

# ULTRA CLUTCH

## a peek at rehearsals for the spring musical

writer **valentina urbaez** photos by **teresa christian**  
designer **taylor stewart**

Orangelight Productions is getting right back into the swing of things with the spring musical coming up. The widely beloved production of "Hairspray" is hitting our stage come March 17. The cast and crew of Orangelight Productions, has been working Monday through Thursday from 2:45 to 7 p.m., and are now going until 9 p.m. The pit orchestra will be joining rehearsals shortly as sets, props, costumes and hair/makeup start working together.

"Hairspray" stars a fun-loving dancer, Tracy Turnblad, who fights to make her way onto the Corny Collins Show while battling the struggles of getting the show equal and integrated.

The shows will be Thursday, March 17-Sunday, March 20 from 7-9 p.m. with an exception of the Sunday matinee from 2-4 p.m. It will be one show longer than it normally is to have ticket sales jump back to how it

was pre-COVID.

"The community has always been supportive of our musicals so I hope they come out for this show seeing how the last two were affected by COVID-19. One being canceled and the other having extremely limited seating," Theater Director Cathy Swain-Abrams said.

Junior Amy Hanson is among many of the actors involved who has been working every day to pull this production together.

"So far in rehearsals, we've been working on singing, dancing and scene-work. After we have all these individual parts down, we can put them together to create a great show," Hanson said.

Many of the actors have been using techniques from previous productions and seeing how they can incorporate that into this show.

"In 'Hairspray,' I play Prudy Pingleton, Penny Pingleton's mom. I've been in theater since middle school, so I definitely have a lot of experience I can bring to this role," Hanson said.

Every rehearsal is needed and even the actors with the most experience have had to go the extra mile to get the best possible outcome.

"Considering where they are, I think the cast and crew are doing a fantastic job. There is a huge learning curve for everyone. They're seeing the amount of work it takes to put on a show of this size. We're stepping up every day and learning new things," Swain-Abrams said.

Theater is about working with the character the actor is playing and seeing what they can do to bring them to life on stage.

"My last role was Mrs. Peacock in 'Clue' and she actually has quite a

Juniors Loren G. and Emily M. get ready for show day on March 1.



few similarities to Prudy. I'm hoping to use what I already know as a basis for my character, and expand on it as rehearsals go on," Hanson said.

Swain-Abrams mentioned that no matter what musical they chose, in the end she'd have to stretch the students out of their comfort zone.

"There's been growth in the amount of BIPOC students in the program with the BIPOC initiative, Out Loud. I got excited about the idea of using theater to provide educational opportunities," Swain-Abrams said.

The backstage crew, tech, began working right when the actors did, collaborating with each other and piecing together all aspects of the show.

"Tech has been getting designs and lighting started, seeing how they can use things we already have and adapt them to the show. They're building, painting and figuring out wigs and costumes. They've been very involved and actively working every day and even on weekends," Swain-Abrams said.



Sophomore Brendan V. paints sets to prepare for the spring musical on March 1.



## FUTURE POLITICIANS



researching solutions for current day issues

writer rachel lehman

designer nathan chow

Olentangy Model United Nations is a club with a goal to further develop student understanding of global politics, crisis and culture. Students choose a country and research the global problems within it, find past or current attempts to solve the issue and write a resolution for a summit.

The last summit was over a course of three days: Feb. 18-20 at Bridgewater Banquet and Conference Center in Powell. The first two days were half days which were about five hours and the third day was a full day of over 12 hours.

"This was our best summit yet with over 300 students participating from across the district. The students were engaged, prepared and excited to debate," junior and Secretary-General Josh Layne said.

The main part of the summit is the general assembly where

everyone presents their resolution to the other students in the club. Then, there's a chance to debate and question the resolution, followed by a final pass or fail vote.



Students raise their signs to be called on to debate at the OMUN summit on Feb. 19

"It takes a decent amount of effort to prepare for a summit. It takes most of the year to research and create a resolution, but this is the best part about the club, because it's accessible for all

levels of experience and allows people to go for either a casual or competitive experience," junior and OMUN member Achintya Perumal said.

Additionally, during the OMUN summit other events take place such as a crisis event, in which each group is put into a completely new situation with a few other groups and given a new country with the task to produce a detailed presentation describing a solution to the problem. There is also a trivia competition and a talent show with performances like puppet shows, skits and song parodies.

"It's super rewarding for everything to come together by the time the summit comes around," Perumal said. "I definitely recommend joining OMUN because it's such a great way to make new friends, skills and experiences that you'll keep with you forever."



## SEVEN TO STATE



DECA dominates district competition

writer rachel lehman

designer nathan chow

Distributive Education Clubs of America or DECA is a national marketing class for juniors and seniors that allows students to learn about the fundamentals of marketing as well as be able to qualify for state and even international competitions.

Seven juniors competed in the district competition on Jan. 27 where they were presented with a business problem and had to come up with a solution. Students who were working in groups had 20 minutes to discuss their solutions before presenting. However, individuals had only 10 minutes to come up with their solutions.

"In each competition, we solve

a real business problem, and the judges have a rubric to score us on our professionalism, our ideas and how we communicate," junior DECA member Carter Buening said.

All seven students who attended the district competition qualified for the state competition. Buening is one of three who qualified for the international competition that will take place in April in Atlanta, Georgia through the school-based enterprise program.

"There is an opportunity for DECA programs with school stores to explain how they run their store and, if it meets DECA guidelines, they

can get 'gold level certification' and go to international competition with three students," DECA and Marketing Teacher Crystal Shanahan said. "They get to go through different types of seminars to learn new things we can bring into our school store. Then, they get to present about their school store and place in the competition."

DECA looks great on college and job applications because it is considered real work experience. Students who take DECA plus Business Foundations where students learn about marketing, finance and accounting are able to earn three college credits for passing the classes.



## STARTING SPRING SPORTS

### winter sports are coming to an end

writer **marshall medley** photos by **taylor stewart** and **lily clark**  
designer **emma barnhart**

With spring sports coming soon, that means winter sports are coming to an end. Since November, teams have been putting everything they have into their sport.

Teams have been preparing for months on end for their seasons. However, even with that preparation, things don't always go as planned. There are always bumps in the road and unexpected challenges.

"We have turned the ball over too much," Intervention Specialist and Head Boys Basketball Coach Anthony Calo said. "If I could start the year over, I would figure out how to make sure this is less of a problem for us."

The team prepares for challenges just like their turnover problem, but things always will go wrong. The team will look to work on this for the future. Even with the season not completely over yet, Calo is looking forward to next year. Calo said this young team can develop and really show who they are next year.

"We have three junior point guards who play a huge role for us (Elias Lewis, Mikey Mccollum and Jordan Edwards) They should be exciting to watch next year," Calo said. "We have a great group of kids though so the thing I am looking forward to the most is spending time with these guys as we help them grow and mature on their life/basketball journey."

It is always great to see a coach who enjoys watching the players grow up and develop in life. With teaching the players skills, he is also teaching them about life.

Basketball has its ups and downs, but so does every sport. Athletes can prepare, but they will never know how something is going to go. Sophomore Bowler Bobby Drexel explained his preparation during the bowling season.

"If I could change one thing about the season, I would like for us to have gotten prepared earlier," Drexel said. "Liberty got a cheap win off of us early in the season. I just don't think we were prepared to work as a team that early."

Not working and preparing as a team leads to losses. Even in bowling, athletes still have to be a team. Luckily, the Pioneers realized they needed to work early so they could have a great season.

The bowling team still had a great season finishing 14-2 losing to just Westerville Central and Olentangy Liberty. The team finished strong and worked together well.



Junior Mikey McCollum dribbles the ball down the court.

"It has been good. We've had our highs and lows this year breaking a few records and losing some close matches," Drexel said.

After the bowling team realized its early mistake against Liberty, it went on to finish the season on a great note. Breaking any type of record is impressive, and the Pioneers broke quite a few.



Sophomore Bobby Drexel warms up for his bowling match.



Junior Elias Lewis takes a free throw against Hilliard Davidson.

## A BREAK TO CREATE

visual arts classes available for next year

writer emma clute

designer nathan chow

From paper to clay to computers, the school is not lacking in variety when it comes to the art mediums available to learn. There is something for everyone, with courses focusing on Ceramics, Sculpture, Modeling & Animation, Drawing, Jewelry, Painting, Photography, Digital Art & Design and even Art History.

With all the options available, there is one place all students should start: Art I. This is a prerequisite course that gives an introduction to the multiple styles of art that students can explore in the specialized courses.

"In Art I, we introduce students to a variety of mediums so they can

decide what they do and don't like," Art Teacher Alison Echelberry said. "Once students are finished with Art I, they can take any level one art class to fulfill their fine arts requirement."

Both Art I and the other courses allow students to harness their creativity in ways they might not be able to in other classes throughout the day.

"Students can demonstrate their learning and creativity through project creation, refine critical thinking skills and learn that not everything turns out perfect the first time you make it," Echelberry said.

However, the courses are not

only popular because they allow students to express themselves in new ways but also because they allow them a chance to decompress from their busy schedules and workloads.

"It's a nice break in the day to be creative and use your mind in a different way. And we have the best art teachers who will help you create whatever you want," senior and Advanced Jewelry student Micaela Shelton said.

People interested in learning more about the art classes and seeing student artwork from last year can visit the art department's website at [www.oohsarts.com](http://www.oohsarts.com).

## IT SINGS IN THE SPRING

performing arts prepare for competition

writer valentina urbaez

designer nathan chow

The music ensembles and performing arts of the high school are working tremendously to exceed their best of past performances for their upcoming events.

"Varsity Singers and Choraliers are working on district contest pieces and preparing for a concert on Feb. 23. The actual contest was the March 4. Vocal Point and Orange Man Group put together 'She's Got a Way' by Billy Joel and Vocal Point is doing 'SOS' from Mamma Mia," Choir Director Cherie Brooks said.

Brooks gave the choirs creative freedom so they feel they have a say in their performances and how they feel about them.

"The Starstruck jazz choir did a concert of love music featuring soloists and duets on Feb. 16. and the Above The Noise acapella

group were selling Valentine's grams during lunch," Brooks said.

COVID-19 took away the choir's opportunity to have a true Showcase Performance two years in a row. Now that the chance is back, Brooks will be taking full advantage of their options.

"I just hope to have a blowout showcase. We're in the process of picking the theme, and once we have it we'll start throwing out openers and closers, hire our light and sound guy and we'll have fun. It'll be awesome," Brooks said.

Sophomore band student, Evangeline Treboni plays the mellophone and French horn and is also currently juggling the high stakes of impressing a judge.

"Currently, we're prepared for our concert on Feb. 23 and for our contest in March," Treboni said.

Improving skill after each

performance is something all musicians can relate to. "My, and probably a universal goal, is to play better than we have before," Treboni said.

Sophomore Cellist Natalya Garza Morales, is perfecting the small details left that need correcting for their judged performance coming up.

"I want to see us collectively grow as musicians. I've seen a lot of improvement within my orchestra and I'm excited for what else we can accomplish," Morales said.

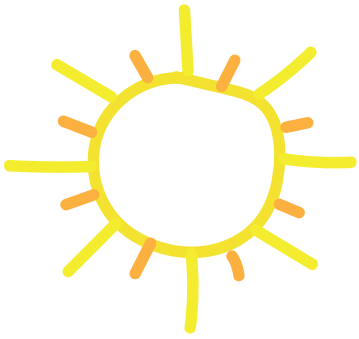


The orchestra plays at the February concert

## FUN IN THE SUN

plans for spring break

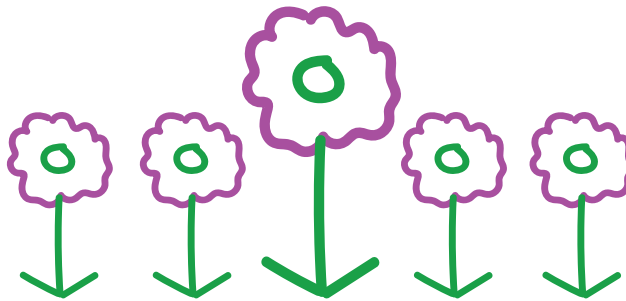
designer emma clute



Freshman Charlie Bass  
“I’m going to Cleveland with my family. While I’m there, I’m going to visit relatives and might see a basketball game.”

Sophomore Mazzy Seigneur  
“I’m going to be visiting four different colleges to explore them and the towns around them.”

Junior Jessica Mallett  
“I’m going to Sedona, Arizona with my family, and we’re going to hike and hang out and be in the sun.”



Senior Kaitlyn Rogers  
“I’m going to Florida with one of my friends, and we’re going to go to the beach a lot while we’re there.”

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH & PIONEER PRIDE BARS

### FEBRUARY

Monica Paredes  
Ka’tira Williams  
Audrey Selsor  
Ethan Stoner  
Lesika Pajany  
Kira Leslie  
Alexis Morales  
Zachary Angelis  
Maryn Zavislak

### PIONEER PRIDE BARS

Klaus Diem  
Ava Green  
Ainsley Robare  
Leela Tiwari  
Ayden Gardner  
Caira Fisher-Rogers  
Kaelyn Gaylor