

# The Spotlight

October 2021

Vol. 70 Issue 1

## Battle of the Pumpkin Spice Lattes

By Sam Gaba and Nora Barnard



Check out our October Song Of The Month!

### Articles

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Every year when September rolls around and the smell of falling leaves is in the air, coffee shops around the country bring out their pumpkin-flavored drinks. This accompanies the quick decline in bank account numbers and a simultaneous increase in the consumption of pumpkin spice lattes. But what's the catch? Does the expectation meet the reality?

My colleague and I decided to waste our money for the benefit of the people. We drove around town to purchase the four highest-regarded pumpkin spice lattes on the internet. Our first stop was Roasted, the local coffee shop in town. We chose this place because it's a small business - and we support our small businesses in a capitalistic-driven nation. An iced pumpkin spice latte with the works: a milk base, with a cold brew drip, topped with whipped cream and nutmeg. Our rating on the presentation was immaculate, an excellent gradient between the coffee and the milk. The whipped cream was delicately swirled around the circumference of the cup, and the nutmeg was generously sprinkled on top. It tasted like autumn. Not the autumn that is cold, wet, and dark, but the autumn in which the fall aesthetic is seen: the colored leaves on the sidewalk, combat boots, sweaters, and pumpkin carving. All the best aspects of a season combined into a single sip.

The next acquired drink was from Dunkin' - a hit or miss place. Definitely a miss with this one. Where's the pumpkin? As far as we can taste, it was all spice. For the next two hours, our taste buds were clouded with the taste of ginger and

cinnamon. The sting of the ginger aftertaste lingered. From looking at the latte, nothing distinguishes it as pumpkin spice flavored other than the sticker on the side. The inconsistency could be associated with a corporation that cares more about its reputation than its employees. Once again, capitalism strikes.

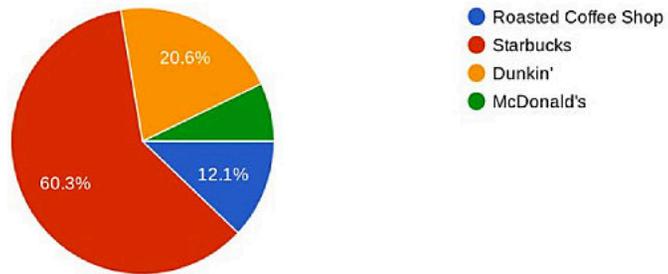
Third on our list was Starbucks, everybody's favorite chain coffee place and the most well-known. Not to mention the number one millennial cause of economic prosperity. The presentation of this drink was mediocre - the whipped cream was not abundantly distributed, and the coffee itself held an artificial orange color. Mindless consumers would be convinced of pumpkin flavor based on color alone - but not us. The fine aroma of cinnamon was deceiving. It tasted of cheap, off-brand strawberry fruit strips. Starbucks tried too hard. They overcompensated the loss of pumpkin flavor with too much spice.

Fourth on the list was acquired on a whim with a craving for french fries. Hence, McDonalds' pumpkin spice latte. What a tragedy. America's finest fast food chain tried to push their way into the coffee trend. Stick to Big Macs, Mickey D's. Presentation - awful. Pumpkin puree sat at the bottom of the drink, making a thick, dark brown line of sludge. Such a presentation required us to do the difficult action of stirring the drink with the plastic straw. McDonald's: 1; Turtles: 0. The looks, for once, should've warned us to not drink it. But drink it we did. At the first sip, it tasted like regular iced coffee. The aftertaste, however, was just straight pumpkin puree. A trip to the toilet, indeed!

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...**



Which pumpkin spice latte is your favorite?  
141 responses



Roasted's Pumpkin Spice Latte

### ...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A survey was sent out to the students of the school, asking them which pumpkin spice latte they preferred. The results are in, and Starbucks has taken the crown for the student body vote on best pumpkin spice latte! Like the connoisseurs that we are, we had a different opinion. Our

crowned best pumpkin spice latte is... Roasted! Roasted gave us the perfect blend of pumpkin and spice in one sip of autumn bliss. Once again, corporate America has failed us. Its chain coffee products were less than adequate when compared to hometown creations. Besides, who wants to drive an extra ten minutes for an overpriced cup o' joe?

## Rating the Most Popular Halloween Costumes From Every Year

By Katie Cleary and Hadley Allen

Deciding what Halloween costume to wear can be quite a stressful experience. Some people plan out their costumes months in advance, or some people decide the week of the holiday! Halloween costumes were originally meant to "hide from ghosts" in old Celtic traditions. Now, you have an uncomfortable number of middle-aged fathers wearing a Spiderman suit they wore to a frat party when they were 20, parading around the block with their 4-year-olds. In this article, we will be rating and blatantly tearing apart the most popular Halloween costumes from 2011 and so onward.

### 2011- Angry Birds

Back when this game was just about the only fun thing you could do on an iPhone 4s, the costume was inevitably going to be pretty popular. Not to mention, the Angry Birds Rio movie also came out that year. Unfortunately, this is kind of a hard thing to dress up as, as this early 2000's cartoon bird is a sphere. Therefore, every child who decided that they aspired to wear this costume, ended up wearing a 2D pancake with their face coming out of its chest or forehead. Most of these models are even grown adults. We understand that the acting career never took off, but

there's no need to ruin a perfectly good children's costume. We give this a rating of 4/10, a solid F for effort.

### 2012- Avengers

*The Avengers* is arguably the greatest superhero movie of all time, so it was no surprise to anyone that every child and adult ended up dressing like one of them. Despite the many adorable children running around in their superhero costumes, the adults who love the Avengers enough to dress up as one truly steal the show. All of the college kids who wanted to put little to no effort into a costume simply slapped the Captain America logo on a t-shirt and called it a day. However, college kids were somehow not the oldest people dressing up. The countless number of grown men in spandex is most likely the scariest thing that any child had encountered on the street that night. We give this costume a 7/10, for the pure entertainment factor.

### 2013- A Minion

Following the trend of popular movies, *Despicable Me 2* came out in 2013. It was always just a yellow shirt with some denim overall shorts. Maybe if they're really committed they'll wear goggles and a yellow hat. Or if

you were a boy, you did a full yellow bodysuit and then added the denim overalls. The only exception for these costumes is when people dress up their little dogs in overalls and goggles. And although the poor pet is likely miserable, at least it's cute. We give this costume a solid 3/10, two extra points for the dogs.

#### **2014- Frozen**

Is anyone surprised? If you were Elsa, you get bonus points if you wore a really bad white wig. Yes, I'm sure the reason it was cold that night was because of your ice powers. I think the scariest part about this outfit was how many grown adults were wearing the Party City costumes. Why are there even grown adult Party City costumes? This whole idea proved to be a mess, as those sparkly ball gowns never looked quite as voluminous in person. We would absolutely love to let it go, as in let this costume go away and please never let it come back. However, we must give this costume 6/10, in honor of the moms who spent weeks vacuuming the glitter from these cheap gowns off of absolutely everything in their house.

#### **2015- Harley Quinn**

Alright, this one just doesn't even make sense. Suicide Squad wasn't even a big movie that year. It came out in 2016, so where did people get the idea to do this?! Honestly, half the appeal was likely just because of the red and blue hair and not because any of these children actually liked Harley Quinn. The advertisements alone must have prompted this enthusiasm even though the movie, like these costumes, proved to be pretty bad. Chances are, their parents didn't even let them watch the movie when it eventually came out. 4/10, for the girls who dyed their hair with KoolAid and temporarily damaged it.

#### **2016- Donald Trump**

Usually, political candidates are pretty popular Halloween costumes. It was a black suit, red tie, and the rubber Trump mask. Or maybe even the plastic one. When Trump was at his peak internet fame for just humorous reasons, the Trump costumes were undoubtedly at the pinnacle of their career. However, it is somewhat of a lazy excuse for a costume, as it was just a normal suit, with a mask. At least everyone knew who you were and didn't have to ask you whenever you walked up to the door! 5/10, for the lack of creativity but good dedication to wearing a rubber mask all night.

#### **2017- Pennywise**

Just when we thought we'd leave the 2016 clown epidemic in the past, this was the most

popular Halloween costume the year after. We're not mad at this one as two major horror movie fans, but the unfortunate face paint attempts are definitely knocking this one down a bit. It always looked just a little bit off. That paired with the tragic red wig made most of these costumes just a sad attempt at a scary clown. They really lived up to the whole comedic purpose of a clown. This costume left us hoping that the red balloon may actually make them float away. 6/10, for the good laugh that we got.

#### **2018- T-Rex**

Yes, that inflatable T-Rex that we all witnessed 20 intermediate school kids wearing in the Halloween parade. You already know that all of the people who bought one of these have worn it multiple times throughout the year. I mean, you kind of have to. These things are so expensive now. On average, they're about \$60. You better be wearing that thing year-round. After thorough contemplation, we've decided that we actually do like these. They're fitting for any occasion in which a giant dinosaur costume seems appropriate. Which, and let's be honest, is every occasion. 8/10, for the people who spent \$60 to walk around in an inflatable dinosaur just for the pure joy of it.

#### **2019- Three Hole Punch**

This costume was the laziest but most effective Halloween costume. It was simple, and everyone knew what it was from. There are likely very few people who haven't seen *The Office*, or at least a minimal number of people who don't get the reference. It's also a very difficult one to mess up, as it's really just a white shirt with three black circles on it and maybe a black tie if you're feeling adventurous. As two people who have a decent appreciation for *The Office*, we have to give this costume a 6/10, for the kids going out of their way to do the absolute least.

#### **2020- A Witch**

Everyone gave up this year. It was the easiest thing to throw together, and people already had it from years previous. No one wanted to go out and go shopping considering people didn't even know if there would be any sort of Halloween events. Honestly, you could just buy a witch's hat and throw together a couple items from your closet and alakazam, you're done. There's always two types of witches: The Wicked Witch of the West looking things, or the unrealistic (and way too short for the weather) dresses presented to you by the poor party city model who is clearly miserable. 5/10, in honor of all of the people who got hypothermia that night.

# Fall Festivities

By Samantha Poore

Here's a list of some fun, fall events happening within an hour's drive from Olmsted Falls that'll be worth your time. Check them out!

## HalloWeekends at Cedar Point

As many of you already know, HalloWeekends is back and on track to run until Cedar Point's closing day, October 31st. As an effort to make up for lost time, this year's HalloWeekends schedule is different from years past and gives thrill seekers more opportunities to join in on the fun. The park will now be open on Thursdays from 6pm-Midnight and on Fridays from 11am-Midnight, in addition to their normal Saturday and Sunday hours. Not really into the jump scares and screams? You should be okay during daylight; just evacuate the premises by sundown!

## Pumpkin Village at Mapleside Farms

Located in Brunswick, Mapleside has a wide range of activities to fill your day. Here you can conquer a 7-acre corn maze, watch a pig race, enjoy a hayride, or race your friends and fly down the 311 foot super slide. In addition, Pumpkin Village also offers many opportunities to roam around, eat some great food, and enjoy live entertainment. Festival hours vary each day and run Friday through Sunday. It is highly recommended that tickets be purchased in advance due to capacity limitations and Covid-19 protocols.

## Cleveland Metroparks Trick or Treat Fest

If you have younger siblings or are an all-star babysitter, this event may be of interest to you! Beginning October 8th, the Trick or Treat Fest will run Fridays through Sundays from 10:30am - 3:30pm. Little kids are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes and explore the zoo as well as additional scheduled events. Ages 2 and younger can get in free!

## Aut-O-Rama Twin Drive-In Theatre

If you're a big movie person, why not switch it up a bit and change the setting? The cool weather and changing leaves create a perfect atmosphere to snatch a blanket, lay back, and have a good time. Movie showings are typically released a week in advance on the Aut-O-Rama Twin Drive-In Theatre website. Keep an eye out for updates on upcoming shows... odds are they'll have something spooktacular scheduled as Halloween draws near.

## One Day Events:

### Falls Day in the Park

Join the community on Sunday, October 3rd from 1-4pm at East River Park to kick off the fall season. The Bulldog Marching Band will make an appearance as well as a variety of vendors from CLE Market!

### Berea Harvest Festival

On Saturday, October 16 from 12-7:30pm, Berea is hosting a Harvest Festival open to the public at Coe Lake. Inflatables, a pumpkin patch, food vendors, face painting, magic shows, and local artisans from the CLE market will all be present. A fireworks display over the water will conclude the night! Note: Trick-or-Treat on the Trails is only open to Berea City School District families.

### Spooky Pooch Parade

If you're an animal lover, stop by Madison Park in Lakewood on October 16 between 12:30-3:30pm. Dogs of all shapes and sizes will be in attendance to make their Halloween costume debut. Entertainment, games, and dog-related vendors will keep you occupied until the dog parade officially starts at 2:00pm. Judges will be present and awards will be given to the most festive pups! Want your dog to be part of the fun? Pre-registration tickets are \$10 per dog (humans are free). More information can be found at [lakewoodalive.org](http://lakewoodalive.org).



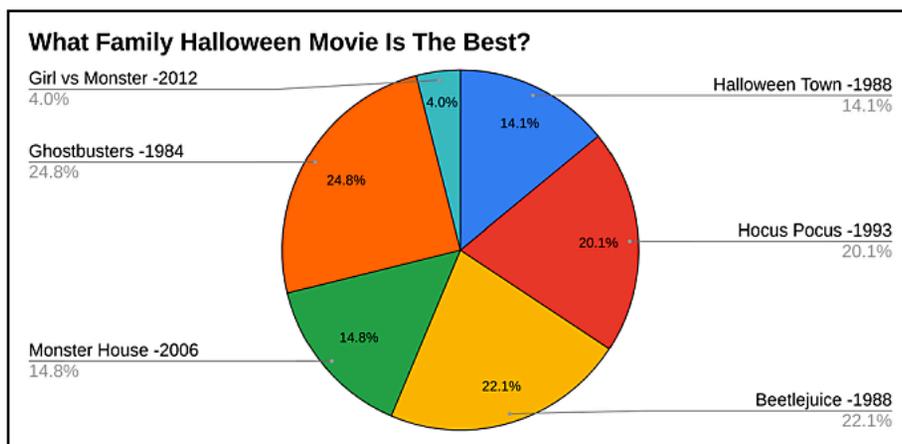
The Olmsted Falls Marching Band is pictured performing at last year's annual Falls Day In The Park event

# Which Family Halloween Movie is the Best According to OFHS

By Abby Guthrie

It's Spooky Season, and this September we decided to conduct a survey of everyone's favorite family Halloween films. We featured six movies: Halloweentown, Hocus Pocus, Beetlejuice, Monster House, Ghostbusters, and Girl vs Monster. Coming in first place is Ghostbusters, earning itself 25% of the votes. Junior Emily Knaggs felt particularly strong about this film, stating, "Ghostbusters is the best spooky movie of all time. It has jokes, ghosts, and cool dudes who bust the ghosts. It's a quality film and everyone should watch it!" Beetlejuice comes in second, with 22% of the votes. Senior Olivia Heinrich said that "I've always loved Beetlejuice because it is so iconic! It also brings up loss and love in a funny way so whenever it's on I'll watch it." Third place is Hocus Pocus, with 20% of the votes, and Monster House places fourth with 15% of the votes. This was sophomore Julia Dooling's favorite film. She states, "Monster House is a cinematic masterpiece, and the producers used computer

animations to make this movie! It is somewhat similar to how Coraline was made, but computer generated instead!" Fifth place is Halloweentown, garnering 14% of the votes. Senior Holly Robinson says Halloweentown is "a phenomenal movie. It had a great introduction of characters, amazing world building, and twists that you wouldn't ever expect from a children's movie. Top-tier film." Finally, in last place is Girl vs Monster with only 4% of the votes.



## Fall Sports

By Ellie Phillips

As the fall sports season is underway, the *Spotlight* staff decided to ask some questions to the seniors and captains of our sports teams!

**Q1: What is your favorite team tradition?**  
**Q2: What sets you guys apart from other school teams and our own past teams?**

### Girls Cross Country

**Q1: Lilly Katsaras-** "One tradition we have is the tie-dyeing tradition! We try to tie-dye at least one thing per season, but hopefully we will get to do more. We already have made t-shirts for this season and some of us already have pants and sweatshirts from past seasons to match. We all enjoy getting together to help each other out with the tie dye."

**Q2: Samantha Backus-** "What sets us apart from other teams is our spirit! We lost a lot of girls last year, but even though we're smaller we're still upbeat! We're constantly encouraging one another and pushing each other on days we don't really want

to run. What makes us different from past teams is our love for tie -dye! For the past few years the girls team has gotten into the habit of tie-dyeing everything from crewnecks to sweatpants! We're just an awesome group of uplifting and tough girls who have a love-hate relationship with running!"

*The next big meet is October 16th at LCCC. This is the SWC championship meet, so make sure to watch!*

### Boys Cross Country

**Q1: Clayton Smith-** "Probably wake-ups because it allows for the whole team to get together late at night and have some fun and team bonding."

**Q2: Cam Byrd-** "What sets us apart is our goal-achieving mentality and positive attitude to push each other to do things we never have before and focus not just on ourselves but everyone on the team and motivate each other."

*The next big meet is the same as girls XC. Be sure to support!*

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## Football

**Q1: Tyler Woods-** “I would have to say singing the fight song after winning a game.”

**Q2: Devontae Boyd-** “We literally tried to schedule the hardest teams when we got the chance to, so we try to keep the odds against us; we like being the underdogs. We feel like we have the hardest schedule out of any of the teams we are gonna play this year.”

*This week's game is away at Amherst. Go out and cheer on our football team!*

## Girls Golf

**Q1: Ady Lakota-** “My favorite team tradition is wake-ups! We do them every year, not with Covid, but it's the best!”

**Q2: Sydney Ott-** “I think it's our commitment to the sport and how much we trust each other. Even if I have a bad day, I know my team's got my back.”

## Boys Golf

**Q1: Aaron Katitus-** “My favorite team tradition is team dinners every Thursday. We get good food, a lot of games, and prizes to win.”

**Q2: Spencer Lethbridge-** “I think we are closer than most teams and that makes all the bus rides, team dinners, and practices so much fun.”

## Girls Soccer

**Q1: Zowie Hoover-** “I would say listening to music on the bus on the way to games.”

**Q2: Camila Gutierrez-** “We like our freshmen and we are not scary seniors, with the exception of Haley Zambrana.”

*The next big game is away at Avon Lake. Go watch our lady bulldogs!*



The Varsity Girls Volleyball Team huddles up before their game

## Boys Soccer

**Q1: Jake Woehrman-** “Definitely wake-ups.”

**Q2: Michael Zahorchak-** “I think it's the bond we share on and off the field. A lot of teams we've played get mad at each other during rough spots at games. Most of us are really close and it helps us play together as a better team.”

*The next conference game is away at Berea (10/13). Go watch the game and support!*

## Girls Tennis

**Q1: Sammie Gaba-** “Going to Olive Garden for sure.”

**Q2: Kristina Hess-** “Something that might set us apart from other teams is that we are drama free and our favorite part of playing tennis is being around each other.”

*The next match is October 5th for Sectionals. Go support the ladies!*

## Volleyball

**Q1: Kylee Urban-** “First 24 hours. We stay overnight at the school and we bond as a team and have so much fun!”

**Q2: Riley Victor-** “We have all been playing together for nine years, which makes us have a strong bond with each other and our team chemistry is so strong this year!”

*This week there is a huge game versus Amherst at home (10/7). Come and support our bulldog ladies!*



The Boys Cross Country Team takes advantage of a scenic opportunity to get a picture together

# History Of The Jack-O'-Lantern

By Audrey Helms

Every year on Halloween night, countless families across the U.S. carve jack-o'-lanterns. They are a Halloween tradition! But have you ever wondered why we carve pumpkins on Halloween? Why not cantaloupes or pineapples? According to the article "Why Do We Carve Pumpkins at Halloween?" by Cydney Grannan, their origin comes from an Irish myth about a boy named Stingy Jack. It was said that when he died, he wasn't allowed to go to Heaven or Hell, so he was left on Earth for eternity. People in Ireland then began to carve jack-o'-lanterns to scare away Jack's soul that was roaming around. They carved turnips at the time but they started carving pumpkins when they came to the U.S because it was native to the land.

But why Halloween? Why not January 3rd or September 27th or any other day of the year?

Grannan explains that Halloween is associated with Samhain, which is an ancient celebration in Ireland that marks the beginning of the new year in November, the same day as Halloween. It was believed that during Samhain, souls would revisit their homes--a soul like Stingy Jack.

Grannan explained that other traditions of Samhain were wearing costumes to hide from the souls, and trick-or-treating originated because they felt like the souls needed to be appeased. Over time, Halloween traditions evolved into a day of activities like carving pumpkins, trick-or-treating, dressing up in costumes, attending fall festivals, and enjoying treats. So, embrace these Halloween traditions and go carve a jack-o'-lantern!

## Meet The New OFHS Teaching Staff

By Claire Wiggenhorn

Olmsted Falls has a bunch of new faces! In order to get to know them a bit better we asked them some questions:

Mr. Linder

**Where is your hometown?** "I was born and raised in Olmsted Falls and am a proud OF graduate."

**Where did you go to college?** "I went to college at the University of Akron and loved every second of it. Go Zips!"

**What is your position at OFHS?** "I am a math teacher at OFHS teaching Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 this year."

**Why do you love being a teacher?** "I love this job because I get to impact lives every single day. I love being able to teach and coach (soccer coach) students every single day."

**Why did you choose to be a teacher?** "I chose to teach because my life goal is to change lives. I want to be a positive influence in as many lives as possible. I love being able to connect with students each day and motivate them to achieve their goals. I see light in each person, and this profession allows me to push each person I interact with toward their goals."

**If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life what would it be?** "If I could only eat one food, I would choose wings! I could change the flavor so they can feel like something new, and who doesn't love some wings?!"

Ms. Soko

**Where is your hometown?**

"I'm from Olmsted Falls, and after many years abroad I'm excited to be back home!"

**Where did you go to college?**

"I first graduated from Miami University then earned Master's degrees from the University of Cincinnati."

**What is your position at OFHS?** "At OFHS I teach Spanish and am the Key Club advisor."

**Why do you love being a**

**teacher?** "I love my job because every student is different and teaches me something new about how to see our class and the world every day. I get to keep learning more, and I get to share my passion about communication and understanding!"

**Why did you choose to be a teacher?** "I chose this profession because I like people, and there's something new to learn from them every day. Teachers get to be creative when designing lessons for different learning styles, and world language teachers specifically have developed the skill of multilingualism that provides great opportunities for travel and life abroad where I can meet even more new and diverse people to learn from!"

**If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life what would it be?** "If I were to only eat one food for the rest of my life it would be nachos because what and how much of the toppings I add could feel like I'm reinventing the food every day."



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Ms. Parente

**Where is your hometown?** “I’m from the west side of Cleveland.”

**Where did you go to college?** “I graduated from Cleveland State University.”

**What is your position at OFHS?** “I am an Intervention Specialist Tutor at OFHS.”

**Why do you love being a teacher?** “I love my job because of the enjoyable environment and people I get to work with.”

**Why did you choose to be a teacher?** “I chose this profession because of my passion for working with kids - I have wanted to be a teacher all my life.”

**If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life what would it be?** “One food I would eat for the rest of my life: Pizza!”



Ms. Mau

**Where is your hometown?** “I have always lived somewhere in the Cleveland area, but I graduated from Westlake High School.”

**Where did you go to college?** “I went to Wittenberg University in Springfield, OH.”

**What is your position at OFHS?** “I am the long-term substitute teacher for Mrs. Lalli. Right now I teach 9th and 12th grade English Language Arts.”

**Why do you love being a teacher?** “I have always wanted to be an English teacher, yet I enjoy working at the high school level more than any other grade because I love the deeper conversations my students and I can have about literature and writing. Most importantly, I want to help my students become more confident readers and writers before they head into a college or career.”

**Why did you choose to be a teacher?** “Again, I always knew that I wanted to teach English. I grew up in a family of avid readers, so hating English was never an option for me. My parents read 2-3 books to me each night as a young child, and sometimes I was able to negotiate for more. My uncle gave me some of my most treasured childhood books that I still have to this day. My grandfathers were both deeply invested in history and made for wonderful storytellers about the war or immigrating to America. However, my true love for English was probably passed down to me by my grandmothers. My paternal grandmother instilled in me a deep respect for grammar while she taught me how to follow the ‘rules’ of speaking. My maternal grandmother was a creative genius who inspired my love of creating writing. Between the two of them, I saw how much better the world is because of writing and reading. I hope to share my passion for the English language with my students.”

**If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life what would it be?** “Definitely chocolate. It’s almost always good no matter where you go in the world.”

Ms. Zurawski

**Where is your hometown?** “I graduated from Olmsted Falls back in the ‘90s. I was a student of Mr. Gibeaut, Dr. Mercer, and Mrs. Wendling back when they were just starting out, and it’s great to reconnect with them.”

**Where did you go to college?** “I earned a Bachelors of Science in Biology from John Carroll University and then went on for my Master of Arts in Teaching from Kent State University.”

**What is your position at OFHS?** “I am the new 9th-grade biology teacher.”

**Why do you love being a teacher?** “I love spending time with teenagers. They are never boring and they share my sense of humor. I love that it allows me to be creative. Teaching is the perfect mix of organization and chaos!”

**Why did you choose to be a teacher?** “It forces me to keep learning! Science is not static, and teaching it forces me to keep up on what is new.”

**If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life what would it be?** “My favorite food is Dairy Queen ice cream cake. BUT if I could really only eat one food for the rest of my life I’d probably pick potatoes. The science nerd in me thinks that’s what would keep me alive the longest. ;)”

## Newspaper Staff

|                       |                    |
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