

NEW TEACHERS

welcoming new educators to the high school

writer **valentina urbaez**

designer **nathan chow**

At the start of the school year, the high school staff welcomed new staff into the building. New members continue to adjust to their new setting and enhance the learning experience.

This is Christian Hipsher's first year teaching, and he's teaching Business Technology, Personal Finance and International Business.

"I enjoy business-related subjects and hope I can help provide students the tools to make decisions in their professional lives to make a positive impact on the community in which they reside," Hipsher said.

Makenzie Nordquist is currently a psychology intern working alongside School Psychologist Cari Lotko.

"I was introduced to the field of school psychology as a senior in college. Originally, I was going to go into social work, but once I shadowed a school psychologist and saw the way they can help and work with all students I knew I had to pursue it. I love the collaboration, teamwork, and daily schedule that comes with working at a school," Nordquist said.

She said the Olentangy district would offer a wide variety of experiences working with high schoolers.

Anthony Taliani is in his 10th

year of teaching and is currently teaching English CP9 and CP10 has taught all grade levels of English as well as social studies courses.

"I love teaching the basics and foundations of language and literature to high school students, so ninth and 10th grade are some of my favorite grade levels to teach. English is a subject in school that benefits all other subjects and the way that people interact with each other beyond the classroom. So, I enjoy being a part of helping young people develop their communication styles and personalities through literature and language arts," Taliani said.

This is Samantha Welsh's first year teaching her own classroom of CP9 English. In college, she taught a variety of freshmen, sophomore and junior English classes, and she has the journalism program's own Kari Phillips to thank for getting involved.

"I'm actually an OOHS grad, and Mrs. Phillips had a huge impact on me! I remember one day going up to her and asking, 'How can I be you?' I wanted to teach journalism, and would still love to eventually but I became passionate about English as a subject in general during college. I always knew I wanted to be a teacher,

but without Mrs. Phillips I'm not sure how I would've found my path to being an English teacher," Welsh said.

Grant Beam is in his fourth year as an intervention specialist, and prior to joining the staff he taught at Mechanicsburg High School for three years. He graduated college with the intention of becoming a social studies teacher and shifted focus to intervention after seeing the individual impact it could have on students.

"Providing support to students who need it most is what drew me to being an intervention specialist, and it is what will keep me in this position for a long time," Beam said.

Growing up in the area exposed Beam to Olentangy's strong reputation and led him to teach here.

"Olentangy Orange was at the top of my list, and fortunately, a position opened. Olentangy has been a wonderful place to work so far, and I am looking forward to a long career here," Beam said.

Other new teachers are, Ann Holben and Brandie Painter, both teaching family consumer science and Anita Thomas, who's teaching in the science department.



left:
Samantha Welsh

right:
Anthony Taliani (left)
and Grant Beam
(right)



NEXT YEAR'S CLASSES

guidance counselors help with scheduling

writer **marshall medley**

designer **nathan chow**

It's the new year and the second semester of school. That can mean only one thing, Scheduling. It's time to schedule classes for next year.

One of the first things students do after winter break is scheduling. Students meet with their counselor during their English period, and they will discuss which classes they want to take next year. But some students may not look forward to it.

"I look forward to it because it helps me plan for what my year will look like," junior Zoe Moore said.

Knowing what one's schedule is ahead of time can help students decide if they want to continue taking the class. Opinions change over time, and a

class someone was once excited to take can suddenly not be interesting at all.

Scheduling happens right after winter break during the second semester. However, students have plenty of time before the next school year starts and change their schedule if necessary.

"I think it is helpful to plan ahead," Moore said. "Especially before all the chaos that comes at the end of the year."

Scheduling early can be very tricky, but not dealing with it at the end of the year can be beneficial. The end of the school year is always chaotic, trying to catch up in classes. When scheduling is finished, students can focus on their current schoolwork.

Scheduling isn't a long process but can be stressful. Students must pick the right classes, with the right credits. However, guidance counselors will help students with the process.

"Students received their scheduling cards and watched a scheduling video during a homebase schedule," Guidance Counselor Sarah Hanna said. "Counselors will be in English classes to collect the cards and put the requests into PowerSchool."

The stressful process becomes less stressful when guidance counselors are there to help. It also becomes less stressful as students have plenty of time to drop and add new classes.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

what happens during teacher work days

writer **rachel lehman**

designer **nathan chow**

Professional Development is a day where students take the day off while teachers are learn new techniques, protocols and technologies in education. There are usually three every school year: two in the first semester during September and November and one in the second semester in February.

During Professional Development days, the first half of the day consists of the whole staff meeting and doing an activity to get settled. Afterwards, the staff breaks into three sessions in which teachers learn new things such as new protocols for classroom management.

"We like teachers to lead them because we think it helps teachers engage. Sometimes people from

the central office lead, sometimes I lead. Overall, the goal is to train teachers on newest skills and practices in education," assistant principal Christine Tartt said.

Each year, there is a different focus for professional development days. Science teachers Alex Van Echo and Jamie Gilbert and librarian Austin Nunn are a part of the professional development team that helps out with materials helping get sessions organized and occasionally leading certain professional development days.

"This year's focus is 'student agency'. By focusing on 'agency' as learners, this is how we give students a voice and a choice in their learning within the curriculum framework

of our courses," Gilbert said.

Because education is ever changing, Professional Development days aim to stay up-to-date with the latest techniques and technology. Professional Development days are valuable to teachers, but also students because the teachers bring their training to the students.

"These days are important because teachers tend to be relatively isolated as professionals compared to some other professions. It gives us the opportunity to learn current best practices from one another and from other educators that have interesting new methods to share. It helps us stay fresh for our students," Gilbert said.

UNDERSTANDING THE PAST the black history month assembly

writer **emma clute**

contributor **gabby raney**

designer **taylor stewart**

photo credit **alaina jones and katherine moorhead**

The Black History Month assembly is a yearly tradition put on by Black Empowerment Club that shines light on important parts of black history through both the fight for civil rights as well as the culture and spirituality that has persisted throughout the centuries. This year's assembly will premiere Feb. 11 online for the school to see.

Sticking with tradition, the assembly will have a unique theme that highlights a different part of black culture in America. This year, the students are focusing on how the past five decades have influenced black culture.

"Our theme for the assembly is black influence through fashion, hair, sports and media," BEC Vice President and senior Imari Duncan said. "In an effort to stray away from the trauma that comes with being black, such as police brutality or even historic trauma, we wanted this year's theme

to showcase the beautiful and joyous parts of being black."

As this year's assembly revolves around the past, it will also be able to focus on how black history has affected both today's black community and the world, as a whole.

"Some of the significance of spreading awareness for Black History Month is learning important history that has been intentionally not taught that is not only relevant to the black community but also relevant to American history," BEC Adviser, Diversity Liaison and Library Media Specialist Austin Nunn said. "We cannot understand American history without understanding black history because black history is American history."

Similar to last year, the assembly is not able to be performed in-person due to COVID-19. Instead, it will be posted online, and all grades will be able to view it at a scheduled time during the school day.

"We will be recording this year's assembly like we did last year, but we're trying to be more creative with it," BEC President and senior Maxine Botchway said.

Regardless of the format, the assembly consistently has a big impact on the students and staff each year through its powerful representation and depiction of black America.

"It is not the responsibility of black students to educate non-black students about history. Instead, [the students and staff should] appreciate the time, effort and passion these students put in so that the school can have a Black History Month assembly," Nunn said.

The assembly also tends to be impactful for the black student body specifically because it gives them a

Black Empowerment Club meets on Sept. 29 in which junior Saniya H leads the group.



chance to see themselves represented in a way that doesn't typically happen at school.

"The assembly gives our black student body who aren't a part of BEC a sense of belonging," Botchway said. "Not every black person is comfortable with being an activist, and it's not their responsibility to be one. However, they still get to see a piece of themselves being represented."

The club also ensures that black people have a space carved out for them while the members strive to make the rest of the school more mindful and accepting as well.

"BEC is a safe space for black students and allies. We are putting forth extra effort to make the school a more racially aware place," Botchway said. "BEC is also a place for students to celebrate and understand their blackness."

BEC is open to students of all races who want to learn about black issues and black culture. They meet on Wednesdays in the library to discuss these topics and many more as they aim to raise awareness throughout the school.



A rehearsal for the 2021 Black History Month assembly on Feb. 4 presented by 2021 graduate Henry W. and senior Maxine B.

SEASONAL CLUBS

more opportunities arrive for students

writer **rachel lehman**
designer **emma barnhart**

photos by **varsha venkateshwaran**
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With the weather getting colder and the seasons changing, it also means new clubs coming into season. Depending on the club, a January start date is due to needing the appropriate weather or clubs that have a specific season due to competitions or due dates.

Ski Club had its first trip on Jan. 9. Ski Club is a district-wide club that meets every Sunday and travels by bus to Snow Trails; on days the weather does not cooperate, they reschedule for a makeup trip on a different Sunday.

“Ski Club is a great opportunity to meet new people with the same interests as you from other schools and even on your own. You also get great discounts on equipment and passes,” club member and junior Ava Hall said.

Another district-wide club that began its season in January was Robotics Club, also known as Ozone. Ozone participates in the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) robotics competition annually where the team builds, programs and designs a different robot every year depending on the theme of the competition. This year’s theme is transportation.

“We meet at Orange usually

on weekends because people are coming across the other side of the district. Since we know the theme of the competition, we will get straight to designing what we are going to make and how we are going to make it. Then, we split off into different teams and get started with working on the robot, which usually ends up being a cubic yard and 140 pounds,” Robotics Adviser and Math Teacher Drew Bachman said.

Robotics club stands out on college applications and resumes. The club provides experience for those wanting to go into the engineering field. However, for those not really interested in engineering, there’s still plenty of things that can be done to help.

“I am a leader of the design team, and I help to design the bots and any specific parts we need models or 3D printings of. I love being a part of a team and having to contribute to an overall goal,” junior Elizabeth Weinberger said.

Letters for Rose is another district-wide club; however it’s not a seasonal one. It’s a new pandemic-

borne club founded originally in New Jersey that just began its Lewis Center chapter at Orange and Berlin high school in August 2021. Meetings are every two



Robotics Adviser Andrew Bachmann helps junior Kaleb D. work on his Robotics Club project.

weeks on Thursdays in the library from 2:35 to 3:30 p.m.

“Letters for Rose is an opportunity where volunteers can make letters and artwork for residents in nursing homes and earn service hours for them,” club leader and junior Sonali Kumar said. “Especially during this trying time of the COVID-19 pandemic, residents have been feeling extra lonely and missing ‘human-like’ interactions. These cards, letters, and artwork lift their spirits and make their day.”



Last year, sophomore Bella M. went to Mad River Mountain on Sundays for Ski Club.



Elyssa D. creates artwork in Letters for Rose for nursing home residents.

GOALS FOR THE YEAR

students pick New Year's resolutions

designer emma clute

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Sophomore Gabby Raney
"My New Year's Resolution is to stop stressing out about school so much because I know I hold myself to a higher standard than necessary, and there's no use in being that stressed out."

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Senior Micaela Shelton
"I want to eat healthy and workout more this year. I also want to get in shape because I'm going to the beach this summer."

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Freshman Jana Mattar
"I would like to drink more water and eat healthier as well as get in shape and get my endurance up for track."

Junior Aryan Bommema
"My New Year's resolution is to make more time for friends and family while also focusing on other priorities like school and sports."

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STUDENTS OF THE MONTH & PIONEER PRIDE BARS

JANUARY

Kennedy Lewis
Andrew Berry
Allison Estes
Ayden Gardner
Amira Welch
Ella Stamolis
Grant Pachko
Lauryn Barringer
Sorina Larsen
Nicholas Augustine

PIONEER PRIDE BARS

Nick Naunheimer
Garrett Hatfield
Lydia Heinrich
Kassandra Woolf