

# PROUD TO BE A PIONEER

## orange implements a new theme

**writer** emily zimpfer

**designer** mia harrington

**photo credits** permission to print monica asher

The high school introduced a new school theme this year that highlights the pride of the community. The staff and students have been working to implement new ways to embrace their culture.

The theme was adopted this year from building off of last year's theme "Orange Is." The "Orange is" theme was to embrace the school's culture and to define the school's identity. This year is more about being proud to be a part of the school.

"The theme is to help bolster some excitement and its progress from last year because it's having pride in who we are," Principal Monica Asher said.

For the past two years, the staff decided the themes that they will implement in the school. A lot of consideration has gone into past themes and the goal was to connect last year's into this year's.

"We are just getting started and we are growing our legacy. I'm very

excited to do my part and watch the community grow," Athletic Director Andre Nash said.

Asher encourages parents to go to events they have never been to before to support the students. Events like plays, band and orchestra concerts, the powder puff, talent show and community night are all events this year that help bring the community together and for students to share what they are proud of.



"The theme is about controlling our narrative and showing who we are. We get to put out how great, diverse and family oriented of a culture we have and put our Pioneers on full display," Nash said.

Staff members play an active role in documenting school pride. They

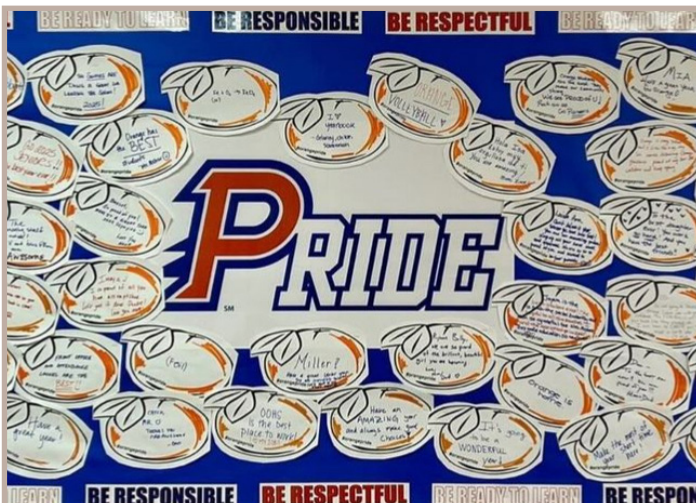
have access to an app where they can add photos that encapsulates the community's pride to a shared album. Asher is very active on Instagram, posting pictures of sporting events and school events, but she also posts photos from that shared album.

"We will continue to get ideas from students on how to show pride because we have a lot to celebrate," Asher said.

The school will start incorporating more pride-related things throughout the building. On the first day of school, the staff all wore "pride" shirts. Students will get orange pride bracelets, as well. Asher will take feedback from students on how to highlight the theme.

As for future themes, Asher wants the student body to decide what the theme will be. She will make a form for next year for students to pick so they have a sense of ownership for their theme.

"The goal is going to be that next year students decide the theme that way they have a sense of ownership," Asher said.



Pride bulletin board is in the main hallway with notes of how students show their pride and what it means to be an Orange Pioneer.



Student section leaders Joey W, James W, Alexis K. and Jake B. welcome incoming freshmen at freshmen orientation on Aug 9.



## HOCO RECAP

### a look into homecoming week



**writer** peyton johnson

**designer** mia harrington

**photo credits** lydia wendorf & delaney roman

Beginning in 1910, at the University of Missouri, the tradition of homecoming began with the original meeting of alumni and the community to celebrate their school pride, according to Omella.com. On Sept. 28, the high school held its homecoming dance with the theme fall ball.

The homecoming dance was available to all students starting their freshman year of high school. The dance went from 7-10 p.m. and was \$15 per ticket.

"I went to the dance with my best friend, Sara Wilson," junior Tessa Byers said.

For homecoming week, the themes for students Monday through Friday consist of class themes, twin day, pajama day, class colors and tropical/Hawaiian.

Throughout homecoming week, there were multiple fun activities held by the school including the community parade night and the talent show. The activities held throughout the week created more excitement and pride for students and the community.

"My favorite part leading up to the dance was the homecoming parade. It was so fun, and the best part was the field activities," Byers said.

The theme this year for the homecoming dance was Fall Ball. There were a lot of meetings, preparation and time for Sophomore Class Cabinet members in order to find the perfect theme for this year's

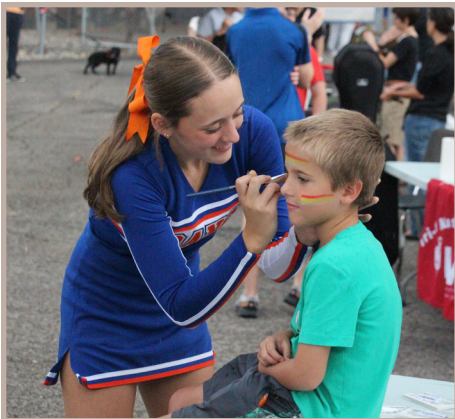
dance.

"We worked as a group to decide the theme, so not a single person is in charge. Every year it is up to the Sophomore Class Cabinet though," Sophomore Class Cabinet Member Lydia Wendorf said.

Throughout the week of homecoming, teachers and students took the time to decorate the doors and the hallways to go with a theme. The decorations were a huge hit to students and faculty this year.

"The door decorating this year was cool. The lighting in the hallway was really cute," Byers said.

Overall, the dance was a huge success for the students and faculty. Sophomore Class Cabinet should take pride in the success of the dance this year.



Sophomore Avery P. face-paints at the homecoming parade.



Student section leader Joey W. directs students to do the wave.



Homecoming court seniors Adam W. and Isabelle H. walk down the gym at the homecoming pep rally on Sept. 27.



Junior Samira K. performs with the band on Sept. 25.



Senior Ren R. and junior Abbi W. pose for a photo.

## GIRLS SOCCER INJURIES team takes on hardships this season

**writer** grace bozic

**designer** grace bozic

**photo credits** oohs girls soccer

Girls soccer has faced many hardships this season. Six to eight players are out for multiple different injuries including torn ACLs, a torn meniscus and a fractured hip. The team is devastated knowing that it might not be able to come back from this.

Coming off of a high last season and making it to the district championship, the team had to work on adapting to this new environment. Even though many of the team's starting players are injured, its main priority is to get everyone healthy again.

"Our team has been affected a lot because multiple of our starters and strongest contributors are out

for the season so we aren't nearly as competitive as we would be if everyone was healthy," senior Sophia Prime said.

Many of the girls attend physical therapy a couple times a week with the intention of getting healthy as soon as possible. Head Coach Tim Lawrence scheduled a session with an orthopedic doctor for the team to learn how to prevent any more injuries specifically ACL injuries.



"Some are working with the trainer, while four of the girls have serious knee injuries and need nine-12 months to recover. We will do everything we can to make the most of our situation," Lawrence said.

Although, this season looks different than seasons before the team is persevering through this unfortunate situation. It still has many personal and team goals that it wants to accomplish and hopes that it can be successful by playing to the best of its abilities for this season.

"My new personal goal is to come back stronger than before I left, I head to Tennessee for college soccer and I want my team to defeat the Olentangy schools and win a district championship," Prime said.

The team is currently 4-8-1 in its season, as of Oct. 1.

## NEW FOOTBALL COACHES bringing out new coaches

**writer** mackenzie carder

**designer** grace bozic

**photo credits** isabella boetcher

With the new football season, the team welcomed seven new coaches, bringing the varsity football staff total to one head coach and 10 assistants.

Health/P.E. Teacher and Head Football Coach Wesley Schroeder added six new assistant coaches: Brock Bolden, Tate Borlik, Ed Miley, Matt Stephens, Nicolas Melsop and Erik Krauss. Schroeder formerly head coached at Granville High School for four years.

"We still have Bobby Roth, Pat Daugherty, Anthony Griffin and Brady Ford from last year's staff. The rest of the coaches are new," Schroeder said. Coach Melsop, a 2016 Orange alumni, was a player this past year for the Los

Angeles Chargers and is coaching O-Line for the team.

Miley was a head coach last year for Westerville Central and also coaches O-line now here. Junior, O-line player, Wes Theiman said that he thinks the new addition of coaches will help to elevate the skill of the Pioneer team.

"Jake Hendon [freshman, O-line player] will benefit the most (from the new coaches). He's a young guy, and he's getting great support from our two O-line coaches," Theiman said. Stephens was a head coach last for Buckeye Valley and now coaches Outside Linebacker for Orange.

Last year, Borlik and Bolden were assistant coaches at Granville High School. Borlik coaches the wide receivers at the high school with Bolden being Orange's linebackers

coach and defensive coordinator.

"We have coaches from all around the state," Schroeder said. Lastly, Coach Krauss formerly coached at Patrick Henry High School.

It seems that this new and improved coaching staff has helped the Pioneers triumph this season so far with a 4-1 record, as of Oct. 4.



Head Coach Wesley Schroeder gives Senior Beckett M. a high five as he runs off the field.

## NEW HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS several new staff members start the year

**writer** taylor lambert

**designer** ethan eichmann

**photo credits** taylor lambert

As the 2024-25 school year begins, the high school community is excited to welcome 10 new staff members who are ready to bring fresh energy to the school. Among these new faces are Algebra Teacher Emma Thomas and Social Studies Teacher Samuel Almond, both of whom are thrilled to join the high school community.

Thomas is especially excited about returning to Orange. "I am so excited to be teaching at the high school this year," Thomas said. Thomas previously student-taught at the high school two years ago and is happy to come back. This is her first full year of teaching, and she will be covering Geometry and Algebra II.

Thomas' passion for teaching comes from the inspiration she got from her own teachers. "What made me want to be a teacher was seeing all of the teachers I had who were



Math Teacher Emma Thomas poses for a photo.

passionate about their content and their students," Thomas said.

She hopes to bring the same energy to her own classroom. In addition to teaching, Thomas is looking forward to reconnecting with her past students and getting involved in extracurricular activities like the Math Club and HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America).

"I am excited to see past students from my year of student teaching! We have all grown up so much," Thomas.

Almond is also making a return to the high school with great excitement. After spending time teaching and coaching at St. Charles Preparatory School, Almond is glad to return to his alma mater. "This is my fourth year teaching," Almond said, showing his growing experience.

"I'm very excited to be back at the high school," Almond said.

Almond's decision to become a teacher was influenced by the great educators he had while he was a student at the high school.

"The great teachers I had in this district and the impacts they had on me," he said, "as well as the ability to combine my passions for history, coaching and helping young people achieve their goals." His return is more than just a career move; it's a chance to give back to the community that shaped him.

Almond will also be coaching football, a program he has a personal connection to. "I am excited for the chance to help coach football and be a part of the program I used to play for," Almond said. His enthusiasm for coaching highlights his dedication to supporting students both inside and outside the classroom.

Besides teaching history and coaching, Almond has a special interest in Psychology. "One class I've always thought would be really

cool to teach is Psychology," he said. This interest shows his commitment to offering a variety of learning experiences to his students.



Social Studies Teacher Samuel Almond smiles for a photo.

Along with Thomas and Almond, the other new staff members joining the high school this year include Puneet Bhurjee who will be teaching Algebra, Kimann Brown will be teaching Algebra I and Algebra II. Tommy Wintering will be teaching Geometry and Precalc this year. For the English department, Ali England Valz will be teaching English 9, English 10 and Honors English 10.

For the health department, Wes Schroeder will be teaching Health and P.E. For the World Language department, Kate Jurak will be teaching French III and French IV. Along with Samantha Lee, who will be teaching Spanish IV and Spanish II. Shannon Dittrich will be teaching Spanish I and Spanish IV this year.

With all these new teachers, the high school is set for an exciting and engaging school year.

## ENGAGING CLUBS THIS YEAR

### pickleball, indian cultural and big future

**writer** avery cai and emily zimpfer  
**designer** avery cai

Orange welcomes new and old clubs that are open for all students to join. They offer a variety of engaging clubs so anyone can engage in an activity that piques their interest. From Speech and Debate to TableTop Gaming, the activities are open for everyone.

Pickleball Club is a new extracurricular club open for all students to join, even if it's for a fun hobby or a brain break to hang out with friends. Business Teacher Christan Hipsher advises the group.

"We plan on playing about once a week throughout the fall and spring. About 15 to 20 students showed up to the interest meeting. They are going to be playing at North Road Park right behind Olentangy High

School," Hipsher said.

Science Teacher, Anita Thomas is the adviser for Indian Cultural Club, where she shared the future events they are planning and why she thinks students should join ICC.

"We are meeting sometime in September and are planning for Diwali and Holi. In the past couple of years, we've celebrated Diwali and Holi, and Holi is obviously the big thing. Last year, we went to Alum Creek Dam and that's where we all met and some of the Olentangy students were also there. We are also planning to do the same thing this year. It's a good club for the students to see their friends, find their culture and enjoy their culture," Thomas said.

For Big Future Club, Club President senior Varnika

Sudarsanam explained what the club offers, why students should join and an event she is most excited for.

"This year we are planning to expand our initiatives towards sophomores and freshmen to help them with college. Some events we are currently planning include resume building, talking about scholarship programs, creating a LinkedIn profile, career workshops, ACT/SAT and more. I am most excited to talk about future opportunities like volunteering, internships, scholarships etc. Students should join Big Future to find success toward being college success, career success, etc. It is a great opportunity for students who may be a little confused about college procedures and what they can do to prepare early on," Sudarsanam said.

## SENIORS LAST RIDE

### upcoming events to look forward to

**writer** emily zimpfer  
**designer** avery cai

Now that the Class of 2025 is seniors, there are many senior events that it is looking forward to. From Senior Thanksgiving to senior nights, there are a lot of senior privileges that the seniors enjoy.

Recognizing seniors for their accomplishments in their sport on senior night are a highlight athletes look forward to. Fall senior athletes who are committed will also sign for their college on Nov. 13.

"Senior night for cheer is Oct. 25 and I'm really excited for all of the senior night festivities," senior and Class Cabinet member Grace Bozic said.

Senior portraits are on Oct.

22 and Nov. 12 during a student's English class. If seniors don't have an English class, they can go to the Aux Gym during a free period. Retakes will be on Nov. 12 during all periods.

"Seniors should make sure they're in proper portrait attire those days: a collared shirt for the boys and a top that has sleeves and avoid low necklines for the girls," Journalism Teacher and Senior Class Cabinet Adviser Kari Phillips said.

Senior Thanksgiving will be held on Nov. 20. Seniors will eat Thanksgiving food in the Aux Gym and spend time with friends. There will also be the annual Senior Breakfast that occurs in the spring.

"Parents will have to pay for the

### Upcoming Events

- Volleyball Senior Night Oct. 8
- Field Hockey Senior Night Oct. 10
- Cross Country Senior Night Oct. 12
- Senior Portrait Dress-Up Days Oct. 22
- Football Senior Night Oct. 25
- Cheerleading and Band Oct. 25
- Dress Up Days Nov. 12
- Senior Thanksgiving Nov. 20
- Last chance Senior Portraits Jan. 14

lunch on PowerSchool in October. The next, big deadline is Senior Video submission, which starts in December. Parents should select three photos of their senior (a baby, school-age and senior) to send in for

## ATHLETIC CLUBS

a new meaningful way to compete at a non-varsity level

**writer** ethan eichmann

**designer** kenzie carder

**photo credits** kenzie carder

Sports have always been a staple of the high school community. From the wall of the best athletes in the Commons, to the endless amount of energy in the student sections, the athletic accomplishments of current and former students can't be ignored. Almost every student would like to be remembered for their athletic capabilities, but, not every student will play a varsity sport during their high school career. By also offering sports as clubs, it would give students

an opportunity to contribute to the school community as well as form a better college application.

Offering sports as clubs opens the door to more practice time for students who already compete in that particular sport. A football player who joins an off-season club can greatly improve their skills, gaining an advantage over peers who might not practice during that time. This will create more dedication to the sport and will prove useful for success in competitions.

Having sports as clubs also opens the door for sports that the school does not already have, as well as important lessons for later in life. For

instance, a boxing club could not only teach students how to box but also valuable life lessons in discipline and conflict resolution.

In short, creating sports as clubs will greatly benefit the student body by improving the skills of current athletes and developing new talent. This allows all students, regardless of varsity experience, to make their mark in the school community. By investing in club sports, the school can ensure that every student has a chance to leave a lasting legacy while promoting teamwork and personal growth.

## PHONE POLICY

to have a phone or not is the question indeed

**writer** taylor lambert

**designer** kenzie carder

**photo credits** kenzie carder

People's whole lives have been centered on these tiny devices in their pockets. Schools finally decide to take them away, and students freak out. Are the schools just doing what's best for their students or are they taking something away from them that they absolutely need?

As a teenager who grew up around technology my whole life, I'll admit I'm addicted. But because of this, I've found I get distracted by my phone. So, in my opinion the phone policy is good for the high school.

Without phones, students are more apt to pay attention in their classes. Focus is essential in school. Students who don't pay attention in class are more likely to struggle or have more work outside of school to keep up. Taking away phones prevents students from sticking their noses in their phones all day long,

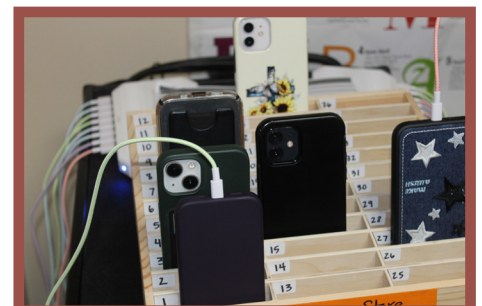
and instead they are forced to either listen to the teacher.

Many students struggle with communication. Students have gotten used to responding with a text that they avoid meaningful authentic communication with peers. Taking phones opens opportunities for students to ask questions to their teachers or collaborate with their peers.

It's important to get students used to not having their phone on them or being able to be on it constantly just like they wouldn't in the work space or in a college class setting. Less screen time for students will be beneficial for students. A lot of high school students have racked up quite a lot of screen time, like 10-12 hours a week on average. While we rot in our bedroom scrolling on social media or playing video games, parks outside are waiting for people to use them. People's brains are too overstimulated by the constant scrolling on phones. Less screen time could possibly help

with anxiety and stress that some students experience.

Even though many students are upset about the phone policy, overtime they'll get used to it, and they will hopefully start seeing the benefits from not constantly having their phones. The high school didn't do this to spite the students or to punish them; they put this policy in place to help students to succeed in school.



Phones rest in the phone caddy in Mrs. Phillips' classroom.

## SENIOR PARKING SPOTS

designer peyton johnson  
photo credits peyton johnson

Seniors get the privilege of letting the creative juices flow and paint their senior parking spots. These are the top three most creative in my opinion.

### Second Place



Avery+Claire

### First Place



Ethan

### Third Place



Sofia

### SEPTEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Sai Man  
Daniel Wong  
Vaibhav Pandya  
Juliana Eggeman  
Evie Duell  
Valentina Infante Hernandez  
Abi Wykoff  
Luke Allen  
Sally Kamara

### AUGUST/SEPTEMBER PIONEER PRIDE BAR WINNERS

Kaiden Hilbrand  
Blaine Webb  
John Caridas  
Cam Taylor  
Dom Husch  
Alex Fomba  
Tony Lakov  
Emmanuel Quintero Ramierz  
Preston Burkins  
Anna Santos Oliverira  
Grace Lambert  
Mariam Ibrahim  
Eva Tonelli-Floyd