



OSEP



the senior exit project is back

writer **rachel lehman**
designer and photo credit **emily zimpfer**

The Olentangy Senior Exit Project, or OSEP, is an almost year-long research project where students pick a topic they want to research at a college level, write a paper and ultimately do something with that research beyond just learning and applying it. The application can be anywhere from making a documentary or community action, but what matters is that they get to do something real with what they learn.

However, OSEP has not always been around; this is the first school year since 2020 that this project is being done. Because it was gone for two years, some students thought OSEP was gone for good. However, some CP 12 teachers thought it was important to rebrand and bring back.

“With the years of COVID, it just didn’t feel like the thing we needed to do, and also OSEP needed a little bit of a rebranding because there were some misconceptions about it,” CP 12 English teacher Elizabeth Stringer said.

Some misconceptions included that OSEP is just a repeat of AP Seminar and AP Research, both of which are classes where students learn how to write argumentative and informative writing, and present both individually and in a group setting.

“With OSEP, you can do something



Senior Ayden B. does research for the project before the deadline.



Senior Ava H. works on her senior exit project.

that you’re passionate about with almost zero restrictions compared to the ones college board imposes,” Stringer said. “You have more freedom to create something that you’re genuinely proud of.”

“WITH OSEP, YOU CAN DO SOMETHING THAT YOU’RE PASSIONATE ABOUT WITH ALMOST ZERO RESTRICTIONS COMPARED TO THE ONES COLLEGE BOARD IMPOSES. YOU HAVE MORE FREEDOM TO CREATE SOMETHING THAT YOU’RE GENUINELY PROUD OF,” ENGLISH TEACHER ELIZABETH STRINGER SAID.

The goal of OSEP is to create a space for students to mimic the rigor and independence that is required in college and careers post high school. Students contact an expert in whichever topic they are researching and learn how to write emails professionally.

“This is the closest to career preparation you get at the high school

level. Learning and applying that learning for the sake of bettering something in some way is something most adults do every day,” Stringer said.

Some students have expressed excitement about the independence offered with the project. However, a genuine concern is if by the second semester seniors will start to procrastinate and lose sight of why they started their project in the first place.

“OSEP is a good opportunity for students, and it is going to prepare us well to do research and be independent in college. However, I am interested in seeing how it’s actually going to turn out knowing how second semester seniors tend to procrastinate heavily,” CP 12 English student Raeann Hedrick said.

After writing an eight-10 page argumentative paper relating to their topic before winter break, students will take break from OSEP during third quarter and then resume the community action piece of OSEP during fourth quarter.

REDISTRICTING UPDATE

new middle school prompts redistricting

writer **rachel lehman**

designer **mia harrington**

The Olentangy school district grows more and more each year. Within the last couple of years, a new elementary school and high school have been built and a new middle school set to open next year.

“Redistricting typically occurs when we open a new building which is currently happening in our district as we plan to open Berlin Middle School next year. We are also going to adjust some elementary boundaries as we have a couple of buildings that are significantly over capacity,” Superintendent Mark Raiff said.

When redistricting, new district boundaries need to be established. This final decision is up to

Superintendent Raiff.

“I choose to use a process that gathers input and feedback from many community members,” Raiff said. “We have a consultant who helps manage the data that shows where every student lives and how moving students impacts the current and future enrollment at each school.”

However, the opening of a new schools doesn’t mean the district stops growing. Additional schools are anticipated to be built in the future.

“The most recent 10-year enrollment projections show the need for a three additional elementary schools and an additional middle school within that 10-year timeframe,” Raiff said.

Although redistricting is necessary,

it can be a really drastic change for some. Solee Lim, a current senior had redistricted from Berkshire Middle School to Orange Middle School when she was in eighth grade.

“For me, redistricting wasn’t that big of a deal because I went to elementary school with a lot of people from Orange. Plus, I had to travel very far to go to Berkshire and Orange was just down the road from me,” Lim said.

STUDENT CLUBS

several clubs become more active

writer **valentina urbaez**

designer **mia harrington**

The student body is easing its way into the end of first semester and each grade has gathered its own set of stressors. Not only that, but many clubs are making their way through end of year plans.

The yearly tradition for science and tech geared students, Science Olympiad, has taken off. Competitions and labs will be held throughout January where students will showcase their creations.

“My three events, Flight, Wifi Lab and Code busters have final adjustments before competition and schools will compete for top prize in the events they’ve signed up for,” junior Divya Saravanakumar said.

As students continue and finish this Olympiad season, they’ll rely on

feedback and scores to determine what can be improved in the coming years.

Though DECA is not technically a club, it’s a highly interactive period for juniors and seniors involved with the rebranding of Fort Orange.

“We’ve been working on promotional activities for Fort Orange, making shirt orders for clubs through Orange Apparel Co, and our DECA written events,” senior Jessica Mallett said. “Our upcoming events are districts where we will compete either individually or with a partner.”

Interact club is known to be one the clubs students rely on for their service hours. One that tends to be overlooked is Letters for Rose.

The club meets once a month and students get together with snacks and stacks of colorful paper with craft

materials to write letters to people in nursing homes.

“Our goal is to spread as much of the care we have for one another at Orange to the people who might not get it as much as they should,” senior co-leader Sofia Malik said.

Each creation or coloring page students turn in offers them an hour of service.



New and improved Fort Orange clothing display DECA students designed.

OOHS SOAPS

student one act plays head to the stage

writer **valentina urbaez**
designer **nathan chow**

The theater program has generally been an outlet for students to express their creativity in the margins of a script and set direction. Student One Act Plays (SOAPS) offer an opportunity every other year for students to work closely with their peers and take ownership of a play on their own.

Each group meets twice a week on alternating days and works in the halls to rehearse. Student directors worked on casting their strongest actors before choosing their script and got to work.

“Working in such a small group has taught me to pay close attention to everyone’s needs and incorporate them in our work setting,” junior student director Hallie Whisler said.

Working with a limited cast of no more than five people allows for a closer connection between the actors and a stronger show.

“I really liked the idea of having a little more control over the script and what it would be like to start a show without our typical adult advisor,” junior Divya Saravanakumar said.

With two rehearsal weeks left, actors and directors are finalizing sets,

strengthening lines and cleaning up whatever needs it.

“It can be stressful at times knowing that because the plays are only one act long, we have less time to rehearse but having complete creative control is what makes it worth it,” Whisler said.

Students also have the choice to direct and act in different shows. Saravanakumar’s one wish was to involve herself more in the theater environment and stuck with acting. Whisler, having experience with both loves working closely with tech but would choose acting over directing.

“I get to play a stingy mom preparing for my child’s wedding and it reinforced my desire to keep acting. I’m playing around with someone I’m not and seeing how to make her better,” Saravanakumar said.

The plays will be showcased Friday and Saturday Jan. 20-21 and will be roughly 15-20 minutes long. Adult tickets will be \$8, students and staff will be \$6 and the new Pay What You Can method starts out at \$3.

PLAY NAMES AND DIRECTORS

“The Role of Della” - Bryn Mosure

“Please Have a Seat and Someone Will Be With You Shortly” - Hallie Whisler and Caira Fisher-Rogers

“Bar Mitzvah Boy” - Jonas and Elijah Beal

“Double Wedding” - Levi Holmes

“In Case of Fish” - Madisyn Dumm

“Home Invasion” - Eden Bronder

Right: Three students practice for the Home Invasion One Act Play.

Middle:

Left: Stephen A. and Alaina B. direct other one act plays.

Shannon B. Braden



FORT ORANGE

a look at the school's improved spirit shop

writer **sofie terlesky**
designer **hailey boyce**

There are plenty of ways students can become more involved in the school. Fort Orange, the school's spirit shop, is a great place for students to volunteer and gain experience with the business atmosphere.

"Working in Fort Orange has provided me with an opportunity to explore managing and scaling a business," senior Fort Orange employee Luke Border said.

While high school students mainly operate in Fort Orange, Business teacher Teresa Gellenbeck also manages the school store.

"This year, with both Orange Apparel Co and Fort Orange, I feel

like a small business owner and entrepreneur," Gellenbeck said.

With the new school year underway, the students working in Fort Orange have new expectations for the current and future status of the store.

"Our goals this year are to do \$100K in sales and establish our brand and presence within the school," Border said.

Not only does the Fort Orange staff want to spread spirit around the school, it is also looking to build the business and marketing culture as well.

"We want to build a positive culture that promotes school spirit and encourage students to want to take business and marketing classes," Gellenbeck said.

Working in Fort Orange is a great opportunity for students to spread school spirit and become familiar with the business and sales environment.

"If you are a junior or senior, sign up for a marketing class! You can apply when signing up for classes at the start of the third quarter," Border said.

Students and staff can expect new merchandise arriving every one to two months, along with some other minor changes that are being implemented within the store.

"We have quarterly teams to update the store decor and window display. We also collaborated with the design class and photography class on this for Q1, which was really fun!" Gellenbeck said.

SCHEDULING

mapping out next year

writer **emma barnhart**
designer **hailey boyce**

As quarter two wraps up, students are beginning to explore what courses their schedule for next year may hold.

Freshmen on Jan. 31, Feb. 1, 2, sophomores on Feb. 7, 8, 9 and juniors on Feb. 14, 15, 16 will meet with their counselors to put in their course requests.

"Course requests determine what courses will be offered. However not every course is able to be offered and certainly not every period," guidance counselor Stephen Gunther said.

The process of scheduling is different for each grade as their needs vary.

"Each student still needs to meet graduation requirements, as well as take into account the classes available to specific grades," guidance counselor Sarah Hanna said.

It is a very tedious task as it takes months to form the master schedule.

"We meticulously piece together what periods will offer which classes with the least amount of scheduling conflicts and the greatest amount of success of students receiving their requests," Gunther said.

Counselors rely on exact requests to be turned in so that all students can receive their ideal schedule.

"It is important to have your scheduling requests as accurate as possible when it is turned in so we can do our best to create a master schedule to meet everyone's needs," Hanna said.

Students requesting to change their schedule after it has been created may experience difficulty and not necessarily end with what they wanted, however they can request a change until the end of the year.

"When students change their

requests, they often fail to understand that a master schedule has been created based upon the original requests," Gunther said.

To maximize student success, it is important to take courses that are realistic for their individual needs.

"We encourage students to have a balanced schedule by not overloading themselves with too many upper-level classes and thinking about other commitments outside of school," Hanna said.

Required Courses	State Minimum
English	4 credits
Health	½ credit
Math	4 credits
Physical education	½ credit
Science	3 credits
Social studies	3 credits
Electives	5.5 credits
Fine Arts	1.0 credit
Personal Finance (class of 2026 and beyond)	½ credit



WEEKLY HOMEBASE

students granted extra time to study

writer **marshall medley** photo credit **kari phillips**
designer **mia harrington**

During the school year, high school students have a homebase every few weeks. During homebase, now known as flex period, they are free to relax and let loose some of the stress that school places on students. Now, they'll get to let loose every week with weekly flex periods that started Jan. 12.

Exams just happened, and I know with my personal experience that exams are the most stressful time of my year. Weekly flex periods would allow students to get some relaxation during long stressful weeks.

There are many bright spots to flex period, being that students do get time to relax during stressful weeks. School gets harder and harder, especially at this time of the year. Giving students this time to relax can make a huge difference during their day.

I know that I get overwhelmed and tired after a few classes if I am working as hard as I can. Letting students relax will get them some energy so that they can work harder the rest of the day.

Students will also get extra study or homework time if they need it. This can change so much for a student, whether it's them getting more sleep from being able to do the homework during the flex period or whether it's getting that final study in for a hard

test.

One of the problems with flex period is that students will be missing valuable time during their school day. Teachers want their students to be with them more during the day so they do not have to make up lessons.

If we have these weekly flex periods, teachers will be forced to change their schedules and stretch out lessons.

Weekly flex period is inconvenient for teachers.

Students with late arrival and early release are faced with the inconvenience of not knowing when they need to come to and leave school.

Many students with early release have jobs that often fall on school hours. With flex period, the student often gets out later and may not be able to make it to their jobs. Weekly flex period is an inconvenience for these students.

The students who have late arrival sometimes do not know what time they are supposed to come to school. And most times, it is not even announced that it is a flex period day until the day of, meaning late arrival students do not know they have to arrive earlier.

There are ways for students to check their flex period, but the reality is that they do not. As long as flex periods are not clearly announced, students will continue to come at the normal times and miss flex period.

Even though some students said that weekly flex periods have more drawbacks than advantages, I believe that a weekly flex period would be a



Headshot of writer, Marshall Medley.

great opportunity for students. I know personally that an extra period to meet with teachers would be extremely beneficial for me.

Many students would benefit from this time to meet with teachers, especially at this time of the school year.

This extra time in the students' day for whatever they need could be extremely beneficial and has opportunities to help students. Students can get done whatever they need and overall, this extra time can make a huge difference during students' hard exams.

JANUARY Flex period schedule

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

The Frontier

NEW YEAR, NEW ME

students share new year's resolutions

designer **nathan chow**

Freshman Aiden Tang
"Convince my parents to get us
a dog"

Junior
Adharsh Lakshmikanthan
"Continue to stay positive"

Sophomore Solbe Lim
"Focus on my academics more"

Senior Neil Hariths
"Rekindle my love for
reading"

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH & PIONEER PRIDE BARS

DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Sraavya Paul
Maryn Zavislak
Gabiella Ley
Garret Hatfield
Maddison sharp
Kamaury Kibby
Jackson Bigby
Jackson Pawlikeowski
Quaki Babor
Pierangely Dominiguez Hernandez
Ryan Sweinhart

PRIDE BARS

Leland Santiago
Piper Frazier
Gavin Gaylor
Adam Naylor
Adeline Ricker