



The Paw Print

Oxford Middle School
Oxford, MI

October 2019

GOALS FOR THE YEAR

By, Sarah Spearing

Every new school year presents students with new challenges, most likely harder than the year before. Many times, if a student struggled with a subject in the past year, then they will want to improve on that subject in the year to come. Students may also have goals to work extra hard to get into an advanced class in the future, or they may be content with the classes they are currently taking. Along with wanting to get in advanced classes, students may want to join classes such as newspaper or yearbook, or want to change their elective classes. There are endless choices and opportunities for students to improve their academic grades if they set goals for themselves and try hard enough.



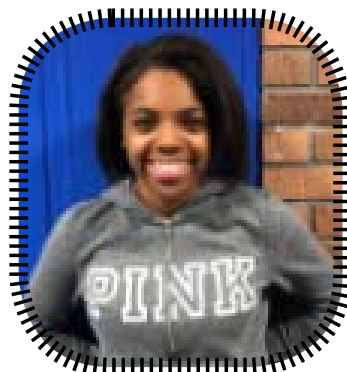
With a total of seven classes in a school day, some students can struggle to keep up their grades in all classes, while academic achievements could come more easily to others. Looking to the future, a study in 2009 done by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) records that the average GPA for core academic classes in high school was around 3.0, although the average GPA in high schools has gone up since then. 8th grader Allison Stermersch says that she thinks that it will be harder to get a higher GPA in high school because teachers have more expectations of students, considering that the students are now older and have more responsibilities, along with more school work in general.



6th grader Morgan Barnes says that she would like to continue taking art class throughout middle school and high school because she really likes sculpting and drawing.



7th grader Luca Erskine says that one of the reasons he would like to improve on Spanish, and also continue taking the class, is because his soccer coach speaks Spanish.



8th grader Taiyona Cox says that she would like to improve on math and language arts this year, along with improving overall on group projects.



In Mrs. Kmiec's 6th grade Language Arts class, out of 26 students, 8 wanted to improve on Math, 8 wanted to improve on Language Arts, 6 wanted to improve on Science, 0 wanted to improve on Geography, and 4 wanted to improve on other elective classes.



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DOES EDUCATION EQUAL SUCCESS?

By: John Hulswit

As school begins again, students start getting back in the routine of school. Every student learns the core topics: Math, English, Social Studies, and Science. But this also gets some people to wonder, do the classes we take and the things we learn really prepare us for the future?

This topic is debatable with many staff members and students. We interviewed some classrooms to see what students thought about this. Just short of 80% of students we interviewed said that they believed what we learn in school benefits us later in our lives.

School today can be controversial with incidents in violence and some school systems may not be doing enough to help, but with everything happening, it is easy to forget the actual point of school: to learn. However, some people think that what students learn isn't the most necessary topics. A handful of people think we should be learning more topics such as how to pay a bill, do taxes, how to point out a good presidential candidate, etc.

With the world changing, some schools are changing with it. They are starting to adjust to more technology. However, many things stay the same. The classes and subjects we are taught are still very similar to what classes were like in the past. But some people think that we need to change what we learn as well. Here are some thoughts from our peers.



"If you could add any class to OMS what class would you add and why?"

"I would add Yoga, because it teaches mindfulness and helps one relax and reflect."

-Mrs. Brown, 7th Grade Blue



"A class that would teach us about the real world like taxes and stuff because what we learn isn't relevant to what I'm going to do later in life like working in the medical field."

-Jack Cinato, 8th Grade Blue



"Maybe like a whole class just for reading just so that way you can sit down and read because I really like reading."

-Dominik Shafer, 6th Grade Gold



"I think we need onther section of the intro to programing, there is a lot of kids that I understand wanted to get into it and my classes are full and more kids want to be added."

-Mrs. Monkevich,



≥ ≈ *Advanced Academics* ✓ ≤

By Hayley-Kate Nelms

At OMS, students are given the chance to take advanced classes in Math and ELA. The advanced class might be more enjoyable for them and offer a bigger challenge. Advanced classes aren't for everyone though. You don't want to put a kid in a class that might be too hard. They might become overwhelmed and stressed, causing them to fall behind. Eighth grader Lea Vitinaros stated, "[kids should be taking advanced classes] only if they can handle it because some kids have trouble with advanced classes."

There are certain requirements that a student has to meet in order to be in an advanced class. You get into advanced math by taking a test a few weeks before school starts, m-step scores, and fastbridge learning. You get into advanced ELA the same way as advanced math, except you also have your summative writing from your 7th grade year.



In the United States, students take advanced classes because they test out of classes that are on their grade level. According to collegeboard.org, more than 1.17 million students in the class of 2017 took 3.98 million AP Exams in public high schools. "I like taking advanced classes because in normal classes, I would be bored out of my mind," says 8th grader Lucinda Haselton.

6th Grade



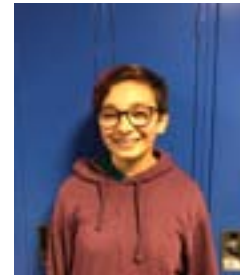
Mira Cline stated that she is in advanced math and Spanish. "I like it because if I were in a regular class, I wouldn't be able to learn as much as I would in advanced[...I think it's harder] because there's more work."

7th Grade



Steven Brown said that he is in Algebra. "It's fun because you're ahead of your friends and it's harder, so you get to challenge yourself![I don't think it's much harder] because it's really just different math."

8th Grade



Lea Vitinaros is in Geometry and ELA 9. "It actually gives me a challenge, unlike if I was in Algebra[I think it's more stressful] because there is usually more homework."

Easygoing or Strict Teachers?



In Mrs. Blaskowski's room during 6th hour, students are working hard on their No Red Ink assignment. These 8th-grade students have been working on them for two days now with the instruction of their easy-going teacher Mrs. Blaskowski, "I like Mrs. Blaskowski being an easygoing teacher because she does not make us do an impossible amount of work all in one day," Korinne Ihrke said.

Students put forth their best effort every day at Oxford Middle School doing math, science, language arts and lots of other classes. There are ways students best learn and teachers that teach that way best. Although many are aware some teachers are more fun and joking with their students, what types of teachers do students at OMS best prefer for their learning?

According to a poll from Mrs. Blaskowski's 8th grade class, 21 out of 27 students preferred easy-going teachers over strict teachers. On the other hand, only 6 students preferred strict teachers. In closure, it is important that at OMS we have a wide variety of teachers as we learned student's needs and preferences differ.



6th grade gold student Eva Raymer said, "I feel that when I have an easy-going teacher I can do things the way that is best for my learning not the way the teacher wants me to do it."



7th grade blue student Cole Bidlack stated, "I like both types of teachers. I feel that strict teachers help me focus more in class and easy-going teachers help me have a better class experience. Overall I think all types of teachers are very nice to their students."



8th-grade blue student Avery Felix said, "I prefer easygoing teachers to strict teachers because I feel that strict teachers are not flexible in different types of students' learning."

By: Ellie Gieselman

Classroom Improvements

Every classroom at OMS is different, some do not have desks and some teachers have different seats in their classroom like couches or bean bags. But many teachers and students at OMS would like more than that, knowing that, there are many different ways to improve a classroom and every teacher has a unique idea in their mind on how to make their classroom better. For example, teachers could get a lamp, buy more shelves, get baskets, hang up lights, and so much more. All of these ideas would help their classroom be better and enhance classroom learning. So what are some of the teachers hoping to add?

By: Matthew Barkman



8th grade math teacher Mr. Tootalian says that to improve his classroom he would take a lot of his posters that he has glued on his wall down. Because he feels like it is a distraction to many students learning.



7th Grade geography teacher Ms. McNeil says that to improve her classroom she would like to provide different types of seating like bean bags for her students because she feels that it would help the students pay better attention and learn better.



6th grade math teacher Mr. Sterba says that he would like to improve his classroom by having a better way to arrange his desks because he thinks that open space in his classroom would help him to do more activities that allow the students to move around.



Many teachers at OMS, like Ms. McNeil, have lights in their classrooms, they can provide light when the normal ones are off along with adding a nice atmosphere to the room. sense 5 out of 5 teachers want to do something to change something in their room so why not do it? 8th grader Cory Thomas says that he would like different seating in his classrooms he feels like it would help him to learn better in class.

5 OUT OF 5 TEACHERS SAY THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO DO SOMETHING TO IMPROVE THEIR CLASSROOM.

NEW FACES TO STUDENTS

By: Maya Derey

Many teachers have been working at OMS for years but this year it is some teachers first year at OMS. There are many great new teachers at OMS and great new teaching methods when it comes to new teachers. Also new teachers means new faces to the students and different personalities here is an insider on a few of the new teachers.



Mrs. Hay



Do you like teaching at OMS?

Of course I like teaching at OMS! I'm new at OMS and it's fun to see all my former students from OES. I teach math all day which I love because it's my favorite subject.

Is it different teaching at OMS than your past teaching jobs?

Absolutely. It's really different because the kids always had their stuff in their desks in elementary school and in middle school kids forget their notebooks in their lockers, but in elementary school it was easier to keep organized.

Why did you want to teach at OMS?

Well I want to help students who struggle in math. That's my absolute favorite thing to do. I wanted to do something different.

Why did you want to be a teacher?

I wanted to be a teacher because I wanted to help people and I wanted to do smart nerdy things. Also, I love young people and I love kids.

If you could change one thing about teaching at OMS what would it be?

I would have windows in my classroom.

Is there anything unique about you that you want students to know about you?

I am fixing up a house by myself in Detroit, and fixing up the roof and plumbing.



Teaching her students writing is only one part of Ms. Learning's day. This is Ms. Learning's first year teaching at OMS she is happy teaching at OMS and making her students the best they can be.



Helping her students with their math homework is only one part of Mrs. Hay's day. This is Mrs. Hay's first year teaching math lab at OMS and she is very happy helping her students learn. Mrs. Hay is very happy teaching

Do you like teaching at OMS?

Yes, I like teaching at OMS so far. This is my first year teaching here I've had a lot of great experiences so far I'm excited to see where it takes me.

Is it different teaching at OMS than your past teaching jobs?

A little bit. I taught at Franklin middle school for two years previously as well, so it's a little bit different and the community is a bit smaller and a bit more helpful.

Why did you want to teach at OMS?

To be honest, the Oxford community sounded very appealing and everyone spoke so highly of Oxford. I really wanted to work at Oxford.

Why did you want to be a teacher?

I wanted to be a teacher so I could help my students be the best they could be.

If you could change one thing about teaching at OMS what would it be?

I would like more collaboration time.



Ms. Learning

ACTING AFTER HOURS

By: Grace Morgan

Mr. Gray operates the after school club called Drama Club. The purpose of Drama Club is for young actors and actresses to express themselves and have fun acting. It can also be considered a place for young, expressive, and shy kids to be themselves. Countless kids who go to Drama Club have made an abundance of friends there. At Drama Club, we play countless games that are not only fun, but also help you become a better actor/actress. Also, after a month or two of Drama Club, it transitions to ready for the play. The Drama Club meeting turns into play rehearsals, which in multiple ways are just as fun for people involved. The play is on the 16th and 17th of January. This years play is titled "Showdown at Palm Tree Pines". Mr. Gray also relies on his Drama Club Board, the board consisting of Rebekah Schuler(8th) the president, Jack Cinato the vice president (8th), and many other positions! most of the club is run by that board. You can try out for the board at the end of the year.



Explaining the rules of Drama Club to attendees at the first meeting, Mr. Gray stands above the crowd along with Aine Houston (8th) and Rebekah Schuler(8th). With an average of around 100 people a club meeting, the meetings usually last about an hour. "It makes me feel included," States Laura Morgan, a member of the Drama Club Board and drama club attendee.

DRAMA



8th grader Rebekah Schuler

I've been going to the drama club since the first day in 6th grade. My favorite part of Drama Club is the group activity because it gets everybody involved, and they're really fun. I have done plays in the past, I've done Fantastic Mr. Fox, That's not how I Remember It, and I will be doing this play, this year. It was a blast. I am not going to audition for the play because I am going to be managing the play. I have done plays that were not at OMS, [they were] at my church and my old schools.



7th grader Laura Morgan

I have been going to Drama club since the first meeting when I was in 6th grade. I like doing the activities in Drama Club It is fun and I like to play the games. It makes me feel included. I did the play That's Not How I Remember It, I was in the ensemble, but I still had a great experience and everybody was nice. When I was younger, I was a butterfly in the high school production of Alice in Wonderland, that was kind of fun. I am going to audition for the play because I love acting and it's really fun.



6th grader Ella Martin

I have been going just this year. My favorite part is when they do the plays because it's pretty funny. I have never done a play here at OMS. I am more into watching movies, than watching plays. I am probably going to audition for the play this year.



HORSING AROUND

By: Isabella Spezia

HORSE RIDING is not that common of a sport. It is a challenging, yet exciting experience when getting on the horse to have a great ride. Horses have their own thing they want to do when riding and sometimes they be challenging. But, overall, riders love them with all their heart and always have good times with the horse they ride.

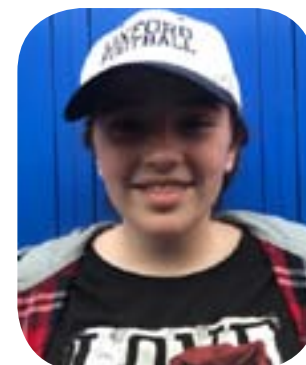


8th- Klaire Schienke

Klaire has been riding for 7 years. She does english style and does walk, trot, and canter at the Maria the trainer of the teams farm every week on Tuesday. Klaire has the hard chore of taking care of her horse Pago. She started getting into horseback riding because her grandma has always had horses, so she payed for Klaire's first horseback riding lesson when she was 6 years old and started to love it ever since. Klaire has 3 horses and wants more. One bad story Klaire has had while she was riding was when she was riding her old horse, Buddy bolted on her and bucked and she fell off on her back. Klaire said she has had many good rides and can't pick just one favorite story, but one good one was when she won the equestrian team competition. Her favorite part of it all is getting a connection to the horse and when you do it is pretty magical.



Laura has been riding horses since she was 8 years old. She started horseback riding because she had a true love of animals. So her parents signed her up for lessons through Parks and Rec and that wasn't good enough, so then she started doing it through Shenanigans and loved it ever since. One bad story she has is when she was going over a jump and did not make it. She fell and landed on the jump. Although, one good story she has was when she jumped her first straight pole which was a little bit elevated and made it. Laura's favorite part of horseback riding is connecting with the horse, because every horse has a different personality and makes them fun to be around and ride.



7th- Laura Morgan



6th- Mia Domer

Mia has been riding horses since she was in kindergarden. She is a hunter jumper at Shenanigans. She started to go into horseback riding when her cousins started riding too. One bad story Mia has was when a horse at her old barn did not like her at all. One good thing she has was when a horse at her barn she really loves and rides him all the time. The horse she rides is a Welsh Pony that is 13, and his name is Joey. Her favorite part of horseback riding is the teamwork because the horse has to work and let you tell them what to do while you do what you are supposed to do at the same time.

TACK UP. At Time Square Riding Academy, Emmet the horse was getting tacked up. Emmet is a 8 year old horse, thst does all of the stuff up to jumping.



TOUCHDOWN

By: Holden Jones

Football. Annually one of the most popular sports in America. American football is a sport loved by the U.S., however, there is a reason that football is really only a big deal in the United States. Football is an extremely confusing sport, due to the hundreds of different rules, plays, and formations. It also requires extensive practice with teammates, as the game requires teams to work together perfectly, everyone doing their job, to be successful. Not to mention that it is one of the most dangerous sports, as approximately 67,000 high-schoolers were concussed when playing football last year, according to Prevacus. However, football is also a very rewarding sport that always gives back exactly what you put in. Those who work hard at this sport and devote themselves to it can easily become very successful when playing and can easily find great joy in the fast-paced sport. This sport also greatly improves a person's overall physical and mental health, promotes a good work ethic, and promotes good teamwork skills when compared to other sports commonly played by children and teens, according to Major-League-Baseball.org. Overall, while football is a dangerous and difficult sport, it is one that we can all love and enjoy, whether you're on the field or off. It is greatly loved by its players, and has several incredible benefits for those who commit to the game. No matter what, football will remain as a sport that is loved by America, whether you play it professionally, for a school, or just enjoy watching it.

"Football is a very difficult sport when you first start playing it, but as you continue to play and begin to understand the game, it all becomes normal and it becomes pretty easy to play."

-Ben Bruski
8th Gold Quarterback

Being a full contact sport, football comes with several dangerous and terrifying moments that risk the safety of its players. To avoid this, nearly 1 million helmets are made and sold each year, according to Sports Business Journal, making this game possible to play without constant and serious injury. 8th grade center Luke Drautz stated, "Protection (like football helmets and shoulder pads) is very important in football because there can't be kids getting terribly hurt every time they play and constant injury just takes all the fun out of the game."



Being a leader is an extremely difficult thing, as it requires you to acquire the respect of those who you are leading and stay calm, cool, and collected when everyone else doesn't know what to do. That is the position that the quarterback of every team is put in, as they have to be the bridge between the coaches and the team. 8th grade gold quarterback Brody Moore said that, to him, being a leader "is just kind of a normal thing, as [he considers] himself a leader in just about everything." However, Moore, like all leaders must, understands that "everybody [on the team] looks up to [him], so [he] has to do [well] and do [his] job."



Practice makes perfect. This statement, while used for almost everything, rings true for every sport, especially for one as complicated and dangerous as football. Football is a fast-paced, yet complicated and dangerous sport that requires its players to have a complete understanding of the sport, as well as a perfected skill set that allows them to play their position. Due to this, practice becomes one of the most difficult and important parts of football. 7th grade tight-end Owen Pavlock stated that practice is important because "without practice you won't do well in games and you won't know what is happening on the field."



Football games have long been a fun thing for everyone at school, as players get to play in front of all of their friends and family, and those watching get to have fun with friends and watch their team play. However, for Oxford, the most popular game by far is the first home game, which we call the Back to School Bash. 6th student Katie Pill said that she enjoyed this game because "it was a lot of fun being with friends and the game was interesting, even though Oxford (7th grade Gold) lost."

GIRLS BASKETBALL #1

By: Courtney Unruh



The Oxford girl's seventh and eighth-grade basketball teams are both dominating the court. With the girls working hard every day at practice to make sure they can be the best of their ability. The reason why the girls basketball is a winning streak is by building a team bond, also by trusting each other to pass the ball and dribble the ball to go and make the shot. While their teammates and the crowd is cheering for them to shoot the ball into the basket.

How do the girls keep improving, the reason why the girls are so good is not just natural talent, but it requires a lot of practice with using teamwork and determination not just in practice but on the court as well. At practice, the girls first work on their shooting form to help them make as many baskets as possible during the game, after that they run drills and plays to help them in the upcoming games.

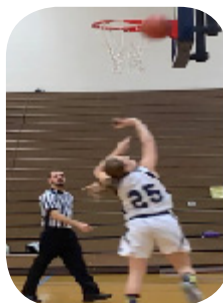
The reason why both teams are so skilled is by the girls practicing a lot and working with each other every day for the entire season and some of the girls have played together on teams in the past years which can give them an advantage for them knowing who can make the best three throws or layups compared to the other teams that may have only been playing together for that season. Also, the coaches, coach trotter, krane, disses, and collins work with the girls every day making drills to make them better than what they were the last game also coach trotter, krane, disses, and collins make the plays for the game to outsmart the other team. In addition to the coaches giving them support when playing in the games.



Ms. Roy an assistant coach, "one of the things I am really proud of is that the girls work hard together also that they really hustle it hard in every game they play".



Nadia Drobnych 7th grade student, "I am really proud of my team for winning all of our games and winning against the 7th grade blue team".



At the eight-grade gold basketball game Oxford against Waldon on October 1, In the first five minutes of the game, Abigail Snable dribbles up to the basket to make a layup by making that basket this set the pace for the girls to win 46 to 12 and carve out another win to defend their title of undefeated. Abigail Snable stated: "At this time I knew I needed to shoot the ball, by having a lot of practice the way I usually make my shots are by using the right timing and finding what works best for me in form-wise".

By Morgan Haynes

Going the Distance

Cross country is a running and racing sport in which teams of individuals run a race typically on grass or dirt. The course is typically 2.5–7.5 miles long. Cross country is both an individual and a team sport; runners are judged on individual times and teams by a points-scoring method. Both men and women of all ages compete in cross country, which usually takes place during autumn and winter. This season has been above average and leaving the team undefeated so far.



At Oxford Middle School on October 10th the cross contry team won the race and beat the Oxford Middle School record. "It feels really good to be on a team that is workings so hard and i hope that we can keep it up," Jacob Chounard said. 0



6th grader Bobby Chapa says that he is enjoying cross country so far. He said that he chose to do Cross Country this year "because I play other sports like soccer so doing cross country will help me with my running". And that he hopes that this year he will get better times for the mile run, Chap says that if he can he hopes that he will do cross country next year.



7th grader Henry Green says that he is really enjoying cross country this year. He says that he chose to do cross country because it's a really good after school sport. "I hope to achieve as a runner this year a better time than I did last year on the mile run," said Green.



8th grader Jacob Chounard says that he is enjoying cross country this year and hopefully he will be doing it next year. "I hope that by the end of the season I get 5 minuts on the mile run," said Chounard. He said that one of the best things he was exsited about cross country is see his friends.

Go Get Em Boys!!!!

Crossing the Country

Cross country

By: Brooke Mery

This year for cross country the Oxford boy and girl team is undefeated. The coaches for cross country are Coach Cady, Coach Oliver, and Coach Droblich. There are cross country practices after school every day, except if there is bad weather. In cross country you start with a eight minute work out then they run on the trails around the school. The cross country meets are in multiple scenic places in Michigan. There are different cross country levels like JV (Junior Varsity) and Varsity. Cross country requires hard-work and dedication for all the runners.



The Waterford Race was a two mile corse with hay stacks for the runners to climb. Just like other races it was a challenge. Even though it rained, the Oxford boy's and girl's team came in first place.



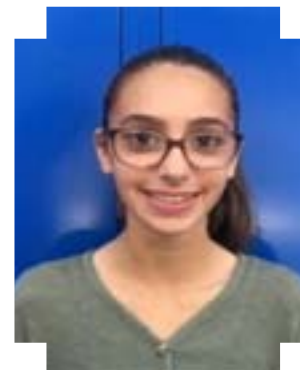
Marisa May 6th grader

Marisa's favorite part about cross country is "talking to my friends and doing a long run because its fun. I wanted to join cross country to try something new because I do two sports." I would recommend it to my friends and I would do it again next year.



Alexis Hobson 7th grader

My favorite part of "cross country is meeting different people because at the meets there are many schools and you see all the different people running. This is my first year running cross country and I consider it to be whatever you make it because if you push yourself then it's difficult but if you don't push yourself then it's pretty easy. I would recommend anyone to join."



Aubrey Mery 8th grader

My favorite part of "cross country is the meets because you get to hang out with friends and run in different places. I joined cross country because I knew it would be a challenge and I always like to run. I think it is hard but it's fun once you get the hang of it. This is my second year running cross country and I would recommend cross country to anyone who likes to run and I would like to do it next year."



A DANCE TEAM IN THE WORKS?

By: Taylor Derey

Dance, one of the most beautiful possibilities in the world, but dance is surely the most brilliant of them all. Wonderful, desirable, and indescribable. We have so many sports at OMS, but, don't you think there is something missing? Dance, dance is what is missing. As a realization, there are too many missing puzzle pieces at OMS and dance may be one of them.

6th grader Laural Bird is a cheerleader for OMS and a dancer. Bird was asked about how she would feel if OMS had a dance team. Bird responded saying that it would be fun and a fair chance for students to get better at dance and for easier transportation. Bird said, "I think it would be fun. Let's say that people can't go to a dance studio because it's very far and their parents can't do that travel because they work. So, they can just stay after school and pick them up."



7th grader Patience Lambert is a competitive dancer. Lambert was asked if there was a dance team at OMS would she want the team to be seasonal or all year round. Lambert said, "I would want the team to be seasonal so it won't take up all of our time as a competitive dancer."



7th grade teacher Ms. LaMagna teaches language arts and a 8th grade math class. However, Ms. LaMagna is also a former dancer. When Ms. LaMagna was asked if she would be interested in coaching a hypothetical dance team she responded, "I would consider coaching the dance team at the middle school. I currently coach a varsity level dance team. I grew up dancing and have college experience dancing. I think it would bring even more spirit to OMS".



The dance team at half time on September 27th, 2019 was performing at a home football varsity game and was amazing! OHS has a remarkable dance team, that has been running for many years, additionally, OHS's dance team has won over 5 awards in the past year along with dancing at every home varsity football game. 8th grader, Korinne Ihrke had been asked on her thoughts, Ihrke stated, "It was really cool to watch and was interesting when they were in sync."



Starting of the Year Right

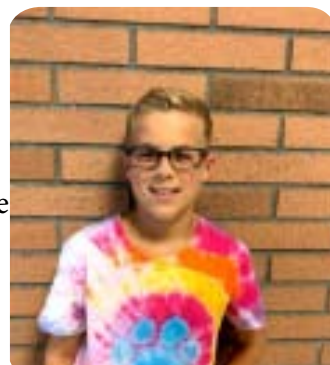
By: Delaney
Payne

Every school year starts different this year the middle school classes of 2026, 2025, and 2024. We are now two months to this school year and some many things including after school clubs and sports involving football, girls basketball, and cross country. Although there are sports there is also homework club most weekdays from two thirty to three thirty.



Starting the a new school year at Oxford Middle School. The beging of the school year is A big thing for 6th graders, and a fresh start for 7th and 8th graders . 8th grader Morgan Haynes say "I think the middle school i9s geat theres a verity of sports that peoples can do."

6th Evelyn Wells with the first day of school Evelyn wells thinks that "the middle school is a lot bigger and way different than the elementary school and theres so any more people." If I could describe my first day in one word I would say that I was nervous."

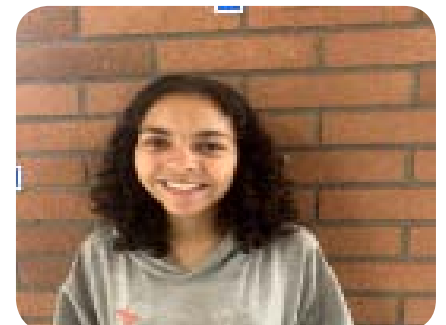


7th grader Hunter Wittebort says "This year's a lot different last year It's a lot harder. Last year it was a lot easier less homework and all my classes were in the same place. Now my classes are everywhere. But I'd that I wish I could have told myself to e on time and get my homework done on time.

Keep calm schools just starting:

If I could give some advice about Middle School I'd say try and make new friends because theirs so many people here at OMS, also try your best in all your classes to figure out what your good at.

8th grader Eulaijah Bass said if she could change one thing about school it is to not wake up so early. When asked why her favorite memories from middle school she said, "I think that it would have to be decorating my best friends locker, it was really fun and will never forget it". This ring only her second year at OMS she said that the teachers are really different and she noticed that the passing time music changed.



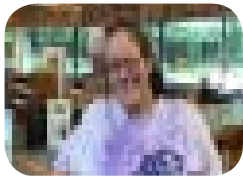


STUDENTS VS STAFF: MORNING ROUTINES

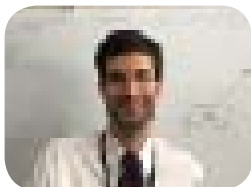


By: Ava Bailey and Paige Rushlow

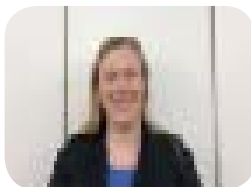
A middle school students' morning routine seems as if it would be unique from the staff that attend Oxford Middle School. However, after the results came in, we saw that students have more morning activities in common with teachers than we thought. It's realistic that teachers have more responsibility when getting ready, and on the other hand, many students tend to have a more casual easygoing morning routine. A typical morning routine for students and teachers would include waking up, getting ready, and eating breakfast. The times of these activities may vary from teachers and students, but these common tasks are always completed.



Dr. Willoughby, a librarian at OMS replied, "I get up in the morning around 6, and usually, if I have time to go to Tim Hortons, then I will try to go. If not, I will get dressed and carry on with my normal morning routine. Also, if my husband isn't taking my son to work, then I have to."



Mr. Tootalian, an algebra teacher, reported, "So, I tend to wake up at 6. Then, I shower, shave, get dressed, and feed my cat. I get my papers together, grab my water, grab my car keys and then head out the door to school."



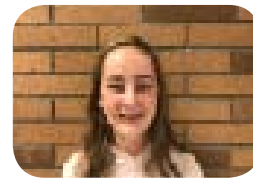
Mrs. Gibson, a language art teacher, stated, "I usually wake up around 5:45 and brush my teeth and do the normal getting ready routine. Then, I clean up dishes from the night before I get ready to leave for school."



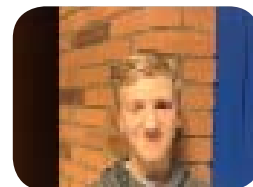
8th grader, Sam O'Herron, says lavender lotion is the one thing she always applies everyday at Oxford Middle School, for her skin care satisfaction. Waiting for 1st hour, Sam applies her lotion to keep her skin from becoming dry. Sam O'Herron stated, "I have my lotion routine because I like to hydrate my skin and keep it healthy."



Eyeing herself in the mirror, 8th grader, Bella Rushlow checks multiple times every morning to see if her appearance is good. It's a habit she has, where every day she monitors her look at 7:15 am every morning. Bella stated, "I check myself a lot because my hair sometimes gets out of place and I need to brush it."



8th grader, Addie Berger, stated, "In the morning, I wake up at 5:30 and I get dressed, brush my teeth, and then go down to eat breakfast. Lastly, I pack my lunch because I always forget to the night before and I rush to get into the car."



7th grader, Logan Sweeney, replied, "I wake up at 6:15 and I get dressed. I brush my teeth, then I get breakfast, and then I pack my things and get ready for the bus."



6th grader, Grace Gieseleman "I wake up at 5:30 and then I get dressed. I go downstairs to eat breakfast, brush my teeth, and do my hair. Next, I play with my dog, make my lunch and go to school."

Once the Bell Rings...

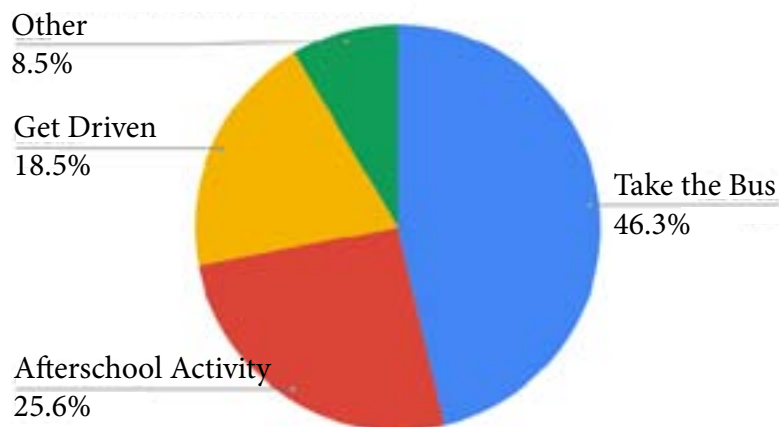
How do you get home from school? Does a parent take you home or do you walk home with some friends? Do you stay for an afterschool activity or do you have to catch the bus? To find out what students do, we went around and asked some students how they end their school days.

By Lucinda Haselton



When the last bell rings, students flood out of their classrooms to get to their lockers and head home. Around 1,000 students gather their things and load them into their backpacks. “I feel very relieved that I get to go home and sleep,” says Hayley-Kate Nelms.

How Students Get Home Afterschool



Ashlyn Lambert, a 6th grader, likes to walk home. “My mom picks me up or I walk with friends. [It takes about] ten minutes. [I go to] homework club, drama club and cheer. [I] go on my phone [at home and have] maybe two pages of math homework a night [...] due the next week.”



Andrew Maccalo, a 7th grader says, “My mom drives me home. [It takes] an hour? [At home] I watch Youtube or play on my PS4. [I get] like a page [of homework].”



Kaity Weiss, an 8th grader, gets picked up. “[It takes] like five minutes. I live really close. I play volleyball so I practice most of the days after school. [At home,] I just sit down and go on my phone, usually. I don’t really do a lot. [I get] maybe an hour or so worth [of homework], not a lot.”



We love Pets!

By: Victoria Smith

Pets are awesome to have, they keep you company, make you feel happy if you're feeling sad, and definitely keep you entertained. But pets are definitely a lot of work, and can sometimes be a little bit annoying. But we still love them!



6th grader Cheyenne Frank has a dog who is a white german shephard. She got her dog about a year and a half ago. She said they bought him all the way in Grand Rapids. She said that there are many things she loves about her dog, but she also said there were things that sometimes annoyed her, "Sometimes I think that he can be way too hyper," says Frank. Cheyenne also comments that her funniest moment was when her dog dragged her along on a walk, and said, "It felt like I was on a roller coaster," said Frank.



7th grade teacher Mrs. Brown has an adorable Pug named Roxy. She also has a few fish. Mrs. Brown has had Roxy for about 2 months now, and her fish for about 2 years. Mrs. Brown said she bought Roxy in Otisville, but she doesn't quite remember where she got her fish. One of the only thing that bothers Mrs. Brown is when Roxy takes things and doesn't give them back. Something Mrs. Brown finds a bit annoying about her fish is how often she has to clean their cage. But it was funny when she found a frog in ther cage.



Fish are the most common pet in the U.S



8th grader Kaylee Lang has 2 two pets she has a dog named Jeffrey, and a cat who's named Chesco! Kaylee has had her pets for over 4 years. Kaylee is actually allergic to pets but insists she has them. Kaylee says some things that annoy her is that they meow and bark in the middle of the night. But, on the other hand Kaylee does find it funny when her cat randomly runs down her hallway late at night, and the fact her dog sleeps all day!

According to worldatlas.com, freshwater fish are the most common pet in the U.S. They say that humans prefer to own fish because they are simple and fun. Fish are actually considered as decor to some people.



TASTES OF FALL



By: Gabi Wait

The crisp cold fall air on your nose. The leaves changing into bright reds, oranges and yellows and the smell of freshly baked donuts and cider are in the air. One of the many things that family do in fall is go to cider mills a tradition. The delicious warm donuts melt in your mouth and sweet sour cider washes it down. It is one of the many things to do when fall comes around and students of Oxford spend their time there.



6th grader Delany Mcgough Once in awhile goes to cider mills with her family,. She enjoys the taste of donuts and cider. Delany's favorite type of donut is the cinnamon sugar donut. She states, "They have more sugar and the plain ones are dry and tastes bland." She loves apple cider and adds on, "It's a better version of apple juice."



7th grader Molly Antoniou, likes going to cider mills in the fall when it's kinda cool out and when you have the cider and donuts that warm you up. She doesn't have a favorite type of donut. She says that, "They all taste really good." She also sometimes enjoys cider and adds, "It sometimes tastes bitter and I don't like it, but other times it's sweet and delicious." She has a favorite cider mill called Yates, "It's has this old feeling that makes it feel timeless," she says.



Sweet cider and dounuts is one of the many things sudents at OMS like to do during the fall; it's a sweet and delicious treat during the spooky holidays with their family's. According to the Yates website they opened in 1876 and have been open for 143 years. They also installed a turbine in 1894 which is 125 years old, that spins the cider and gives it that delicious taste till this very day. "It feels like fall is in the air," says 8th grader Jenna Miller.

8th grader Jenna Miller has an amazing time going to cider mills when she has some free time to eat delicious donuts with her family. Also, she likes the cider mill to enjoy this spooky season! She says, "I love all the great tasting donuts and that the cider tastes like fall and Halloween is not far behind!"



By: Ashlynn Redhage

When you hear “Pumpkin Spice” you normally would think of a drink that is popular in the fall season. But really, pumpkin spice is so much more than that. There are many different types of foods and drinks that use the pumpkin spice flavor in many awesome, delicious ways! Ice cream, donuts, coffee, candies, pies, cinnamon rolls, and so much more! Fueled by the success of Starbucks’ popular Pumpkin Spice Latte, the seasonal pumpkin-flavored trend is bigger than ever. Designed to get customers in the door to buy before the promotion (and autumn) ends, the strategy appears to be working (<https://cnb.cx/2nPc38U>). More people go to places like Starbucks and Tim Hortons during the fall because of the pumpkin spice flavors.



Sipping on her drink from Starbucks, Lea Rauh drinks a Pumpkin Spice Frappuccino. Lea Rauh goes to Starbucks at least once a month, and she normally doesn’t get pumpkin spice when she goes there, but she does get a Pink Drink or the Strawberry Acai Refresher with 2 pumps of raspberry. “I don’t get pumpkin spice flavored products from Starbucks because I am not sure if I like it,” says Rauh.



6th grader Maddie Weber doesn’t like pumpkin spice overall, she thinks that the flavor is gross, and thinks that the flavor of pumpkin spice is very overpraised and not as good as it seems. She prefers cinnamon apple over pumpkin spice. When asked what place is the most popular with pumpkin spice products, Weber says “Probably Starbucks because they have pumpkin spice lattes and stuff.”

7th grader Sylvia Lester does like the flavor of pumpkin spice. She does not think that the flavor of pumpkin spice is overpraised. She also agrees that Starbucks is the most popular place for pumpkin spice products. “I eat pumpkin spice muffins, normally twice near Halloween,” says Lester.

8th grader Julian Mayin has never had anything with the flavor of pumpkin spice, and has no interest in trying it. His favorite fall flavor is orange. He also believes that Starbucks is the most popular place to get pumpkin spice flavored products. “I think that pumpkin spice is a good fall flavor because fall has to do with pumpkins,” says Mayin.

Going Vegan

By Madison Mauser

Pros



Vegans are at reduced risk of serious illness. According to a 2015 study this diet protects against hypertension, type-2 diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. This plant based diet is very low in saturated fat, which results in vegans having lower cholesterol and lower blood pressure. The study even says the diet can reduce the risk of certain cancers.

By comparison, the farming of vegan-friendly plants requires fewer resources (land and water) than the production of typical western foods such as meat, poultry, and dairy. And cows produce more greenhouse gasses (methane) than plants do, which leads some to believe that eating vegan helps to reduce the risk of global warming.



With the vegan diet you commonly eat a large amount of plant based foods because they do not contain animal products. The interest in this diet has quadrupled in the past 5 years (www.vegansociety.com). "Our use of animals as a food production technology has brought us to the verge of catastrophe" the UN environment stated.

Cons



Vegan diets are lacking some important nutrients. The vegan diet can lack calcium, omega-3, vitamin B-12, fatty acids, and folate which are all present in meat and dairy. Going for a long period of time without these can result in problems, including the loss of muscle mass and bone.

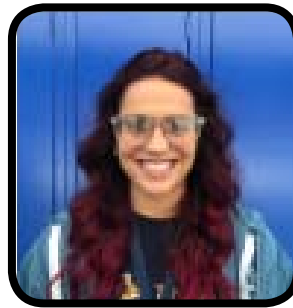
Vegans can lack protein. A healthy diet should incorporate some sort of protein in every meal. There are different sources of protein that vegans can substitute for but many are high in sodium and packed with preservatives.



Kyliegh Johnson, an 8th grader at OMS, stated, "I think I could go vegan and I think I might. I believe being vegan saves animals and helps the environment. If I were to go vegan a big challenge for me would be sticking to the diet."



Bella Franz, a 7th grader at OMS, said, "I think it's a very healthy lifestyle and that meat isn't always the best thing for you."



Mrs. Werner, an eighth grade teacher, exclaimed, "I currently am vegan and have found substitutes for all my favorite non-vegan foods. I believe this diet is healthy for both the body and the planet. I work with a registered dietician to ensure I'm varying my food sources to get the necessary nutrients."

In the end, the choice is yours. Your ideal diet depends on many factors and is probably very different from the people around you. When thinking about changing your diet it is definitely recommended talking to a specialist before hand.

All pros and cons information from www.self.com



Trick-or-Treat



By: Evelyn Sawdon

Superheroes, aliens and skeletons-oh my! Everyone enjoys giving or getting a little scare and getting a little candy. People all over the country love to dress up, set up, and get ready for Halloween. Either scary or happy, and sweet or salty, everyone enjoys hanging out with friends and family, getting candy from neighbors, and so many more fun things to kick off the holiday season. So, do you celebrate the holiday season with dressing up and getting candy on halloween?



8th grader

Bishop Dissmore told us that he goes trick-or-treating because he likes candy and because he gets to spend quality time with his family. He also said that he likes sweet candy and his favorite candy is jolly ranchers because it's easy to eat and the flavor is good. The last thing he told us was that he goes trick-or-treating with his siblings and his cousins.

7th grader

Madylynn Heller said that she trick-or-treats because she enjoys hanging out with her cousins. Also, that she goes trick-or-treating with her whole family in Oxford because that's where her grandma lives. She enjoys to eat sweet candies including Hershey bars because she doesn't like the sourness of other candies.



6th grader

Sophia Sawdon replied that she is being Alvin and the Chipmunks with her two friends Ayla Eberhard and Maia Brevik. She's being Alvin. Her and her friends are going trick-or-treating in Oxford as well because that's where one of her friends live. Her favorite candy is sour candy, unlike the other two. Her favorite candy is sour patch kids, the watermelon ones to be more specific. She enjoys trading candy with her friends to give away all the candy she doesn't like, and get more candies she does.

Chomp, crunch, crackle. Running around in our costumes collecting, trading and eating candy are exciting times that we all have experienced. According to <https://mobile-cuisine.com>, on average 600 million pounds of candy per year are bought in preparation of Halloween and 90 million of those pounds are chocolates. According to Jenna Christoff, Halloween is her favorite holiday because it lets her be creative with her costume.



COSTUME CREATIVITY



By: Lea Rauh

When you think of Halloween, what is the first thing you think of? Trick or treating, candy, pumpkins? How about costumes? There are so many different types of costumes to dress up as. You could dress scary, as your favorite character, a social group (nerds, jocks, vSCO girls, etc.), or many more awesome things. Stores such as Party City and Halloween City are packed at this time of year as parents and kids are rushing to find their favorite costumes before they are gone. What costumes are the most popular? Do more people like to dress up in scary costumes over a character from their favorite movie?



To trick or treat in the neighborhoods, 8th grader Sean Wilson was searching for the best costume for this Halloween. When 84 people were asked what type of costume they like better, 11 people said character costumes, 20 people said scary costumes, and 52 people said other (Like VSCO girls, a costume that is all one color, a person, etc.). "I like dressing up for Halloween because I can be creative and express myself through my costume," Wilson says.



6th grader Ava Sutherland would rather dress up as a character because she gets to go around and get candy from people. Her favorite characters to dress up as are the characters from the Wizard of Oz because that is her favorite movie. Her favorite thing about dressing up for Halloween is going trick or treating with her friends and having fun.

7th grader Patrick Wozniak would rather dress up scary because it looks cool and makes people jump. His favorite costume that he has worn is the cookie monster which he thought was very scary. His favorite about dressing up for Halloween is getting candy.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

8th grader Allison Lukens would rather dress up as a character because you can pretend to be that person and it is fun to be them for a whole day. Her favorite costumes that she has seen are group costumes and funny costumes. Some of her favorite group costumes are M&Ms, Winnie the Pooh, spongebob, and other movies and TV show characters. Her favorite thing about dressing up for Halloween is the fact that she gets to be someone else for a day rather than herself.



Haunted Decor



By Jenna Christoff

Halloween is amazing- guessing who is who in costumes, walking along the streets, the feel of more candy hitting your bucket. But, that is not all. In the anticipating weeks before Halloween, there is a popular activity that cultures love- decorating. Over the years, decorating for the holidays has become more popular, but especially for Halloween. People don't decorate just houses. Schools, stores, restaurants, and more places are currently included in the spooky season.



To see the decorations that hang down on the school gardens puts students in the Halloween spirit. According to Decor.com, over 50 percent of the population decorates for 65 percent of the holidays. "Seeing the decorations makes me think of how Halloween is getting so close, and how excited I am for it," says 8th grader Lily Nouman.



6th grader Evan Jergler decorates all out for Halloween. He decorates the most for this holiday. When asked why, he responded by saying, "I really think that the holiday is cool and fun to see what everyone else does., and my favorite part of what they do is seeing the lights they put up." He starts to decorate the week before Halloween and puts out mainly outside decorations. He decorates his yard and his house and doesn't decorate to a theme.



7th grader Ian Hutchins doesn't decorate all out for Halloween. He doesn't put up any decorations outside because no one comes down his street. Liam responded to the question of when would you start to decorate for Halloween saying, "I would decorate my house, and outdoors so people can see it, and I would start decorating a few weeks before Halloween." He decorates the most for Christmas and would decorate to the general theme of halloween if he could.



8th grader Haley Christensen decorates all out for Halloween, and she decorates the most for this holiday. She enjoys the decorating process, and starts early in September every year to decorate a lot, to the theme of fall. When asked where the decorations go, and what kinds are put up, Haley responded by saying, "The decorations we put up go on my house, and they are mostly indoor decor, but there is also outside, and the decor is pumpkins and skeletons."

HALLOWEEN MOVIES SPOOKY

Sami Jo Yocum

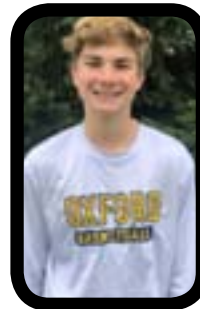
The holiday Halloween is the scariest time of the year, the time of haunted hayrides and scary costumes. Halloween is the time to go have scary night with feinds and family, but one of the best things about Halloween is getting cozy and watching a scary movie with the family. Halloween is a time for laughter, screams and treats.



6th grader Tyler Costigan loves watching scary movies especially on halloween. he stated, "there exciting, fun and scary they make my stomach turn to watch". his favorite scary movie is It but when asked "what your favorite Halloween movie is?" he could not choose, "I like them all" he answered. Lastly he ratherds watching a scary movie alone then with friends or family.



7th grader Gabe Gjokaj would rather watch a scary movie over a silly movie, Gabe's favorite scary movie to watch around the Halloween season is the Conjuring, Gabe also like to watch the movie with friends because "I think it's better and more fun to watch with friends" in closing Gabe loves a good fright on a very scary night.



8th grader Joey Bienash Enjoys watching scary movies, His favorite scary movie is halloween, he likes this movie because "this is my favorite scary movie because I like all the jump scares" Joey responds. Joey says the "watching scary movies without friends or family they boring because you have no one to get scared with". In short, Joey loves a good thrill and to spend time with friends and family.



OMS principal Mrs .Beazley is excited for the halloween season for the thrill of a classic scary movie, Mrs beazley loves to sit down with family and watch a good scary movie, she enjoys classic over a newer movie because "I like the classics because nothing beats a classic" she stated. But one of her favorite movies is Gremlins.



Spooky, horrifying, and filled with monsters, horror movies are the trend this fall for Halloween. but they are the best part of Halloween. When asked what her favorite horror movie was, Piper Garcia responded with, "The Visit is my favorite horror movie because its funny to me."

HALLOWEEN MOVIES

Goofy

By Anika Erskine



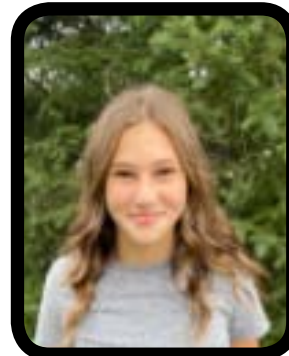
Boo! Halloween is usually thought of as scary, but it can also be goofy! From the fun and silly costumes to the sweet and salty treats, it's one of the best times of the year! Many students use this time to binge watch goofy Halloween movies. We took a look at three different grade levels from Oxford Middle School and a teacher to get their opinion about how they like to enjoy watching Halloween movies.



6th grader Tyler Williams. Enjoys watching goofy Halloween movies at night with his family. Tyler said that his favorite movie is "*The Nightmare Before Christmas* because it has good humor in it." He likes to eat Doritos while he watches it.



7th grader Ethan Kussner, like to watch goofy Halloween movies with his friends. He said that "*Hocus Pocus* is his favorite because it is funny." He enjoys spending the evening eating fruit snacks when he watches it.



8th grader Peytan Rivers, enjoys watching goofy Halloween movies at night. She says, "*Hocus Pocus* is one of my favorite Halloween movies because it has many funny moments." She likes to spend her nights enjoying candy and hanging with friends.



7th grade teacher, Mrs. Brown a blue math teacher, likes to watch goofy Halloween movies with her family because they are funny. "I like to watch *Casper the Friendly Ghost* at night while eating ice cream," stated Mrs. Brown



To the laughter and joy of watching goofy Halloween movies, OMS has many goofy Halloween movie watchers. An 8th grade blue science class was surveyed on their thoughts about goofy or scary movies, data shows that 26 students prefer to watch goofy Halloween movie and then 6 students rather watch spooky Halloween movies. 7th grader Ashley Burtch said, "My favorite Halloween movie is *The Nightmare Before Christmas* because the guy with the pumpkin head was trying to take over."



AREA 51

51



By: Lily Nouman

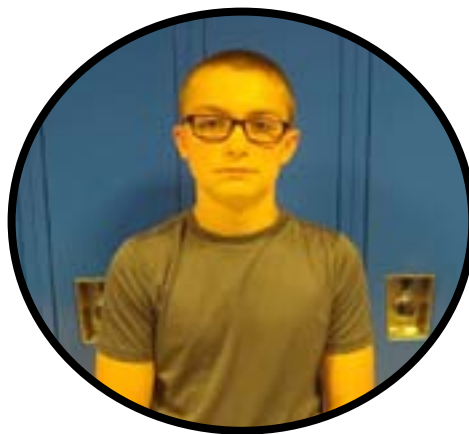
Many mysteries lay in Area 51. Area 51 is a place that is run by our government. There are many secrets that have never been told about Area 51. Are there aliens? What is the government hiding from us? Nobody is allowed back there, those who go in, usually don't come out. People from everywhere in the United States still question if the government is telling the truth.



Unbelievable area 51 stories are read by 8th grader Evelyn Sawdon. On September 20th, 2019, Area 51 in Nevada was raided because people wanted to know if aliens were actually back there. Over 2,000,000 people signed up to attend this event, but, only 150 people ended showing up. According to cnn.com there were 200 people that showed up. "The raid was not the smartest idea, there were better ways of handling it, but I am scared of why the government hides things from us." Sawdon said.



6th grader Jonah Forgaciu claims, "There are no aliens because there is no such thing, and because there hasn't been a sighting." Jonah says that it was not a very smart idea. He says few people took into consideration that going in could be fatal. Jonah knew it wasn't the smartest idea from the start. He feels that there are more important problems to focus on in the world, not figuring out if there are aliens.



7th grader Spencer Moore believes it was a smart idea because we would be able to know what is back in area 51. Spencer said if he could have gone, he would have because it would be a cool experience and it would be a lot of fun. He said that he would be willing to risk getting arrested, but he would try not to. "I think there are aliens because they won't let anyone into the area, so they must be hiding something."



8th grader Quinlan Johnson says, "The Area 51 raid was kind of a bust. Supposedly 2 million people were supposed to show up and only 200 people did, and nobody did anything." Quinlan thinks there are aliens because the universe is so huge that there has to be another form of life out there. He told us that since there was so much talk about when they were going to raid the area, the government most likely would have moved the aliens by then if they had any.

It's Time for Change

By: Landen Henery

“Your life does not get better by chance. Your life gets better by change.” - Jim Rohn



This quote is also true for communities. Oxford is a small community. However, even small communities have flaws. The only way to fix these flaws is to bring them to attention so that people can take action. From business to members of the community, change is needed. The time to make such changes would be now, though change can be good anytime.



Beautiful Downtown Oxford, a place in the center of the community, has been around since 1839, according to thevillageofoxford.com. With businesses, a park and restaurants, Oxford is a great place to hang out. “Oxford is really a great place to hang out. It has nice businesses and people,” 7th grader Heidi Ragainis says.



6th grader Robert Cabrera has lived in Oxford for 3 years. He loves living in Oxford because of the nice environment and people. However, he finds people can be very separated at times. Robert also said that the best way to solve this would be to have more opportunities in school to meet new people and develop bonds, like the recent “Hey Day”. This could be very beneficial for the community if you have the entire community come to an event to come together.

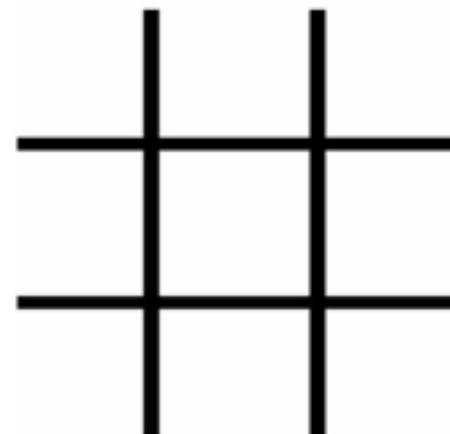
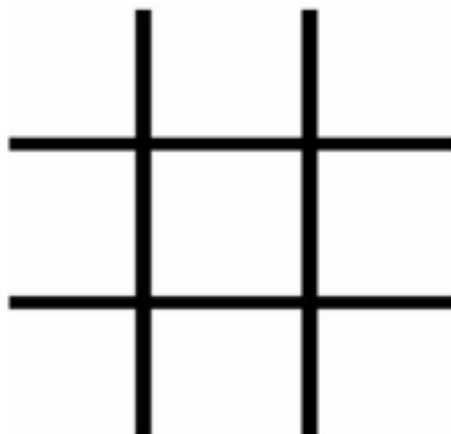
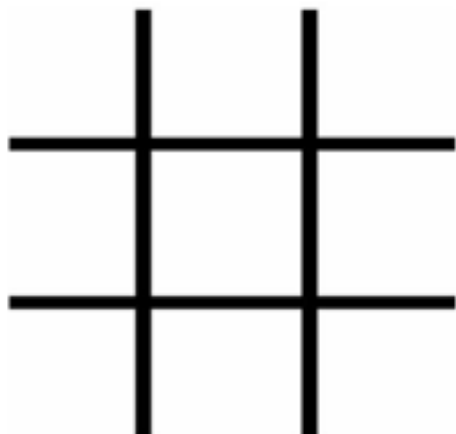


8th grader Anthony Palazzolo has lived in Oxford for 3 years. He enjoys living in Oxford because his family lives here. His grandmother tells him fun stories about Oxford, making him enjoy it more. Though he cannot think of anything bad about Oxford, Anthony says that he would change the kids. He doesn't like how the kids are aggressive, swear a lot and tease each other.

7th grader Brooklyn Zuk, who has lived in Oxford for 13 years, enjoys living in Oxford because there are good businesses and the scenery is nice in less built on places. However, she doesn't like that there is a lot of littering and she lives farther away from her other friends. She would like to visit friends more often and would like others to pick up trash. Brooklyn also mentioned she would personally clean up trash in the community. An idea to prevent the inability to see friends is to have a childrens public commute with certain rules and guidelines.



HALLOWEEN GAMES



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 Q T U S U M N O T E L E K S Y
 W A L D C A N D Y M M L Z A R
 B B C O S T U M E S D D F I A
 N R E T N A L O K C A J K J C
 R V A R T R E A T Z M F C L S
 G Y Y Z Z P E P U M P K I N X
 C E H U K C I T S M O O R B M
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 M R N E E W O L L A H N B N G
 A X I J Z L J C U S B Z Q Z O
 E R I P M A V U K R O Y F Y A
 R A Y Q I B N S S N N Y A D V
 C U H A U N T P S R E D I P S
 S K D E O R A N G E S B Z X Y

HALLOWEEN
 PUMPKIN
 FALL
 COSTUMES
 LEAVES
 ORANGE
 SCARY
 CANDY
 HAUNT
 BONES
 BROOMSTICK
 SKELETON
 SPIDERS
 SCREAM
 SKULL

VAMPIRE
 JACKOLANTERN
 TRICK
 TREAT
 BATS

