

OAKDALE NEWSPAPER

The Pressure is On!

One of our counselors, Mrs. Thomas said, "The ability to say no to things that are not good for you is an important skill that you will need your whole life!" This specific quote has a remarkable meaning when referring to peer pressure. You've probably heard of peer pressure, but do you know what it is? In this article I will be interviewing a few Oakdale Patriots about what peer pressure is and how it can be dangerous.

Peer pressure, as defined by our school counselor, is, "... when people you know and may even trust try to talk you into anything you do not feel comfortable with." Many people feel similarly, like Isaac Alaniz, who was asked to give an example of peer pressure. He said, "An example of peer pressure is somebody offering a drink to you and making you feel uncomfortable by pressuring you to take it." Similarly, I interviewed Evelyn Torres, asking if she had ever experienced peer pressure, and if so, how it made her feel. Her response was, "Yes, I have been peer pressured. It made me feel stressed." In situations where you feel unsafe, it is best to remove yourself from those people and tell a trusted adult. In many cases, if you are being pressured into doing something wrong or consuming an unsafe substance, what is being offered to you can be harmful to your body. A true friend or safe person would never pressure you into doing something wrong.

Mrs. Thomas' words of encouragement when experiencing peer pressure said, "In my opinion, the best thing you can do is to focus on yourself. What are your goals? Dreams? Values? Does whatever everyone else is doing match what you want? If not, it is better to say no and do what is best for you. Another thing you can do is to think it through before it happens. What do you plan to say? Practice your 'no' and different ways to say it. Then stick to your answer!" When the pressure gets put on you, it can be hard to say no. Don't make bad decisions to please others, because sometimes it can get you into serious trouble. ~Yamilet Vazquez

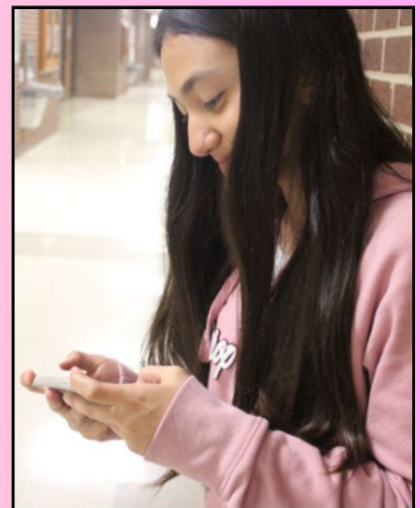


Must Watch Movies

Have you ever found yourself wondering, "What movie should I watch?" These students are here to help you pick out your next movie for family movie night or watching movies with friends. Sometimes when picking out movies, it can be difficult because some movies aren't some people's styles, or there can also be conflict because you and another person can't agree on what to watch together. Derek Garcia, Sofia Cortez, and Ashley Martinez are going to share their favorite movies and why they think you should watch them next. Some are going to be scary, others comforting, and more!

Ashley Martinez, age 12, recommends her favorite movie Imaginary, for students who like scary movies because of the action and thrill it has in it. In her own words she says, "It is interesting and it is one of the movies I like that isn't too scary for me." Derek Garcia, age 14, likes the movie Dune 2, which is more of a science fiction movie. He mostly likes it because of the character named Paul Atreides. He says, "It is cool and there's a lot of action." Sophia Cortez prefers a more comforting movie from when she was 4, which is Inside Out, because it has a lot of memories. She expressed, "I remember going with my mom and family to watch it and it has a lot of nostalgia."

Obviously, people don't have to agree with these recommendations, because everyone has their own opinion, but sometimes it is still worth trying them out. This article includes 3 different movies from a variety of genres like: scary, science fiction, and animated. Next time, when picking out a movie, I recommend you try out one of these, because you never know if you're going to like it. When bickering with your friends or family about which movie to watch, just remember you have this article to help you out. With the assistance of these students, movie night might just become a little bit easier. ~Cythlali Garcia



Backpack or Locker?

Most kids use their backpack, and some just use their locker, while others use both locker and backpack, like me. Jaz Sampson was asked, "Do you use your locker? And what do you put in it?" His response was, "No, I use my backpack. I put my work books (Math and StudySync) along with my binder and chromebook in my backpack." Some kids can be sensitive to their backpack, so they leave their stuff in the class they're going to next. Although your backpack makes you slower, you might not be late if you're not walking slowly intentionally.

Sky Young was asked, "Which do you like better, using your backpack or your locker?" Her response was, "I like using my backpack because there's more room in my backpack." Backpacks are easier to use, because putting in your code for your locker takes up a lot of time. Lockers are good for expressing yourself and holding stuff like lunch boxes, jackets, or extra notebooks. Most kids forget their locker combination, so they can't use their locker unless they ask their homeroom teacher for their combination, or if they can get a new one.

Lockers can be fun, because you can decorate them and do what you want with it. Neveah Bitter was asked, "Why do you like using your locker and what is the value of it?" And she replied, "I like using my locker because I don't have to carry all of my school stuff, and the value of it is that all of my classes are close to it." Hayden Hatchett was asked, "Why do you like using your backpack?" and he said, "I like using my backpack because it is right there next to me and if I use my locker it takes time out of my day." ~Taylor Elkins



Hangouts

What do you like to do when you are hanging out with friends and family? Do you prefer big or small groups? 7th Grader, Ashlynn Smith says, "When I hangout with my family, we usually go to Downtown Rogers. We also go to the Pea Ridge Battlefield Park when our dogs need to let out some energy." When hanging out with her family, she doesn't have to go too far to have fun.

Staying in the theme of not having to go far to have fun, 8th grader Leslie Delgado says, "When hanging out with my friends, I like to go somewhere to eat, such as Panda Express, Cici's Pizza, and Chick-fil-a. I also like going to a park." All of these places can be found within a 15-25 minute drive. Some can even be ordered by pickup, so you don't have to wait in the line.

Lastly, 6th grader Parker Brown says, "When I hangout with my friends, we normally just go to each other's houses and play Fortnite, Apex, and Roblox." All of these games are free to play. There are many different activities/places to go to have fun with friends and family. Middle school can be seen as a time to explore what you like to do outside of school. All in all, these people's ideas of hanging out are pretty simple and easy to do throughout the week. ~Kennedy Cade

Summer Jobs

Summertime jobs can make a big difference in a teenager's life, but just how big of a difference? Even though most teenagers work summer jobs for money, they are also great for resumes, as they show a teenager's maturity. They can help with college, showing work ethic and the ability to balance priorities. I asked Valeria Herrera what she thought about this topic and she said, "I think a summertime job can help with someone's work ethic by making them more professional and ready for a fulltime job."

A lot of teenagers start summer jobs around 15 and 16, even though you are allowed to start working at 14. The reasons most teens start around 16 has to do with being able to drive themselves. But sometimes it is not the teens choice, sometimes it's the parents choice. Most parents choose for their teens to start summer jobs at 16 because their teen might not be very responsible at a younger age, or they simply just don't have the schedule to be able to have and keep a summer job. I talked to Ethan Hutchinson on this topic and he said, "I think having a job at a younger age gives students a look at what real work is like, giving students more responsibility."

If you are going to get a summer job, you will want it to be at a good, stable company. Some popular jobs teenagers will work are as servers at outside restaurants, dog walkers, pool cleaners, lifeguards, at car washes, and more. But, these environments can not always be healthy and safe for a teenager. One amazing summer job would be a camp counselor, because camps are literally made for kids. Being a camp counselor can also be fun, being closer to people your age. I asked Mikel Stephens about this topic and he said, "I think some good places for teens to work would be some kind of entertainment place, for example DEFY or an arcade." ~Fiona Baker



Field Trips

Do you ever wonder how many field trips there were and what they all did? There are so many field trips in one school year, not everyone can remember all of them. I'm going to interview a few students so that they can explain what the field trip they attended was like. Some people might not have been able to go and want to know what happened, so these students can share their stories about them. Some 6th or 7th graders might want to know about the field trips 8th graders go on. I'm going to ask Genesis Romero, Statham Tamangig, and Brandon Herrera, because they have all gone on different trips, so they can tell the other students more information about where they all went.

The first person I interviewed was Genesis Romero. She went to the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and they participated in a tour of the campus. The purpose of the trip was to see if they would like to go there for college and see what their future would look like if so. After I interviewed her, I interviewed Statham Tamangig. He went to Joe Mathias Elementary School. They got to go to recess with the other 5th grade students. The purpose of going was to introduce football to the future Oakdale students. The last person I interviewed was Brandon Herrera. He went to the state capitol building in Little Rock with many other schools in the state. The purpose of the trip was to perform for the choir.

All field trips are different. Some can be about learning, and some can be for fun, or they can be for both. If they were all the same, it wouldn't be fun and there wouldn't be a point to it because you already know what it is. So, when you go on a field trip, make sure you enjoy it because you will not see the same thing twice. The reason we do not go on the same field trip is so that you can learn more or have more fun and to try and give more things an opportunity. Going on several different trips is good, because we get to explore and experience more new things, items, places, and get to meet new people. ~Isaac Alaniz



Student Vs. Faculty Basketball Tournament



Oakdale Middle School had a Teachers vs. Students basketball game on March fifteenth in the gym. Sixth grade, seventh grade, and eighth grade each fought hard to win against the teachers. Coach Cloe said, "As much as I am a supporter of everything our students do, I didn't think the students had a shot at winning. We have a lot of sports experience on our team, as well as a height advantage! The only advantage the students have are that they do not get as tired as we do!"

Next, Coach Thompson was asked what his favorite thing about being a basketball coach is. He said, "My favorite thing about being a basketball coach is witnessing the growth and development of our players on and off the court. I love the competition and accountability of athletics. The relationships with the coaches I work with and our players will always be what is most important to me." He works well with the teams he coaches and plays on.

Finally, Coach Washburn was asked what inspired him to play in the basketball tournament. His response was, "What inspired me to play in the basketball game was the opportunity for students to see me in a different light. I, instead of teaching students, I got to play with students." All three of these responses show the teachers' excitement to play against the students. It also shows why it's important to them. After reading this, perhaps you have some ideas of things that you can do for fun as well! ~Kaylin Carter

Most Embarrassing Moments

Embarrassing things happen all the time and these times can be hard, but they are also pretty funny. I've asked one of our algebra teachers, "What is the most embarrassing thing that has happened to you and when did it happen?" "One day in class, I was walking around teaching math during 5th period and towards the end of class a student said, 'Coach Washburn, you have a hole in your pants.' In fear I looked down and there was an 8-10 inch gash in the upper part of my pants. I was so embarrassed. I instantly wrapped my sweatshirt around my waist and sat down and taught the next class while sitting until my wife could come save the day with a new pair of pants." - Coach Washburn.

I also asked one of our Volleyball Coaches, "What is the most embarrassing thing that has happened to you and when did this happen?" She said, "My husband is a semi-truck driver and I often see him driving around town, so I always get excited and wave to him. Problem is, that about 90% of the time I see a truck I THINK is his, and it is actually one of his co-workers. I always wave like a crazy person and then get embarrassed when I find out it's not him. His co-workers probably think that I am some random lady who is nuts because I am always waving at them." - Coach Cloe.

Most people worry about what other people think of them. One of my own embarrassing stories is the first time I went up to bat, and after my swing, I threw my bat. That was just a silly mistake and it made everyone laugh. When you are older, you will remember the embarrassing things that happened and just laugh at it because it wasn't that big of a deal. So just remember that nothing is embarrassing unless you decide to be embarrassed about it. ~Katlyn Cox



Teachers' Hidden Talents

Have you ever wondered if any of your teachers have hidden talents? Sometimes our educators have many hidden abilities, but we never know unless we ask them. I asked some of our Oakdale teachers, like Mrs. Church who teaches 6th grade. I also asked Mrs. McCauley, our REACH teacher, and Ms. Myers, a 7th grade math teacher, a few questions about their hidden talents. These three teachers have very interesting and cool talents that not many people know of!

I asked Mrs. Church what hidden talent she has, and it is breaking boards! I asked how she discovered this, and she said, "I have a black belt in Kickboxing and Martial Arts." Next, I interviewed Mrs. McCauley and her hidden talent is training dogs! How did she find out she was an excellent dog trainer? She replied, "I was bored during Covid."

The final teacher I questioned was Ms. Myers, and her talent is rapping! She says, "My older brother controlled the music in the car growing up and he loved rap music, so I learned to love it too." Now that we know some of our teachers' hidden abilities, we can only imagine what other teachers can do! Next time you are in class and have time, ask your teacher to see if they have any hidden talents. Do you have any talents that not many people know about to share? ~Layla Perez



Student Hobbies

A hobby is a pleasurable activity that people do during their free time. Do you have hobbies such as photography, drawing, dancing, or pottery? These Oakdale students have hobbies that they enjoy, and this is what they have to say about them. Firstly, Yared Esquivel who is a 6th grader attending Oakdale, said his hobby is playing football. When I asked him where he usually does this, he said, "At the park with my friends."

Secondly, Alexa Gameros who is an 8th grader at OMS, told me that her hobby is cooking. She was asked the question, "Why do you like this hobby?" She replied, "I like cooking because I like trying out new food and it helps me to appreciate other culture's food." She was also asked if there were any other hobbies she would be interested in. She replied, "Learning how to bake because I'm not the greatest at baking, I always burn something."

Lastly, Ava Hurshman who is a 7th grader at Oakdale, said that her hobby is, "Writing random stories off the top of my head." She was asked the question, "Why do you like to do this?" She said, "Why not? It tends to just be interesting." She was also asked the question, "Where do you normally do this?" Ava answered, "My room, to be specific." Remember that even if your hobby is not popular among people your age, culture, school, or on social media, just do what you love. ~Adalyn Fanning

