

## PERFORMING ARTS UPDATE

### a look into winter concerts

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**photo credits** mya maher,  
ava meija & madelyn george

Performing arts have been in full swing this fall with many new shows. The band is preparing for its annual FNL show, and orchestra has been working with famous musician, Mark Wood, to prepare for the winter concert. There's a lot to look forward to this winter season for the performing arts.

The school's annual Friday Night Lights band concert will be performed each night from Nov. 21 to 24. The concert is the band's showcase of all the halftime shows from the season in one presentation held in the theater.

"Students should come to the show because we performed a bunch of new music throughout the year that'll be performed at the show," junior Trumpetist Nithil Karthik said.

FNL is a yearly tradition at the school but that doesn't mean these four shows aren't unique. Aside from the new tunes this year, the shows are also a different look and sound to the same tunes the school has been

jamming to all year.

"Even though we performed these songs during football games already, FNL is a whole different side of these songs and performances," Karthik said.

One of the biggest differences between the performances during the football season and the performances at FNL shows is the setting.

"The energy level inside the theater during FNL is unlike any other experience," parent band volunteer Becky Hickman said.

Throughout the football season, the band performed four different halftime shows, and all four will be represented in FNL.

"Show 2's theme of Take It Easy is a tribute to the Eagles. Musically, this show is my favorite. The arrangements are great and highlight each section of the band," Hickman said.

Make sure to support the school's band and go to FNL. The tickets for the shows will be available in the cafeteria during the week of the shows for \$10 each.

Also in full swing, orchestra has been preparing for their fall concert on Nov. 16. It is doing a modern show with musician Mark Wood who makes

music with Trans Siberian Orchestra. The Symphonia Orchestra is playing songs by the Weeknd and Guns n' Roses.

"I'm really excited for this show because it's unique and more modern because we usually play classical music. We are playing 'Blinding Lights' and 'Sweet Child if Mine', which are some of my favorite songs," Symphonia Orchestra member and junior Abigail Curry said.

This concert was different because the students had to memorize all the sheet music for this concert which they were not used to. There will be many special effects and different lighting to give the show a visual effect.

"There will be electric instruments in the concert which will elevate the sound from how it usually is. I'm really excited to see people's reactions," Concert Orchestra member and sophomore Lydia Wendorf said.

Each orchestra level plays a few different songs so there is a wide variety of songs for the audience to enjoy. The Concert Orchestra is playing Runaway Baby by Bruno Mars, Here Comes the Sun by The Beatles and Carol of the Bells by Wood's very own Trans Siberian Orchestra.



Sophomore Catch H. and senior Ben M. act in the fall play on Sept. 18.



Sophomore Lila H. performs at the OSU Invitational on Oct. 12.



Junior Riley B. plays the cello as Orchestra hosts their fall concert on Oct. 2.

# COLLEGE APPLICATIONS 101

## important things to know

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It's the time of year where seniors are stressed about applying to colleges. It's important to know there are many factors that go into making an effective application while still meeting the deadline. If students can achieve this, the application process will be a breeze.

The most important part of applying to colleges is to get an early start. Try to narrow the college list in the summer and answer the basic questions on the Common App as soon as it opens. Then, start drafting the essay when school begins and know the deadlines of each university. Many colleges also require teacher recommendations so asking teachers ahead of time is necessary. That way, applying before the deadlines will be very easy and not stressful.

"It's important to meet all deadlines that schools want and try to submit everything before Thanksgiving break," School Counselor James Kloepper said.

There are two essential websites when applying to college, SchoolLinks and Common App. Common App is where students will apply and submit their application. School links is where teachers will submit their teacher recommendation. It is also the place where students can look at stats for their colleges and see their likelihood of getting accepted at a specific college.

"Students are required to link their School links to their Common App to smoothly transfer everything needed for their application," Kloepper said.

Most colleges require applicants to submit a personal essay which is debatably the hardest part of

applying. It's a 650 word personal essay that is the key part of standing out to colleges. Getting a head start on the essay is necessary for not getting too stressed.

"The most time consuming part of the process is the writing section and trying to hit your points effectively and trying to advertise yourself to colleges," senior Hannah Peterson said.

When filling out the common application, there are some questions and writings that say they are optional. While this may be true, it's strongly suggested that students fill them out regardless. If the student can provide as much information about themselves as possible, the more they stand out to colleges to be accepted.

"It has been a long journey applying to colleges, and while it's extremely stressful, it's rewarding once you have completed each one," Peterson said.

Every year, students have the ability to apply for financial aid through the government where they are allotted money for college based on their income. Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) applications open on

Dec. 1 by going to studentaid.gov and filling out a form to be eligible.

"FAFSA is worth it. I would try to complete it before Jan. 1," Kloepper said.

Scholarships and grants are important things to consider while applying to colleges. Most colleges provide funding and scholarship opportunities that can be available on their websites. The most common types of scholarships are merit based, athletic and financial aid. Students can find a wide variety by searching local foundations that offer them, college funded grants and national scholarships. Owned by the College Board, BigFuture is a program they offer to help students search for scholarships that match their criteria.

"If I were to give advice to underclassmen, I would suggest working on applying for scholarships during the summer and early on," Peterson said.

The early deadlines for most colleges were either Oct. 15 or Nov. 1. The main deadline depends on the college but it's strongly recommended that students submit their applications before Thanksgiving break.

### UPCOMING DEADLINES

- FAFSA opens Dec. 1

-Regular college application deadline Dec. 15

-Senior Cap & Gown Orders early bird pricing starts Jan. 6

### SUGGESTIONS

-Guidance Counselors suggest submitting all college materials before Thanksgiving

-Look at Olentangy Education Foundation's website for Olentangy Scholarship opportunities



# WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

## girls wrestling & basketball prepare for season

writer **grace bozic**  
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photos **permission to print**  
**devyn hance**

As the fall sports season came to an end, many of the winter sports were in full swing preparing for the new season to start. Last year was a great year for winter sports, and many of them made it far into the post season including boys basketball that ended in the regional semi-finals and girls wrestling that took home the state title.

Boys basketball has had a great last few seasons, making it far in the post season two years in a row. The team values having a good mindset and has been working together to prepare, hoping to make it even further in the post season than last year.

"We have been working out together for a few weeks now, and we are really focusing on coming in the season more prepared and having a more positive mindset," senior center Beckett Miller said.

The team's season officially starts in late November. It plans on going

to more tournaments to experience more competition and challenge itself with better teams. However, the team integrates good communication and a positive environment with each other.

“I’m most excited for our team bond that we are going to create this season. When we get close and cheer each other on, it helps us do better as a team,” junior wrestler **Peyton Johnson** said.

"We are all very close and always willing to have a good time. At practices and games, we try to make the best of it, and we are always working together, which makes the season really fun, and I'm really excited for it," Miller said.

Girls wrestling took the win at the state championship last year making the team one of the top teams in the

nation. The girls are always working hard and have started lifting and some practices already to get ready for their season.

"Our team goal is to obviously keep our legacy going and win the state title again, but we also want to work on having a good team culture," junior wrestler Mackenzie Carder said.

The team focuses on its bond together more than anything. It is very hardworking but some of its favorite things to do is team bonding and hanging out and cheering for its teammates at tournaments.

"I'm most excited for our team bond that we are going to create this season. When we get close and cheer each other on, it helps us do better as a team at tournaments and competitions," junior wrestler Peyton Johnson said

Many Pioneers are going to be in action this winter also like girls basketball, boys wrestling, swim and dive, hockey, gymnastics and bowling. It's important that students show their support to all teams. They have all been preparing and are ready for a great winter season.



Pictured in the photo to the left: Junior Mackenzie C. pins down her opponent.

Pictured on the photo to the right: Senior Devin B. dribbles the ball, blocking a player on the opposing team.

## FALL SPORTS RECAP

### overview of the fall sports season

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photo credits **delaney roman,**  
**ellie brombacher & devyn hance**

The Pioneer athletes have been hard at work this fall. Several teams are still making their mark in their post seasons. Football ended its regular season off with an 8-2 record, only losing to Gahanna Lincoln and Olentangy Liberty. The team went 4-1 in its conference and were co-champs, tying with two other schools. The team won its first playoff game against Olentangy on Nov. 1. Orange plays Upper Arlington for its second playoff game on Nov. 8.

Girls volleyball had an incredible season, taking first in their conference (10-0). The team beat tough teams like Olentangy Liberty and Upper Arlington in the regular season. In the regional tournament, the team first played Gahanna Lincoln and won.

"On JV our toughest competitor was probably Corrine or Sof, and on varsity either Emma or Izzy," JV girls volleyball player sophomore Ryan Hopkins said.

The girls faced Pickerington North on Nov. 2nd as part of the OHSAA

state tournament and ended off the season with a 21-5 record.

Both girls and boys cross country qualified their whole varsity teams for the OHSAA State Meet. The girls team placed fourth at regionals led by junior Brooke Chapman with a first place finish and Bella Conforti '27 placed fourth. The boys placed third at their regional meet guided by senior Brayden Allender finishing fourth. Both cross country teams competed at the state tournament on Nov. 2 with boys finishing 11th and girls finishing 16th and Chapman '26 placed second.

Boys soccer won its conference (5-0) and competed in the OHSAA state tournament. On Nov. 3, the team faced Olentangy and lost, ending off the season with a 17-4 record. Girls soccer ended its season finishing fourth in their conference, having an overall record of 7-11-1.

Field hockey finished its season off with a 8-9 record and finished sixth in their conference (4-4).

"The team's goal this season was mostly to create a good team atmosphere and to work hard and to have a growth mindset. I feel we achieved that and made the culture

better," junior, field hockey player and team captain Maggie Myers said. Myers expressed the importance of the role she held as a captain to motivate her teammates when things get tough and to help them to continue to work hard.

Girls golf's improvements helped it lead in OCC tournaments, winning all four OCC matches. The team's nine-hole average for all four OCC matches was 41.43. At the district tournament on Oct. 7 at Echo Springs Golf Course, the girls placed fourth with a score of 342 ending off their season.

The Boys golf team placed eighth out of 15 teams at the sectional tournament held at Darby Creek Golf Course Oct. 1, with a score of 325 to finish up the season.

Lastly, the girls tennis team had a successful season, ending with a record of 8-7. Aria Gala '27 and Zoe Harr '27 were one of two teams to compete in the doubles sectional for the pioneers and finished second. They went onto compete in districts winning their first match and finishing off their season.

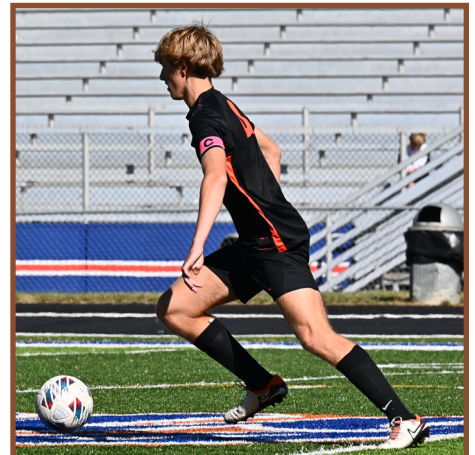
Congratulations to all athletes that have made their mark and represented the pioneers this fall athletic season.



Senior wide receiver Terryn T. prepares to run his route vs. Davidson.



Varsity girls volleyball celebrate after defeating Liberty in sets 3-1.



Senior centerback Tyler C. carries the ball up the field vs. Bexley.



## TARDY POLICY

### one student's opinion on the tardy policies

**writer** peyton johnson

**designer** kenzie carder

**photo credits** kenzie carder

Starting this school year, the high school is beginning to hone in on the rules for tardy students. This is a look into the pros and the cons of the faculty keeping students accountable with their tardies.

The tardy policy begins with the first and second being warning calls and the third being a detention. The tardy policy applies to being late to class and late to school without an excuse or pass.

Something good about the new policy is that it keeps students accountable and helps them manage their times in the hallways. With students wasting time in the hallways, teachers begin to lose their teaching

time, which does not help the students.

A negative part of the policy is that if students earn a detention, it can look bad and leave a bad impression on the student. In some cases, some students cannot control if they are tardy or not and they can earn the consequence without reason.

Overall, the tardy policy is a good thing with a few issues that bring it down. The policy is good for the growth of students, and it allows more time for the teachers to teach students.

Something that could be improved on the policy is positive reinforcement. Prior to COVID, students would receive a blue card that would give them a "get out of jail free" pass from the attendance office in which they could be 20 minutes late to school if they didn't have any tardies the previous quarter.

The overall good of the tardy policies is keeping students accountable, leaving teachers with more time to go over their academics, but sometimes teachers are too quick to hand out detentions that could leave a bad impression on the students.



The attendance office where tardy passes are given out.

## SENIOR SKIP DAYS

### tradition becomes excessive

**writer** nathan staten

**designer** kenzie carder

**photo credits** kenzie carder

Senior skip days have been a tradition at the school and many others across the nation for decades.

At the school, they're set by the Pioneer Pit Leaders usually a week to a few days before the event. The skip days are unexcused by the school but often acknowledged with limited pushback from staff.

However, there has been much controversy surrounding the skip days so far this school year. Two skip days took place in the first quarter within a two-week time span.

Due to the high frequency of the skip days so early in the school year, many teachers didn't approve of this

kickstart to the tradition.

In opposition of those teachers' shared opinion, two skip days in the first quarter should be acceptable because the Pit Leaders plan to evenly distribute the skip days.

Pioneer pit leader James Wimsatt wants to have two skip days per quarter to build consistency in the tradition.

This format would be better for students and teachers because it would give seniors some time off as a reward for their four years of hard work while still promoting consistent attendance among the four quarters.

Another controversy around skip days at the school is the lack of class events attached to them. Many old-school skip day formats consisted of

only one or two skip days per school year, where the entire senior class would go do one fun thing together.

Skip days at the school are usually just days for seniors to kick back and stay at home. These skip days make sense for a few reasons. The school is large and has a graduating class of over 400 people. Planning an event for that many people isn't very feasible in the short notice format that skip days operate in.

Overall, many teachers aren't happy with the influx of senior skip days so early in the school year. However, these events are a fun, easy and relatively harmless way for seniors to be rewarded for their hard work throughout high school.


# HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

## halloween costumes around the school


designer Maddie bolton





“I dressed up as Garfield.”  
freshman Red Jean said.



“I dressed up as Alice from Alice in  
Wonderland for Halloween. I got my  
costume from Amazon.”  
sophomore Sallie Peters said.



“My costume was a vampire, and I  
honestly had most of my costume  
already in my closet”  
junior Sarah Benua said.



“I dressed up as the container ship stuck  
in the Suez Canal, and I would stand in  
the middle of door ways and refuse to  
move.”  
senior Nic Franklin said.

## Student of the month and Pioneer Pride Bars

### Student of the Month

Adidya Acharya 12th  
Kevin McAdow 12th  
Terrence Sandridge 12th  
Genesis Palmore 12th  
Thomas Alexander 12th  
Jaxon Trakalo 9th  
Mia Schilser 11th  
Lila Schisler 9th  
Athicha Corotis 12th  
Eduardo De Olivera Lopez 10th

### Pioneer Pride Bars

Rayne Freeman  
Nishok Sakthivel  
Emory Hanna  
Lucy Bass  
Anna Camphausen  
Khalel Thompson  
Alfonso Moore  
Bella Joy Mitchell  
Ricardo Rivas Rivas  
Emiliano Hernandez Ramos  
Reece Nesbitt  
Rory Doerbecker  
Adam Naylor