

ORANGE IS this school year's focus that guides the building

writer valentina urbaez

designer emirah balser

photo credits emirah balser

As the school moves into Principal Monica Asher's second year, school climate shifts were introduced to set up what the rest of the year looks like. The vision to strengthen the school community was started with the idea of what "Orange is."

The idea that the school is in fact stronger together, and that the students and staff are who define the way the school year goes is ultimately what "Orange Is." Having spent so much time worrying about who or what Orange is not and how it compares to other schools is a narrative that Asher wants to dispel.

"I want us to begin to define who we are and write our own narrative rather than allow others to write it for us and begin to create our identity," Asher said.

The idea behind keeping a school theme is to be able to identify reasons to keep the students body proud of the school it is a part of and keep the rest of the community engaged. New activities and events looking to grow further this year are all backed up by that same goal.

"My hope is that people will see the hope behind the message of "Orange Is" and not be ashamed of the way we compare to the other high schools. The past few years have been a little weak with our school spirit, and I hope we can change that," senior Hallie Whisler said.

Community and unified groups of people prove time and time again that people are stronger together. There is a strength in holding one another up and where people come from. Therefore, Asher is looking for new ways to keep the spirit alive and fresh.

"I want students to own themes



An "Orange Is" shirt on a table waiting to be picked up by students in lunches.

that unite us and decide things to celebrate, and by the end of the year I want the student body to vote on it," Asher said.

These are the themes or sayings that will go on future spirit shirts and dictate the focus of the school throughout the year. The goal is to keep the student body at the center of it. "I've seen a lot of mixed opinions about the meaning of this year's theme, but I really think it's because we are not used to seeing this level of excitement for our school. As classes keep coming in, Orange will be a lot stronger as years go on," Whisler said.

Starting the year with the goal of unity in mind, homecoming week, likely to be Oct. 9-13, looks to bring students from all over to the school to celebrate. It will give alumni an opportunity to return and feel a new sense of pride for their high school.

"Homecoming brings back the idea of community and when we talk about being proud of being a part of the community. We're starting to build our alumni base, and I want to create an experience that makes us proud," Asher said. Social Studies Teacher



Principal Monica Asher takes a break during lunch to witness students and explain "Orange is."

Rebecca Whitney will organize the homecoming parade that includes elementary, middle and high school students. The goal is to get them excited to be a Pioneer.

Orchestra Director Lori Cornett is planning the homecoming dance with Sophomore Class Cabinet and plans to fence off a section of outside if the weather calls for it and include food trucks.

Upcoming up events at OOHS

Fall orchestra concert Oct. 4 7 p.m.

Homecoming game: Oct. 13 7:30 p.m.

Homecoming dance: Oct. 14 8-11 p.m.

Fall choir concert Oct. 16 7 p.m.

NEW RULES

phone rules in class are enforced

writer shiv majmudar
designer emirah balser

A new school year has already arrived, and with it comes two new, refreshed rules to make things better across campus.

Last year, a handful of students would resort to being on their phones during class, and teachers would spend instructional time to remind them to put their phones away. Therefore, Principal Monica Asher refreshed the already existing rule of storing phones during class by making a building-wide, consistent rule of storing phones at the front of the classroom. Students are required to put their phones away at the start of class and are only allowed to pick them up at the end of the period.

"I feel like it's a good idea, but it's inconvenient," sophomore Ben Whitehead said. "I can't do some things with my phone, can't do things after class on my phone."

While students may not like the policy, it is supported by science and research. Studies from Stockton University show that phones in the

classroom lead to decreased learning, decreased social skills and hindered cognitive thinking skills.

"Research shows that phones impact not just students, but all of us," Asher said.

Asher is also helping students learn by implementing a new flex schedule. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, third period classes are extended to allow students to meet with teachers and catch up on work. While some variant of this was present during last school year, the new schedule promises to be different. It offers a much cleaner, efficient way to give students and teachers extra time to work through issues.

"We needed a space for students to get feedback and assistance from teachers," Asher said.

While Asher's "new" rules may seem like a radical change from last year, she emphasizes that the phone policy has been around longer than a few weeks.

"The phone policy is not new," she

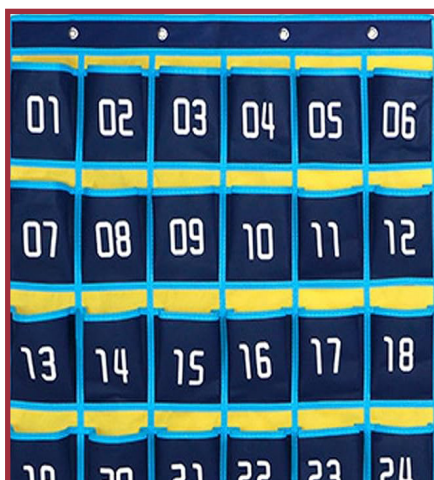
said. "It was in place, but not enforced. Some teachers let their students have phones, and others didn't. I wanted it to be consistent this year, to avoid confusion."

Even though the policy has only been in place for a little more than a month, Asher said teachers are pleased with it.

"They've said engagement is through the roof," she said. "It's a 'night and day' difference from last year."

Despite some pushback from students, it seems like the phone policy is here to stay. The two policies enforced this year come with a message from Asher: a message that she wants every student to hear. She wants to ensure that everyone at this school knows what it is. She hopes they never forget why they are here.

"This is a learning institution," she said. "We are here to learn. We want our students to be able to learn and achieve their dreams."



Phone pockets to collect students

"It's a 'night and day' difference from last year," Principal Monica Asher said.



Wooden phone slots to collect phones during class as well as a charging station.

NEW STAFF PROFILES

orange welcomes new staff members

writer emily zimpfer

designer mia harrington

photo credits mia harrington & permission to print from mr. boyer, dr. garner, mr. olanrewaju, and mr. nash

Orange not only welcomed students this August, but also new faculty. Many administrative positions were replaced, and the community is growing. Let's take a look at staff members who joined the Orange community and give them a warm welcome.

Starting off, the high school hired three new counselors this year. Molly Wittwer, Olumide Olanrewaju and James Kloepper joined the counseling department. Wittwer is the new counselor for the last names A-Der, and Olanrewaju is the new counselor for Des-Jd. Returning counselor Sarah Hanna is still the counselor for Je-M, and Matthew Brown continues to be the counselor for N-Se. Lastly, new counselor Kloepper is for Sf-Z. The counselors' main goal is to make sure students know that they can come in whenever they have a problem.

"My biggest priority this year is to enforce an open-door policy to see the counselors when needed and students feeling comfortable coming in," Kloepper said.

New staff members are an effective



Molly Wittwer, the new guidance counselor for last names A-Der.

way to have a positive environment at Orange. The evolving community to the school means more ideas and opportunities for the school.

"I have only been here for a few weeks, friendships are already developing and consistency for a cohesive environment is present," Kloepper said.

New additions were also made in the athletic department. Andre Nash is the new athletic director replacing former director, Brett Diel. Nash previously served as athletic director at Cristo Rey Columbus High School.

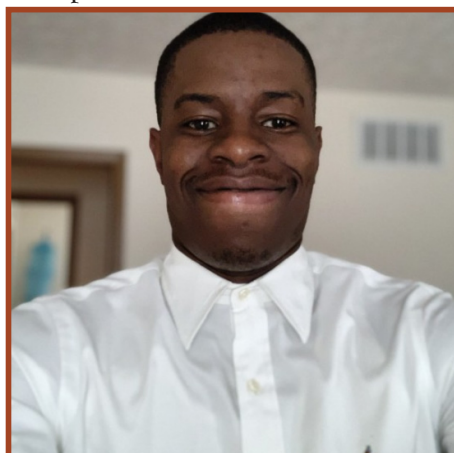
"My biggest priority this year is to enforce an open-door policy to see the counselors when needed and students feeling comfortable coming in," Guidance Counselor James Kloepper said.

Also joining the high school's staff is Suzie Garner as one of the new assistant principals. Garner

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Headshot of Dr. Susie Garner, one of the new assistant principals at Orange.



Olumide Olanrewaju, one of the several new guidance counselors.

NEW STAFF PROFILES

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previously was the director of bands at Butler County High School, in Morgantown, Kentucky. This is her first year as an assistant principal, and members of Orange are excited to see what she can accomplish.

"A priority this year is to keep up excellence and tradition. It's also to support teachers and students," Garner said.

Returning to the high school in a new role, Ryan Sparks was promoted to a new position this school year. Sparks has taught science at Orange in past years but is now working alongside Garner as an assistant principal. Sparks is involved with the Orange community by being present throughout the day in school and outside of school at sporting events.

"There's huge pride in the school. People who come from Orange love Orange," Garner said.

Students and staff also welcome their new band director, Joshua Boyer. Boyer replaced former Band Director Ishbah Cox. He has served as an assistant band director at Ohio University from 2014 to 2022. Band members at Orange are excited to

see what Boyer has in mind for the marching band.

"I'm looking forward to continuing the traditions they have there. It's such a well-respected part of the program and the school. It's something you don't see all the time," Boyer said to the Delaware Gazette.

New faculty staff members for the 2023-2024 school

- Dr. Suzie Garner - Assistant Principal
- Andre Nash - Athletic Director
- Molly Wittwer - Counselor
- Olumide Olanrewaju - Counselor
- James Kloepfer - Counselor
- Joshua Boyer - Band Director
- Monica Brock - Resource Officer

Last but certainly not least, Monica Brock serves as the school's new resource officer. Brock has a partner as well, Otto, the school's therapy dog. Brock is present at lunches and around the halls during school hours. After school, she shows her support to Orange at football games and other games.

"I want to continue the love that students and staff have for the high school, and there isn't anything I would want to change," Garner said.



Joshua Boyer, the new band director taking over after Dr. Cox.



The new Athletic Director, Andre Nash, replacing Brett Diehl.



James Kloepfer, one of the three new guidance counselors.

MEET THE PIT

a look into our leaders

writer emma barnhart
designer madeline riley

photos madeline riley

Orange pride is flying through the roof this school year, which can be credited to the one and only Pioneer Pit.

Pioneer Pit leaders, seniors Spencer West, Kolton Elick, Surraiya Mahmud and Josie Nickoloff are already going above and beyond with their spirit, so here is the opportunity to get to know them.

Spencer West

1. What hobbies do you participate in?

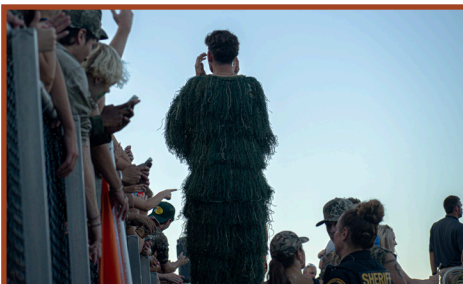
I play baseball at Orange, and I enjoy going fishing with my fellow student section leader Kolton Elick.

2. What are you looking forward to the most?

I'm looking forward to connecting with all the sports teams and their players the most. My favorite part has been connecting with all sorts of new people and coaches.

3. Are there any new ideas or improvements?

We don't have any big improvements scheduled. We think they did a fantastic job running everything, but we want to get the whole school involved in spirit weeks and sports activities so everyone has the chance to get that high school experience.



Pit leader Spencer W. cheers on the football team.

Surraiya Mahmud

1. What hobbies or extracurricular activities do you participate in?

I am a captain on the girl's wrestling team, as well as a valuable field athlete on the track team.

2. What are you looking forward to the most?

I'm looking forward to building relationships and friendships with people who maybe I haven't had a chance to get close to before, as well as just having so much fun.

3. How does it feel to have such a high responsibility?

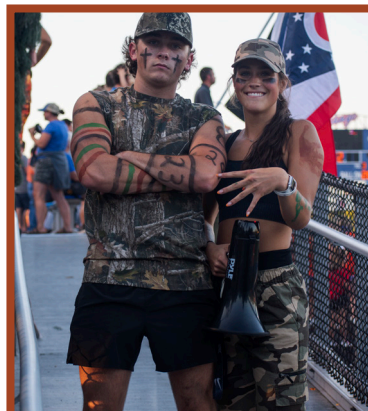
I love leadership roles, so I am super excited for this responsibility. I'll learn through the process and hopefully come out better on the other side. However, it is a little nerve-racking thinking about how many people are looking to see what we do.

Kolton Elick

1. What hobbies do you participate in?

My hobbies are going fishing, lifting and running track in the spring.

2. What do you love most about Orange?



Kolton E. and Josie N. pose for the camera.

What I love about Orange is the community and spirit our school has, along with the people who show up to the games and make it a super fun experience.

3. How does it feel to have such a high responsibility?

Having the responsibility is really a huge thanks to everyone else for letting me do this. I just want our senior class to have the best year possible, and I want to make it the most fun year for everyone.

Josie Nickoloff

1. What hobbies do you participate in?

I am on the girls wrestling team and one of the captains. I also love to lift outside of school.

2. What do you love most about Orange?

What I love most about Orange is the spirit from all the staff and students. All the athletic events are super fun to go to as well.

3. Are there any new ideas or improvements?

Some new ideas are getting all grades involved early. Usually, it takes some time for the student section to warm up, but I want everybody to be excited for the events.



Surraiya M. hypes up the student section after doing pushups.

SPORTS CUTS

seniors add value to the team

writer **peyton johnson**
designer **emma barnhart**

photos by **hailey zinn and grace bozic**



Senior Katy M. dribbles the ball away from the opposing team.

A senior soccer player walks off the field after the final day of tryouts, holding the envelope that would control the last season of soccer. “We are sorry but...”. Tears filled her eyes trying to shake it off and not show emotions in front of the team. Later, she watches the team walk together on all game days wearing their jerseys and feels discouraged. It finally hit her; that was her last chance.

Now, the field hockey team has a different approach to seniors and keeps them on the team. A field hockey senior felt differently after her first official practice, not having to worry about making the team or not. The only stress of going to practice for her was meeting new people and basking in the glory of being able to have a great last season. Getting to end senior year with a sport she loves and not having a mental weight, weighing her down in school.

Coaches should not cut seniors

from a sports team. It could be the last chance for an athlete to play a sport they love, being cut can affect them in school by being discouraged, but coaches need to be careful because the athlete could bring down the team if they don’t have the required skill.

Coaches should keep in mind while holding tryouts for a cut team that an athlete might not have a chance to play again going into college, and it can be challenging getting over being cut from their sport.

If being cut from the team really affects the athlete, they could fall behind in school for a week or two, be really discouraged and lose the confidence they once had in the sport.

When trying out for a team, it is safe to say, it is not a goal for an athlete to get cut. No matter the grade, getting cut from a sports team can impact the confidence of a player.

Tryouts and the work leading up to them are stressful, so during tryouts there could be mistakes made due to nerves and that could change the decision of the coaches.

Contrary to my original opinion, coaches should not keep an athlete on a team just because they are a senior, if they will hold the team back. Coaches

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Coaches need to be careful because the athlete could bring down the team if they don’t have the required skill.

—sophomore writer Peyton Johnson said

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need to keep both the team and the student in mind while making these decisions.

The coach could have them as a team manager, stats manager, or maybe even photographer, so they can have the feeling of being on the team and sometimes participate by helping others.

Cutting seniors from sports is a hard decision because if it is something they want to do or something they need to do for P.E credits it will be hard to accept that they won’t be able to do it again.

If a senior athlete is new to the sport and in need of sport credits, they should join a team that does not do cuts so they can learn something new and not have to worry about being discouraged.

Coaches should be aware of the situations, and try their best to keep the seniors that will help the team in any way so they can have their final chance doing something they really want to do.



Sophomore writer Peyton J. poses for her headshot.

The Frontier

SCREAMS AND SHOUTS

students share haunted houses they love

designer madeline riley

Freshman Taylor Lambert
“I would say come to me, but I hate haunted houses.”

Junior Jacob Roffman
“My favorite would be the Zombezi Bay at the zoo.”

Sophomore Liv Rupp
“Definitely Fear Columbus.”

Senior Spencer West
“The Mansfield blood prison is definitely my favorite.”

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH & PIONEER PRIDE BARS

SEPTEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Kayla Daniels
Kiera Snead
Levi Davis
Sarah Taylor
Jack Sturm
Carver Gibson
Parth Khanvilkar
Parker Schofield
Jordan Campbell
Zach Haar

PRIDE BARS

Yassen Khairy
Kiera Snead
Mia Flores
Amarihanna Jester
Christopher Barboza
Nimai Bhat
Reagan Hoyt
Bruce Pachko
Griffen Webster