



School Organizations and Groups

By: Chloe Kidder

OMS has so many cool, interesting, and fun clubs you can join. I want to share the many facets of each, so you will know how to sign up to join. I will also discuss how they work and the requirements for each club.

The first organization I'll be talking about is **FCCLA**. The advisor is Miss Vannest. The purpose of FCCLA is to help build leadership skills and develop an opportunity for community service and help build stronger partnerships. Joining FCCLA is a simple process. You have to be a part of one of Miss Vannest's classes, or have had one of her classes in the past. If you meet one of those requirements, you are eligible to join in the fun, informative events of the year!

The projects that you'll be doing in FCCLA are many. Future projects include operating a coffee house, which gives the students the chance to order coffee, hot chocolate and more. Also there will be Fall Leadership training, District meetings, National Cluster Meetings, and dances.

The next club is **Academic Challenge**, which has Mrs. Ritchey as the advisor. Academic Challenge is a middle school quiz team that encourages students to participate in fun, challenging, and competitive team events.

Study, practice, and competition focuses on academic subject areas such as Science, Social Studies, Math, Literature, and current events.

Competitions are team events where teams from different schools compete against each other by answering questions covering a variety of subject matter.

Students interested in becoming a member must try out. There will be five teams comprised of four to five members each. There will be team practices every Thursday after school.

Another club you can be a part of is **ADIOS (Against Drugs in Ontario Schools)**. Mrs. Nagel is the advisor. ADIOS was created to help promote the drug free message at OMS, as well as Stingel Elementary and the High School.

ADIOS gives students the opportunity to build connections with others who are also making good choices. It is easy to join ADIOS. As a middle school student, all you need to do is come to their meetings held on Tuesdays at 7:15 a.m. in the school auditorium.

Some events that ADIOS puts on are Drug Free Month, and Red Ribbon Month. These events focus on the idea of a drug free message in our school and our community.

Student Council is the last group I will discuss. Mrs. Stover and Miss Vannest are the co-advisors. The purpose of student council is to lead and be an advocate for the student body. The council serves the school and its community by sponsoring activities that build school morale.

To run for Student Council you must fill out an application and campaign for one of the available seats. Elections are held in September where each

Student Council continued...

grade level votes on the individuals they want to represent them. Upcoming events include the following; Thanksgiving Door Decorating Contest, and the bake sale at the Lions Pancake Breakfast.

I hope all of you take these wonderful clubs into consideration and check them out. Go to their meetings you might find one that you really love.

What Motivates People to Run For Office?

By: Maddie Yeager and Madi Male

Have you ever wondered why some individuals ran for office? We have too. To answer that question we decided we would interview some of our own middle school students to learn why they decided to run for Student Council. What follows are what a few had to say about their personal motives.

Past members of Student Council reelected again this year stated they were excited to start the year off with new members. We talked to most members and all gave good reasons. They want to help out the school by making it safe and more welcoming. 8th grader Owen Vick said, "It would be fun to help the school." Another 8th grader Ariel Hookey told us, "She is going to be there when people need help and make people feel like they are welcome." 7th grader Ava Ruhe explained that she is excited about planning events the school and kids would enjoy. Josh Young said that he is going to be a great student council member.

New Staff at OMS

By: Madison Male and Madalynn Yeager

This year we have two new teachers joining Ontario Middle School. We have a new 7th grade math teacher and a new high school/middle school band teacher. The math teacher's name is Mrs. Basham and the band teacher's name is Mr. Delong.

Mrs. Basham is married to her husband Doug Basham. She has a daughter named Ashley that is 18 years old and a freshman in college. She also has a son named Austin who is a sophomore in high school.

Mrs. Basham is a graduate of Mansfield Christian High School. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education at Mount Vernon Nazarene University. After college, she taught math at Lexington High School for 19 years.

She has lived in Mansfield her entire life. Her favorite hobbies are to lay on the beach in Siesta Keys, Florida; she also loves everything at Disney.

Mrs. Basham's favorite sports are volleyball and basketball. Her favorite basketball team is the Lakers and her favorite football team is Notre Dame. She loves Mexican food and anything chocolate.

A Walk to Remember is her favorite movie and *Women's Mystery Club* is her favorite book or any book by James Patterson. She has a dog named Dexter and she describes it as looking like the dog from Wizard of Oz. Please welcome Mrs. Basham to the OMS family.

The staff was unable to obtain Mr. Delong's background information.

What Type of School Do You Prefer?

By: Sterling Baumgardner

Most students attend public schools, but private and homeschool percentages are going up and up.

Homeschooling is a progressive movement around the country and the world in which parents choose to educate their children at home instead of sending them to a traditional public or private school. These days, in the modern era of computers and technology, many homeschools use a laptop or computer to learn. The U.S Department of Education estimates that approximately 1,770,000 students are homeschooled in the United States. One example of a home school is K-12 homeschool.

Private schools are schools supported by a private organization or private individuals rather than by the government. A local private school, The Discovery

What Type of School Do You Prefer? continued...

School is just one of 30,861 private schools that are in the U.S.; 5.3 million kids are estimated to go to private schools.

Public schools are schools supported by public funds. This type of school reigns superior with most of the school age children. A public school accepts all children that are in that city or county. The U.S Department of Education estimates that about 91% of school kids go to a public school. An example of a public school is the one you are reading this at!

OMS students had mixed feelings on which kind of school they would go to. Grace Habinek, 7th grade student states, "I would rather go to a public school like Ontario because you can meet people and make friends." Owen Vick in 8th grade says, "I would go to a public school because it's more fun!"

Others, however, would prefer homeschooling over public school. 7th grade student Gina Smith said, "I want to go to a homeschool because I would get to learn in my pajamas and be comfy."

Many people have different opinions on what or where they would like to go as I am sure each reader has their personal preference. Source: U.S. Department of Education.

Drug Use: A Concern?

By Madison Male and Madalynn Yeager

With all the news lately about drug addiction and overdosing, we thought it would be interesting to look more closely at this topic. We learned that 90% of Americans with a substance abuse problem started smoking, drinking, or using drugs before the age of 18. In the United States about 42,000 people die each year from second-hand smoke.

We were wondering if any of the students attending OMS ever faced the decision of using drugs. We asked a variety of students attending OMS if they had ever been approached by other kids or adults asking them to do drugs. The majority said no, but sadly 7 students said they had been asked. One student said that he was asked to do

drugs while walking in his neighborhood but he said no and walked away. Another girl was stopped by a grown man while she was walking around with her friends and asked if she wanted to buy any drugs. She responded that she was not interested and thankfully made it home safely. This is a growing issue in schools throughout our nation and we would like to see it end.

We are fortunate at Ontario to have Mrs. Nagel. She is our Drug and Alcohol Coordinator. She is the advisor for the ADIOS program. ADIOS is an acronym that stands for Against Drugs In Ontario Schools. It is designed to educate students about the many dangers of drugs.

We talked to Officer Adam Gongwer, Ontario's School Resource Officer, about the most common drugs and how often they are found in the school districts and he said the number one drug that is found in schools is tobacco and e-cigarettes. The number two drug is marijuana. Marijuana is not as common as tobacco. He also stated, "We have one incident every couple months."

We hope with all the resources the students attending Ontario have they will continue making wise decisions about using drugs and JUST SAY NO!!

First Dance of 2016-2017

By Isaac David and Addi Kissinger

Miss Vannest and some students from her classes put on a fantastic dance on September 30th. FCCLA sponsored this dance so students can have a time to have fun together and get away from school related topics.

This was the first opportunity for 6th grade students to attend a dance at the middle school. After interviewing some, we would have to say it was a success. Following are some responses from some 6th grade students. Kyla Spencer and Matthew Male said, "The dance was great and I would totally go again!" Logan Harriman said, "The only thing I would change is the amount of food. I was hungry throughout the dance, but it was all gone."

First Dance of 2016-2017 continued ...

We asked some students what were their most and least favorite things about the dance. “My least favorite would have to be the music” said Adrienne Kearns and Alexis Shaver. Jacob Fidler stated, “I wouldn’t change anything. It was great and I really enjoyed it.” Logan Harriman added, “I enjoyed the dancing and I thought that was really fun!”

The money raised will help with expenses when FCCLA students travel to Orlando, Florida. All-in-all the dance was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who came.

Poetry Submission

Fall

~ By Cameron Guegold

Fall is beautiful full of colors
Leaves are changing from pink to red
Flowers dying full of colors
Nights cool down in autumn beds

Views are amazing
Painted skies
Leaves are changing
Sunsets fly

Cozy sweatshirts
Hot bonfires
Toasty marshmallows
Goopy s’mores

Apples ripen
Crunchy, crispy, sweet and tasty
Apple pie fresh from the oven
Wafting from the open oven donuts, pies, rolls, and more

Thanksgiving is just around the corner
Pies, turkey, beans, and sugar
Thanksgiving dinner is almost over
Looks like snow around the corner

Snow flies, fall is over
Fall is ended beautiful fall

Creepy Clowns

By: Renee Hookey and Chloe Kidder

In 2014 a poll was taken about how people felt about clowns. The data indicated that 43% of Americans “don’t like” clowns. More recently the 2015 Chapman University Survey of American Fears found that clowns were a cause of significant anxiety for 6.8 million Americans.

Recently, there have been really creepy clowns running around. I’m sure most, if not all, of you have heard about these incidents. It started in the Carolinas and ended up with sightings all over the USA. Some of the places the clowns have been sighted are Connecticut, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Wisconsin, California, and even Canada!

Most people have seen them in the woods or on the street. One nine-year old was cut by a clown at his mobile home. “A 14-year old boy in Columbus, Ohio said he was chased by a person in a clown mask. On September 5, 2016 two children in Winston-Salem, N.C., claimed a clown offered them candy, as long as they would follow him to the woods. Later that night, a woman in the area claimed that a clown tried to coax her into the woods, except this one was carrying a machete. He wore black gloves and a black tie.” wrote Jon Thompson.

Since August people have been saying they have seen clowns, but not all reports are found to be factual. It has gotten so out of hand that some people are going looking clowns. For example, on October 4, at 10:15, a bunch of Penn State students sparked a riot and flooded the campus and downtown streets with hundreds of students. The news spread like wild fire. Across the internet were videos of 6,000 students chanting and running down the streets. Some students carried tennis

Creepy Clowns continued ...

rackets, lacrosse sticks, and baseball bats as they plowed through areas just to spot clowns. One has to think, what will happen when some teenager will go out and try to scare someone just for the “fun of it”, but they pick the wrong person and end up being killed?

Every day you turn on the tv and you see clowns. On your phone you see clown videos and news articles, much like this one.

A lot of people are wondering what is behind this fad? We feel social media has played a major role in this craze. Our research found in 2013 the “Northampton Clown” was first photographed holding balloons. The picture quickly became viral and people were starting to wonder who the clown really was. Luckily the clown was unmasked and was revealed to be a local film maker, Alex Powell, who was also a part of the Northampton clown Facebook page.

The man claimed to get the idea from Stephen King’s famous movie *IT* and his costume was similar to the character Pennywise. He became an internet and worldwide sensation that thrived on the fear of adults and children everywhere.

Let’s hope that we have seen the last of the Creepy Clown craze, but as we know it won’t be long before something else comes along.

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