

The Spotlight

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Issue 7

Due to copyright infringement,
there is no song of the month

Check out our April Song
Of The Month!

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YOU Get An iPad, and YOU Get an iPad!

By Katoes Obviously

On the evening of March 16th, the school board finally voted yes to issuing a 9th-generation iPad to every high school student at Olmsted Falls. This idea has been a closely-guarded secret until the school board knew for a fact that the school's funds would be able to support it. You heard it here first: Starting next year, iPads will be coming to Olmsted Falls High School!

This decision was inspired by the toner shortage a little while back. The resources to make packets of paper are few and far between and are getting scarcer, but writing has proven to be more effective when it comes to learning. Along with the new iPads, the school board has decided to accompany every iPad with an Apple Pencil to continue the tradition of the written word, rather than typing. In the long run, this will save money on both paper, printing maintenance, ink, and toner.

The Apple Pencils will add a bit of extra unexpected funds, but it is quite necessary. In an article published by Fernanda Ibáñez with the Institute for the Future of Education, taking notes with a pencil is vastly more helpful than typing or using a tablet. In the experiment performed by the University of Tokyo (recapped by Ibáñez), they gave one group out of the three either a tablet, smartphone, or pencil. They were told to record events and schedule things on a calendar. When the groups were tested on the events that they scheduled, the group using the pencil performed the best. This aligns with the notion that handwriting improves memory.

The hippocampus is the little area in the brain that deals with memory. This

little area is located in both cerebral hemispheres of the brain, embedded in the temporal lobe. After this research experiment, some scientists believe that handwriting triggers this part of the brain more than the others. When you handwrite, you have to think about what you're writing longer than if you just breezed through these notes with typing.

Children these days are so used to typing that we don't even have to think about the buttons that we press on the keyboards anymore. We can type while looking up at the teacher, simultaneously taking notes as the teacher talks. This is no different than if you were to just listen to the teacher. Some students don't even look at the notes they took later, so that's yet another opportunity to not learn as well as the handwriting. At least you encode it better initially, even if you don't look at it again. Also, these notes would probably be more beneficial to you as you can draw arrows, charts, and other illustrations that would improve the learning process.

iPads in schools make the learning environment more fun. They're a piece of technology that most are familiar with and associate with fun more so than a laptop. In this article, they say that teachers were more enthused and motivated to teach when they had iPads at their disposal. Children were also more enthusiastic about school. There are many apps that can be developed and some that have already been developed that would help students with their learning as well.

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It's also a very good economical choice in the long run. Textbooks are so expensive, and you wouldn't have to pay for notebooks as well as printer ink and toner. You wouldn't have to pay for as many school supplies as well. Most iPad notetaking apps have colored pencils, highlighters, markers, and everything else you may need. Also, you could have ebooks as opposed to physical books. You could still annotate in the ebook, but you wouldn't have to carry it around. So not only is this a very good economical decision, but it's also a good decision when it comes to having back issues. Without textbooks, other books, and plenty of binders or folders filled with papers, iPads could save your back.

Olmsted Falls would like all of those who are opposed to knowing that everyone is still very much welcome to carry around their regular backpacks with everything they had before if they so wish. Most studies have shown that those who like to read prefer the physical copy of the book. With the lighter load as far as everything else, a couple of books won't make much of a difference. You're not required to use them, and they will be at a one-time fee of about \$127.78 at the beginning of the year. A three-hour class will be a requirement to receive one of these iPads.

Class Pets Make OFHS a Home Away From Home

By SirMa'am Gabagool and Mantha Poor (AKA Sam²)

Have you heard? OFHS has decided to implement a new policy in the building, one that will have a negative impact on all those with allergies—class pets are now mandatory for every classroom. This policy will commence in the 2023-24 school year, giving teachers plenty of time to rearrange their classrooms accordingly.

It is not said what animals will be acquired during the summer break, but rumors lead us to believe that there is a possibility that a bearded dragon, a mouse, a cat, and a horse may be in the running. There is, however, no guarantee of which animals will be in which classrooms. This is done on account of removing student bias when selecting their courses for next year.

Many concerns have been raised about this classroom pet policy, and with the help of our beloved principal Mr. Spagnola, we hope to quell those worries. We had the opportunity to sit down with him and really learn what this new policy will mean for the students.

Q: What brought about the creation of this classroom pet mandate? Are you for or against it?

A: In my first intro letter to parents and students three years ago, I expressed how I wanted to make OFHS a "home away from home" for the kids. I hope that by adding pets in the classrooms, the kids feel the same way I do. I am totally for this policy. And we're going to use a litany of pet choices, because not everyone is a dog or a cat person. [Do you have any pets?] I have no pets...I'm very busy...but I am definitely a dog person.

Q: What can a student expect when walking into class next year with this new policy?

A: A couple of things...a rotation of jobs—think back

to the elementary days where students are assigned certain classroom responsibilities...taking the pet out for restroom breaks, feeding, taking the pet home over the weekends or during extended breaks. Students will have to address the pet as part of the class, and need to respect the pet as one of their peers.

Q: What kind of school environment are you hoping to create with mandatory classroom pets?

A: Home away from home, again. An environment where students feel most comfortable in the classrooms, and an environment where students feel they can have some responsibilities and help establish routines for themselves, which are good life skills. [Will pets be in any other places in the buildings?] These pets will be in guidance and main offices as well, to help support our students if they are in trouble with an administrator or if the students need that extra layer of support for anything.

Q: What do you say to those who believe classroom pets are more of a distraction than a help?

A: I would say that they are way less of a distraction than cell phones. In the real world, people need to learn how to operate and focus in environments not conducive to a typical classroom. Classroom pets would help expand the students' exposure to different environments, like those in colleges or careers. Smells, noises, and distractions are going to help our students successfully approach the next phase of their lives.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to say about this new mandate?

A: I think it's a student-centered decision that will help us live our district motto to inspire students. By bringing all kinds of animals into the building, we will be fostering student learning and engagement. We are open to ideas—currently we have a pet store that has a couple

of pit vipers that they are thinking about donating, but we're trying to figure out the best way to do this safely. It would be fun and a learning experience for the students to observe how the vipers eat when it is time to feed them.

Mr. Spagnola urges students to keep an eye on their emails or on Twitter for a student survey. The survey will provide an opportunity for the students to voice their opinions on this new policy, especially with what classroom jobs should be considered (in regards to the pets) and ways to fairly rotate weekends and breaks. Our principal also says this may be an opportunity for students to request certain kinds of animals for classroom living.

Mr. Spagnola also hinted that classroom pets would be most ideal for student detentions. There are lots of cages and tanks to be cleaned, especially for classroom pets who cannot be transported home on the weekends.

Senior Samantha Poore has also dug up some details on this new policy that students who are attending OFHS next year will definitely want to know. She says, "Soon enough, dogs, lizards,

hamsters, turtles etc. will be roaming the halls and occupying classrooms. Rumor has it that parakeets will be flying through the halls as well! Do be aware of bird poop - the office will soon be selling umbrella hats for students to wear in the hallways during class changes (I highly recommend). In addition, the baseball diamond closest to the turnpike will be converted into a barn! The barn will house primarily horses as well as pigs, goats, and sheep. Instead of detentions, teachers have been instructed to issue shovels to misbehaving students who will then have to clean ALL the stalls of manure. How exhilarating! This project will be taking place over the summer ... the new turf field will now be delayed until 2026."

Samantha continues, "Unfortunately, for those that find animals to be an inconvenience, I'm truly sorry but your time as an Olmsted Falls Bulldog may be coming to an end. Neighboring districts such as Avon will be accepting new student applications, (but not Berea, for reasons explained in the next article)."

*Because of this policy, all classrooms with carpeting will undergo renovations to have tiled flooring to prevent any permanent stains from being made. Construction will occur over the summer between June 20th and August 19th.

Bye Bye Berea

By LE Phillips

Almost everyone knows that Olmsted Falls and Berea are fierce rivals. Berea has done many things to us, and we have done some back. We have the Battle of Bagley, which gets more ferocious every year. Berea has kidnapped Fishsticks (our real life bulldog) and held him for ransom. He was returned, but only after Mr. Spagnola gave them \$3,000. In retaliation, we hid the Battle of Bagley trophy, while it was theirs, and sent them clues to send them on a scavenger hunt to find it. It's no secret that we don't get along. However, the days of this rivalry are coming to an end.

In the past, Berea and Midpark were two different schools. They also had a rivalry, but one fateful day, they had to merge. Now the school is Berea-Midpark. Much like this event of the past, Berea-Midpark is merging again. Only this time, they're merging with us.

The new school Berea made was too expensive. It cost over fifty million dollars, and now Berea is broke, which is embarrassing. This is why we will have to merge. There will be upcoming events to decide on the name of our new school, new mascot, and to make anti-bullying posters. For our new school name some options that have been listed are Olmea-Midpark, Bermsted-Midpark, and Mid-Berea-Falls. It is also almost certain we will not stay the bulldogs. The two front runners for our

new mascots are Bill the Banana Slug and Mary Monkey.

It is also still being discussed where we will go. We both have brand new facilities that are in good shape. We may just combine into one school district. We could also move to their school, or them to ours. There is also a possibility of creating a whole new school. That option of course will raise taxes and student fees. We know this is a tough subject for some people, but we have to accept that this scary change is coming.

Some students from both schools have made complaints on Twitter. One student from here says, "they smell. like so bad. :(". Another writes, "they came to our student section last week and smelled like B.O. and feet!!!!" From Berea, people are also not thrilled. Their captain of the football team tweeted, "bro u gotta b kidding." Different students are ecstatic. One freshman tweeted, "YAY! IM SO EXCITED TO HUG AND HOLD HANDS WITH MY BF IN THE HALLWAYS <3" (little do they know about the new PDA policy).

This merge will be happening soon. By the end of the school year, decisions will be made. Let's have some bulldog pride and not bully the Berea kids!

Student Athletes Go En Pointe

By Aubrey Smleh

Attention all students: Following a board meeting that was conducted on March 30, 2022, ballet classes are now required for all student-athletes beginning the 2022-2023 school year. Along with passing at least five classes, each fall, winter, and/or spring athlete, including cheer, will have to participate in a ballet class at least four times a month in order to remain eligible for participation. The Marching Band and Golden Bullettes are excluded from this requirement. If you have any questions regarding this new requirement, you will soon be receiving an email from the Athletic Department with the full details on this new eligibility condition.

The required ballet classes can be taken as a team replacing part of practice or can be done before school individually. The morning classes will be available 7:30-8:00 a.m. every Monday-Friday. All classes will be

taking place in the high school's yoga room. It was decided that if a student takes ballet classes outside of school, they are exempt from the requirement as long as they get a waiver signed by their coach/dance teacher as proof of their participation.

The athletic department decided to require ballet for our student-athletes because it has been shown to improve flexibility, balance, agility, footwork, timing, coordination, along with increased leg and core strength. Ballet has also been proven to prevent injury and improve overall sports performance. The Athletic Department believes, "Our student-athletes will really benefit from this new requirement. I understand that some may be upset, but ballet has been proven to increase sports performance and overall health. I believe that this new requirement will be a great addition to Olmsted Falls Athletics."

PD-Nay

By Noah Barnyard

When I am just trying to walk to my next class, I see countless young couples showing their affection for each other in the hallway, cafeteria, corridors, even classrooms. This is called PDA. PDA stands for Public Displays of Affection, involving hugging, kissing, and holding hands in public. Frankly, I find this intensely irritating and disgusting. There is no need to be cuddling in the cafeteria at 8:00 in the morning. This being said, I understand a nice hug if someone is having a bad day, but students take this too far. These are not things that should be happening in a school environment in front of peers and authority figures.

Because of this, all PDA is being banned throughout the entire school district. Being put into effect immediately, physical contact between students is not permitted at all. Even hand-holding is forbidden. This is a serious issue in the hallway and even in classrooms, it impedes the learning of all students. Most people are

thankful for this new rule. When asked about how he feels about PDA in the school, senior Bryen Kilbane says, "Gross!" To combat this issue, the administration has decided that teachers will stand in the hallway between class periods and give out detentions to all students holding hands or participating in any PDA. If a student is caught more than twice, there will be a call home explaining the situation. I'm not sure about you guys, but my parents would not be very happy if they heard I was more focused on my significant other rather than doing some actual learning. If there is yet another offense, the said student will be suspended for three days and be responsible for making up the missed work in that time period.

My peers and I can only hope that this new rule will help make school a more comfortable environment. It may be nice to be able to walk down the hall without having to witness the horrid sights of young love for once.

School Hero Wyatt Hensley Gets His Big Break

Noah Barnyard

I think it's safe to say everyone knows our very own comedic genius on the morning announcements is Wyatt Hensley. With daily jokes panning from Batman impressions to academic puns that will make anyone chuckle, Wyatt really can do it all. While I'm sure the entire high school (both students and staff) absolutely loves his jokes, they will be no more. He has caught the attention of the local news channel WCNP. Wyatt is being scouted to do the morning news updates every

day for them and therefore cannot do our announcements any longer.

The school is so proud of Wyatt for his future endeavors in the world of broadcasting. His unpaid job will include waking up inhumanely early to drive to Cleveland every day at 5:30, say an up-to ten minute morning news update, speed to get back to school on time, and still manage to miss half of first period.

Block Schedule

By Harry Styles Enthusiast

As you may remember, when we were fully remote last year due to Covid, we operated on a block schedule where classes were longer but we only had 4 classes every day. During that block schedule, we had an hour break in the middle of the day to eat lunch and to get help from teachers. That hour lunch break was in addition to the normal scheduled lunch. So with that, some kids got two hours off in the middle of the day. What a dream!

The students of Olmsted Falls City School District have used their voices for good and have brought back the block schedule. Starting next school year, we will have 4 classes that are 80 minutes long with a 1 hour break in the middle of the day. This hour break can be used for clubs to meet, students to eat lunch, getting additional help from a teacher, or whatever your heart desires! Schools like St. Joes, St. Ed's, and North Olmsted have already implemented the block schedule for years now, and it is shown to improve group morale.

All students have the break at the same time, so kids are able to see all of their friends and have enough time to fit in some peer tutoring if needed. Plus, this hour break could eliminate the need for Early Bird classes! Why would you have to come into school early when your class could be during part of your off hour?!

I asked a few students their thoughts on the new schedule and the responses were overwhelmingly positive! Junior Sammy Hall says, "I can't wait to be able to have my mid-afternoon nap not interrupted by classes!" They're always saying kids don't get enough sleep; this is perfect for our tired kids. Freshman Sofia Brkich is also in favor of the block schedule: "We 100% need it. When I lived in Jowrsey with my dowe Armadillo, a yorkie, ol the kids loved it." (Please read in her famous New Jersey accent.)

The positive response from our student body has shown Mr. Spagnola that he made the correct choice. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Jenny at 440-867-5309.

Media Center Renovations: Pt. 358,926,370

By Guthy Abbrey

Recently, the administration at the high school has become concerned that students are not using the Media Center for its intended purposes of studying and doing homework. The Media Center has become too popular as a place of relaxation and fun, so the administration has decided to remodel it for a second time. The plan is to split the Media Center in half and turn it into two different classrooms that will be strictly monitored study halls. Although students use the fishbowls for group work or occasional quiet study areas, the school has decided to remove these fishbowls to make room for the silent study halls. These study halls will be more strictly monitored than before to make sure the students are actually studying or at least doing something productive during that 46-minute time frame. Cell phones and all electronic devices will be confiscated at the beginning of the period. Students will have to fill-out paper forms explaining how they plan to use their time, and automatic detentions will be given to any students who do not follow through with their work for the period. There will be strict rules against doodling, sleeping, and talking.

Now you may have a few questions. Many students are asking about the most recent remodel, wondering, "Wasn't it the whole point to make the Media Center a more popular spot for students to relax and study?" The administration isn't above admitting a mistake, and they

are the first to admit that they made a mistake when they planned for this relaxing atmosphere. They strongly believe that students need to be forced into productivity. Another question you may have is, "Will the other study halls be strictly monitored as well?" The administration has decided that the teachers who are in charge of the classroom study halls will decide whether or not they would like it to be as strict as the new study halls in the Media Center.

Now you may also be thinking this isn't really fair and who will be put into which study hall. The teachers who already monitor our study halls have a good idea of the students who are normally productive and who are not always productive. The school will put all of the students who aren't productive into the strictly monitored study hall. As for the students who are productive, they will be allowed to stay in the regular study hall.

The administration isn't really open to questions or concerns, but if you would like to express your opinion on this new Media Center policy, feel free to try. Just know that if you question authority, you will likely find yourself placed in the Media Center study halls next year.

New School Uniform Policy

By Hadles Luvs Sandals

Among many changes coming to OFHS, the Board of Education has officially approved one of the most controversial changes to date. Every student attending Olmsted Falls High School will be required to wear a school uniform. This policy will officially begin the first day back after spring break.

The decision to initiate uniforms was a result of severe rebellion against the dress code by freshman and sophomore students. In order to prevent further stray from the current rules, all students will be required to wear school-issued uniforms. To ensure a uniform that will be appropriate for school while still allowing students to be comfortable, a slightly unconventional outfit has been put together. Students will have the choice between bright yellow dress pants and long yellow skirts that reach the ankle. However, only one shirt option is available to

students: a tie-dye yellow and blue tee-shirt with a picture of our beloved principal Mr. Spagnola on the front.

The administrators have also decided to drop the temperatures in the school by 10° from the usual temps. This is to ensure that students remain awake and alert in classes, as they will likely be too cold in their tee-shirts to be drowsy or fall asleep. Failure to comply with the new uniform policy will result in immediate expulsion. Students must wear school-approved clothing whenever they enter the building, and this policy is non-negotiable. However, the board did make one small change to the issue before approving it: If any student refuses to wear their uniform for a truly valid reason (and has discussed this with the administration), they will be encouraged to attend in their middle-school gym uniform.



Word Search

By Harry Styles Enthusiast

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|----------|----------|
| Baseball | Sunshine |
| Cleaning | Warm |
| Flowers | Green |
| New | Sports |
| Rain | Spring |

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