

# SCHROEDER STEPS DOWN

## head football coach retires after 10 years

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**photos by** emily zimpfer and emma barnhart

After spending 10 years as the head football coach for the high school and 13 years total in a head coach position, Zebb Schroeder announced that he is stepping down for next season.

The decision comes as a surprise to many students and staff members.

“I just need to be more available for my wife and kids,” Schroeder said. “Both physically and most importantly, mentally.”

Schroeder finished with an overall record of 52-53 with the Pioneers. Most notably, his team went 10-2 in 2019, and it reached the Division 1, Region 3 semifinal. Prior to coaching at the high school, Schroeder was the head coach at Delaware Hayes where he was 11-19 in three seasons.

This past season, Schroeder finished the season 4-7, with some very close losses. The Pioneers fell to Olentangy Berlin, Hilliard Darby and Olentangy High School by just seven

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-Former Head Football Coach Zebb Schroeder

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points. They had the potential to finish with a much better record than they did.

Many players are going to miss the culture that Schroeder brought to the team. Many of his talks to the team before games were posted on social media pages such as Storied Rivals, where they received lots of positive feedback.

“I’m going to miss the culture that he created and the standards that he set,” sophomore football player Zane Konzak said. “The culture and the way that he made us attack certain things is what created us into who we are.”

Something that a record will never reflect is the impact that was left on the players he coached. Good coaches coach life, not just the sport, and that is exactly what coach Schroeder told his players.

“It’s just amazing to watch a young man join our program as a freshman and then watch him grow, do tough things, grow some more, have success and then watch them continue that in college and their careers,” Schroeder said.

Konzak recalls his favorite moment under Schroeder being the



Coach Schroeder poses for his headshot.

35-14 win against Dublin Coffman this past season. That win was arguably the biggest win for the Pioneers this season. They entered the game as double-digit underdogs and ended the game leading by 21 points. The game set a tone that the Pioneers are for real.

When talking about the game, Konzak said, “He wasn’t just happy for himself; he was happy for us.” At the time, that win marked a three-game winning streak. “The feeling was great,” Konzak said.

A new head coach for the Pioneers has yet to be appointed. Athletic Director Andre Nash is continuing the search for a new head coach. The decision is expected to come before the end of the school year.

Finding a head coach to replace Schroeder will not be an easy task. A coach with the abilities to create such a culture is hard to come by, and Schroeder will be missed by all.



Coach Schroeder attended signing day on Feb.1 of last year to speak on behalf of his players.

# GETTING THRIFTY

## environmental club hosts thrift store

**writer** emily zimpfer

**designer** mia harrington

Right before winter break, the Environmental Club hosted its first thrift store. The club has been working hard to help the school be more sustainable and is also in the process of making the school go green.

The environmental thrift store was held in the aux gym on Dec. 11-14 during all lunch periods. Students had the opportunity to bring in a bag of gently used clothing in exchange for a ticket to shop at the store.

“The purpose of the thrift store is to get more people involved with the Environmental Club and do something that will help students

reduce their ecological footprint together,” Environmental Club co-president and junior Clea Case said.

The goal of the thrift store was to give the opportunity to shop for new clothing while being sustainable.

“This event is intended to reduce sending usable items to the landfill,”



Environmental Club president and senior Ohanna Cho said.

One of the club’s main goals this

year is to bring back paper recycling in the school and to also include a healthier school lunch.

“We are planning to have more clean ups next spring as well as a recycling drive. An Earth day spirit week, a community storm drain labeling event and a planting event,” Cho said.

The club has hosted a trick-or-treat neighborhood clean-up on Nov. 1, as well as a school parking lot clean up on Sept. 26. Students are always encouraged to join the club by scanning the QR code in front of Mrs. Timmons’ room, 1204, or follow their Instagram @oohs\_environmental.



# WINTER FESTIVITIES



## seasonal activities for after break

**writer** emily zimpfer

**designer** mia harrington

During the winter months, many people struggle to find things to do since the weather can be harsh. So here are some fun things to do during the winter like having a gingerbread house contest in one’s cozy house to doing activities like sledding or skiing outside.

Getting fresh air during the winter season is sometimes difficult with the dropping temperatures, but it is much needed. However, there are many activities one can do outside like going ice skating at the local rink with friends and family. Ice skating is a beneficial activity and can be for all ages.

“I like ice skating because you feel like you’re floating almost. It’s a very weird feeling. I also like it because I have to concentrate very hard, and it

clears my mind,” junior Claire Hauzie said.

However, going ice skating isn’t everyone’s favorite. For example, senior Zack Moneer disagrees with the idea that ice skating is fun.

“I have only ice skated once, but I didn’t like it because I can’t get the hang of it. I always feel unbalanced doing it,” Moneer said.

An alternative way to spend time outdoors in the cold weather is to go sledding or simply playing in the snow. Snowball fights, snow angels and building snowmen are few of the many ways to play in the snow. The key is to get creative.

“My friends and I like to make up games in the snow and spend hours outside during snow days,” Hauzie said.

Another idea is skiing or snowboarding at local places like Snow Trails or Mad River. While this

may be expensive for those without equipment and experience, to some it’s worth the investment. In addition, skiing and snowboarding are great cardiovascular exercises to help burn calories, according to visitpa.com.

“The best part about winter is the snow because it’s pretty and there’s a lot to do in the snow,” Hauzie said.

Having a gingerbread house contest with friends and nominating a winner is a fun activity to do during the winter months to stay warm. Going along with that, baking cookies together is also a good way to bring everyone together by being creative while still spending time with one another.

Baking can be very calming, which can greatly help to aid relaxation and reduce stress, according to abbeyfield.com.

# EVONA PROFILE

## shattering the stereotype for hockey

writer valentina urbaez photo credit valentina urbaez  
designer mia harrington

For the sake of bettering her sport and making senior year slightly more interesting, senior Evona Gray became the first girl to join the school's boys hockey team.

Gray is taking on her fifth year playing and with the encouragement from her freshman brother Ethan, she worked herself into the summer league at the Chiller North before making tryouts.

"Since my younger brother would be playing, I thought it would be more fun," Gray said. "It was mainly because it was my senior year, and I'd never played high school hockey."

Having broken through the gender barrier, freshman Eliza Caldwell quickly followed suit. Athletes are put in a difficult position already being new to a team, but a new layer of discomfort comes with being surrounded by players who didn't exactly take her seriously.

"I think the dynamic shifts

because the boys can't say whatever they want. They're not aggressive though and I think we lead the team to make smarter decisions," Caldwell said. Fortunately, the team has provided the space to grow where it might not be the case elsewhere.

"I've heard from other girls that they felt like it puts you in a position where you look worse than you are. Being the newest representation of anything turns into being watched anytime you step on the ice," Gray said.

There was no backing down for Gray. Knowing her strengths as a team player and strengthening weak spots is ultimately what keeps her moving swiftly. Her advice holds true for any girl interested in a male dominated sport.

"I'd say don't get distracted by boys chirping at you and focus on your own improvement separate from anyone else's experience. Don't take it to heart

when you face failures and keep your head up," Gray said.

As far as progress goes, Gray has found most of her improvement hasn't come from time with a personal trainer. By pushing herself with the boys program, she has more tools to continue stronger.

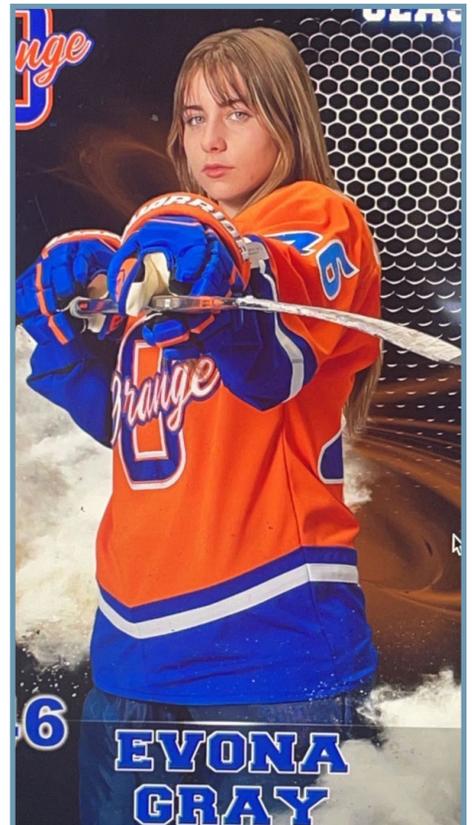
"The program made me a faster skater than when I played for a select girls team. There's access to so many more opportunities for training and on ice progression than any girls team," Gray said. "You'll see yourself skating faster for longer just by putting effort into all of the lifting and practice opportunities given to you."



Senior Evona G. takes on the ice at the Chiller North.



Evona keeps her eye on the puck as Orange takes on Berlin.



Headshot of Evona Gray as she poses for the start of her senior season.

## PERFORMING ARTS UPDATE

### students take the stage

writer valentina urbaez photo credit kaleigh zag & hadlee hall

Orange students have eased into the second semester, and the new year brings resolutions to shine a light on the performing arts. Band, choir, orchestra and theater students are reaching new levels of stress and excitement as concert season ends and competition approaches.

Orchestra students tried the tradition theater usually does on Jan. 8 when they performed during lunch periods. As a means of exposing underclassmen to the performing arts, the lunch samplers were made to support musicians in their preparation for their upcoming solo and ensemble competitions on Jan. 20.

"This time of year is really stressful since we're working on very challenging pieces in such a short amount of time," senior cellist Natalya Garza Morales said.

The strings were not the only ones to promote during lunches though. The choir acapella group Above the Noise (ATN) and jazz ensemble Starstruck showcased their current lineup of songs. ATN used songs that furthered them in the International

Championship of High School A Capella (ICHSA) competition.

"We're doing this for anyone who's curious about what each group does and hasn't been to a concert before," junior singer Ashe Biggs said.

Chamber orchestra is an advanced audition group that string musicians can be a part on Jan. 9, chamber, choir and band groups toured a handful of middle schools in the district to introduce students to new ways of music and keep incoming freshmen invested.

"It'll be really cool to show younger students what's waiting for them at the high school, and it's even better that we get to do it again since it stopped because of COVID-19," Garza Morales said.

Students spend their high school careers honing their craft, and it's especially helpful to improve by using external professional sources. Chamber orchestra and auditioned group of Sinfonia musicians are invited to the University of Cincinnati on Jan. 13-14 for a music clinic to work on technique.

"They're going to coach us on how to improve, and it includes a campus tour and dinner," Garza Morales said.

The marching band has been

preparing for their week-long Ireland performance tour since summer 2023. From March 11 - 17, band members from classes 2023-2027's \$2000 package includes a St. Patrick's Day Parade, trail and castle performances, tours and museum experiences.

"I didn't realize how much fun I'd have in marching band, and I'm gonna miss performing with my friends every afternoon," senior baritone player Roma Yadav said.

The theater organization Orangelight Productions is nearing the end of rehearsal for the middle school musical "Annie." Performances are on Jan. 19-21. Once the middle schoolers have wrapped, the high schoolers will begin their spring musical "Sister Act."

"We're well into tech week now, and all the kids are feeling the pressure of pulling the show together. Some things still need done, but we always get everything ready by show day," senior stage manager Tess Stamolis said.



The Orange Man Group performs on Dec. 11 in the theater.



The orchestra performs in concert in the theater on Dec. 4.



Starstruck performs on Dec. 11 in the theater.

## UPCOMING ELECTION primary elections set tone for november race

**writer** shiv majmudar  
**designer** emirah balser

The next few months will shape the way the 2024 election turns out. With the Democrats planning to run Biden again, it is up to GOP voters to decide who will challenge the sitting president. From what has been seen in the polls and media, it will be Trump who runs against Biden in 2024.

The Iowa caucus is happening in January. It will help determine the Republican nominee, but if you look only at the numbers, Donald Trump will be the Republican nominee in 2024.

Trump is currently polling at 61 percent. Ron DeSantis is at 12.1 percent and Nikki Haley is at 11.3 percent.

If Trump was out of the race, DeSantis and Haley would be competing for the Republican nomination. And perhaps that will be an option in 2024. Trump's indictments may keep him from the race. But if he avoids jail, Trump will be running against Joe Biden in a rematch of 2020.

In the Democratic Party, Joe Biden is the frontrunner to be the nominee. Very few candidates challenge a sitting president. Many voters are concerned about Biden's age. Only half of Democrats think that Biden should run again in 2024, according to AP News.

According to the Washington Post, Trump is beating Biden in polls by four points because many Americans are dissatisfied with President Biden's

policies. If the election were to happen today, Trump would be president. What happens in the next few months will determine who is the president next November.

If President Biden needs another term, he needs to prepare for both outcomes. If a non-Trump candidate runs against Biden, then Biden will likely win considering that no Republican candidate has half the popularity of Trump.

All the Democrats need to do is offer a candidate that is a safe, preferably young alternative to Trump like Gavin Newsom. But with President Biden's unpopularity and age, the election in 2024 will be a lot more complex.

## ELECTIVES DEBATE should academic electives be mandatory

**writer** peyton johnson  
**designer** emirah balser

In high school, certain electives are required for graduation although some students may find them tricky, out of their field of study or unnecessary. Electives should not be required because they don't do much for a student unless they are going into a specific field of work.

For high school graduation students need to have a half credit of art, health, physical education and Personal Finance.

Electives should be an option but not required for high school graduation. Electives may be boring and not necessarily useful for the future like Physical Education and Art classes.

Electives are weighted less than AP classes and are usually last only

one semester. They shouldn't be a requirement if they will not fully help a student in their curriculum and are just a filler class.

Although getting out and trying a new elective can be good for a student, getting graded on something that isn't always necessary adds a lot of extra stress.

Although most electives are made to be for fun or an extra study period there are some required electives that might help in the future like Personal Finance and Health classes. They teach basic skills and could help a lot more students than not.

Schools should allow students to pick and choose their electives instead of making them a requirement for all students.

### Beneficial Electives

#### Personal Finance

- Preparation for future
- Understand money and taxes
- Gain credit

#### Health

- Understand how the body works
- Understand how the mind works
- Gain credit
- Understand the dangers of drugs and alcohol
- Understand first aid
- Learn life skills

## NEW YEAR, NEW ME students share new year's resolutions

designer madeline riley

"To get better grades,"  
Freshman Eva Tonelli-Floyd

"To challenge and push  
myself harder in athletics,"  
Junior Chloe Beechey

"Get anything above 300 for my  
squat or get a sub-13 for track  
100m,"  
Sophomore Danny Wong

"To become a better Christian  
and a person to my loved ones,"  
Senior Elijah Duncan

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH & PIONEER PRIDE BARS

### NOVEMBER & DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

### PRIDE BARS

Hunter Bright  
David Edwards  
Sai Nallamotu  
Anna Lyah Oliveira de Silva  
Tess Stamolis  
Isha Baghel  
Iniyal Ramamoorthy  
Jack Fu  
Bianca Ehling

Julian Brown  
Kailey Burns  
Isabelle Hill  
Tosin Otarus  
Eric Tag  
Brenden Wood  
Megan France  
Ashley Sarmiento Guzman  
Adelynn Trela

Isabella Ahmer  
Klaus Diem  
Vyom Bhatt  
Makir Clifton  
Olivia Ruehlen  
Brooklyn Stanford  
Marie Schmidt  
Gabbi Nyengele  
Sofia Wu Wu  
Ryan Manring  
Angela Zheng

Jasper Anderson  
Miller White  
Pearl Vyas  
Caitlin Layne  
Jay Lung