

SWEENEY TODD

behind the scenes of the school musical

writer **ava meija**

designer **cristina tiberi**

photo credits **cristina tiberi**

Orangelight Productions performed “Sweeney Todd” as their spring musical this year. It is a thriller about a 19th century barber recommended for more mature audiences.

Rehearsals for the musical started in January and all the actors, actresses and crew worked tirelessly to put on the best show possible. The musical was performed March 6-9. The director of the musical was Cathy Swain-Abrams, who chose this musical for many reasons.

“We are always looking at acting abilities and voices of students, and this show has lower vocal ranges for the leads, which gave them different opportunities,” Swain-Abrams said.

This show was special because many new students participated in the performance. This included some choir students as well who had not previously performed with Orangelight.

“There were so many new people who came in. There were new crew members as well as performers. It was wonderful to see so many people try something new. They are learning huge life skills, collaborating, problem

solving and working together with many other groups who specialize in different aspects,” Swain-Abrams said.

After spending nearly every day together for two months, the cast created a tight bond, which is important for a smooth show.

“The students are so kind to each other, and we work hard to establish an environment that is drama free. We try to create an environment where people feel welcome and are not stressed about cliques,” Swain-Abrams said.

The female lead of the play, Mrs. Lovett, was portrayed by junior Laynie Groves who is the president of the International Thespian Society Troupe.

“My favorite part of playing Mrs. Lovett was getting to play her really crazy and out of pocket. She is a comedic character, so it was fun to play her,” Groves said.

Every show gave the cast and crew opportunities to create connections with new people and make new memories.

“My favorite part about the show was the people I did it with. The cast and crew were all wonderful people who really made the environment feel welcoming and safe,” Groves said.

Sweeney Todd was a challenging production with many obstacles

the cast and crew had to overcome especially with the music itself.

“One of the hardest parts of this musical was the music. It was a challenge for the pit with a lot of changes in time signatures. It was a slower process when working with the orchestra,” Swain-Abrams said.

Another added challenge to performing an already difficult collection of songs was the illnesses that swept through the cast and crew.

“A huge challenge and different than any other show was the number of people with illnesses. We lost a lot of time due to the flu, Covid and other illnesses. We had times when one-fourth of the cast was out for an entire week, then another one-fourth was out the next week,” Swain-Abrams said.

The illnesses also led into the week of the show. This left two people unable to perform. Because of these, three students performed as understudies.

“One of the students knew the day before the first show. The other two understudies knew the day of opening night,” Swain-Abrams said.

The spring musical brings in the largest audience to the theater every year. Over the four shows, Orangelight Productions sold 1,476 tickets.



Senior Maddie B. finishes up his makeup before performing.



Junior Sam H., junior Laynie G. and junior Conner P. perform.



Sophomore Catch H. picks out outfit before going on stage.

DEDICATED ATHLETES

recent commmits and their success

writer **grace bozic**
designer **mia harrington**

Many students have announced their commitment to continue their sports career in college. Seniors Ava Harrington and Cooper Flanary set goals and set their minds to achieve them, and now are both committed to the schools of their choice,

After talking to many schools and weighing her options, Harrington verbally committed to Niagara University for girls lacrosse during the winter of her junior year. She then officially signed during the fall signing day in her senior year.

“I chose Niagara because it was the

best fit academically, athletically and socially compared to other schools. The team culture aligned with what I wanted as well,” Harrington said.

There were many ways that commits had to prepare to make sure they were ready for college. Each college and student had a different way of getting prepared for their season.

“Right now, I’m in my last high school season, but in the summer, I will get a summer packet to complete with conditioning, agility, and stick skill drills,” Harrington said.

Flanary verbally committed to Cornell University for boys soccer in the fall of his senior year. After moving

from Indiana and staying with a host family in Ohio so he could play for the Columbus Crew, going to Cornell was the next big thing.

“I instantly connected with the coaches and loved the place. Cornell always went out of their way to reach out and valued me as a person,” Flanary said.

The commitment process is always a long process because the students have to think about many factors that go into the important decision of picking the right school for them.

“I went on plenty of visits across the country, but none of them were as memorable and spoke to me like my trip to Cornell,” Flanary said.

JOURNALISM UPDATE

what journalism students are working on

writer **emily zimpfer**
designer **mia harrington**
photo credits **ren rader**

Journalism students have been working on a variety of projects as they enter the last quarter of the year. From finalizing the yearbook to working on a seven-hour live stream, there’s a lot to look forward to from the journalism department.

The yearbook staff is working hard this quarter to complete the yearbook. The senior editors decided on the theme “Let’s Glow” at the beginning of the year and are now finalizing the book before the summer.

“The other senior editors and I have been working through perfecting the theme and spreads all year, and now it’s time to finish the book and make it look its best,” senior and journalism student Grace Bozic said.

On Feb. 20, two senior journalism students, Emily Zimpfer and Grace Bozic, were interviewed for the school district’s podcast “Hello Olentangy” about an overview of journalism courses. The podcast is available on Olentangy district’s Instagram page.

“I liked hearing other students’ perspectives from other schools and hearing their ideas and branching off of them,” Bozic said.

Some journalism students attended a Columbus Blue Jackets field trip on Feb. 25. Students interviewed CBJ staff, skated on the ice, had dinner at North Market and then watched two periods of the CBJ game.

“I loved skating on the ice, and it was a really cool opportunity,” journalism student and senior Isabella Boetcher said.

Broadcast students prepare for the

annual Telethon, a seven-hour live stream that promotes small businesses and raises money for the class. The livestream also covers what students do in the class. The telethon will be broadcasted on April 1 on Youtube, Facebook and Instagram.

“Right now, I’m trying to sell ads to raise money and also writing my script for the hour I’m anchoring for,” Bozic said.



Senior editors Ren R. and Bella B. skate during the CBJ journalism field trip with sophomores Taylor L, Emmy L, and Maddie V.

MACY MEDLEY

gymnast advances to states

writer grace bozic

designer cristina tiberi

photo credits delaney roman

The alarm blared bright and early for school. Junior gymnastics team star Macy Medley gets up and ready for the day with one thing on her mind: today's gymnastics meet.

Medley is almost to the end of her first high school gymnastics season after switching from a club team. She led the team to advance far in postseason meets and to break school records.

"It was really hard switching from my club team to the high school team because it was a different environment and leaving all my friends there, but after doing half days at school and having to do online school, it was really nice to stay with my school friends all day," Medley said.

Medley has been on a club gymnastics team for as long as she can remember. After years of only going to school for half the day and spending hours at the gym, she and fellow teammate sophomore Laney Miller decided to cut back and switch

to school gymnastics.

"Macy and I have been doing club gymnastics together for as long as I can remember, but this year, we decided to switch to school gymnastics for the better," Macy's teammate, Miller said.

Going into the season, the team had many goals, and Medley also set her own personal goals. She worked hard every day to improve and accomplish her goals while also helping the team do the best it could be.

"My goals for the season were to make it to state as a team and individually. Although we didn't make it as a team, we still were really close to qualifying and worked really hard, so it mostly paid off," Medley said.

The team broke a longtime score school record at district this year achieving the score of 140.825. Medley led her team and made sure everyone was on the same page about where they were at and what they wanted going forward into districts.

"We did a good job of listening to each other and always checking in to make sure everyone was working to the best of their abilities and working toward their goals," Miller said.

The team usually spent the day leading up to a meet together because it brought them closer and tightened their bonds. Medley always invited everyone to her house to make sure everyone feels included.

"My meet day always consisted of everyone coming over to my house for a team meal and to get our hair braided so we can match. After we all got ready, we met at the school to get ready to get on the bus," Medley said.

Medley trained extra to compete in individual events that she qualified for states with. She took time to practice with her coaches and on her own so she could compete to the best of her ability.

"I practiced all throughout the week before and made sure I hit my routine to be prepared the best I could be," Medley said.

Medley earned the all-district award at district and found out she was progressing to the state meet along with sophomore Bridget Regan. At state, Medley placed ninth all around and 11th on bars. She earned her all-state award to add to her collection.



Junior Macy M. starts the beginning of her beam routine at Upper Arlington on Jan 16.



Macy M. after she lands her back tuck.



Macy M. prepares to do her leap.

PICKING COLLEGES 101

navigating through the application process

writer emily zimpfer
designer ryann jochum

The college application process is tedious, but once it's done, seniors feel relieved. But once they start getting their decisions back, the process unfortunately isn't over. Although it can seem overwhelming, it can be easily broken down into a few steps.

After committing to a college, accepted seniors will receive an email from the admissions office on what to do next. This email usually involves creating a school email, logging into an account and scheduling orientation. It is very important to keep checking all emails for important updates, scholarship and interview opportunities.

"Reviewing payment options, making sure financial aid is in place, applying for housing and showing proof of health insurance are the next

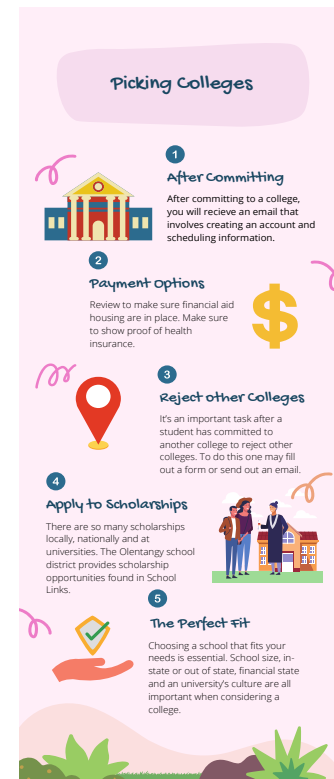
steps after committing to a school," Guidance Counselor James Kloepfer said.

Another important task to do after a student has committed to a college is to reject other schools they applied to. It's necessary because it gives other students an opportunity to receive that scholarship money.

"All the effort you put in will be worth it. It's going to be stressful but use the people and resources around you to help," senior Allison Estes said.

Applying to scholarships is another thing that seniors are recommended to do. There are so many scholarships locally, nationally and at universities. The Olentangy district provides a variety of scholarship opportunities.

"Although it can be a pain, completing non-merit scholarships from the university you chose is worth it," Kloepfer said.



SPRING BREAK TRIPS

where oohs students are traveling over break

writer daniela tiberi
designer ryann jochum

Spring break is around the corner, meaning people from the high school will be traveling to all different places. Being at the end of March, after a long winter, spring break is the perfect time to relax and, for some, a good opportunity to travel to a different state.

Spring break is one of the most popular travel times, and typically most people's first vacation of the new year. Every spring, more than half of the American population plan to travel somewhere for their break, according to Travel Agent Central.

"Any place with warm weather for spring break is the best. We usually go to Florida, but I've also been to Mexico a few times, North and South Carolina, and a Caribbean cruise," Art Teacher Kathleen Kikta said.

With a week open to take a break with no stress, many families work to have a fun and enjoyable time. Some popular activities over break to participate in include going to the beach, an amusement park, hiking, picnics, national parks, skiing, visiting museums and going on a road trip.

"My favorite thing to do during spring break is just relax and enjoy the weather (if we go somewhere

nice) because it's super enjoyable to not worry about school, tests or homework," sophomore Elizabeth Vranich said.

Spring break serves as a time to relax and disconnect from your school life and stress. It is a time for family, friends and making memories.

"Reading on the beach and in the ocean! I love books. My mom would always take us to buy new books before vacation when I was growing up. We were a big family of readers and beach trips. That love for travel, reading and the ocean has followed me throughout my life," Kikta said.

PEP RALLY UPGRADE

pep rallies should be during flex

writer peyton johnson
designer avery cai

As the years go on, pep rallies have changed from what they used to be. Some factors of the change include attendance, fewer activities and students being less interested than in the past.

If the school included more fun activities into pep rallies and there would be more excitement bringing back the old feel. The school should make pep rallies during flex and include more fun activities.

The main goal of a pep rally is to bring students and staff together and get them excited for an upcoming event for the school. The best way to get people excited is for a lot of people to show up and get loud for the pep rally according to holycrosstigers.com.

The attendance at pep rallies

has dropped since early release has sparked the interest. According to Business teacher, Christian Hipsher, everyone used to attend pep rallies and were rowdy and cheered on their feet.

In the past, students used to come back from their early release period just to attend the pep rallies and help the school get excited according to Hipsher.

Most of the fun in a pep rally comes from its activities. These can

include games, cheerleading, athlete vs. teacher games and performing arts.

When the school first opened there weren't many activities to excite the students, but because there were a lot of people there it became more exciting. At the school the excitement of pep rallies has gone down and students have become less involved in the activities, therefore making it more boring and students begin to skip.

Now, students either have early release and do not return to the school, or students ask their parents to write them a pass to leave school before the pep rallies. The greatest attendance the school sees is during FLEX period pep rallies because it is difficult for students to leave before third period and early release students are still at the school.

"In the past, students used to come back from their early release period just to attend the pep rallies and help the school get excited," Business Teacher Christian Hipsher

EARLY TARDY BELL

the bells are slightly off

writer mackenzie carder
designer avery cai

An ancient and ongoing problem that many high school students have faced throughout their school year is the subconscious fear of being tardy but also sometimes a physical tardy pass.

After much research and denial, I have officially concluded that the bell used to be 36 seconds early on non-flex days. This meant that on normal Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, classes started not at 7:20 a.m., but at 7:19 a.m. and 24 seconds. That wouldn't even be rounded to the 7:20 minute.

Thankfully, students were still given the normal 7:20 bell time on flex days but that was only two days each week with the start time of school

actually being correct. I understand that the bell was already scheduled to go on its own time, but I don't understand why this wasn't corrected sooner.

Not only is this situation frustrating for students, but it has also proven to be confusing for administration. Just about every morning, staff members stand outside of the library to inform students of the time they have left to get to class on time.

Previously this was helpful, but now I could hear, "one minute left to get to class on time," and the bell could go off not even 30 seconds later. This diminished confidence when students were almost there and were sure that they could make it in time.

However, now the bells have

changed to being even more chaotic. On the day of Wednesday, March 12, the bell rang 30 seconds late.

This issue of inconsistent bell times is something that is still in its progression, causing havoc and turmoil. Hopefully soon, students will get to feel the relief of having their normal promised bell times once again.

"I have officially concluded that the bell used to be 36 seconds early on non-flex days,"- Writer Mackenzie Carder said.

SPRING BREAK TRAVELS

where are students headed for break?

writer **ava mejia**
designer **ava mejia**

The boys basketball team will start spring break playing in the state championship against Reynoldsburg on March 22 at 8:30 p. m. at UD Arena. This will be their first finals appearance in program history.

Many students are going out of state for spring break. However, some students are staying close to home to continue their spring sport seasons and spend time with their families.

A week before spring break, the choir traveled to New York City to perform in the National Youth Choir at Carnegie Hall and explore the city.

The softball team is traveling to Orlando, Florida for team bonding and a week full of games. Both JV and Varsity will be playing games in Florida while a group of players stay in Ohio for practices.



Pioneer Pride Bars

Lexie Miller
Bella Mitchell
Kira Newkirk
Jason Reifschneider
Zoe Zeller
Gabiella Prozy

February Students of the Month

Anthony Barbarula
Addison Chevalier
Alyssa Distel
Louis Dorado
Alexis French
Ava Mejia
Norah Pelphrey
Tristan Matheny
Sebastian Quintero Pena
Michael Rizzo

March Students of the Month

Maithreyi Murali Manohar
Dannis Cepeda
Taylor Boyd
Morgan Dean-El
Eowyn Rocks
Jabril Ali
Jalen Simmons
Audrey Hemrick
Caitlin Zeller