

STATE LEGISLATURE a discussion on helping students

writer **valentina urbaez**

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Legislators, House and Senate committee members and educators across Ohio came together to discuss what adjustments in education need to be made in a post pandemic environment. Principal Monica Asher and AP US History teacher John Jordan were invited to represent the high school during this conversation.

Two elementary school principals and two high school principals were selected across Ohio to come speak as well as district administrators to talk about teacher retention and recruitment.

“I was invited to speak at the Ohio Legislator’s Retreat in a session called Professional Perspectives, where we broke into small groups and interacted closely with each other,” Asher said.

The teacher shortage became a main talking point involved in teacher recruitment and what states and schools could do to keep them

Members from the Hunt Institute and representatives talk to each other at the Ohio Statehouse.



educating. Fewer and fewer college students are going into education, and policy could be used as a cushion to support incoming teachers.

“The overall topic was why teachers are getting burnt out and why there’s so much on the teacher’s plate trying to help students beyond just the education,” Jordan said.

There was a focus on not only policy but also finance, and how regulations, like the unfunded mandate, directly influence the district, where certain programs are not receiving funding and are not able to be properly implemented.

“We spent time looking at where our focus should be and how we’re able to dive more meaningfully into the work,” Asher said.

By sending educators to speak with Ohio’s policy makers, the hope is they will get a better understanding about what happens on a daily basis in schools and for it to offer more of an incentive to listen to teacher voices before implementing laws.

“It’s important for those of us here to go and talk about the kids because if we don’t speak up how will they know what needs changing,” Jordan said.

As groups and communities in Columbus become more involved,



Principal Monica Asher and Social Studies Teacher John Jordan meet with legislators at the Ohio Statehouse on Feb. 23.

the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators (OASSA) held its first advocacy day. There are potential upcoming events at the end of April in Washington D.C. to provide opportunities to get in front of the national legislative body to advocate for students and education as well.

Representatives and teachers have a discussion at the Ohio Statehouse.



NEW HONOR SOCIETY

social studies honor society coming to orange

writer emily zimpfer

designer mia harrington

Students will be given an opportunity next year and the coming years of joining the Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society. Students who meet the requirements will be able to receive many benefits of joining including a cord and college recognition. Rho Kappa was released in 2012, but the high school will be joining in the upcoming school year.

Orange will be joining the Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society at the start of the 2023-24 school year. The honor society will demonstrate the engagement of the school and will enhance the quality of students' transcripts by challenging

themselves academically.

"Orange is joining because this will be a nice recognition for our students that recognizes their hard work in social sciences," AP Government Teacher John Carmichael said.

The basic requirements for joining the Social Studies Honor Society are a student must have completed four semesters of courses in the field of social studies, over cumulative GPA of 3.00, and have been in attendance at school for equivalent of one semester.

"The benefit for Orange students is that they will be able to register to be a part of a national organization that recognizes students who take and excel in Social Studies subjects," US History Teacher Jesse Tierney said.

This organization will be student led and be advised by history teachers Jamie Paoloni and John Carmichael. The criteria are set by the National Council, and members are expected to meet those guidelines. The selection process will be similar to the National Honor Society and information about applying will be released and distributed at the beginning of the school year.

"I'm excited about offering another opportunity for our students. In particular, Rho Kappa will serve as a nice way to recognize academic achievement in the social sciences and to showcase their coursework and achievements to colleges," Carmichael said.

SAVE THE DATE

upcoming québec and montréal trip

writer valentina urbaez

designer mia harrington

The five-day French trip to Canada has been long shut down due to the effects of COVID-19. With a lengthy debate amongst students with French Teacher Sarah Haynes, registration and planning with Principal Monica Asher began.

The high school French trip was known as a rite of passage of sorts for students. As they came in from middle school hearing about it, the plan was always to go. But as years have gone with larger groups being more difficult to manage, COVID-19 settled the idea that it wouldn't be back for a while.

"I was a little hesitant to pitch the idea again after a few years, but after seeing how badly the students wanted to do it, It will offer a very enriching experience for them," Haynes said.

A rough itinerary has already been set for sight seeing as the students will be able to see many well-respected French sites such as, l'Escalier casse-cou (breakneck steps), Notre-Dames-victoires, Plains of Abraham battlefield and many more.

"I'm really excited they're bringing it back. I'd first heard about the French trips back in middle school and wasn't sure if we'd get them back so I think it'll be a cool experience," junior Sravya Bavisetty said.

One concern among students was if they'd be able to go, seeing as the trip will be the summer of 2024, alongside parent concern over the payment plan.

"Any student enrolled in a French class or who has taken one is eligible to register by the March 30 deadline. The total cost for students is \$2048 and for adults is \$2273," Haynes said.

There's a \$50 registration fee and an automatic monthly plan through Explorica, an organization that handles educational travel tours. They also offer travel protection starting at \$16 a day.

"A few things are still subject to change but all in all, I'm happy to take the students to see the value in these culture filled places," Haynes said.



Signup using the QR code with the password 'Haynes-1289'.

CLUB CREATING CHANGE i support the girls club

writer rachel lehman

designer emily zimpfer

photo credit rachel lehman

I Support the Girls Club was created by sophomore Alina Rakhimzyanova. Just as the title suggests, the club centers on supporting girls not only within the school but in the community as well.

Students can earn volunteer hours by donating menstrual hygiene products in drop boxes around the school which ultimately go to women's shelters. One donation equals one hour and so far this year, and the club has already donated 4,531 items which include 2,164 pads and 1,320 tampons.

"I decided to create this club because I was inspired by the international organization 'I Support The Girls', which is the parent

Students in the club meet every month and help organize donation boxes.



organization that our club donates to. This is a non-profit that helps out homeless women by giving them access to products like tampons, pads, bras and clothes," Rakhimzyanova said.

Period Poverty is a term that refers to people who lack access to menstrual hygiene products and education. With the donations already collected, Rakhimzyanova is making a huge difference for women who suffer from period poverty.

"I believe no women should ever have to make the choice between food and their health. Feminine products should be available to everyone, and no one should ever have to give up a meal and their dignity for it," Rakhimzyanova said.

Although the club focuses on supporting women, it doesn't mean that girls are the only ones allowed to join the club or donate. Boys and girls are encouraged to join and help within the community and earn service hours.

"The club focuses on things that people tend to overlook but are problems very common for girls. My hopes are to be a part of a group that makes a change and a positive impact on women and society in general," club member and senior Madison Mackovine said.

A NIGHT UNDER THE SEA the spongebob musical

writer emma barnhart

designer emily zimpfer

photo credit teresa christian

Orangelight Productions have prepared for months for the school to take a dive into Bikini Bottom to see "Spongebob, the Musical" on dates March 16-19.

Senior Shannon Barr played Spongebob, senior Levi Holmes played Patrick Star, senior Emily McVay played Squidward, freshman



Students in the play rehearse in the theater the week before the show started.

Sam Hardjono played Plankton and junior Caira Fisher-Rogers played Sandy Cheeks.

"I've watched a lot of 'Spongebob' and practiced the accent that Sandy has," junior actress playing Sandy Cheeks Caira Fisher-Rogers said.

The sound team was off on the right foot as it practiced playing music tracks during rehearsal, and the lighting team got ahead of schedule.

"The lighting team had all of the scenes and basic cues programmed into the computer and began to get more and more specific lighting designed when entire scenes ran," Science Teacher and Technical Director Brad Zech said.

The cast and crew members were eager for everyone finally to see and enjoy their production.

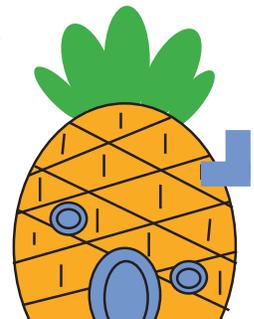
"It was a fun, bright show full of very cool visuals, and it kept the

audience very involved," Fisher-Rogers said.

The crew enjoyed spreading a positive message to the audience through the magic that Bikini Bottom brought to the show.

"There were so many things to be creative with that it resulted in a beautiful, great story," Zech said.

Seeing the final production come together was such a rewarding experience for many. "During the performance when I knew what was going to happen and the audience had a reaction was one of the best feelings in the world," Zech said.



TRAIN DERAILMENT environmental disaster calls for action

writer sofie terlesky photo credits printed with permission from AP Images
designer mia harrington

A Norfolk Southern Freight train carrying hazardous materials derailed in East Palestine, Ohio on Feb. 3. The derailment sparked a day's-long fire, released toxic fumes into the air, drove residents out of their homes and contaminated the local soil, according to CNN.

Residents were encouraged to return to their homes, but many were hesitant due to the environmental impacts this incident could have.

"My biggest concern would be the water supply. Even if we 'filter' out the toxins, where are we going to put the waste? Where is the toxin going to go? If this contaminates groundwater supplies, that is a huge issue because treating groundwater is almost impossible," AP Environmental Science Teacher Jessica Timmons said.

Not only is this accident going to hurt the residents' water supply, it will also have harmful impacts on the organisms that live close to the scene.

"If you have organisms like a small insect or fish that gets access to a certain amount of toxin within the



A portion of the Southern Freight train that derailed, and it continued to burn one day after the crash.

environment, that fish will in time, get eaten by a bird. Imagine that bird eats 100 fish. Not only is that bird taking on the environmental impact of that one dosage, it's taking on 100 doses within those fish that it's eating as well," Biology Teacher Kevin Guse said.

While the water supply for people in Ohio may be affected, the people in Lewis Center shouldn't see a huge change in their standards of living.

"Our water supply here in Lewis Center is Alum Creek lake. Central Ohio is in the Ohio River watershed—so our water flows south. The contamination that may be present in the Ohio river will not flow north into our drinking water supplies," Timmons said.

However, for the residents of East Palestine, the process of recovering from this accident may take more time than citizens expect.

"Once the cleanup takes place, and they have removed the active toxin from the environment, that doesn't necessarily mean that it is gone," Guse

said.

Although this accident came as a shock to most people, the cause of this incident may be the government not prioritizing environmental problems.

"Government agencies have removed numerous environmental and safety regulations for the transport of potentially hazardous materials with our railway systems. Trains carrying flammable and hazardous materials now do not have to have faster brakes and safety audits do not have to be completed regularly," Timmons said.

For people locally in Lewis Center, there are plenty of ways we can help the citizens living in East Palestine. The Brightside Project & The Way Station are currently helping to provide assistance to residents of East Palestine. Donating items like clothes, food and personal care products are all great ways to contribute to the cause.



Environmental workers filtering and cleaning contaminated water in East Palenstine, Ohio.

The Frontier



SPORTS COVERAGE



local news cuts back on sports coverage

writer marshall medley

designer hailey boyce

photo credit kari phillips

Local journalism publications have reduced sports coverage. This drawback is getting high school athletes less recognition and losing sports reporters jobs.

Gannett recently shut down the ThisWeek newspaper chain, which was previously part of the Dispatch's publication group. The last print date was Jan. 26. They shut down likely because of the majority of people were reading their news online for free and couldn't sustain employing reporters or printing a print publication, according to Axios Columbus.

With this shutdown, many local sports writers have been laid off. Some of these writers have worked for their company for many years, but now have nowhere to go because of the decline of newspapers. Several sports reporters have decided to freelance for multiple publications, and Gannett only picked up a couple of ThisWeek writers to contribute to the Dispatch's sports section.

It isn't right that these people were let go, especially the ones who have been at their companies for years. These reporters have worked hard to build up these companies' names just for them to get thrown away.

Sports writers being laid off has made local sports coverage difficult to learn about, with many of the scores and standings of high school sports being listed in the paper or online. People will now have to find other ways to learn about their favorite high school teams.

With less coverage, attendance will drop. People have to find other ways to learn about where sports are. With this difficulty, attendance will

drop and that means less money for the schools.

Schools have budgets planned out, so schools start having problems when they are losing money. They may have to cut down on concessions or other things that fans enjoy.

Attendance numbers will definitely be affected. High school athletic events are attended by more people than just students; community members often see them as community events. People don't go to events that they do not know about. And some people aren't going to use their other resources to find out about the games. If they don't know about it, they won't go looking.

Athletes are going to suffer from this as well, as their recognition will go down. With fewer people coming to their games, athletes will get less attention.

This could really hurt an athlete. Smaller name athletes will get less scouting with fewer people there. Scouts won't know where to go because they won't see the games advertised as much.

Writer Marshall Medley smiles for a photo.

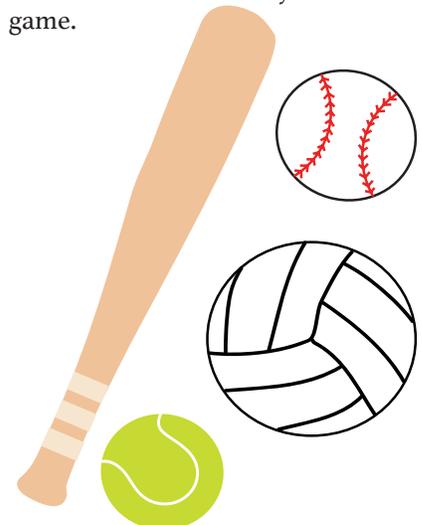


Where to find Orange Sports Live

- Olentangy Local Schools website where live streamed games can be watched
- Instagram @ orangesports_live posting about upcoming game days
- @OOHSSportsLive with live tweeting from games and meets

Scouting will be affected by attendance. Less athlete recognition from word of mouth will cause problems too, as the player won't have their name out there. Athletes can suffer pretty bad from this as well.

Lots of players feed off the energy of the crowd as well. The crowd feeds their energy and affects their play. A loss of crowd may throw an athlete off their game. Players will have to find another way to feed their game.



The Frontier

GREEN IN THE AIR

first thoughts when students see green

designer nathan chow

Freshman Aiden Tang
“Grass“

Junior Lincoln Hake
“Leprechauns“

Sophomore Adam Welch
“Clash of Clans green grass“

Senior Neil Hariths
“I think to Go”

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH & PIONEER PRIDE

FEBRUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Meher Banta
Jordan Campbell
Evan Eichel
Kirsten LaGrand
Ella Kirk
Sofia Malik
Preston Martin
Salin Myers
Peyton Rankin

PRIDE BARS

Charlotte Sota
Maithreyi Murali Manohar
Sierra Toot
Autumn Browne
Aliyah Thullah
Ben Martin
Zach Ludwig
Saran Diane
Adam Kraynek
Preston Bronder
Colin Anderson
Rocco Piaskowski