

The Storm Report

OAKES TORNADOES UPDATES

April 24th, 2026



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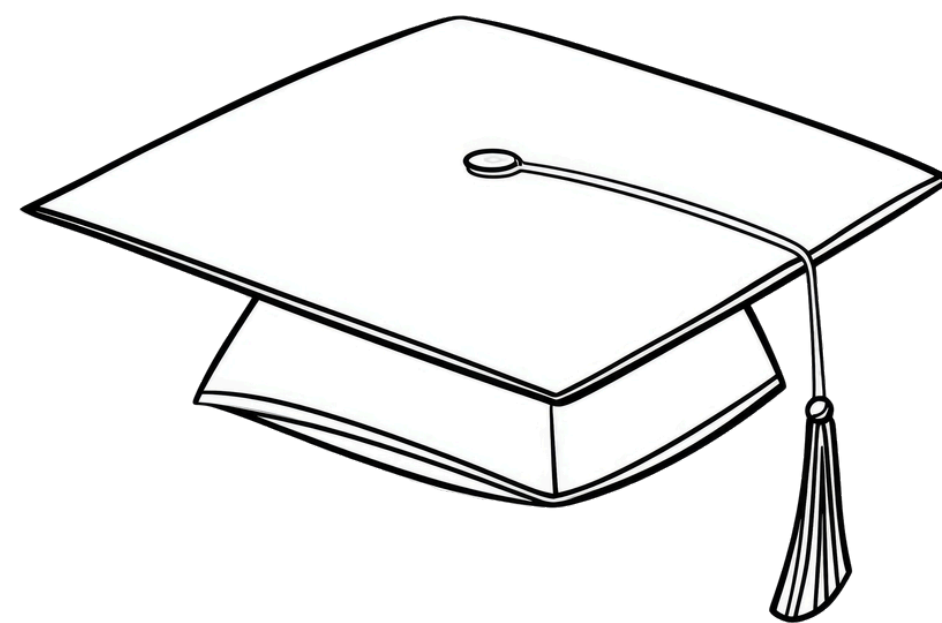
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Seniors' Plan

By: Jyles Meier



Graduation is coming up and it's a very weird feeling. It's a stage of life where friends will go separate ways. But with that coming up graduates need a plan comes into play. Might not know, but sometimes it's best to trial and error. It helps to know from past graduates to get an idea or grasp on what you could possibly do overall.

So today I'm asking a few seniors to see what their plan is, and how they went through the process of picking a college or career.

Senior Jack Thorpe said, "I will be attending NDSCS in the early fall next semester." He chose NDSCS because they are known for their beneficial Ag program, as well as it's campus is close to his hometown. He states, "Personally I just talked to people." He asked questions about the program and learned aspects.

I also asked Karsen what his plan was. He said, "I am set for the University of North Dakota." His reason is that UND is one of the most renowned schools for aviation in the entire country, making it the best choice to pursue his desired career. The process he went through to figure out what he wanted to do was "hands-on experience and trying it for myself." Karsen states.

In conclusion, hearing from seniors about their plan helped me understand that there is no "right plan" after high school. Some students already have a clear idea of what they want to do. While others are still exploring their options. What stood out most is that each person made their decision on what felt right for them. Whether that meant choosing a college close to home, pursuing a specific program, or taking time to gain experience.

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Water Guns, Goggles, and Anxiety: Inside Senior Assassin

By: Breann Young



As seniors get closer to graduation, a lot of us are trying to make the most of our last few weeks. One of the most popular things right now is Senior Assassin. Senior Assassin is a student-run game where seniors are each assigned a target and must “eliminate” them with a water gun, all while trying not to get out themselves. At our school, the game is organized and run by Kenedi Finley, who keeps track of eliminations, rules, and updates. It sounds fun, and it is, but after asking a few seniors who are playing, it’s also stressful. You can also follow along with the game and see updates on Instagram @ohs26seniorplash

One of the biggest things everyone mentioned was how paranoid the game makes them feel. Izzy and Shanna both said it makes them feel “paranoid.” Karsen explained it more by saying he always must look over his shoulder and think about where his assassin could be. So even though it’s supposed to be fun, it’s something that’s always on your mind.

Another hard part is not knowing who you can trust. Shanna said that’s the hardest part for her. Anyone could be watching you or waiting for the right moment. Izzy also said it’s hard to figure out when to go after your target, especially since everyone is being super careful. Karsen added that people don’t even want to take off their goggles anymore because they’re scared of getting out.

When it comes to school and daily life, it depends on the person. Izzy said it doesn’t really distract her, but Karsen said it does sometimes. For example, even when he’s at the gym, he still has to be alert and ready in case his assassin shows up. Shanna said it doesn’t affect school, but it changes how she does normal things like going to the store or even taking her dogs outside.

Everyone also has their own strategy for staying in the game, but goggles are a huge part of it. Izzy said she puts hers on anytime she goes outside, and Karsen always keeps his close by. Shanna’s strategy is a little different, she stays home more and tries to plan out how to get her target instead of risking getting out.

There have also been some close calls. Izzy said someone almost got her in her garage, which is crazy. Karsen had a close call at the gym when his assassin showed up, but he managed to put his goggles on just in time.

Some players have changed how they play as the game goes on. Karsen said he’s trying to be more subtle now, while Izzy is focused on staying hidden. Shanna, on the other hand, hasn’t really changed her strategy.

When it comes to winning, there’s a bit of a debate. Izzy and Shanna think it mostly comes down to luck, especially during “purge days,” which are special times in the game where the normal rules are relaxed and players can be eliminated anywhere, making everything more chaotic and unpredictable. But Karsen thinks it’s all about skill.

Overall, Senior Assassin is a fun way to make memories before graduation, but it’s more intense than people expect. It’s not just a game, it’s something that kind of takes over your daily life.

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Staff Spotlight

By: Isaac Bjornstad



It's about time for another staff spotlight, Mrs. Gramlow, our junior/high school art and our computer science teacher. With many years of teaching this school, I'm sure many are curious about her history and feelings with the school. Thankfully she can give us a little insight on the Oakes public school experience.

To start off, I asked her what she thought the best part of her job was. She stated, "The best part of my job is guiding learners to create artworks they are interested in and assisting in their problem-solving process. I love witnessing the joy they get from accomplishing something challenging." The experience of watching the process of creation is truly a beautiful thing.

Now some might come to wonder how Mrs. Gramlow came to teach at this school. When asked, she responded, "I actually applied for a first-grade position so many years ago. At the end of the interview, they asked out of three open positions at the school, which one I would be most interested in. I had no idea teaching art part of the day and reading interventions the other part of the day was available. With a double major of elementary education and art education, it was a perfect fit for me. I like to think it was meant to be."

Now with how many students come and go, I'm sure there's comfort in knowing you've impacted your students. Asking Mrs. Gramlow, she said, "I bump into past Oakes graduates yearly and they almost always tell me they've kept at least one of their projects from an art class and share the story of its journey through high school. Others tell me how they persisted through the completion of a project and how proud they still are of that."

With the end of the school year coming, we're reminiscing about how well our teachers have taught us. Inspiring creativity and artistic passion in her students, you'd be hard pressed to find another teacher like Mrs. Gramlow. Which is why there's no other teacher fit for the spotlight, than her.

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Summer Fun Ideas



By: Nadysen McKay

Summer is easily one of the best times of the year because it brings warm weather, more free time, and tons of opportunities to have fun. Without the stress of school, people can relax, try new things, and spend more time with friends and family. From going on road trips and swimming to hanging out at the pool or staying up late with friends, there's always something to do. Summer gives people the chance to enjoy life a little more, make memories, and take a break from their usual routines.

With friends:

1. Go on a day trip or mini road trip pick a nearby town, park, or attraction, make a playlist, and just enjoy the ride together.
2. Host a movie night outside set up blankets, bring snacks, and watch your favorite movies under the stars using a projector or a laptop.
3. Go to an amusement park or fair ride roller coasters, play games, and eat fun foods like cotton candy or funnel cake.

I asked Emily a few questions about her favorite summer activities and experiences. When I asked about her best summer memory with friends, she said it was going to the Brown County Fair in Aberdeen. She explained that they spent the day riding rides and then went to a concert later that night. Her favorite part about the concerts, she said, is getting to pick out cute outfits to wear. When I asked if she prefers going on trips or staying local with friends, she said she enjoys both. Every summer, her family spends a few days in Medora where they go to the musical and do some shopping. At the same time, she also loves spending time with her friends at her grandparents' lake cabin at Roy Lake, where they go jet skiing and take boat rides. Lastly, when I asked what something new she'd want to try this summer is, Emily said she would like to learn how to wakeboard.

With family

1. Spend the day at a lake or beach this is a great way for families to relax and have fun together. You can swim, have a picnic, play games, or even go boating, making it a perfect mix of activity and downtime.
2. Go on a camping trip. Whether it's at a campground or even in your backyard, camping gives everyone a chance to unplug, enjoy nature, and bond over things like campfires, s'mores, and storytelling.
3. Plan a game or movie night at home. You can play board games, watch favorite movies, and have snacks together, creating a simple but meaningful way to spend time as a family.

I asked a Mr. Peterson the same questions about their summer activities. When asked about their favorite thing to do together, they said they enjoy going on family road trips, such as fishing at Devils Lake, going to a Twins game, or visiting Medora for the musical. Their favorite summer destination has become Grahams Island on Devils Lake, where they spend about a week camping in a pop-up camper. When asked what they want to try more of this summer, they mentioned doing more tent camping and practicing archery, especially since Briggs recently started and really enjoys it.

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Career Carousel

By: McKenna Allston

On Wednesday, April 18th, 2026 the first ever career carousel was held at the growing small towns building. The career carousel was an opportunity students to practice talking to different employers. There was 14 businesses that were there. The businesses that were there include: CHI, Sanford, Cotter Dental, Ready Set Grow, Harris Machine, Heritage Insurance, Back to Health, Agtegra, James Valley Grain, DRN, Oakes Truck and Trailer, The Butcher Shop, Kustom Machine, and The Angry Beaver Lodge.

Mr. Wentworth said that this was a group effort from Rebecca Udem of Growing Small towns, TJ Roney and Kausha Magill of the Oakes Chamber of Commerce, Theresa's Miller of SRCTC WBL coordinator and Mr. Lunch and Mrs. Haafke. Mr. Wentworth said, "Theresa and I started the conversation of doing a speed dating concept for Juniors and Seniors. We decided to do two lessons on Resume Writing and Interview Skills before the Career Carousal. Kausha, TJ, and Rebecca were in charge of connecting with the businesses to attend the fair." They reached out to NDSCS for advice on how to make it run smoothly, as they have created them before.

Rebecca Udem said that there were several goals with the career carousel. They wanted to give students a safe, risk-free environment to practice their interpersonal and communication skills with adults outside of teachers or parents. They wanted to connect students to the wide range of opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship that is here in Oakes. Finally, with this they wanted to connect students to internships, job shadowing opportunities, or even employment. When asked what they would change before trying it again, Rebecca said, "We may consider limiting this experience to juniors and a finding a way to more intentionally match the interests of students with employers."

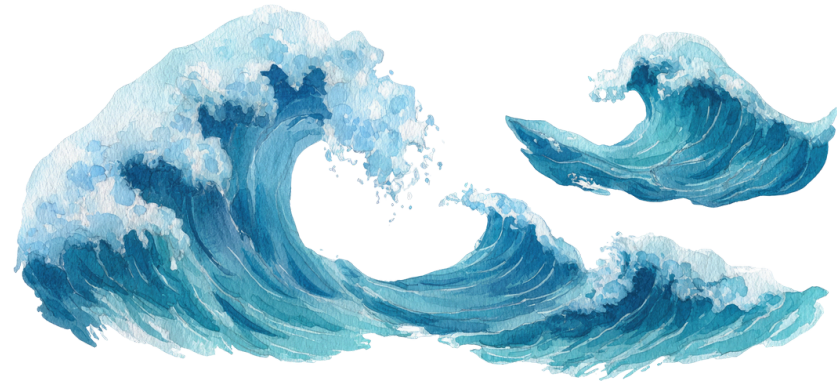
Shanna Buttke, a senior here at OHS said that the experience was cool and that it was nice of the businesses to take time out of their day to speak with students. She mentioned that students learned valuable information, some even acquiring a job or internship.

Overall, the career carousel was a helpful experience for students and businesses. It gave students a chance to practice talking to employers and learn more about different jobs in a relaxed setting. Many students gained useful skills and even found job or internship opportunities. Because of its success, the event could continue in the future and become even better for students in the Oakes community.



The Storm Report

Where Everyone's Going: The Most Popular Summer Trips



By: Addie Umbriet

As we know it, the beginning of summer awaits us. When you think of summer, you may picture the hot weather filled with lake days or doing whatever else you want, not having to worry about school. Another thought that might come to mind is vacation: traveling somewhere tropical or visiting a national park. It's common to take trips during the summer, but what are some of the most popular locations?

First, one place people venture to is big cities, like New York City. This is perfect to get away from the small-town life for awhile and enjoy the business of fast-paced city life. Here there are multiple activities to keep you occupied, for example, visit Central Park, the Empire State Building, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Times Square, and of course, take in the view of the Statue of Liberty at Liberty Island.

However, if you're wanting to take on a slower, relaxing, pace, a trip to a beach would be a perfect fit. There are so many locations to choose from, Maui, Amalfi Coast, Bora Bora, and Cancun, are just a few examples. Here you'll be able to enjoy the gorgeous beaches, crystal-clear lagoons, incredible food, turquoise water, and maybe even explore the waters by snorkeling. Not only this but you can socialize around a bonfire, or take up a physical activity like beach volleyball, or even building a sandcastle.

If the sand isn't for you but you still enjoy adventure, a trip to a national park will give you the excitement of exploring while also being able to have a scenic view waiting for you. Some national parks include Banff National Park, Yellowstone, Swiss Alps, and Reykjavik. A trip to Banff will give you beautiful lakes, hiking, and unimaginable mountain views. Going to Yellowstone, you'll find geysers, wildlife, and wide-open landscapes. The Swiss Alps has the hiking, scenic trails, and even alpine villages. Finally, if you're looking to see more, Reykjavik has glaciers, volcanoes, and waterfalls all in one place. So, if adventure is a priority for you this summer, make sure to book a trip to a national park to experience the outdoors from a new perspective.

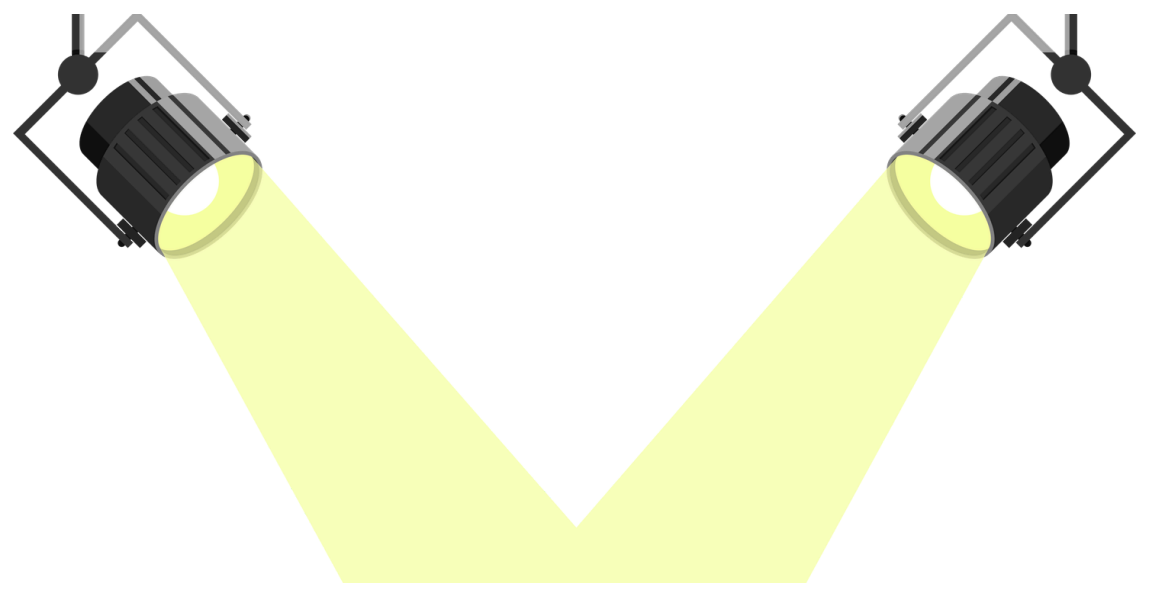
In addition to these summer getaway ideas, more unique locations might be of interest. Some of these places include Santorini, Alaska, Bali, and Edinburgh. Santorini is a Greek island in the southern Aegean Sea, here you'll see memorable white-and-blue views and sunsets. Another unique place people travel to is Alaska where you can experience huge landscapes, see unique cultures, and wildlife. Even though their best seen in the winter, the northern lights are another incredible sight to see, especially near Fairbanks.

Overall, there are various, endless, options for trips to take during the summer, but they all have one thing in common, they will be a memorable experience. Not only is it fun to take a journey somewhere unfamiliar, but it's beneficial to take time for yourself to explore or relax. No matter where or what you decide to do this summer, every trip will have stories to tell.

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Senior Spotlight

By:Kalyn Haafke



Meet Hope VanHorn, a dedicated and resilient senior who has spent four years involved in HOSA, building skills and confidence for a future in healthcare. With a strong interest in algebra and memorable experiences in classes with Mrs. Bopp at OHS and Mrs. Wertz at the center, she has made the most of her high school journey both academically and personally.

One of her proudest high school moments was drawing her dad's blood—an experience that confirmed her passion for the medical field and solidified her goal of becoming a phlebotomist after college. Inspired by her dad, who has been the biggest influence in her life, she has learned the importance of perseverance and pushing forward, even in difficult moments.

Throughout high school, she faced challenges with negativity and difficult experiences but chose to rise above them. By focusing on positivity and surrounding herself with supportive people, she has grown into a stronger, more confident person. She believes that respect is earned by giving it first and values kindness in all her relationships. Along the way, she has learned that a few true friends are more meaningful than many acquaintances.

Outside of school, she enjoys spending time with her family, especially her dad, and participating in family traditions at her grandma's. She also loves caring for her six bunnies—her favorite being Meatball—and her German shepherd, Jax.

She is most proud of her ability to overcome challenges and not let negative experiences define her. Being a senior represents the hard work and determination it took to get to this point, proving to herself that she can overcome anything.

Her advice to underclassmen: do the work, even when it's hard or boring, and always do your best.

After graduation, she plans to attend college and pursue her dream of becoming a phlebotomist, continuing to help others and make a difference.

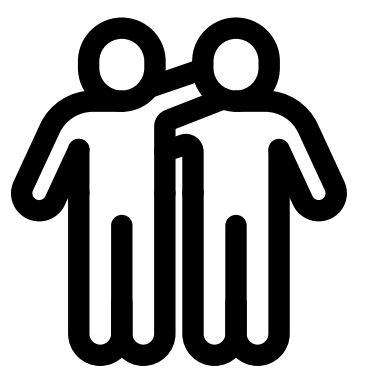
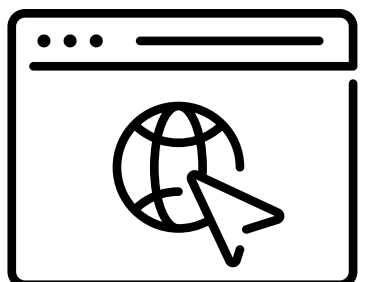
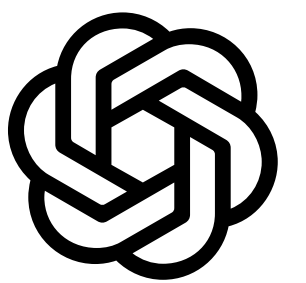
The Storm Report

From Pinterest Boards to Party Goals

By: Lila Iverson

Seniors all around are starting to plan their graduation party's. There are many different varieties of graduation parties. Some of them happen before and after graduation. Many times people don't know what to do or what to have. There are so many choices. Here are some tips on how to plan it.

1. Use Pinterest. It has so many ideas and tips on how to display things and how to show photos. It has theme ideas, food options, and decoration ideas. With cute inspiration.
2. Use ChatGPT. It can give out many themes, decor, food ideas and you can use it to make inspirational photos. Plus students already know how to use it.
3. Take inspiration from other grad party's in the past. They have already worked through it and would most likely be willing to give out ideas on the best way to do things.
4. Use this link for ideas.
<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/g5159/graduation-party-ideas/>
5. Have a grad party with a friend. It would be very convenient save a bit of money. So you have more minds and hands to help set up and take down.



If that is still not enough help common easy things for food include sandwiches, tocos, burrito bowls, spaghetti. Treats could include candy, cupcakes, cake pops, and donuts. Other snacks could be chips, popcorn, trail mix, and pretzels. Some good location's may include; the golf course, a shop/garage, the legion, growing small towns, the ludden sports bar.

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OPS Learner Showcase



By: Dylan Quandt

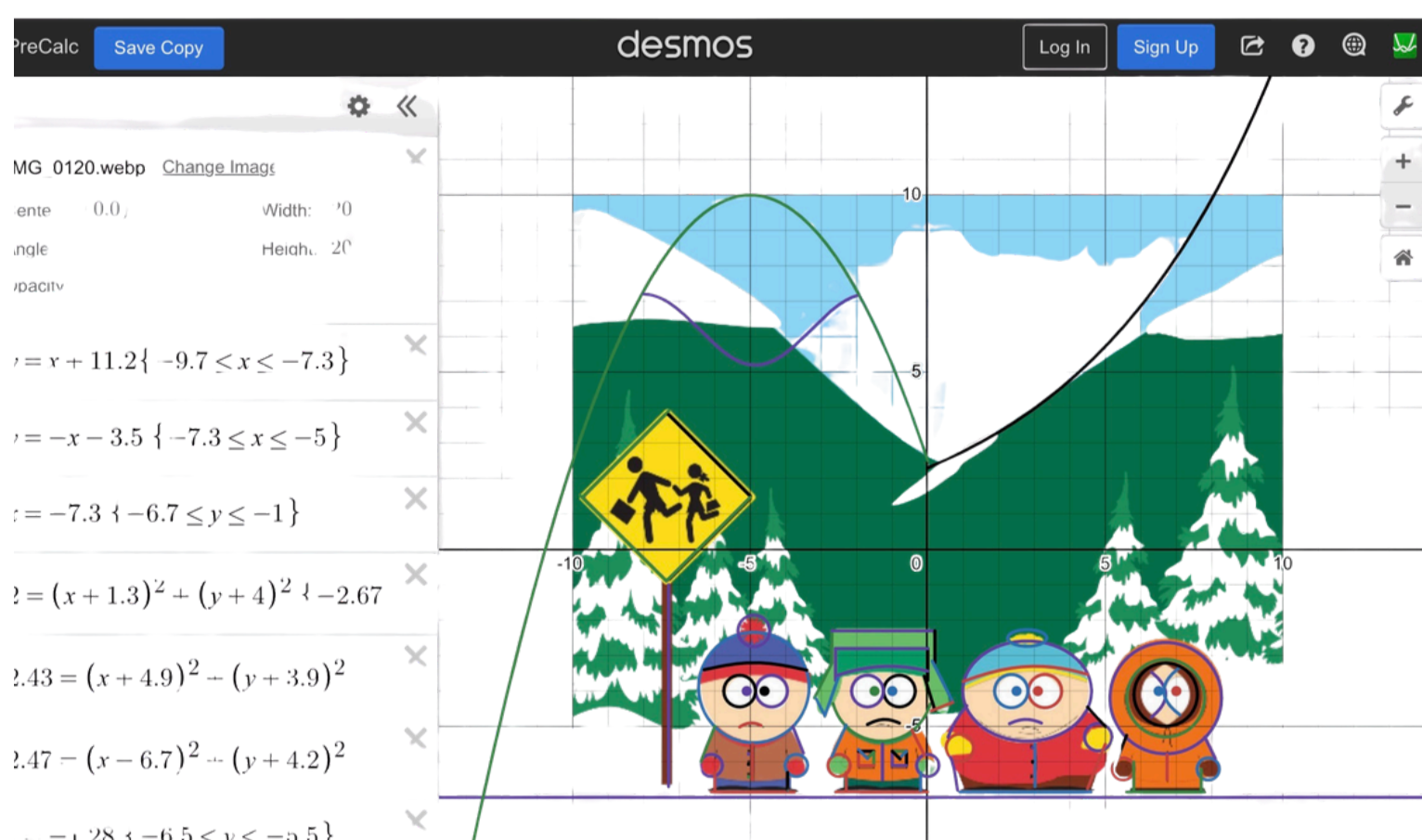


The Learner Showcase is happening April 27th from 4–6 P.M. Learners can choose to present at 4P.M.–5 P.M. or 5P.M.–6 P.M. This is your chance to see OHS learners showcase their creativity and hard work. Students can bring anything to show their learning. Whether it is a project, an art piece, or a science project, it's going to be something they are proud of. Seniors are required to make a senior capstone, a project that connects all 4 main points of OPS portrait of a graduate. Otherwise, they can not walk on graduation day. Then, students must choose 3 adults to invite them to the showcase. They can take a walk around the showcase and see all the learning.

I believe that it's important for everyone to know why we started doing the showcase. So, I asked Mr. Lynch, he said "we began doing the showcase to increase engagement with families and bring more people into the building to see the learning taking place." If you went to the showcase last year, listen up, because I had Mr. Lynch compare it to this year's showcase. He says that "we'll follow a similar structure as before but with a few adjustments." He specified a couple of changes as we now have two times to present to fit everyone's schedule. Also, they will use both gyms, one for each time frame. In the end, he said "overall, the structure should remain the same apart from those changes listed." Long story short, the Student Showcase is on the 27th, and It's more fit for everyone now than ever. If you're coming to the showcase, come hungry, because there will be concessions, and all the profit from the concessions will go to Larry Engel's medical expenses.

Project Examples

- A cartoon cover made from only math equations



The battle of Shiloh took place April 6-7, 1862, in southwestern Tennessee near the Tennessee river. It was fought between the North (Union) and the south (Confederate) it was one of the first few battles of the civil war. Some of the important leaders were Union General Ulysses S. Grant and Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston. These guys played a big part in the battle and made crucial decisions in those few days. At this time, the Union was trying to gain more territory in the Mississippi Valley and push further into the South. The Battle of Shiloh was a very surprising battle and one of the bloodiest battles in the Civil War, it really helped the union build momentum going further into the.

On April 6, the southern troops launched a surprise attack on Union troops camped near Shiloh Church. Union soldiers were not prepared or ready and got pushed back during the first day of the battle. There was lots of fighting at a defensive position called the "Hornet's Nest." The Confederate General Johnston was killed during the battle which was a very big turning point in the battle. Overnight, more Union reinforcement troops arrived and the next day April 7th and then the confederates were out numbered by a lot after the new troops arrived. The Union won the battle after two days of bloody fighting. Around 23,000 soldiers were either killed wounded or missing which was the highest number of deaths in a battle up to that point in American history.

Battle of Shiloh was one of the first very large and deadly battles of the Civil War. It showed that the war would not be easy or quick for either side to win. By getting Union control in some of Tennessee and Grant proving he is a good leader, Shiloh shaped how parts of the war could play out in the favor of the Union. The battle made a big turning point

- An essay written about the Battle of Shiloh and its impact on the civil war.

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Twister Twirl

By: Ava Thompson

The Twister Twirl was a fun dance and Grand March event for learners and their guests that happened the day after high school prom. It was open to students from pre-K through 6th grade, and both boys and girls were able to attend with a guest.

I got to talk to Becca Roberts to get some inside details about how everything worked and what went on behind the scenes. She helped explain a lot about how the event was put together and what had made it special each year.

One of the coolest parts of the event was that the prom committee and Junior class kindly let the Twister Twirl event use their decorations before they took it all down. This made the whole place look really fancy, and fun for the kids.

During the Grand March, learners and their guests walk down the aisle as their names are announced. They got the spotlight just like a real prom. Families, friends and community members were all invited to come watch and take pictures, which made it even more special to the learners.

After Grand March, everyone stayed for the dance. Jason Wolff had been the DJ since the event started in 2018 and has done a great job playing. The kids really enjoy Disney songs, especially “let it go” from frozen.

In the past years couples received souvenirs to remember the event. For the past 3 years, they got picture magnets. Each Learner and their guest got their photo taken, and a printed magnet was made for them to take home.

The Oakes Education Association has been sponsoring the Twister Twirl event for 8 years (not including COVID year). The money raised went towards a organization called the “Dolly Parton Imagination Library”, which helps provide books for younger children.

In conclusion, the Twister Twirl Event had a great turnout with 53 participants. (35 couples) Many enjoyed dancing and getting dressed up.



The Storm Report

Food Hot Takes

By: Mass Media

We surveyed 87 people. The responses were from both 7-12 grade students and staff. After looking over the responses we decided to try a few of the weird food combinations that were suggested. Here is what we tried and what are thoughts were on those combinations.

1- Potato chips dipped in mayonnaise -

This combination surprisingly wasn't as bad as you may think. You can't really taste the mayonnaise. The mayonnaise tasted like a substitute for some type of bland chip dip.



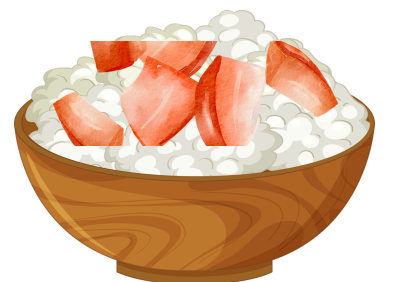
2- Peanut butter and pickle sandwich -

This weird food combination definitely lived up to its name, it had me wondering who would ever want to eat this. But seriously it didnt taste good and had a gross texture. But I guess you can't knock it till you try it.



3- Cottage cheese with tomatoes -

It sounds like everyone's worst nightmare. However, it was pretty good. I thought the combination was refreshing and reminded me of summer time.



4- Macaroni and cheese with tomatoes -

Macaroni and cheese with tomatoes wasn't the greatest. This weird food combo didn't go good because the cottage cheese was cold, and the macaroni and cheese was hot. Hot and cold does not go well together.



5- Pizza with peanut butter -

As expected, the smoother texture and taste of peanut butter doesn't particularly mix well with pizza. It's not horrible, but I'd rather not eat it if I can avoid it. Overall, it's aggressively mid.



6- Potato chips and ketchup sandwich -

Honestly, it tasted like a hotdog but without the hotdog. The crunch was the best! Don't knock it until you try it!



Overall, we were surprised that most of the ones we tried weren't too bad. However, we weren't quite brave enough to try some of the combinations that were sent in the survey. We learned that maybe sometimes things may taste better than we think.