

WELCOME TO ORANGE

athletic director hires wes schroeder

writer **marshall medley**

designer **mia harrington**

With the unexpected news that former Head Football Coach Zebb Schroeder was stepping down, the search for the new head coach started and was concluded recently. Former Granville Head Coach Wes Schroeder (no relation to Zebb) will start as head coach.

Schroeder has been with Granville High School for the past four seasons, leaving with a 38-8 all-time record. Granville lost to Bellefontaine in the regional round of the playoffs last year, finishing its season 12-1.

Before coaching at Granville, Schroeder coached at Olentangy Liberty during their 2016 and 2017 state semifinal runs where he served as the offensive coordinator. Schroeder also spent time coaching at Berkshire Middle School, giving him lots of experience inside the Olentangy district.

"I have previously worked in the district at Berkshire Middle School and loved my time there. When the Orange job opened, I looked into it and felt like there was a lot of potential there," Schroeder said. "For me, it was the perfect fit for my family and where I am in my career."

Schroeder led Granville to undefeated regular seasons in 2021 and 2023. He was awarded Central District Coach of the Year in 2021 and was Division III Coach of the Year in 2021 as well.

Orange finished with a combined 9-23 over the last three seasons, losing in the first round of the playoffs both years. The football community hopes that Schroeder can bring his winning habits with him.

Last week was the moment all players had been waiting for. Schroeder held a meeting with the

team for the players to meet him and the other new coaches.

"We had a great turnout, and many of the kids stayed after the meeting to ask questions," Schroeder said. "We had a lot of good conversations, and it was good to meet the guys."

Many of the players were quite excited to finally meet their new coach. The players had lots of good things to say about Coach Schroeder.

"I feel he is the right man for the job," sophomore football player Jaxen Miller said. "He brings a lot of football knowledge to the team and has had great success at the schools he has coached at in the past."

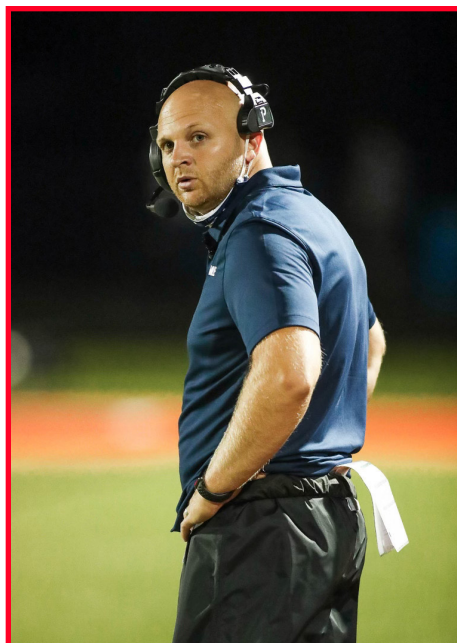
The Pioneers have not lived up to the expectations as of late. However, Schroeder has met all expectations recently in his coaching career. With that being said, Schroeder and the Pioneers have high expectations this year.

"My expectations for the upcoming season are to go well above .500 and make a run in the playoffs," Miller said.

The problem with new coaching is that lots of chemistry fades. It is hard to keep morale when the team starts completely from scratch. But Schroeder is known to work toward team success based on building the best version of each player.

"We try not to focus on results of games too much but rather just getting the most out of each individual player and our team," Schroeder said. "If we continue to consistently have good days, weeks and months the on the field results will take care of themselves."

The Pioneers may not have been very successful in the past few seasons, but things have changed. Schroeder is confident in his team, and his team is confident in him.



Coach Schroeder coaches on the sideline when he previously coached for Granville.



Wes Schroeder, smiles at the camera for his headshot.

NEW DISTRICT LEVY olentangy on the march ballot

writer **valentina urbaez**

designer **mia harrington**

The Olentangy Local School District has been experiencing exponential growth projected to keep increasing through the next 10 years. As large employers move in and the district keeps ranking high among the state, student enrollment is expected to increase upward of 20 percent.

The current levy on the March 19 ballot is asking for a \$4.25 mill fund to open elementary schools 18 and 19, high school 5 and middle school 7. The district estimates an increase of \$148.75 annually for each \$100,000 of the home's value. 75 percent of district funding is locally funded by taxpayers with \$1604 coming from the state. 73 percent of funding is spent on the

instruction of students and the top 20 percent is allocated for administration. The current elementary school enrollment is about 10,600 students, expected to grow upwards of 13,369 in the next 10 years.

Schools to be built if the levy is passed:

- An elementary school off of Bean Offer Road, opening for the 2025-2026 school year
- An elementary school next to Berkshire Middle School, opening for the 2025-2026 school year
- A elementary and middle school near Curve Road, opening for the 2028-2029 school year
- A high school on Buntz Station Road, opening for the 2027-2028 school year

The majority of the district's elementary, middle and high schools are functioning at well over capacity with Orange at 110 percent. Orange Middle School is operating at 116 percent capacity, and Cheshire

elementary at 133 percent. Lack of space leads to overflow, which is what inevitably calls for the need to redistrict students.

Parents expressed concern at the most recent community levy meeting on Jan. 29 on whether adding onto existing schools would be a more cost effective solution for parent taxpayers and seniors. It was stated that the current \$4.25 mill levy would continue to increase each year if not passed. The district page offers a table showing tax projections alongside property value.

"Maintaining space and upholding the 'Olentangy experience' is becoming increasingly challenging as the district has grown to be larger than many metropolitan districts," Chief Human Resource Officer Nancy Freese said.

WINTER PEP RALLY recognizing winter student athletes

writer **emily zimpfer**

designer **mia harrington**

Continuing the school's tradition, the winter pep rally will be held on Feb. 15 and will have fun games including the annual basketball game against staff.

The main purpose of the pep rally is to host the annual tradition of the staff vs. senior basketball game. Volunteers from both students and staff are selected to participate.

"We like to make sure that we bring the school together for some fun while recognizing the winter sports. The game started shortly after we opened as a building and the tradition was born. It helps build relationships between the staff and our students

in a fun way," Pep Rally Committee Member and Social Studies Teacher Rebecca Whitney said.

Seniors have the opportunity to play against their favorite teachers. They are excited that they now have the privilege to be involved since they are seniors.

"It will definitely be fun because it's our turn to coach and play against some of our favorite teachers. Students will win pretty easily as long as we stick to the fundamentals," senior and Student Basketball Coach Owen Klein said.

Pep rallies are a great way to bring together the community while having fun and lifting the school spirit. The goal is to make the student body more united by making the activities

inclusive.

"Team building and fostering a sense of pride in our school community is an important part of the success in a school building," Whitney said.

The biggest challenge that the school has trouble with is keeping students from leaving at the end of the day before the pep rally. The previous pep rally was held in third period to prevent students from skipping the pep rally. However, this winter pep rally will be held in 12th period.

"The biggest challenge is holding it at the end of the day and getting students to stick around or come back when they have early release. I would encourage everyone to try to make it," Whitney said.

The Frontier

ORANGE IS HOT making history for boys basketball

writer **marshall medley**
designer **emma barnhart**

photos by **emily zimpfer** and **hailey zinn**

We are halfway through the high school basketball season, and the Pioneers are in postseason form. They only lost one game against Pickerington Central, the team that took them out during the state playoff run last year, and have a record of 18-1.

The Pioneers won a nail biting contest against Hilliard Bradley on Jan. 1 with a score of 52-50. Junior Devin Brown hit two clutch free throws with seconds left in the game to give the Pioneers one of their biggest wins of the season.

The Pioneers also beat rival Olentangy Liberty on Jan. 19 with a score of 45-42. This rivalry is almost always the Pioneers' biggest game of the season and a game that both teams look forward to.

"My favorite moment was beating Liberty," senior winger Carson Cutler said. "It's always a great feeling to beat your rival."

The Pioneers were undefeated until they played Pickerington Central on Feb. 3. Despite their effort, they lost the game 59-56.

With only a few games left in the season, the Pioneers look to carry their success over into the playoffs.



Sophomore Treyton S. dribbles the ball through his legs.



Junior Devin B. dribbles the ball towards half court.

"Right now, our greatest challenge is to not be content with our record," Intervention Specialist and Head Coach Anthony Calo said. "We can be proud, but not satisfied-- staying hungry and continuing to improve is the challenge we are facing right now."

Calo's team last year traveled to the regional finals before being knocked out of the tournament. As impressive as that is, this team is expected to go just as far, if not further.

Brown is the leader of this successful Orange team. Brown is now a junior, started last year as a sophomore and is averaging a team high 12.7 points per game.

After a 19-point outing against Upper Arlington, Brown received a Division I scholarship offer from the University of Toledo and Ohio University.

The team is very well balanced, with three starters averaging over 10 points per game. Those starters are Brown, senior Dylan Joy and sophomore Levi Davis. Joy is averaging 12 points per game, and Davis is



Junior Keegan K. glances up at the crowd during their game against Westerville Central.

averaging 11 points per game.

With the team sharing the ball so much, nobody's stats are off the charts. But if attending a game, it is very obvious that every starter has great potential. The team is averaging 58.6 points per game. Along with that, it is only giving up 42.6 points per game to the teams it plays.

Orange is a very talented team and is having great success so far. It hopes for a deep playoff run this year, and with how it has performed so far, it's not crazy to assume that it can make that deep playoff run.



Senior Carson C. rests his hands on his hips as he waits for junior Devin B. to take his free throw.

BLACK HISTORY ASSEMBLY

african americans and the arts

writer **valentina urbaez** photo credit **emirah balser**
designer **emirah balser**

Black Empowerment Club organizes an assembly to highlight necessary segments of black culture and history. By incorporating student performance and speech, its aim is made visible to the school. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History released the 2024 theme of "African Americans and the Arts."

Assemblies were held on Feb. 9 during second, third, 11th and 12th periods, according to Black Empowerment Club Adviser Austin Nunn.

With the fine arts as a typically overlooked genre of influence, the

spotlight on black literature, film and fashion celebrates creation and unity within the black community.

"It's important to acknowledge these feats and creations because it is a lot of black art that has heavily influenced the American culture we see today," senior Black Empowerment Club Officer Alysa Wilson said.

The Black Empowerment Club is entirely student-led with the careful organization and planning of like-minded individuals with a goal to honor history.

"Our goal with the assembly was to not only educate, but to also illustrate how, through adversity, a culture was created. A culture that is so much more than just its pain," Wilson said.

Black scholar Carter G. Woodson, whose work eventually led to the creation of Black History Month, is what maintains the motivation behind each year's assembly. New minds are brought to the club every year with different ways of interpreting what the assemblies could mean.



The Black Empowerment Club rehearses on Jan. 25.

ORANGE SPORTS LIVE

a look into the high school's sports

writer **emma barnhart**
designer **emirah balser**

Orange Sports Live (OSL) is the "ESPN" of the school; it is a student-run publication (not affiliated with the student section) that provides details and live coverage of all sporting events around the high school.

The publication started out on Twitter (@OOHSSportsLive) in 2016. Now, OSL is expanding on other social media platforms such as Instagram (@orangesports_live) and TikTok (@orange.sports.live) to further inform the community on what is happening with each sport.

"We post graphics for each athletic event to give people information about the games and update our athletic website with scores and key players," OSL senior editor Sofie Terlesky said "We post different TikTok videos

about the publication and tweet live events so people at home can stay updated."

OSL members work extremely hard in class to stay organized and keep track of their tasks at hand.

"We make sure we have everything we need for the week from the sports schedules, to the graphics and making sure we get coverage of every sport," OSL junior editor Jordyn Pelles said.

The publication bringing attention to the details of every sporting event makes it crucial for the public to have as a source.

"Without OSL, it would be really hard to stay informed on what's going on around the school sports wise," Terlesky said. "If you can't make it to a game or don't know where it is, OSL gives people that information so they can go to more games."

The publication highlights the importance of teamwork, as each OSL member plays their part to get the job done.

"We all do our part," Pelles said. "The environment is great. It's student-led with the teachers acting as advisors, and we all work together to make the publication successful."



Sophomore Cate W. makes a graphic for a gymnastics meet.

CLASS COURSE GUIDE

how to choose classes for next year

writer emily zimpfer

designer emirah balser

In January, students began scheduling their classes for the next school year. This can be a stressful time since there are seemingly a lot of requirements for graduation. The large amount of class and elective options are also overwhelming. So here is a class course guide to help students who are unsure of what to take and guaranteed to have all of their credits by the end of the four years.

The required credits for graduation according to the Ohio Department of Education are four credits of Math and English, three credits of Science and Social Studies, one credit of Arts, half a credit of Physical Education, Health and Personal Finance for Class of 2026 and beyond. An additional 5.5 credits of electives are also required or two to three years of a World Language is

strongly recommended.

Advanced Placement, or AP, gives students the opportunity to take an advanced course for the eligibility of college credits. AP students take a final exam in May, and if they get a score of three to five out of five, they earn the credit. Although the classes are challenging, it's definitely worth taking at least a few of them. It's a great chance to get personal help with college level courses in high school and set up expectations for their future in college.

A decision that students have to make is whether they want to go into honors classes or regular classes. The unfortunate part of being in an honors class is that members do not get any additional credit or a weighted GPA like an AP class does. However, Honors classes do help kids in the future if they are interested in taking AP courses by challenging them and learning more content. So, taking honors classes is a good choice.

All students are required to take Art I but are also required to choose another art class for a second semester. There are a lot of options, but to easily fulfill the credit, Photography I or Ceramics I are popular choices and are mostly easy. If one is not interested in art but needs to take an art class and wants an AP credit, AP Art History is a great option. The benefits are learning more about culture while also being a fun and educational class.

Another graduation requirement is to have half a credit of Health and Physical Education. This can be done in class or there is an online option to fulfill that credit. Online Physical Education is best for students who do not partake in a school sport and do not want to take up spots in their

schedules for P.E. The class is very easy with there being about two to three assignments per week that are all online. Whether students take online or in-person P.E., it will take a full year to complete.

For Health classes, there is also an online option to earn credit. Unlike P.E., Health is only a semester class. The in-person class is more hands-on and a stress-free class that is better than the online class.

Overall, the most important aspect to be kept in mind while scheduling is making sure the graduation requirements will be fulfilled by the end of their four years. Counselors will do a good job ensuring that everyone will have the requirements. Another important thing is to choose electives and courses that are intriguing and that will help in the future.

Beneficial AP classes:

AP Psychology

-Increases knowledge of oneself and others

AP Literature

-Understanding of literary works

AP Chemistry

-Teaches you to think at higher levels

AP Government

-Building great understanding of the US political system

AP Calculus

-Prepares you for college level mathematics

Common honors classes:

-Honors CP 10

-Honors Algebra II

-Honors World History

-Honors Biology

-Honors Geometry

-Honors Chemistry

The Frontier

WILL YOU BE MY VALENTINE?

designer madeline riley

Y	B	C	X	O	J	I	P	F	C	U	D	V	S
P	W	F	C	N	H	E	A	R	T	L	M	A	J
F	J	H	E	T	W	H	V	Z	P	O	D	L	X
G	C	Z	I	R	S	E	Q	A	S	V	I	E	R
S	A	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	Y	N	A
B	N	D	U	S	R	P	U	L	E	Z	O	T	O
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I	F	E	B	R	U	A	R	Y	Q	G	L	V	K
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-CHOCOLATE
-HEART
-ROSE
-LOVE
-CUPID
-VALENTINE
-CANDY
-XOXO
-SWEET
-HUGS
-FEBRUARY
-GIFTS

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH & PIONEER PRIDE BARS

JANUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Ayla Krieger
Valentina Urbaez
Ethan Eichmann
Ayden Gardner
Devan Patel
Eden Bronder
Sadhana Sivakumar

PRIDE BARS

Mackenzie Cherubini
Kyrie Kagy
Makenzie Williamson
Angel Duarte
Ziyrell Shanklin
Natalie Reich
Devin Ward-Strakowski
Auden Padamadan
Jabril Ali
Leah Kuhn
Jaiden Harper