

## PASSIONATE PERFORMERS

the performing arts are hard at work

**writer emily zimpfer**

**designer mia harrington**

**photo credits emily zimpfer**

The dedication of the performing arts community is incomparable, and students and staff members have been working hard to produce amazing performances. The performing arts are wrapping up their winter concerts and are heading into their spring performances. The jazz band had two successful winter concerts on Jan. 23 and Feb. 12 alongside StarStruck, while Orangelight productions are in full swing for rehearsals for their upcoming spring musical, "Sweeney Todd".

The jazz band had its first performance on Jan. 23 in the band room. Being in the band room allowed the audience to have a more intimate space to listen to the band and have them experience the setting where the jazz band normally practices.

"The ensemble has grown immensely in both musicianship and in enrollment as I am working toward having two sections of the class to maximize opportunities for students who have an interest in learning and playing jazz and improvised music," Jazz Band Director Zachary Zerkle said.

The jazz band also just had its annual Valentine's Day performance on Feb. 12. This event is held in the commons, and in the past, people paid for a ticket that includes dinner as well as the show. This year, people had the choice to pay \$30 for that option or pay \$10 if they just wanted to enjoy the show with no dinner.

"This allows patrons to save a little money and still come to support the students while enjoying great music. Being in our third year of this event, we are constantly looking for ways to improve the experience and keep it

fresh," Zerkle said.

Students from the vocal jazz ensemble, StarStruck, performed alongside the band to enhance the jazz dinner atmosphere. There were also many soloists who were able to showcase their skills at the dinner.

"This is our third annual Valentine's Dinner performance featuring the Jazz Ensemble and StarStruck. Last year, we saw a great increase in audience turnout and hope to continue that trend for years to come," Zerkle said.

The music that was performed in both concerts were a wide variety of genres. From contemporary music to fusion jazz, students were able to showcase their ability to flawlessly execute different styles of music.

"I try my best to challenge students with original arrangements that the best big bands have played, recorded and made famous as well as compositions and arrangements by young arrangers local to Columbus," Zerkle said.

Now taking a look at the upcoming spring musical, Orangelight Productions announced they will be

performing the musical "Sweeney Todd" on March 6 - 9. Students have been working hard with lighting and effects to capture the essence of this thrilling yet humorous musical and are excited to showcase their work.

"Horror and comedy don't usually tie into together, but they do for this show. The orchestration written by Sondheim is also super beautiful and nothing beats having a live pit perform alongside us," Lead role as Sweeney Todd and junior Samuel Hardjono said.

Hardjono will perform alongside junior Laynie Groves who plays Mrs. Lovett, junior Connor Paap playing Anthony Hope, junior Dria Mogaka casted as Johanna and many more talented cast members and ensemble. Tickets can be purchased on the theater's Instagram @orangelight productions and will be available in the commons during lunch periods closer to the performance date.

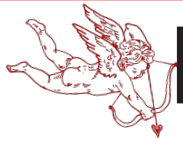
"I'm very excited to open this production because it's my first major lead role in a musical but it is also just an insane story to tell," Hardjono said.



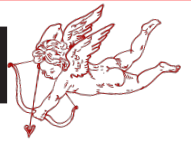
Julissa B. and John T. sing for the audience at the Valentine's Day Dinner on Feb. 12.



Sophomore Owen L. sings "Moon River" by Frank Sinatra for his solo performance.



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH



### BEC club performs assembly

**writer kenzie carder**  
**designer avery cai**  
**photo credits avery cai**

Each February for Black History Month the school's Black Empowerment Club holds a school assembly.

This year's assembly took place on Friday, Feb. 7 in the school's auditorium during second period for freshmen, third period for seniors, 11th period for juniors and 12th period for sophomores.

"This year's theme is Black Labor and Building a foundation Of America (Black Excellence Contributions)," senior Nancy Asante said.

Leading up to the assembly, a spirit week was held.

"The Black Empowerment Group was formed at the start of the school

year, where we brainstormed topics and discussed ideas as a group after school," Astante said.

The club rehearsed the entire month of January leading up to the performance, attending meetings several times a week to brainstorm after school.

"My favorite part of the show was coming up with ideas that highlight the importance of labor and work. We discussed topics like strikes, the economy, and the business world, but most importantly, we focused on essential Black figures in history who made significant contributions to inventions and the entertainment industry," Asante said.

The assembly was about 40 minutes long and featured several songs, poems, and speeches from students about the importance of this

historic month.

"The fashion show stood out to me the most (and) I saw the most incorporation of different students' talents in the singing parts," sophomore Alina Walton said.

The club members stand in a line with their arms up in the air, synchronized.



## ALTERNATIVE CLASSES

### alternative course picks for high school

**writer peyton johnson**  
**designer avery cai**

As students at the high school begin working on their schedules, it is time for upcoming seniors to choose their best pick for their last year of classes. Upperclassmen have the opportunity to pick alternative classes of their choice.

Alternative classes are those that are not the traditional classes, but students receive equal credit and get a different variety of learning experiences. Students can pick an alternative class if they gravitate toward the material more.

"When I was looking for alternative classes to take, I thought about what interests me and what would provide me with knowledge that might not be taught on a typical class schedule,"

senior Nick Jonckheer said.

Some examples of alternative classes for math are Data Science Foundations and Discrete Math/Computer Science. Some alternative chem credits are Forensics, Earth and Space and Anatomy, while for English and history it is common for students to choose College Credit Plus courses or AP courses.

"You'll find those on the back of the scheduling form. Alternative classes can be things you want to take beyond graduation requirements," Guidance Counselor James Kloefer said.

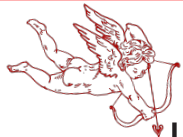
Although alternative courses aren't the traditional choice for students, they can receive the same credit for their transcript. Colleges view these courses the same as traditional courses, so if students are looking to

take courses that colleges want to see they should take them.

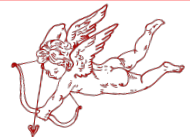
"As long as they do all the things that they highly recommend, the alternatives are kind of looked at as the same," Kloefer said.

As to all classes, there are some pros and cons of taking alternative courses as an upperclassman. Things such as classes being more interesting and more of a personal pick are great, but some cons are that students can be more clueless in alternative courses, and they are not a guaranteed class to get into.

"A benefit to taking an alternative class is that it provides me with knowledge that isn't typically taught in traditional classes, but I don't know anything about the subject," Jonckheer said.



## D1 DEVIN BROWN



### day in the life of devin brown

**writer grace bozic**

**designer cristina tiberi**

**photo credits cristina tiberi**

After turning the alarm off bright and early in the morning, senior basketball player Devin Brown gets up to start his normal morning routine to get ready for a gameday. He makes sure to eat a good, healthy breakfast before school so he can start the day off on a good note.

Brown is committed to Davidson College to further his basketball career after high school. He makes sure he leads his teammates to the best he can but also focuses on his own training to prepare for his commitment to playing in college.

"Recently, I have been working on getting stronger and plan on putting on more weight. I also just want to become the best shooter I can be," Brown said.

Brown has been playing basketball since he was in kindergarten and usually plays wing or guard. The positions he plays are reliable to his teammates so they can work together

and pull out a win each game.

"He is a very trustworthy person who we can always count on. He always plays his role for the team to the best of his ability," Brown's teammate and senior basketball player Beckett Miller said.

After school, Brown makes sure he rests his body, takes a little nap and eats a good meal before going back to school to lift and to work on recovering before his game. Then, he practices some shots before starting the pregame walkthrough with his team.

"I try to rest a lot and fully prepare my body for games so I can make sure I'm fully energized for them," Brown said.

Brown received the honor of Second Team All State last basketball season and has been training non-stop to continue to be the best he can for his senior year. Brown is very close with his whole team which helps him easily talk and lead, his friends and teammates. The connection the team has is what takes them to victory.

"He trains by lifting every day.

Whenever I come to lifting, Brown is always locked in and focuses on the things he wants to get better at," Miller said.

Brown averages around 13.1 points per game, leading his team by sinking shots. He also has around 5.4 rebounds and four assists per game.

"I like to listen to a lot of Drake before games because his music is hype and lets me focus on what is important, which is my performance in the game coming up," Brown said.

For the past couple of years that Brown has been on the team, the team has won its way to at least district finals, but this year it's their goal to make it further. The team is named No. 2 in the state and has been living up to that number all season. The team is 14-2 and 6-0 in the conference making it placed in the top spot.

"We have only lost to two teams which were Cathedral, the No. 1 team in Indiana and Bella Vista, one of the top teams in the nation from Arizona. I like having tougher competition, it makes the team better as a whole," Miller said.



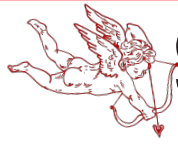
Senior Devin B. attempts to drive to the hoop against a Hilliard Davidson player.



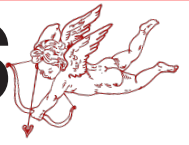
Senior Devin B. goes in for a jump shot.



Devin B. listens to the ref. for the call. He signed to play at Davidson College.



## SPECIAL NEEDS EVENTS



### upcoming activities

**writer daniela tiberi**  
**designer avery cai**

March marks the start of Special Needs Awareness month. This month is significant because it highlights students who sometimes aren't as visible in the building but are integral classmates and fellow graduates.

Orange's special needs program hosts an Awareness Month event every year. March helps students with and without disabilities strengthen their relationships and continue to build on them after the month ends, according to the Administration for Community Living.

"We will be hosting our annual United Week in March 10-13 to celebrate Disability Awareness Month. We will kick off the week with a guest speaker, hold a pep rally at the end of the week and include

some fun activities throughout the week!" Intervention Specialist Emma Bloecher said.

Orange United is a club that is involved with the high school's special needs students. It is a great way to spread special needs awareness throughout the whole school year, not just the month of March.

"My favorite part about Orange United is the interactions we get to have with the students. And you kind of get to have your own relationship with them which is really nice," sophomore member of the Orange United Samarah Nazzal said.

Students in Orange United work to build relationships with special needs students that they might not have otherwise. The club serves to fully know, learn and spread awareness of the students who have disabilities.

"I chose to join Orange United

because it's great to be a part of it, and it helps make those students feel more included. I have an aunt that has similarities to those students, so I think the club is very special," Nazzal said.

Field trips and events are a way for the special needs students to go in public and have fun. They also act as a way for the students to learn outside of school, even if the learning isn't in the form of math, science or other common subjects.

"Our classes focus on a functional curriculum to help our students build skills in order to be successful in the community. They enjoy going out to eat, bowling, trampoline park and the movies to name a few. We really enjoy going on trips that include other high schools like holiday dances and see our students interact with new friends," Bloecher said.

## ACT PREP

### advice and suggestions

**writer ava meija**  
**designer avery cai**

The American College Testing or the ACT is a standardized test that is used for college admissions and is typically taken by juniors their second semester. Many students choose to test earlier, but on Feb. 26 all juniors are automatically signed up to take the ACT at 8 a.m.

Emily Rodenberg is a senior who earned a 35 on the ACT and currently tutors students so they can perform their best on test day.

"Day of and night before, do not study. Anything you do won't positively impact your score in my opinion; it will just stress you out. If you want to do anything, just do the Wordle to get your brain working,"

Rodenberg said.

Effective studying is done days, weeks or even months before the day of the test. Students' scoring goals for the ACT may differ based on if it is their first time or if they have taken the test previously.

"If you want to just see how the test is and get a baseline, you can totally go in blind. If you want to improve upon past scores, I would study based on how much you want to improve," Rodenberg said.

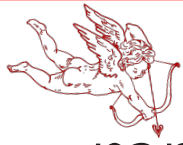
English Teacher Rachel Hecker uses the ACT reading question format in her College Prep 9 class while teaching students proper grammar throughout the year.

"The English Language section of the ACT can be difficult without a strong understanding of grammar

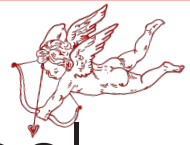
rules, but there are many wonderful handbooks out there (most available for free at the library) that will effectively teach the grammar rules necessary to sweep this section," Hecker said.

#### Act tips

- Schoolinks has a free ACT Prep using Methodize
- Wear comfy clothing and eat a healthy breakfast
- Practice time management
- Utilize online resources
- Focus on weak areas
- Use prep books
- Learn test strategies
- Take practice tests



## TOP FOUR GRADES



### ranking grades from high school

**writer emily zimpfer**  
**designer mia harrington**

High school can be challenging, but some years are harder than others while some are worth looking forward to. Although everyone doesn't have the same experiences, there's no doubt that there's a consensus on the perks and disadvantages of each year.

#### Senior Year

1. The thing that makes senior year No. 1 on the list is the number of events that seniors can attend, like senior sunrise, senior Thanksgiving and senior breakfast to name a few. They get to spend a lot of time together as a class and with friends for the last time before graduation. While some may argue there is the stressful college application process, that all

occurs during the first semester.

RANK	GRADE
1	SENIOR YEAR
2	FRESHMAN YEAR
3	SOPHOMORE YEAR
4	JUNIOR YEAR

#### Freshman Year

2. Freshman year tends to be an easier year for students since their schedule is more flexible than middle school but still structured compared to upperclassman's class options. A new environment can be scary at first, but there are so many opportunities to

get involved with the school that are introduced freshman year.

#### Sophomore Year

3. Sophomore year is typically an average year for students. The classes tend to get more challenging because some AP classes are available for sophomores to take. However, freshmen and sophomores most likely have a full schedule which can be tiring and overwhelming.

#### Junior Year

4. Not surprisingly, last place goes to junior year. This is a year where students are under pressure to impress colleges. The stress of studying for the ACT and SAT while also maintaining their schoolwork can be challenging. However, some perks to being a junior are being an upperclassman and also having more freedom for scheduling.

## SNOW DAYS

### opinion on the benefits of snow days

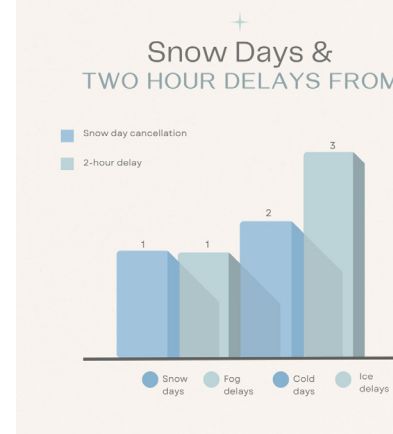
**writer peyton johnson**  
**designer mia harrington**

As it hits the middle of the winter season, snow days become part of the conversation. Snow days are days off given to students and staff in order to keep them safe from poor roads and weather conditions.

According to Psychotherapy.org, some benefits to snow days are allowing adults to wind down and become more peaceful. For children, it gives them time to play and connect with their siblings.

Although students love the benefits of snow days, some negative effects are the challenge of getting back into the groove after students return, and it also affects what the teacher had planned for that day

according to fsfreeprissonline.com.



Two-hour delays are another way for students and staff to be protected from the roads and weather conditions when the conditions are not as severe. While students love the idea of a full

day off, some pros of a two-hour delay are teachers' plans may remain the same; and students do not have to make up missed work from days off of school.

A common debate is if schools hand out too many snow days. According to The Columbus Dispatch, there was a change in schools from the time students are at school from required days to hours, changing the need for calamity days.

As long as students reach their required hours, snow days should not be an issue in schools. According to The Columbus Dispatch, seventh grade and high school students are required 1,001 hours, lower grades are required 910 hours, and kindergarten students are required to hit at least 455 hours in a school year.



## VALENTINE'S PLANS



what are students doing for the holiday?

designer ryann jochum



"Right now my friends and I are planning on doing a galentines day! We might do like "board night" where everyone brings like a board of food or candy, and then just hang!" junior Sophia Rodnefels said.



"I am going to hang out with my friends" sophomore Jackson Tiedje said.



"I am going to hang out with my friends for boys date," freshman Jack Frase said.



"My friends and I are having a galentines gift exchange on Thursday of next week," senior Mckinley Baran said.



## STUDENT OF THE MONTH AND PIONEER PRIDE BARS

### Students of the Month

Addison Smith  
Tessa Byers  
Jarred Hickman  
Madison Bolton  
Crosby Sharapan  
Makenzie Carder  
Joshua James  
Laura Deems

### Pioneer Pride Bars

Jackson Bice	Nee Ngo
Eden Morrison	Cruz Sanchez
Satvik Rudraraju	Esther Cheamang
Sophie Rogers	Anna Santos Oliveira
Maithreyi Murali	Megan Hauer
Manohar	Evan Edwards
Kriyanshi Shulka	Ryan Smith

The Frontier staff regrets the following mistake in the January Frontier: Nicholas Franklin '25 was incorrectly identified as Rober Franklin '27.