

A guide to Okemos clubs and groups

Abdel Mukhtar

Staff Reporter

Each year, students miss out on joining a club due to a lack of knowledge or just lack of initiative. Clubs are an opportunity for students to create a community around a subject or hobby and make new friends. You don't even have to know anything about the clubs. Most of the OHS clubs are extremely welcoming and will gladly teach you about the club or subject.

If you like the great outdoors, there are clubs out there just for you.

The Oceanography Club is where you can learn about the ocean and large bodies of water. The Oceanography Club was intentionally created for students who wanted to compete in the National Ocean Science Bowl competition. While some students still compete, it's not mandatory for all. Members of the Oceanography Club provide snacks, too.

If the ocean isn't something you're interested in you could try

Earth Club where you can make use of the OHS greenhouse. The greenhouse is chockful of plants. Earth Club even has some fish tanks and a native Michigan garden out front of the greenhouse. The club was created in the '80s in the pursuit of creating a green school.

Bass Fishing Club is a new club this year. As the name suggests it involves bass fishing, but it's not just limited to that. While some students prefer having an ecological impact, other students prefer to have more of a social impact. And for those students, I'd suggest a club like The Black Student Union (BSU), the Muslim Student Association (MSA) or Prism. Contrary to popular belief, you don't have to be black, Muslim or LGBTQ to join these clubs. They are open and are just looking to converse on social problems while also eating some snacks. The Asian Club has a similar premise but focuses on an exploration of Asian culture.

Another genre of clubs is groups of students who volunteer. ACTION is all about volunteering with such events as playing with kids, setting up drives and fundraisers and also visiting the senior citizen center.

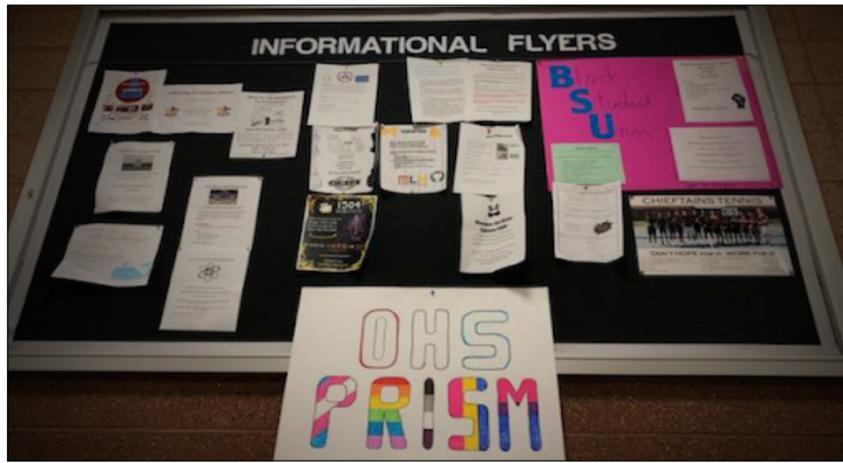


Photo by Angela Demas

The club bulletin board outside the main office has flyers and information about many clubs at OHS

The Key Club does similar things, but they focus more on children. For the intellectuals out there, OHS has STEM clubs such as Robotics Club and Solar Racing Club. With Robotics, you build a robot and take to competitions and perform simple tasks like some sort of cyber Olympics. The Solar Racing Club involves both building and driving

a solar racecar. In addition to that, they need people to create media such as photos and videos but you'd have to ask the club advisor about that.

Besides STEM clubs, there are other academic clubs like Chess Club, Quiz Bowl and Debate. The Chess Club is inherently about playing chess. Chess is an en-

tertaining competitive game that anyone can learn if they really want to, so don't overthink it. If chess piques your interest at all, go for it. Another academic club is Quiz Bowl, which involves going to Jeopardy-like competitions where you have to know all about trivia. Debate Club also involves academic competitions, but it's

all about the art of debate and fine-tuning your skills at arguing. There are also entertainment clubs such as the Smash Club, Drama Club, Chance to Dance, and the Media Club. The Smash Club was created last year. They are a group of students who play the game Smash Bros.

The Theatre Club for students interested in learning about theatre. There's also the Ghostlight Productions which is the club that deals with all the background lighting and audio of OHS' plays and other events.

Chance to Dance is more of a dance group than a club. They perform at the football games and practice in the gymnasium.

The Media Club films the FLEX videos, and they also film all the school events. No matter your interests, there's likely a club for you. If one doesn't exist yet, you can create it yourself by getting a group of students together, finding an advisor and contacting the office. The number of clubs I didn't mention is extensive. If you want to see them all, there's a list on the Okemos Public Schools website.

Tips and tricks for strong college application essays

Abby Bradley

Web Editor

The due date for college applications is approaching sooner than you might think. Applications for regular decision are due between Jan. and Feb. 1 depending on the college. If you want to apply early, applications are due Nov. 1.

Early decision is different than early action. For both, you should have your application in by the Nov. 1 deadline but early decision tells the college that you will definitely be attending that school if you are accepted.

Early action just allows you to know if the college has accepted you at an earlier date. Do not apply for early decision if you are not 100 percent set on going to that school.

Here are some tips to help you turn in the best application as possible.

The writing portion of your application is extremely important. Everything you write should be proofread and well thought out. The following tips were provided by Mindy Patnoudé (English).

Implicitly portray the meaning of your essay. Make your story clearly express your meaning. Don't tell the audience how you are feeling or others' personality traits, show them by actions or other descriptions.

During FLEX on Oct. 10, 17 and 24, counselors will be available to help you with your application in the guidance office.

Applications will ask you about any possible detentions, Saturday schools or any issues with the police that you may have had.

"If you have some sort of discipline, then just talk to your counselor about how to word it and kind of how to address it," Cori Akers

(Counseling) said.

You also need to be honest about the classes that you take. If you change your schedule after you submit your application to your colleges, then you must inform them.

Most colleges require teacher recommendations. Ideally, you should have two teachers write you a letter.

Teacher recommendations are due on Nov. 1 as well, so you should ask your teachers and fill out the brag sheets that were emailed to you as soon as possible.

"The college really wants to know how you are in the classroom," Akers said.

The teachers who you had your junior year and liked you are the best option because they will remember how you were in class the best.

Teacher recommendation letters are due by Halloween so make sure to ask your teachers as soon as possible because some teachers can

take up to four weeks to finish them.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) allows you or your parents want to see what is submitted on your behalf.

"Colleges sometimes prefer if you do waive your [FERPA] right because they know that your recommenders are being completely honest and aren't like writing nice things just because they don't want you to be mad at them, but because you are a lovely person," Akers said.

Teachers may not be comfortable if they know that you are going to read what they wrote. You can also assign teachers to different colleges, but they can only write one letter each.

Make sure that you write your teachers a thank you note.

Do not hesitate to ask your counselors for help. Shoot them a quick email or stop by the guidance office at any time. Good luck on your applications! Happy applying!

Points to remember while writing:

- ✍ Only have one or two people revise your essay, so your voice will not fade out. Use vivid verbs and specific nouns.
- ✍ Put your reader into a movie or a picture. Try starting in the middle of the action of the story.
- ✍ Make the story come full circle. Connect the end of the story to the beginning. Don't straight up tell the audience what your meaning is or what you learned.
- ✍ Use dialogue between characters and internal dialogue.
- ✍ Avoid using the word "said". Use stronger tags.
- ✍ Make sure that you proofread everything that you write. Pay attention to capitalization. All places in your application that require writing are important.

New teachers for science and resource at OHS

Ashleigh Weiszbrod

Staff Reporter

With the retirement of many teachers and staff last year, OHS is welcoming new staff members this year.

In the fall of 2019, four new teacher positions have been filled. The positions filled were in OHS' Science and Resource departments.

While many students have al-

ready experienced day to day life with some of these teachers, here is an introduction of them to you.

The OHS science department welcomed three new staff members this year.

Laura Bell (Science) teaches biology and physical science at OHS. This is Bell's 15th year teaching. She previously taught at Stockbridge junior/senior high school, Mattawan High School and at Otsu City Board of Education in Japan.

Bell went to MSU to earn her degrees. Bell lives in Okemos with her husband and two children. Bell

is the advisor for the Earth Club and encourages students to join her in her classroom every Tuesday after school. Bell can be found teaching in room C125.

Alexandria Williams (Science) teaches Physical and Advanced Earth Science at OHS. This is Williams' 8th year teaching. Previously Williams taught math and science at Delton Kellogg High School for five years, as well as teaching Astronomy, Physics and Earth Science for two years at Loy Norrix High School in Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Williams and her husband are new to the Lansing area and enjoy hiking and being outdoors. Williams can be found teaching in room C120.

Christina Abbott (Science) teaches Physical Science and General Chemistry at OHS. This is Abbott's second year teaching. Abbott previously taught at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Lansing.

Abbott worked an internship at Chippewa Middle School under science teacher Kim Ward. Born in Michigan, Abbott went to Saint Thomas as well as Haslett High

School.

With many teachers in her family, Abbott was pushed in the direction of teaching herself. Although not originally going to school for teaching Abbott now loves what she does and could not imagine doing anything else.

Kim Ouellette (Resource) having is going into her 12th year of teaching. Previously Ouellette taught for seven years in Bath, three years in Battle Creek and a year in Detroit.

Starting in high school Ouellette knew that she was going to go into teaching. Ouellette had a teacher

that encouraged her to do a project at her elementary school that led to an even deeper love for children and teaching.

In college Ouellette stuck with her passion for teaching to receive her bachelor's degree from Saginaw Valley State University. She received her master's from Michigan State University.

Having only taught elementary students previously, this is Ouellette's first year teaching high school and is very excited to be a part of the OHS community. Ouellette can be found in room A109.

MICHIGAN ADVANCE

SUSAN J. DEMAS
Editor-in-Chief

120 N. WASHINGTON SQUARE
LANSING, MI 48933
517.420.6779 @SJDEMAS
SUSAN@MICHIGANADVANCE.COM

**T
R
Y

I
T**

Autumnal activities to enjoy outside of extracurriculars

Rose Albrecht
Associate Editor

We always lose fall to the start of school. Everyone forgets that it even exists besides, of course, the ever-looming popularity of pumpkin spice. So here are some things to do in our tiny little boring Michigan town that you didn't even know were happening.

Apple Butter Festival: Oct. 19-20 — Fenner Nature Center
Come to enjoy apple-themed foods, stroll around the trails, see the process of how apple butter is made and much more. A smaller

festival but quaint and not your usual pumpkin-themed fall event.

Arts Night Out: Nov. 1 — Old Town Lansing
Wander the usual quaint shops of Old Town while also experiencing it at its most artsy level. Local music, art, dance and other creative sights to peruse out and about in the streets.

Alpacafest: Oct. 12-13 — The Summit Sports and Ice Complex
Never seen an alpaca in person before? I know you want to! In addition to live alpacas, this festival has a wide variety of products based from alpaca hair which is softer than you can imagine, the festival gives you the opportunity to learn more about these magnificent creatures.

Lansing Zombie Walk: Oct. 20 — Lansing Center
The 10th annual Downtown

Lansing Zombie Walk encourages participants to bring a nonperishable food donation to support the Greater Lansing Food Bank, and in return they get to terrorize the capitol and get a discounted ticket to another event, How-To-Halloween, for even more fun.

Constellation Cat Cafe:
This cute cafe where you can pet kitties and sip your tea has brought the cat cafe craze to Lansing. The cafe just opened this Sept. Not exactly a fall activity, but a new business to experience and who doesn't want to pet a cat anytime?

Autumnfest: Nov. 9 — MSU Pavilion for Agriculture
This MSU run event is the fancy version of a tailgate, held three hours before the football game with Illinois. You get to see the farms, sample terrific Michigan products, learn about student organizations

and even more.

Women in the Arts Festival: Nov. 8-9 — Edgewood United Church

Women artists from all around Michigan come to show off their crafts to the greater Lansing area. With over 50 vendors, performances and workshops, it really shows off the breadth of Michigan women artists.

Grand Ledge Color Cruise and Island Festival: Oct. 11-13 — Grand Ledge Chamber of Commerce

This fall festival includes demonstrations of woodworking, blacksmith, broom making, candle making, as well as fall-themed activities. There are boat rides and carriage rides to see the beautiful fall scenery. The focus of the festival is on Michigan's history, celebrating who we are as Michiganders.

BestMaze: Weekends — Directions on website

Claiming to have the best corn maze around, BestMaze takes pride in its difficult maze, even having people in towers you can ask if you need help. It also has the Trail of Terror, the evil counterpart to their corn maze. They claim the best quality maze around, so it's a good option if you're bored of unimpressive scares or want a good walking puzzle.

Uncle John's Cider Mill: Open Seven Days a Week — Somewhat hard to find

An especially popular place to visit in the fall, it's got all the classic autumn attractions. Hayrides, a corn maze, a pumpkin patch and even more fall delights. They have events of their own going on all through the fall as well like races, live music and food trucks. If you want the nostalgic feeling of a farm in fall, this is the place for you.

Dance team continues to grow at OHS

Zara Hertafeld
Staff Reporter

Despite having started last year, Okemos' dance team has become well integrated into OHS athletics. The dance team has performed at the home football games, the pep assembly and will be at extracurricular events such as basketball games and the talent show.

The team was started by Alana Reome and Jessica Swanson, who are the team coaches.

"They're alum of Okemos, and they were on the dance team when Okemos had a dance team before. Now that they have kids in the district and they heard that there wasn't a dance team, they wanted to start one and did their best to get information out about tryouts and who would be interested," Adam Lacasse said. Lacasse was on the team last year as a senior, and helped spread the word about tryouts.

Something that distinguishes the dance team among other OHS athletic programs is the student leadership.

"We have two captains and we have two coaches, and [leadership is] pretty much half and half," Avery Blair (9) said.

The two captains are Grace Roberts (10) and Sydnie Thomas (11). "They help schedule our practices and text us information we need, and then they also help choreograph and clean our dances," Blair said.

However, leadership wasn't limited to just the captains.



From left to right: Avery Blair (9), Maddie Hagerman (10), Elise Brent (10), Ava Mensah (10), Sydnie Thomas (11), Chloe Chen (9), Grace Roberts (10)

"[The coaches] really liked putting team members in charge. If there was a team member who wanted to choreograph a dance they were open to do so. Some of the routines were very much a collaborative effort. There would be one or two members leading the routine and then if team members had ideas or things they wanted to add in then that input was also welcome," Lacasse said.

Their collaborative spirit hasn't faltered, but the team is still improving in other ways.

Elise Brent (10) reflected on how things have changed since their first

year on the team. "We've gotten a little more organized," Brent said.

And they plan to continue doing just that.

Grace Roberts talked about the team's goals for the rest of the year. "More fundraisers and more ways to be involved with the school," Roberts said.

The team is also working on thinking of more activities and events to perform at. They tried one out this year.

"We did a dance camp over the summer in July, which was really fun," Sydnie Thomas said.

The dance camp was three nights and took place at Oakland University, where they learned combinations they plan on using throughout the year.

Giving up time during their summer is only one example of the team members' dedication to the dance team. They practice after school twice a week, but they also meet before school on game days.

Overall, the team is a team, on the dance floor and off.

"We've done a lot of team bonding," Roberts said.

"The whole team is super nice and it's just like a big family now,"

Detroit revitalization movement shows progress

Brendon Pricco
Staff Reporter

Motown. Detroit. A city known for many things all over the world; cars, crime, music, and much more.

Most recently the word "Revitalization" has been tied to the city.

Detroit as a city peaked in the 1920s-1950s. Henry Ford and the Dodge brothers were titans of industry and almost anyone wanting a car had to go through Detroit to get it.

Motown music was at the center of mainstream music, and the city

was thriving. Detroit was the place to be and it showed as the population went from under 300,000 in 1900 to nearly 1.6 million in 1930.

In order for there to be revitalization, there must be a downfall. How did Detroit go from one of the most flourishing cities in the country to a maze of empty neighborhoods? It started while Detroit was in its

prime. Even though Detroit had its highest population ever in the 1950s, over 150,000 jobs were lost to the suburbs. Unemployment was nearing 10 percent. Many businesses closed. Unfortunately this was just the start of the decline of Detroit.

With the auto industry becoming more competitive and jobs being lost to the suburbs, as well as many other economic issues, it was clear to see Detroit was declining. However, nothing hit harder than the economic and social fallout of the 1967 riots.

The 1967 riots were some of the darkest days in the history of Detroit. After a police raid on an illegal after-hours drinking club everyone in attendance was arrested including 82 African Americans.

Local residents that witnessed the raid and arrests were upset and began protesting. They looted businesses, vandalized properties and started fires. In response to the protesting, police responded by setting up a blockade.

This didn't work very well, as the upset residents drove through the blockade. The protesting and riots spread throughout the city. More than 9,000 members of the National Guard were deployed to the city and President Lyndon B. Johnson even sent in U.S. troops to help stop the violence.

Over a period of five days, 43 people died, 467 were injured and

more than 7,000 were arrested. Thousands of stores were looted and burned and hundreds of buildings were burned or damaged enough to be demolished. Financial losses from arson and looting ranged from 40 to 80 million dollars. This was the breaking point.

The riots put Detroit on the fast track to economic desolation. Nearly 80 thousand people fled the city in 1968 alone and this was just the start.

In 2015 the population was listed as 677,116, knocking it off the top 20 most populated cities in the U.S. for the first time since 1850. This was an insane drop compared to 75 years prior when the population was at its high of 1.85 million people.

There are thousands of homes left empty and uninhabitable as the city was built to hold 1.8 million people. Unfortunately, most of the homes occupied are in the more impoverished and rougher parts of the city.

In the past decade, Detroit has been dominated by urban blight, poverty, crime, drugs and shootings. In 2017 the violent crime rate was at an all time high of 1,749.5 per 100,000 people. That was the second highest in the country and nearly ten times that of the average of the suburban counties of metro Detroit.

"It's tough. In Detroit it's like your really fighting to survive," said Jalin Lee, a Detroit resident

who has lived there his whole life. Lee will graduate from high school this year.

Many people have been trying to step in and help Detroit grow back into the great city it once was. Dan Gilbert, the billionaire owner of the NBA franchise the Cleveland Cavaliers, is one of them.

Gilbert was born in Detroit and has been trying to turn his city around. Gilbert started out by moving his business Quicken Loans into the heart of Detroit along with its 1,700 members in 2010. Gilbert's main targets in fixing Detroit have involved real estate, demolition and improving the residential district.

As of 2017, the median income of a household in Detroit is rising, the city's blight removal project is removing uninhabitable houses and the crime rate is steadily going down by five percent annually.

While these numbers along with all of the Gilbert initiatives may seem like they're on a smaller scale for a city with so many issues, these positives aren't going unnoticed by residents of Detroit.

"There's definitely more buildings being built and opportunities for people to experience new things such as programs that weren't here before. There's employment for people who were struggling before to get jobs and also making the community as a whole safer," said Keon Henderson who was born and raised in Detroit.



A portion of the Detroit city skyline as of February 2019, making a slow comeback after the years of social and economic turmoil.