



WORTHY TIMES

ODESSA COLLEGIATE ACADEMY NEWSPAPER

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CHANGES, CHANGES, AND MORE CHANGES

BY NEVAEH MARTINEZ, AUTUMN MIKELL, & TINA RAMIREZ

Over the past few months, many changes have occurred for our school, including a new name and mascot. At the beginning of this school year, Mr. Ramage was introduced as our new principal. Many were elated while others were unsure how more changes would affect our school. As we went through our first week of school, we were informed about the many changes that had been put in place at our school and on Friday of that week, we had a fun afternoon getting to know each other and competing against other grade levels. After going through these changes, many students are filled with varying emotions.

In regards to this, students and staff were asked what they like most about their school. Many students responded that they liked the consistency and leadership over our school, how we are treated more like a family. Both teachers and students agreed that the Friday schedule is convenient for catching up on things. As the school name changed, Mrs. Salgado said, "It makes us fit in, because when we were Falcons on the Odessa College campus we stuck out for having the mascot of one school while on the campus of another." A former OCTechs student said that she liked how her schedule was flexible and she didn't have to be set on one specific path, while Preston, a senior, was happy about there being more extracurricular activities this year.

Although there are many positives to the school, both staff and students seem to agree that lunch is just a little too short. Mrs. McCord said, "At least about a 45 minute lunch would be nice." Many of the returning students also agree that school starts just a little too early and that they would like their 8:30 school mornings back. Nothing more was said about the negatives to the school.

When questioned about their thoughts and feelings towards Mr. Ramage, only good things were said. Many feel as though he really cares about the school and is really sincere about our school being a close family. Ileana Vega, a senior, stated that she really likes how you often see him in the classrooms and hallways. She said it shows that he is a down-to-earth principal which makes him more approachable. Others like that he carries on conversations with them and tries to get to know them as people, not just students. Students and staff agree that he is a positive addition to the school and they look forward to seeing how he betters the school.

Overall our students and staff are excited for the new changes. One junior also mentioned their appreciation for OC welcoming our school onto their campus and including us as part of the family. Students recognize that they are at a unique and privileged school. They are happy with the new principal and see little to no problem with how the school is being operated. Many say that they made the right choice in coming here, and they hope to see the school grow and thrive.



#ODESSASTRONG: A COMMUNITY UNITES

BY PEYTON PHILLIPS

On August 31, 2019, Odessa was terrorized by a lone gunman who took the lives of 7 people and injured 21 others. Despite the fear and sadness, Odessa rose up and came together as a community. Inspired by Odessa High School's Student Council, a school that experienced direct impact as one of their students was killed, many schools and businesses around the community and the state wore yellow to show support for Odessa and hope for the future.

Jimmy Ortega, a sophomore at OHS, stated he doesn't really feel safe yet: "I live in fear in this community, with gun laws becoming easier, safety might be far from reach. A way to possibly make it better is us being together" and really knowing who you are around so you can feel safe and comfortable. While people may still be shaken up about the tragedy which took place, there is a strength in our community coming together and leaning on one another for support and encouragement. Ashley Soto, an OCA sophomore, recommends we "see beyond people's differences and look into their personalities to know who they truly are."

At the end of the day, we are #OdessaStrong, meaning we are "people who stuck together unknowing each other's names and lives, but they stuck together in hard times"- Sabrina Porras, OHS sophomore.



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

BY ANA NAJERA RONQUILLO

Hispanic Heritage Month is a celebration of 30 days, from September 15th to October 15th, in which the United States recognizes the Hispanic and Latin American culture, history, and heritage. The purpose of this celebration is to acknowledge the presence of the Hispanics and Latin Americans in the United States and how they have contributed to American culture.

During the month of September and October, opportunities are provided to learn, observe, and view this culture, history, and course throughout the American culture. According to the National Hispanic American Heritage Month organization, the celebration of the Hispanic Heritage Month starts on September 15th due to many of the Latin American independence Days starting that day and continuing throughout September and mid-October. According to one senior, Leah Cadena, it is important to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month because "the majority of the people in Texas are Hispanics and it is part of appreciating the Hispanic and Latin American culture."

During this month, people celebrate and honor the arts, culture, and foods which Hispanics bring to American culture. A sophomore, Ashley, said "the Hispanic Heritage Month is important to me because I am also a Hispanic and it is important for others to look and learn about our culture."

Over the years, OCA Spanish teachers have celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by letting students bring typical dishes from our culture. We asked Mrs. Salgado, our Spanish teacher, to tell us how important it is for her to celebrate it and she said, "it is important because it emphasizes our culture, not just the Mexican culture, but also throughout Spanish speaking countries. It is a month where all Hispanics get to express themselves, be proud of where they are from, and not be judged for doing things as far as what our culture holds." During this month, it is a time to reflect on how far we have all come and be proud of our culture.

SPORTS AT OCA

BY DANIEL CANO

Should sports be a part of our school? There has been a discussion on why the school should or shouldn't have sports between the staff, freshmen, sophomores, and the principal as well. While interviewing the principal, he said that having sports messes up the logistics of how our school functions and gets rid of the college classes the students have. He also informs that there wouldn't be a purpose for it since we're an academic school.

While this is true, a large number of students and teachers would like to see sports in our school even if it changes the way the school functions. More than half of the freshmen interviewed said that they would like to have football, volleyball, and baseball in the school so there are more activities for OCA students. If we do add sports in school, this might entice more students to come to OCA since there would be more extracurricular activities. At the same time, though, losing college courses would defeat the entire purpose of the school.

Since this is impossible for our school, the only option is to possibly start an after-school club, as some of the female students have recently done, starting a volleyball club with Mr. Steele as the teacher adviser. If you want to join the volleyball club, see Mr. Steele; If you want to see another sport here, talk to your classmates, your teachers, and Mr. Ramage to see if you can start an organization.



OCA ORGANIZATIONS

BY SELINA KESSEY

With school in session, it's time for you to get involved! Why, you ask? School clubs are beneficial in many ways. For one, they help in building school spirit as well as establishing a foundation of unity with the individuals within your group. It is known that most school clubs and organizations help in building up leadership, teamwork, and organizational skills which help students in their day to day lives. Getting these types of skills not only builds you up as a better team member, but also as a better individual. Looking into OCA, I took the chance to get a student's perspective and their thoughts on school organizations and clubs. When asked what organizations they think will benefit them the most, senior Soophia Akram answered, "I think Student Council and National Honor Society will benefit me the most" she said. The reason she chose these two organizations being that "[they] have to deal with student leadership" which is "a very important quality to have going into the real world." With that being said, it's time for you to get involved. Listed below are some school clubs and organizations you can try looking into and hopefully you find something just for you. If you have any questions, talk to your teachers!

Chess Club with Mrs. Dolino and Mr. Payan

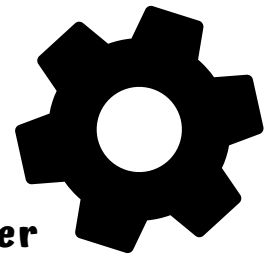
AVID Action Team with Mrs. Gray

Student Council with Ms. Worthy

National Honor Society with Mrs. McCord

Improv Club with Mrs. Powell and Mr. Crowder

Dance Club with Mrs. Profit





MEET THE PRINCIPAL

BY JULISSA LEVARIO, CELICA ALBAREZ, AND TORI DAVIS

This year, the student body has experienced many new changes from a new name to a new principal. Because of the constant shifts in administration, students may be wary of our new principal Mr. Ramage. So, we set out to get to know him a bit better!

What are some changes you've instituted this year? What inspired you to make these changes? Following Odessa College's schedule is one change that Ramage made. Ramage's next goal was to get the school a little more grounded. He is aware of all the changes the student body has gone through and he believes that we need stability. Right now, he's just trying to understand how things work because this is not a traditional high school. Ramage is also working closely with teachers to help kids who are struggling. Some additional goals are to have some more social functions and to get attendance up.

What were your expectations of this school before the year started and how were your expectations different/similar than what you've experienced? Ramage was used to operational things moving faster. For instance, if there were to be a spill, he'd call custodians on the radio, and it would be taken care of immediately. Now, he has to file a work order and it may take more time than a traditional school unless it is an emergency. Coming to this school, Ramage knew the 9 weeks schedule would change. Moreover, the logistics of getting supplies and materials for teachers, getting new rooms, and getting technology is different than other high schools. In essence, there's a lot of behind the scenes things that have to happen to ensure our school runs smoothly.

What is something you feel the student body should know about you? Ramage states that we're still in the "getting to know you" phase, and he is aware that kids can be easily intimidated by him, but he can be funny and sarcastic once they get to know him over time. He likes seeing his students grow as people and mature into adults, it's one of the reasons he chose our school. He is married and has a family: a middle schooler at Nimitz, a high schooler at Permian, a college student at Texas Tech, and his wife is a dyslexia specialist at Barbara Jordan Elementary.

How does being a principal at OCA differ from other schools? Ramage believes that the majority of the student body wants to be here, they want to be in school, and there are no discipline issues. There is usually 5-10% of students who wreak havoc, and that is to be expected. In contrast to a normal high school where Ramage would have to deal with referrals on a daily basis, at OCA there is only 1 referral a week on average. As a result, there is no need to micromanage the student body.

What are you looking forward to this school year? Ramage is looking forward to getting to know all the kids and graduating the seniors. He is also looking forward to continuing to develop our own traditions which are enjoyed by the student body and staff alike. He's been fortunate that everywhere he has worked, he's met good, interesting people and when this job opened it was too good of an opportunity to pass up so he applied and was accepted.

Based on this interview we are certain that we have a bright year ahead of us!

ADVICE FOR FRESHMEN

BY LEAH CADENA AND MERARY SANCHEZ

This new school year, once all of the student body formed a routine, we decided to provide the freshman class with advice from our school's upperclassmen and teachers into their own success. We hope this article will be useful to all freshmen and hope they'll be encouraged to follow the advice.

Our teachers and staff are very important to our school so we interviewed them to figure out any advice they had for freshmen and even seniors who are soon to find themselves in a new environment as well. We asked one of the school's math teachers, Lydia Roundtree, to provide some advice that would be beneficial to the freshmen and the seniors. Her advice for the new freshman was to, "Expect challenges and to accept advice from students who have been in the situation before." Our campus's physics teacher, Rowena Dolino, provided her own advice as well: "Find someone who can mentor you, someone who can influence you positively."

While this advice is sound in itself, she also talks about our senior mentorship program called "Big Brother/Sister" as this program provides our seniors an opportunity to mentor and aid in influencing the freshmen to become successful. With this program in session, our Senior mentors were also asked to provide advice. Damien Galindo, a senior who is part of the National Honors Society as well as a Senior mentor, provided this advice: "Read the information you're supposed to [when it comes to your college classes and high school], it makes it easier when it comes to final exams."

If you're feeling overwhelmed, remember this advice from Ms. Roundtree: "No matter how hard it gets, never give up on what you want."



READY FOR THE IPHONE 11?

BY VALENTINA NUNEZ MADRIGAL

On September 20, Apple released the new and distinct iPhone 11. Many people are excited to see the new features the camera has. Ileana Vega, a senior at Odessa Collegiate Academy said, "More than anything, I want the new iPhone to have a better camera." The iPhone 11 has 2 cameras. The 12MP Wide camera helps capture a better picture at night, while the 12MP UltraWide camera captures a larger perspective. The iPhone 11 is also offered in rare colors like purple, red, yellow, green, black, and white. With fewer color options, the iPhone 11 Pro has the midnight green, silver, space gray, and gold colors. If you are interested in purchasing the iPhone 11, the cost starts at \$699; however, the iPhone 11 Pro starts at \$999.

DO YOU CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU WEAR?

BY ASHLEY SOTO

Fashion plays an important role in many people's lives in today's age. What you wear may influence your mood or what people may think of you. The world of fashion is fast-paced so many people struggle to keep up and stand out.

People have varying tastes when it comes to fashion- you may have a certain preference and not even know it. Some students said they prefer "mainly prints and vibrant colors" while others prefer just "black and gray" or "dark muted colors." Other students are more specific in saying they have an "emo but girly" style" or in one case that they "usually follow what is in style, the typical trend that is going around."

Many people even let what they wear influence their mood. I surveyed 20 people to see how many people let what they wear affect their mood. 18 of the people surveyed said they either somewhat agreed, agreed, or strongly agreed while only 2 people said they somewhat disagree or disagree. While many people would like to think they aren't affected by something as superficial as fashion, this shows that most people let their outfit at least partially affect their mood that day.

While there may be people who just throw on whatever is clean, many people put great emphasis into their appearance and how they present themselves to the world. Many people strive to fit into a certain aesthetic and care about the clothes they wear and want people to notice. This column will focus on trends and fashion throughout the year. So, do you care about the clothes you wear?



MOVIE REVIEW

BY MAKAYLA STANLEY AND AMAYA VILLANUEVA

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark is a movie based on a series of books written originally in 1981. The movie was recently released on August 9, 2019 as a combination of multiple stories from the books. We interviewed senior Madison Lewis and got her input on the movie. She said, "I thought it was interesting how they took the stories from the original book and combined them into one storyline for the movie." We agree with Madison on this because it was nice to reminisce and have memories of the old stories while also getting a new version of it from the movie. Our take on it: If you are in the mood for a creepy movie with a good story, check this movie out.



PRODUCT REVIEW

BY KATELYN URQUIDI

It feels like our planet is drowning in plastic nowadays. It is starting to become a crisis and nature is paying the price for it. I'm sure we all feel guilty because we're continually using plastic straws. There is a solution to this problem- use metal straws. I would recommend buying SipWell Stainless Steel Drinking Straws because they come in a pack of four and a cleaning kit. What is great about these straws? They're long and they're also curved so they can fit in any cup. Finally, they're reusable! You can purchase your own SipWell Stainless Steel Drinking Straws on Amazon for \$5.



HALLOWEEN COSTUME HOROSCOPE

BY SHAILY BRANT AND PRINCESS CHAVEZ

It's October which means it is officially Spooky Season! Halloween is right around the corner and some of you may be struggling to pick out the perfect Halloween costume; Don't stress- This column is here to help you get some ideas on your costume based on your astrology sign.



Aries- Construction Worker

Aries are strong and hard-working people who like to dive head first into whatever they are doing and accomplish tasks without fail, making a construction worker a perfect costume for them. They aren't scared of even the most dangerous situations and make sure to always get the job done.

Taurus- Hippie

Taurus is the sign of serenity, of relaxation and just chilling anyway and anywhere, making it the ideal sign to be a hippie! Just dress in some clothes that make you feel like yourself and relax with lemonade and take a breather.

Gemini- Minion

Gemini, the sign of the twins, being twins because it had to clone itself to get all its work done, making a minion the best choice of costume. Find your Gemini twin so you can be a matching pair this year and get twice the candy!

Cancer- Mermaid/Aquaman

Cancer is the first of the four water signs and is able to effortlessly weave between the waves and the shore, making it the perfect candidate for the mermaid/Aquaman costume! If neither of these works, then go for another oceanic costume.

Leo- King/Queen

Take a bow for the kings and queens of the zodiacs- The leo has finally arrived! The perfect choice of costume for the leo is the king and queen as they are the most royal of the zodiacs.

Virgo- Nerd

Virgos are logical, practical, and systematic in their approach to life. This earth sign is a perfectionist at heart and isn't afraid to improve skills through diligent and consistent practice, making them take the spot for the nerd costume!

Libra- God/Goddess

The perfect costume for the Libra is a god/goddess. You represent the balance and harmony of this world as far as the signs are concerned; therefore, you would be the creator of equilibrium.

Scorpio- Thief

Scorpios are often mistakenly viewed as someone they're really not. Most of your strength comes from the psychic realm. A clever thief knows what moves should be made, making it the perfect costume for a scorpio. No one will know who you are behind that vicious mask of yours.

Sagittarius- Archer

The sagittarius is represented by the archer as they are constantly on a mission to know more. The video game character, Link, in the Legend of Zelda, is perfect! He is a brave boy that goes on quests to rescue the princess and wields a bow and arrow.

Capricorn- Pirate

Capricorns always seem to know the way and carry a heart that others are always after. You're a natural born leader, skilled at navigating the material and emotional realm, making a pirate the perfect costume for you!

Aquarius- Fairy

Aquarius is the last air sign of the zodiac. A mystical healer who bestows life upon the land, one who can really make moments feel simply magical! A fairy is the ideal costume for an aquarius!

Pisces- Teacher

Pisces is the last sign of the zodiac. They are wise and have absorbed every lesson the universe has given them. You have gone through the hard work and you know what it takes to succeed. A teacher is the perfect costume for you!

In the end, it doesn't matter what your zodiac is as long as you dress up as something you like or just think is cute or cool. Halloween is a time to express yourself with your costume, which is an amazing thing, so just be yourself and have fun!

<https://www.astrology-zodiac-signs.com>

STUDENT VOICE

BY JACOB JIMENEZ AND ARIANA LUCERO

Between September 23 and 25, we distributed surveys through our AVID teachers to collect opinions from the student body concerning our school. We want your voices to be heard and want to give each of you a chance to express yourselves!

Q: So far, what are you feeling about this school year?

Alyssa Rodriguez (9th): "There are times when I get very stressed, but other than that the teachers and college professors are very nice and helpful. Overall, I feel pretty good about this year."

Q: What were your expectations when coming to this school?
Zoe Kraemer (9th): "I thought it would be very strict but so far it's not. I've met so many great people and have already learned so much."

Q: Do you want to see anything new this school year? Events, traditions, etc.?

Arleen Sanchez (10th): "I keep hearing some of the upperclassmen saying they want the Potato Feast thing back so I would like to see that."

Anonymous (11th): "Cookies and Cocoa!"

Rachel Theesfield (12th): "I think we should get back our traditions and events that we had Freshman and Sophomore year."

Special Shout-Out to our Academic Decathlon team who took 3rd place in their first ever practice meet! Keep it up!!

Q: How comfortable are you with your current college classes?

Yousuf Akram (10th): "They're hard, but only due to the quantity of assignments and the requirement of due date awareness."

Isabella Lopez (11th): "I am struggling with one of my college classes but I feel that it is my own fault because I procrastinate."

Madison Pinson (12th): "I am very comfortable with my college classes and the pace at which they are progressing."

Q: How do you feel about our new principal?

Jason Lambert (10th): "I honestly like all the good things he has changed and improved upon."

Nataly Sotelo (11th): "I feel like this principal will be good for our school. He seems to want the best for everyone and is doing what he can to help everyone be successful."

Reuben Woods (12th): "Mr. Ramage has been really good for our school. Already, he has been very involved and I look forward to seeing what he does with the school in the future."