to the Ohio Department of Education.

The Government exams took place in late December, and the spring exams have a window of March 22 to April 23 for English classes and March 29 to May 7 for the sciences, math classes, and social studies classes. That is the furthest extent the spring tests have been planned.

"Testing procedures are still being determined for spring. In December, students who were currently taking Government were tested over two days based upon their last name. We tested all students in the Aux Gym; the Aux Gym allowed us to

socially distance and space students even more comfortably than the classroom," Brown said. "Because it was a larger group, instruction and management of the test was uniformly administered. It was extremely positive and allowed for students to be in a much more open and comfortable setting."

The school administration is waiting to hear if more concrete guidelines come down from the or if the tests will be conducted similar to the government exams in December.

"The state tests should operate on an in person, socially distanced basis because it will reduce the risk of cheating but also so that the experience of the testing environment for students is consistent and reliable amongst past years," senior Jackson Crook said. "An at-home workspace for the test could negatively or positively impact the result."

GRAMMY SEASON APPROACHES music fans get ready for the renewed 63rd grammys

writer teresa christian
designer taylor stewart

From the Best Pop Song to Best Rock Album or the Best Country Song to Best Rap Performance, musicians get ready for the most prestigious music event of the year, Grammys. The Grammys originally being held in January have been pushed to March 14 due to COVID-19 concerns along with no official announcement on whether the show will be held in person, virtually or hybrid.

Previous winning artists like Taylor Swift, Justin Beiber, Dua Lipa, Roddy Rich and Billie Eillish have been nominated, and are expected to take the win home again. A few popular artists yet to have won or been nominated before include Harry Styles, Post Malone, Doja Cat and Tame Impala.

"I was pleasantly surprised to see the artist CHIKA nominated in the "Best New Artists" category," sophomore Lauren Nahay said. "Her unique flow and word play has brought so much talent to the music industry."

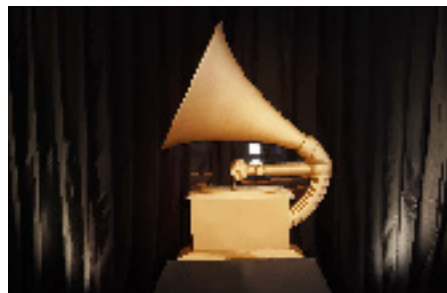
For the past few years, it has seemed that the same recurring artists keep getting nominated, ultimately dominating their category. For example Taylor Swift, and with a soaring number of new artists, many are sought out to be ignored by the

reputable ceremony.

"The Grammys this year in general seem more based on popularity and less on the actual quality of music, which I think isn't right and should change," sophomore Michelle Li said. "The categories are voted by music creators and not by the general public."

Over the years, music fans have looked forward to watching the show in hopes that their favorite artist could potentially win. It created a national hub for people to speculate and discuss all things music.

"I think it's hard to get a genuine outcome from a ceremony of such a large capacity," Nahay said. "A lot of accusations of fraud and dishonesty have been coming out against the Grammys and so I think the public's appeal for the ceremony is beginning to diminish."



ANTICIPATED ALBUMS music headed your way in 2021

writer teresa christian
designer taylor stewart

Album drops are some of the most exciting times for music fans, as they offer new chart smashing singles and set the tone for the year in the world of music. 2021 is set to have some of the most anticipated music drops, ranging from smaller to bigger artists.

Dropping at the end of the 2020 to lead into the new year, was Taylor Swift's ninth studio album, a surprise to her fans. Her new album is titled "Evermore".

"I like Taylor Swift, so I enjoyed 'Folklore' and 'Evermore,'" sophomore Kendall Cadegan said. "I also listened to 'The New Abnormal' album by The Strokes a fair bit too."

Artists like Drake, Lorde and Adele have hinted at releasing new albums

in early 2021 by giving sneak peaks to fans. Last year, Drake released a trailer for his new album set to drop January 2021 called "Certified Lover Boy".

"I haven't heard about too many artists who I listen to that are planning to drop albums anytime soon, sophomore Sraavya Paul said. "But I heard Rhianna might drop one this year so I'm looking forward to that."

R&B/pop artist Zayn Malik released his third studio album, "Nobody Is Listening" on Jan. 15 along with Morgan Wallen releasing his second country album on Jan. 8.

"I really liked some of the albums that came out last year like Tame Impala's and The Weeknd's," Paul said. "I also feel like I was introduced to some new artists with their recent drops."

Foo Fighters said they are releasing "Medicine at Midnight" on Feb. 5 and Noname mentioned that her album, titled "Factory Baby", is underway, according to Rolling Stone. Expected albums to drop this year from various artists include, Karol G, Roddy Ricch, Billie Eillish, Cardi B, Brandi Carlile, St. Vincent, Rosalia, Justin Bieber and Ed Sheeran, according to Rolling Stone.



Taylor Swift's "Evermore"

CELEBRATING BLACK CULTURE Annual Black History Month Assembly

writer emma clute
designer rachel lehman

The Black History Month assembly is an annual tradition at the school that brings light to racial injustice and celebrates African American culture and people. This year's assembly is on Feb. 10 and 11, and the theme is family.

The assembly is put together by LIFE Movement, the Black Empowerment Club, and Face-to-Face, the diversity club. Creating a space for black people where their voices can be heard and they can bring awareness to causes that are important to them is what LIFE Movement is all about.

"LIFE Movement is a space maintained and curated by black students to not only organize and showcase our hard work on the Black History Month assembly but also to provide a space for black students to be themselves," junior and LIFE Movement member Imari Duncan said.

The clubs allow people of color a space to talk about issues that are important to them with people who will understand. This place of understanding always shines during the assembly.

"Not only does the assembly give black students representation in the school environment, but it also empowers them and makes them feel proud of their heritage," junior and Vice President of LIFE Movement Maxine Botchway. "It is also a way for us to step away from the typical negative things we learn about black history and rather celebrate it."

The assembly put on by LIFE Movement is going to look a little different this year because of COVID-19.

"We're going to stream the assembly this year," diversity liaison and club adviser for Face-to-Face and LIFE Movement Stephen Lewis said. "We're still going to do everything on stage, but we're going to record it and then make that recording available to students during an extended homepage in February."

The restrictions put in place are not going to change its importance, though. The assembly leaves a lasting impact on everyone who sees it and forces them to think deeper about social issues and black culture.

"Students are guaranteed to always leave with a message that

is different from learning the MLK speech in class and being told to respect one another. That's not anti-racism. That's being a decent human being, and it's the bare minimum," Botchway said. "We leave students with a message that they can take with them into the future: not a message to be a nice person, but a message that could motivate them to change the world we live in."

However, black history and culture aren't only important in February, and many believe it should be taught more in classrooms than it currently is.

"I think it's important to be taught Black history, but not just the same parts of history we've always heard about concerning slavery," Duncan said. "We should also learn about who Black people were before colonization and how hard the people within my community have fought to get where they are today."

LIFE Movement and Face-to-Face plan for the Black History Month assembly



sharing the love valentine's day gifts from parents

writer rachel

designer sam amonette

Valentine's Day is a day of the year that people either love or hate. Personally, I haven't had a reason to love the day but, seeing what seems like hundreds of posts on social media about people and their significant others and all the sweet things they did for them makes me want to vomit in my mouth just a little bit. However, one thing that makes me feel a little less lonely is the fact that my mom gets me a small gift on Valentine's Day.

On Instagram I asked people when parents should stop giving Valentine's Day gifts. Out of 100 people, 47 percent said that parents should never stop giving their children Valentine's Day gifts, 14 percent thought that at

a certain age, it was weird and 39 percent said that their parents just don't give gifts on Valentine's Day anyways, according to a poll created on Instagram.

My mother is an immigrant, so we communicate our affection a lot better through actions rather than words. For example, if I'm upset, she will just bring me a plate of fruit to comfort me rather than using words because she doesn't know how, but she knows food makes me feel better.

When going to the store in February, the amount of pink and red hearts everywhere is hard to miss. In 2017, it was expected that the total money spent on Valentine's Day would surpass \$18.2 billion,

which would be about \$136.57 per person, according to ABC.

Because of the pandemic, many people were not able to see family and friends over the holiday season. This has been a hard year for everyone and sending a handwritten note to grandparents or a small box of chocolates to friends can mean a lot.

Overall, Valentine's Day is a celebration of love and affection, and it is not limited to significant others; love is within family and friends too. To the 39 percent that said their parents don't get them anything on Valentine's Day, maybe this is the year to start.

relationships in high school are they really worth it?

writer sam amonette

designer sam amonette

One of the biggest parts of high school is relationships. When high school students are around so many people, they may feel pressured to find someone they want to date.

Especially with holidays like Valentine's Day coming up, there might be pressure to find someone to share that special day with.

According to Brandon Gallie.com, which is a statistics website, only 14 percent of couples met in high school, and only two percent lasted.

As someone who has personally been in her fair share of high school relationships, they are not all they are hyped up to be.

Especially as a senior, high

schoolers are growing up and finding themselves and don't need to be tied down to a relationship that probably won't last.

I've seen both myself and my friends go through relationships in high school and I feel it's mostly bad. They will usually end in heartbreak and pain.

Movies and TV shows glorify high school relationships. They make their audience think that all relationships last and are a sort of "endgame"

Especially for me, I grew up with "High School Musical" and "Hannah Montana" Those TV Shows and Movies showed me what I wanted in high school but obviously that was practically unachievable.

Even music can make you think that being in a high school relationship is the best idea. Taylor Swift literally wrote two albums about being in love as a teenager.

Of course, relationships in high school are fine, but in the long run are they worth it? Honestly no. It's nice to have someone special, but in the end it'll most likely end up in some form of heartbreak.

Although relationships in high school can help teens learn what and what not to do in a relationship and help them find what kind of person they are interested in and want to be in, they should not be basing their entire future over someone who they met when they were 16.

THIS YEAR I WILL... new year's resolutions for 2021

writer & designer carissa long
illustration carissa long

senior anna godoy:

be more positive in every aspect of my life

sophomore autumn predmore:

junior chris kraynak:

live 5 days a week and read devotional every morning

senior jordyn murray:

be happier than I was last year

senior makeda mekonnen:

follow through with the goals I set for myself

junior rami razek:

quit bad habits and work on a healthier lifestyle

sophomore kennedy murray:

eat healthier

sophomore maliyah:

get better grades and focus on myself more

senior alissa archer:

go to the gym more often

senior michael odenwal:

get everything done and to not procrastinate on important things

ideas to use as your resolution:

- start a dream journal
- volunteer more
- spend 5 minutes a day cleaning
- fix your sleep schedule
- develop a skincare routine
- try a new hobby
- renew an old object
- prioritize mental health
- ditch a bad habit
- do one act of kindness a day
- be more spontaneous
- have more family time
- be nicer and more caring
- learn a new language
- loose weight or tone up
- create a new recipe

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

writer & designer carissa long
photos carissa long

DECEMBER

Evan Gruen, Heath Mann, Tehani Foreman, Luke Risko, Brandon Aguila, Diamond Agiobu, Rico Franklin-Davis, Josie Phelan, Kaitlyn Walker

JANUARY

Katelynn Wollitz, Nathan Pierce, Vivana Hernandez, Tony Ivanov, Madigan Williamson, Alexandra Bond, Sophia Lammi