STORM REPORT



November 25th, 2026 | Issue 24 | Oakes, ND

THE LIGHTNING ROUND
HIGHLIGHTS

1 Student Favorite Songs
2-3 Senior Spotlight
4-5 Senior Trip
6 Best/Worst of ND Winter
7 Winter Driving Tips
8 Car Winter Kit
9-10 Indoor Winter Activities
11-12 The Holiday Hot Seat
13 Types of Christmas
14 Christmas Decorating

Students Favorite Songs

By: Tristin Hill

Music is something that a lot of students like. Everyone has different kinds of music they like to listen to. Some people like rock music while others like funny or slow songs. I asked four students what their favorite school-appropriate songs were and why they liked them.

Bode Andersen said his favorite song is Pen Pineapple Apple Pen. Bode likes the song because it wakes him up in the morning and it is an interesting song.

Kya Foss said her favorite song is Patience by Guns N' Roses. She likes it because it is a slow song, and she likes rock music.

Jase Peters' favorite song is Staind because he likes rock music.

Ashur Hagen picked No Easy Way Out by Robert Tepper as his favorite song.

This shows the different music tastes of the students. Some students like rock music, and others like funny songs. Music is something everyone enjoys, with many options to choose from.

Senior Spotlight
By: Mrs. Haafke

If you know Jackson, you may know him as Ghoney. Lately, though, Honeyman has become the name of choice, thanks to his last name. Whatever you call him, he has made the most of his time at OHS, especially through Track & Field, which he has been part of since seventh grade.

One of Jackson's proudest accomplishments came through HOSA, where he earned second place at the state competition in EMT. He credits the accomplishment to working hard every day in EMT class and trusting his gut when it came time to handle the scenario at state. That experience also connects directly to his plans after graduation.

Jackson hopes to join the Air Force, with the possibility of becoming a mechanic working with the electronics on large cargo jets or pursuing something in the medical field. His experience in EMT and AEMT has helped him explore that medical path, and over the next five years, he hopes to build a successful career and land a good-paying job.

That future confidence is a long way from where he started. Jackson remembers being nervous and scared about what was ahead on his first day of freshman year. Now, with graduation approaching, he feels much more confident knowing he is almost through high school and ready for whatever comes next.

When it comes to high school memories, HOSA stands out as one of the events that meant the most to him. He also hopes the Class of 2027 will be remembered for all the good times they shared, from Homecoming and Prom to volleyball and football games and the countless memories made with classmates, especially those who shared the Track & Field experience with him.

Senior Spotlight Cont.

Outside of school, Jackson has his sights set on some pretty impressive travel destinations. Paris, France, and Rome, Italy, are at the top of his list. And if he ever needs a soundtrack for the journey, he already has that covered too. His walk-up song would probably be something by Pink Floyd or The Cars, proving that his music taste is apparently ready for a road trip through Europe.

As for the impact he hopes to make on the people around him, Jackson keeps it simple: work hard and turn in your assignments on time. Honestly, that might be some of the most practical advice a senior can leave behind.

From Track & Field to HOSA, and EMT class, Jackson's high school years have been filled with plenty of experiences that have helped him grow more confident and prepared for what comes next. Now, he's ready to trade the halls of OHS for a new chapter and see where the Air Force takes him.

The Seniors' Long-Awaited DARE Trip

By: Mrs. Haafke

Some promises take a little longer than others to fulfill. For this year's seniors, a trip promised back in seventh grade finally became a reality. Apparently, these students have pretty good memories when it comes to promised field trips!

After completing the DARE program in seventh grade, the students were supposed to receive a trip. As the years passed, the trip never happened. But this group of students wasn't about to let anyone forget about it. They continued reminding SRO Sitzler about their promised trip, and after years of asking, Sitzler finally delivered! Persistence pays off, especially when it involves getting out of school for a day.

The seniors headed to Fargo for a full day of activities, starting with some shopping at West Acres Mall. When lunchtime rolled around, a large group made their way to Chili's, where they enjoyed lunch and took part in a popular social media trend: the mozzarella stick cheese pull video. Apparently, getting the perfect cheese pull was just as important as getting a good lunch.

From there, the group made their way to KINGpinz for bowling, laser tag, and arcade games. Some students also ventured over to Slick City to enjoy the slides, while others stayed back to enjoy the arcade. The group then headed to Suite Shots to hit a few golf balls before wrapping up the evening at a Fargo Force hockey game.

According to bus driver Ed Wentworth, some of the best parts of the day were the spontaneous moments along the way. Whether it was playing arcade games, shopping for basketball shoes, competing for the longest drive at Suite Shots, or trying to break 100 while bowling, there was something for everyone. Wentworth also enjoyed watching students experience a new sport at the Fargo Force game. He mentioned that Jyles became a superfan during the game.

The Seniors' Long-Awaited DARE Trip Cont.

SRO Sitzler, who planned the day, said his favorite part was simply watching the students laugh, smile, and have fun together. He appreciated that no one complained and everyone was willing to go with the flow. His philosophy for the day was pretty simple: sometimes you don't need an elaborate plan. You just need to get to Fargo, see where the day takes you, and have fun.

Activities Director Robin Paul agreed that one of the best parts was seeing the entire class interact throughout the day. She especially enjoyed laser tag and golfing at Suite Shots, but said watching the students laugh and make memories together was the highlight.

The students certainly seemed to agree. Senior Swaye Jackson said laser tag was a favorite, even if the building was a little warm! She thought the Fargo Force game was also fun, although the loss was a disappointment. Overall, the day gave the seniors a chance to enjoy time together, try different activities, and make memories outside the usual school routine.

After years of reminders, the seniors finally got the trip they had been waiting for. But more than the activities, shopping, and games, the day was about spending time together and making memories as a class. With graduation getting closer and everyone preparing to go their separate ways, having a day to laugh, enjoy each other's company, and make a few more memories together made the trip even more special.

And who knows? Maybe this is the beginning of a new tradition. Every senior class deserves a day to step away from the usual school routine, enjoy one another's company, and make memories together before starting the next chapter.

Best and Worst Parts of ND Winter

By: Danna Quezada

While some people count the days until there's finally snow on the ground. Others are counting the days until summer. So many people have different opinions on winter, and I am going to tell you the best and worst parts. Winter comes with hunting, ice fishing, snowboarding, and snowball fights. I have reached out to a few people to ask about their favorite part of winter.

Jaida Arrowood said, "My favorite part is the snow. I love playing in it with my cousins. When I get cold, I like to have a hot coffee or hot chocolate!" Although that does sound fun, others enjoy different winter activities. Peyton Sell said, "The best part of winter is being able to hunt, then, as temperatures start to drop, it allows me to ice fish." Bode Andersen also likes ice fishing. He also likes to snowboard. Bode said, "Snowboarding is also another good thing to do in the winter. Levi, Carl, Casyn, and I like going all around to snowboard. We snowboard almost every weekend in the winter."

Now that I have told you about the good parts, it is time to tell you about all the horrible things that winter brings. I could go on and on about how much I HATE winter. Instead, I have asked some people what the worst part of winter is.
Tara Steiner said, "Worst part of winter? Pretty much all of it! I would much rather be outside soaking up the sun than bundled up in layers, scraping snow off my car, and trying to stay warm."

She is not the only one who has to deal with cars, because Avery Kapfer said, "I hate winter because, in the morning, I have to start my car and let it warm up, and on top of that I have to scrape off my windshield. Also, when it is snowing outside and you are walking around, it gets your shoes and socks wet. Millisa Kukowski said, "Right now you look outside, and it's just gross and depressing. Lastly, if it could not get dark by 5 pm, that would be great."

Winter is a mix between fun snow days and horrible winter storms. Although snow days are fun, they can never compare to a nice day at the lake.

Winter Driving Tips

By: Bode Andersen

Driving in the winter in North Dakota can be dangerous because of ice, snow, and high winds. The winter weather makes it hard for drivers to see and control their vehicles. It is very important to be cautious and prepared for winter.

One of the most important things is to slow down because of possible ice. Another thing to do is increase the space between vehicles so you can leave extra room between other drivers to prevent possible accidents. You should also try to avoid sudden stops and turns so you do not slide on the ice.

To make sure your vehicle is ready for winter, you can check the tire pressure and the tread on your tires. If the tread is bad, it is important to replace the tires so you can possibly prevent yourself from getting in an accident. Also, make sure you dress accordingly for the cold weather.

Before driving, make sure you clean all the ice and snow off your windows, mirrors, headlights, and taillights. It is important to do this so that you can see clearly out of your windows and see other people and objects on the road, such as a dog, a cow, or a bear. It is also very important to clear off all the lights so other drivers can see you.

One of the biggest things you need to do is wear your seat belt any time you're driving, all year round. I also asked Jase Peters how to slow down safely. “If you drive a front-wheel-drive car, if you put your car into neutral and slowly pump the brakes, you can slow down in a more controlled way.” Here are all the winter driving precautions I received from OHS staff and students.

Car Winter Kit

By: Jase Peters

With the temperature starting to drop during the night and day, it is a sign that winter is coming. Here in North Dakota, winters are especially cold and brisk. In our high school, there are many new drivers and people who live outside of the city. In order to be prepared for something that might leave you on the side of the road, you should have something like a survival kit for winter in your vehicle. It may seem like it's not a big deal, but “An average of 562,182 Americans get into winter weather-related car crashes each year.” The survival kit may look different in North Dakota compared to somewhere like Iowa. So everyone’s kit will look different, but it should definitely include a few basic things. These include a blanket, a hat and gloves, a reliable shovel, jumper cables, and non-perishable food and water.

Each item in a kit has a different use if an emergency strikes. The list I made only includes the essentials for a basic kit. If you wanted anything else, it would be extras. Like markers for your windows, a first aid kit, or some kitty litter for traction! All of those are important things too, but maybe not as essential. The point of making one of these is if you are stranded for several days in a cold vehicle. You will have the basic essentials to get you through an emergency. The main point in trying to get to it is that you can be ready for a winter emergency by packing a few extra things. You never know, a winter survival kit may just save your life!





Making the Most of Winter Break

By: Aliyah Friedt



There is always plenty of things to do outside during winter break, but what can you do inside? Besides going on technology... Personally, I love a good game night. My family always plays a card game called Blitz. It's a really fun game when my uncle and I cheat, as my great-grandmother did.

Student Jaida Arrowood, however, loves sleepovers with her friends, as well as movie marathons. Jaida also makes a very good cup of hot chocolate.

Mr. Schneider said, "I really enjoy puzzles, and they can be a fun challenge while not being so stressful." Mr. Schneider also likes to play board games because he can spend time with family, and he likes the competition.

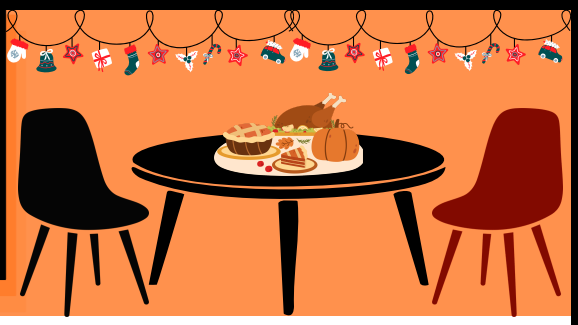
Mr. Sell, however, went for a more nostalgic route. He would choose a movie marathon and bake cookies. "The reason why I chose these is that growing up, that is what we did as a family."

Going outside for Christmas is all fine and dandy until you get snow in your boots or one too many snowballs to the face.

That's how Jaida, Mr. Schneider, and Mr. Sell are planning to spend their indoor time during break. But how will you spend it? Will you make some pizzas and have a movie marathon, or will you have a gingerbread competition? Whatever you decide to do is a great idea, as long as you do not spend the whole break on technology!

Surviving the Holiday Hot Seat

By: Dani Lee



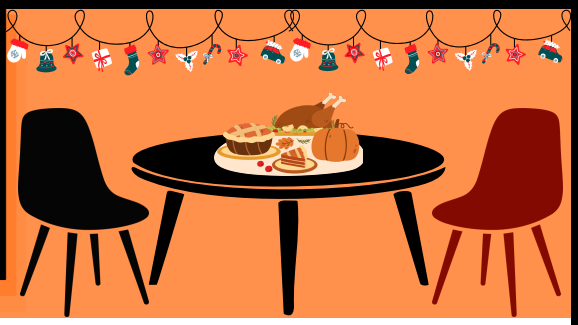
Imagine this: the food on the table, everybody is dished up and gathered around. Everything is going smoothly until ... someone brings up a topic you would rather not speak about. With the holiday gatherings coming up, we think of tasty food and family time, but not always how to survive those conversations that make you wish you stayed at the kids' table.

Awkward conversations are almost impossible to avoid during the holidays, especially if you have a family that brings so many personalities together. And with all those personalities, silly questions and uncomfortable conversations are necessary. In an interview with Mr. Awender, he agrees that these conversations are simply part of the holiday experience.

So, how do you really avoid the hot seat? For Mr. Awender, his solution is simple: find an escape route. He said that with his large family, he can usually remove himself and regroup with another group of people without making it weird. But if walking away is not in his favor, his next choice to rely on is simply changing the subject. While Mr. Awender might not have a go-to strategy, he just starts with a simple "yeahhh..." and guides the conversation in a new direction. But of course, not every awkward conversation can be avoided. Sometimes, all you can do is sit there and wait for a subject to change. "Sometimes sitting through awkward conversations is part of life!" as Mr. Awender said.

Whether you change the subject, walk away, or just sit there and smile, remember that these moments are simply a part of spending time with family. So, during the holidays this year, enjoy the food, appreciate the company, and maybe keep a few conversation escape routes in mind.

Surviving the Holiday Hot Seat Cont.



No escape routes coming to mind? Don't know where to start? Let's practice with some examples:

- Picture this: Senior in high school, no direct plan for college or working after graduation. All is going well, then cousin Beth asks the dreaded questions... What college are you going to? Where are you going to work?"

1. "I'm still figuring that out...Speaking of figuring things out, did you figure out what you're bringing to the next holiday dinner?"
2. "I'm actually waiting on my acceptance letter from Hogwarts! I'll keep you posted."
3. Walk back and stay at the kids' table; you're never too old!

- While watching the football game, Uncle Tod starts to ask if you saw the one cat video on Facebook. Before letting you say a word, he already has a folder saved of cat videos to show you.

1. "These are too funny; we should save some for next holiday dinner!"
2. "Facebook really has you working overtime! Do you ever have time for other activities or just saving to that cat folder of yours?"
3. Ask the little kids to come watch with you; there's nothing more awkward than 10 kids all trying to get the best seat in the house to watch a phone screen!

- You're sending a text message to a group of friends when all of a sudden grandma comes up behind you, asking if you're "TikTak" viral yet.

1. "I'm not quite famous yet. Anyway, what about you?"
2. "I actually retired...the fame got too far out of hand for me!"
3. Start recording a TikTok and make sure grandma is in it, or ask grandma for her TikTok dance best move.

Types of Christmas

By: Lewis Nava

There are many types of Christmas celebrated around the world, each with its own unique traditions and ways to spread joy to others. Some people celebrate with traditional Christmas trees and gifts for the family. Other people celebrate by spending time with family, making special foods, and going to church. Even though everyone celebrates differently, Christmas is a time when people come together and enjoy being with the people they love.

In the United States, many families celebrate Christmas by decorating their houses with lights, putting up Christmas trees, and hanging stockings. Some families open presents on Christmas morning while others wait until Christmas Eve. People also enjoy watching Christmas movies, listening to Christmas music, and baking cookies. These are some of the traditions that make Christmas special for many families.

In other countries, Christmas can look a little different. In Mexico, people celebrate with a tradition called Las Posadas. It includes singing, parties, and spending time with family and friends. In Germany, some people visit Christmas markets where they can buy decorations, food, and gifts. In Australia, Christmas happens during the summer, so some families celebrate by going to the beach or having a barbecue.

Another important part of Christmas is helping others. Some people donate toys, give food to families in need, or volunteer in their communities. Christmas is not just about getting presents. It is also about being kind, giving to others, and showing people that you care about them.

Christmas Decorating
By: Matvei

Christmas is now on its way, so you know what that means. It's time to bring out the Christmas lights, trees, ornaments, wreaths, and many more festive decorations. Decorating is a great way to get into that holiday spirit. Now we'll explore how other people spend their Christmas decorating, whether they enjoy it or not.

I asked Mr. Miller first, since I believe he is one of the most festive guys around, setting up decorations year-round for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and, of course, Christmas. When asked whether he prefers decorating inside or outside, Mr. Miller said he prefers the inside. He enjoys outdoor decorating for most holidays. He explained that living in North Dakota makes decorating outside for Christmas less appealing because of the cold weather.

When it comes to his favorite part of Christmas decorating, Mr. Miller says it's all about getting into the Christmas spirit. For him, decorating is a chance to relax, enjoy the season, and let some of the little things that normally bother him through the year slide. Another special part of decorating is keeping family traditions alive. Mr. Miller shared that when he was younger, his godparents would give a Christmas ornament every year. His wife had a similar tradition growing up, so now on the trees there are a few ornaments that are around 50 years old on their tree every Christmas. It's a special way to remember their childhoods while continuing a tradition together.
Finally, I asked Mr. Miller what he would do if he had an unlimited budget. His answer was definitely something to remember. He said he would hire a company to decorate his house with lights that sync up to music. Flashing along to the greatest hits of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra blasting outside in the yard, now that's one awesome Christmas display.

All in all, Mr. Miller shows that Christmas decorating is about more than just making a house look festive. It's about relaxing, having fun, and family time. Whether you prefer a simple Christmas tree inside or an entire house covered in decorations, decorating is one of the many ways to make the holiday special.

Also, a quick fact before you go: Christmas decorating could directly help with winter blues through DOPamine surges from all the lights you buy and set up. There is also the satisfaction from completely setting up all your decorations.