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THE GROWLER

Odessa High School, Odessa, Missouri

DECA members gain marketing skills in Boston



OHS students tour Harvard University while on the DECA Power Trip.

By Emma Jones & Olivia Fieth

OHS DECA members traveled to Boston on November 19 for the yearly DECA Power Trip and conference. The 12 students and **Jessica Wade**, marketing teacher, were happy to resume travel after last-year's trip was cancelled due to the pandemic.

The purpose of the trip was to gain leadership experience, network with other DECA members and business leaders, and expand their knowledge in marketing, management, hospitality and entrepreneurship. The trip supplements the curriculum and provides students with travel opportunities they would not otherwise have.

Students started their day early by leaving OHS at 3 a.m.

to head to KCI and catch their 6 a.m. flight. They arrived in Boston at 3 p.m. and headed to their first of many sessions at the conference. **Brandon Lorenz**, sophomore, said the first session helped them improve their competition skills.

"We learned how to improve our roleplay skills," Lorenz said. "I got to get into a group with people from five different states, and we used tactics to solve a hypothetical problem. It was really cool."

Makenzie Harget, senior, said that one of the sessions she enjoyed most was the session "How to be a Better Leader." The session focused on communication skills which Harget said are important to business.

"I think that stuck with a lot of us because we were able to

bring that back to our chapter, and several of us there were officers," Harget said.

In addition to conference sessions, students participated in numerous activities, including attending a Boston Celtics game.

"I most enjoyed seeing **Jayson Tatum** in person," **Drew Sallee**, sophomore, said.

Students also took a train to Salem and explored the town. While there, they went on a guided walking tour about the history and ghost hauntings of Salem. On the tour, they visited the cemetery and notable houses that were said to be haunted.

"I really enjoyed hearing the stories of some of the people who were accused of being witches," **Malena Fisher**, junior, said. "The thing that stood

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Kindergarteners make marine a care package



Kindergarteners in Lacey Beissenherz's class sent a care package to a special marine for Veteran's Day. Front Row: Ellyott Mangelsdorf, Paislee Hicklin, Adaline Fieth, Grace Boldridge, Felicity Holloway, Iris Stilfield and Emerlynn Arbogast. Back Row: Daxton Magruder, Cooper Watson, Kellan Morgan, Riley Sopher, Declan Geiman and Drew Williams.

By Trinity Alvested, Anikah Kaler and Lana Quick

Felicity Holloway, kindergartener, talked to her teacher and classmates about missing her father, **Matthew Holloway**, who is a marine stationed in North Carolina. Shortly after, with help from the class, Felicity was feeling proud and excited about their Veteran's Day surprise.

Lacey Beissenherz's kindergarten class recently sent Sergeant Holloway a care package in honor of Veteran's Day. Beissenherz said when Felicity talked about missing her father, she decided to help out.

"I thought it would be a great way to thank him for his service," Beissenherz said, "to send him some goodies, as well as help her feel proud and a little better

about him being away from her."

Felicity and her classmates decorated hearts to look like flags and wrote thank you letters on the backside of the hearts to include in the care package. They also collected goodies and toiletries, donated by the parents. When complete, they shipped the box to North Carolina.

Sergeant Holloway has served in the United States Marine Corps for over 10 years. He is a Landing Support Specialist in charge of logistical movements, meaning he is in charge of loading people, gear and equipment onto military ships, aircraft and rail cars. He also accounts for all of the gear by tracking down serial numbers and keeping records.

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Ryan Luethje, OHS assistant principal, focuses on building relationships



Ryan Luethje, OHS assistant principal, enjoys outdoor hobbies with his wife, Johanna, and his son, Bennett.

By Emmalea Munsterman & Lorelai Burch

Ryan Luethje, OHS assistant principal, is enjoying his first year as an administrator and said he is learning there are no “typical” days while fulfilling his role.

“I usually get here and start by getting caught up on emails I have waiting for me,” Luethje said. “Then I kind of just attack the day as it comes. It’s all really unpredictable, and no two days are alike. Though that is what makes my job so fun and constantly different, so it never gets boring.”

Luethje said he spends time in classrooms observing teachers and students doing “incredible things,” deals with discipline issues and handles other issues that “pop up.”

After 12 years of teaching Geometry and Algebra II in the Blue Springs School District, Luethje said he was drawn to the “strong family-like atmosphere” at OHS.

“The relationships our staff have with our students is really inspiring,” Luethje said.

In his new role, Luethje said he seeks motivation from everyone and never leaves a job half

finished. While he draws inspiration from students and teachers, Luethje’s biggest influencers were administrators he had as a former student. He also joked that as an assistant principal he has worn collared shirts and ties more than ever.

Luethje graduated from Blue Springs South, where he played football, baseball and was a member of National Honor Society. Then, he earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics at Northwest Missouri State University, a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from University of Missouri and a specialist’s degree in secondary administration from William Woods University.

Brad Briscoe, OHS principal, said Luethje is a team player who brings a fresh perspective to the table, is well-rounded and a good fit for the building.

“From day one, he’s come in with a strong work ethic and has taken this difficult position and strived,” Briscoe said. “He’s not afraid to ask questions or seek out the answer. He’s passionate about education, students and setting them up for success. Ultimately, he’s here to serve the kids

and to have their best interests at heart and student learning at heart.”

Luethje’s favorite part about his job is being able to share the success of the students and staff on a daily basis.

“It’s our volleyball team making it the furthest they’ve made it, or our soccer team having the best season they’ve had,” Luethje said. “It’s science classes out here shooting rockets off, or just being in those classrooms and seeing the experiences they’ve had being in Spanish class and listening to our kids speak a foreign language. It’s all of that stuff.”

Luethje also enjoys building relationships with students. By getting involved and making an effort to get to know students and support them in their school activities, he is able to create deeper connections. He said his main goal isn’t just to talk to students about what they did wrong and what they can potentially do better, but to actually take the time to get to know them and learn what their individual interests are. Luethje said he also strives for consistency.

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Staff spotlight

This month’s featured reporter is **Emmalea Munsterman**, OHS sophomore. She’s taking Journalism I this year and enjoys the social environment of the classroom and getting to know her classmates.

“There are many memorable moments that take place in journalism,” Emmalea said, “including the sticky-note wall full of unforgettable quotes.”

Emmalea, 15, is one of the middle children in her family. She has six siblings: **Eli**, 22, **Alyzabeth**, 21, **Olivia**, 19, **Isabelle**, 17, **Orianna**, 13, and **Ammon**, 7. Her older sisters are some of her biggest role models.

“From our car-jamming sessions, to our sister dates, we always know just what each other needs,” Emmalea said. “Between all of us, our parents never fail to have a dull moment in their lives.”

Emmalea loves spending time with her family, including her parents, **Junior** and **Rena**. She enjoys going on adventures with her dad and learning from her mom. Her dad says Emmalea and her mom have similar personalities.

“From watching movies together to cooking dinner, any time spent with my mom is a gift,” Emmalea said.

One of Emmalea’s favorite hobbies is baking, which she learned from watching her mom. She considers baking a “fantastic resource” to cope with stress. Some of her favorite items to make are pies, cakes and cookies.

Emmalea also enjoys being in choir, marching band, symphonic band, jazz band, pep band and winter drumline. In those ensembles, she plays trombone, baritone and cymbals and spends many hours practicing each week. In her freetime, she loves to watch Netflix with her mom and sisters.

“It’s good family time while also being able to be intrigued by the actions and events in the lives of others,” Emmalea said. “It doesn’t get much better than that.”

Another thing Emmalea enjoys



Emmalea Munsterman

doing during her downtime is volunteering at the Odessa Clothes Closet, a local thrift shop.

“I find it peaceful and worthwhile whenever I can help others,” Emmalea said. “Volunteering never fails to bring a smile to my face because I know I’m doing something to help someone else.”

Emmalea plans to become a special education preschool teacher because she wants to be a positive influence on others, especially children. Emmalea said she feels deeply that she has something to offer to those children.

“They have the biggest hearts,” Emmalea said. “I am looking forward to being a teacher someday, and I can’t wait to find out what I can learn from my future students.”

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Staff spotlight

This month's featured reporter is **Teagan Loehr**, OHS sophomore. She is taking Journalism I this year and enjoys the small class size and how great the class gets along. She is looking forward to the first deadline party.

"Although we never stop talking and probably drive **Mrs. (Kris) Poisal** crazy," Teagan said, "we get a lot done and have learned so much."

Teagan is 16 and the oldest of three daughters. Her sister, **Jordyn**, is 13 and an eighth grader at OMS. Her other sister, **Emersyn** (Eme), is 5 and a kindergartener at McQuerry Elementary. Teagan loves to watch Jordyn play softball on the weekends and watch Eme run "nonstop" around the house.

Teagan also loves spending time with her parents, her "biggest supporters." She enjoys watching funny shows with her dad, **Josh**, and bonding over cooking.

"I love all the nights we stay up watching cooking shows," Teagan said, "and later try out the things that we learned and new recipes."

She also loves spending time with her mom, **Kristi**, who comes to all of her activities.

"I always feel so relieved when I am super stressed at a band competition, and I see my mom at our base camp ready to give me a huge hug," Teagan said.

Teagan is involved in DECA, marching band, symphonic band, pep band and jazz band where she plays the flute and alto and bari saxophone. Teagan is also a baseball manager in the spring and just recently joined the golf team.

"Before I started golf, I had never touched a golf club," Teagan said. "Thanks to **Coach Lewis** and all of the one-on-one time that he offered me, I was able to learn so much and even hit my PR (personal record) twice by the end of the season."



Teagan Loehr

Teagan is also in the ACES program, a year-long scholar program that allows her to learn more about the healthcare field, as well as one-on-one career counseling, college preparation and lessons from healthcare professionals. Teagan applied for this program because she wants to be a radiologist.

"I have always wanted to work with kids as a part of my career," Teagan said, "but soon after I had to have an ECHO (echocardiogram) at Children's Mercy, I realized that I could be a radiologist."

She also wants to minor in sign language interpreting because it could come in handy while working at the hospital.



Sixth Graders attend School of Economics field trip

By Elizabeth Armstrong & Lorelai Burch

OMS sixth-graders went on a field trip to the School of Economics in Blue Springs on December 9 and December 14, with half of the class attending each session.

The trip provides a fun way to expose students to economic concepts, including hands-on experiences, to make difficult concepts easier to understand.

The trip is usually for fifth-graders; however, it was canceled last year due to the pandemic and rescheduled for the 2021-22 school year. Parents usually help chaperone and work the event, but teachers, administrators and paraprofessionals filled the roles this year.

"It is set up like a little city," **Kristine Torres**, sixth grade math and social studies teacher, said. "It is about learning about balancing a budget and immigration. It involves a lot of math as well as social studies."

The School of Economics uses real-world learning to help students understand finances. The trip also helps prepare students to understand and apply basic marketplace concepts and skills, and exposes them to business-related careers. Students learn about being producers and consumers while running nine shops which represent various regions around the world.

Dawn Griffith, math teacher, helped organize the event, and Torres and **Eric Pogge-meier**, social studies teachers, prepared the students for the trip during their classes.

Prior to the trip, many tasks had to be completed. The sixth graders had to elect a mayor from students who were interested. **Brock Barker** was elected mayor and said he likes helping other people.

"My favorite part was seeing everybody working and going



Neveah Hilburn, sixth grader, works at a shop at the School of Economics.

around and checking on everybody," Barker said.

Students also selected preferred jobs, and teachers finalized what the students' roles would be. Jobs included bank tellers, loan officers, rent collectors, tax collectors, utility collectors, cooks, accountants, shop managers and craft designers among others. Students also made passports and posters for their shops prior to the trip. Finally, students filled out loan applications for their businesses and worked on budgets.

Makenna Bass, sixth grad-

er, said it was a lot of work to prepare for the trip.

"We got less time in social studies to do everything that we needed to do," Bass said, "and we only had around two days a week to get to work on it. It was kind of difficult to do everything."

Even though it involved a lot of preparation, Bass said she was glad to be going and was excited to attend because she didn't get to go last year.

"I liked learning a little about the different immigrants, like

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Kindergarteners receive special visit from marine

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The final part of his job is being in charge of Helicopter Support Team Operations which means he hooks a piece of equipment to a helicopter using a sling while the helicopter is hovering above him.

He has been in North Carolina since March of 2018. Prior to that, he has been on multiple deployments and was stationed in Okinawa, Japan for two years. He has also been to Australia, Guam, Hong Kong, Thailand, the Philippines, Spain and Norway and is scheduled to deploy to Norway again in January, 2022.

"I'm proud of my dad for

being so brave and strong," Felicity said.

Felicity said she misses playing with her dad, and one of her favorite games to play with him is store. She said she enjoyed putting the box together with her classmates for her dad and thinks that he will enjoy the hearts the most.

Sergeant Holloway was able to return home for the holidays and attended Felicity's Christmas party at McQuerry Elementary.

Felicity said she was looking forward to seeing him and playing with him at "Grammy's house" with all of her toys.



Sergeant Matthew Holloway was able to return home for the holidays and attended his daughter Felicity's Christmas party at McQuerry Elementary.



Luethje adapts to OHS

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"I like to think that no matter who you are or what you do, we'll treat you the same way as any other student," Luethje said. "We won't always like what you've done if there is a discipline issue, but that doesn't change who you are as a person, and we won't hold it against you."

Luethje said he understands how hard it is to be a student and recommends they enjoy their teenage years and try new things.

"Find something you're interested in and do it," Luethje said. "Don't be worried about what others may think. If you're into the band then be in the band, but be 100% in the band. If it's football, make it football. If it's tabletop gaming, then it's tabletop gaming. Whatever it may be, find something and get involved."

Luethje said he doesn't have long-term plans in place yet because he is focused on what he can do now.

"My goal right now is just to become fully immersed in Odessa High School and everything going on here and to fulfill the assistant principal role to the best of my ability," Luethje said.

When he isn't at OHS, Luethje enjoys spending time with his family and enjoys all Kansas City sports. His wife, **Johanna**, is a sixth grade English teacher in

the Blue Springs School District, and they have a son, **Bennett**, who is three.

"We love to be outside as a family," Luethje said. "We enjoy family bike rides, walking trails and playing outside."

Sixth Graders enjoy going on field trips again

ECONOMICS from page 3
Elon Musk, **Felix Morgan**, sixth grader said.

Torres said overall the trip went well, and the students were exhausted. Some groups were successful and some weren't. Some groups couldn't

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out most to me was the witch house. It was the only house not burned in a giant fire because of the road."

Students enjoyed touring

make their loan payments and were disappointed. However, all students learned about supply and demand throughout the process.

"I liked experiencing having a job at a young age," **Josh Thompson**, sixth grader, said.



Brock Barker, sixth grader, gives his mayoral speech on the School of Economics field trip while Collin Baumann, sixth grade math teacher, looks on.

OHS DECA visits Boston

Fenway Park and learning about the history. Students saw **Babe Ruth's** jersey and other memorabilia. **Aaron Kolie**, sophomore, said seeing Fenway Park was a highlight of the trip for him. Kolie plays first base and pitcher.

"I play baseball, so getting to go and see Fenway Park was really amazing," Kolie said.

"I enjoyed learning about the history of Fenway Park. What stood out to me the most was how the stadium was so small but so rich in history."

Students visited Harvard University as well and went on a self-guided tour.

"It was cool to see Harvard because it's a famous college," **Gracie Harget**, freshman, said. "My favorite thing was buying a hoodie from the gift shop."

Students also went on an Old Town Trolley Tour where they saw Paul Revere's house, China Town, Little Italy, The Boston Public Garden, the bar where Cheers was filmed and went shopping on Newbury Street.

"I enjoyed seeing all of the holiday displays for the stores," **Alayna Sisk**, junior, said. "We

went into a cool sneaker place with lots of special edition shoes and clothing items, and I bought a pair of Converse from there."

Finally, students visited Quincy Market for shopping and lunch.

The trip cost \$900, but students were informed well in advance of the trip, so they could save money and prepare. Payments were also split up to make it easier for families.

Keirsten Tribble, senior, worked at the Odessa Creamery to save money for the trip.

"I worked during the week and on weekends, and it didn't take very long to raise the money," Tribble said. "It took me about two months. I definitely think it was worth it. It was a great experience to be able to go to Boston, and I love working at the creamery, so it was a win-win for me!"

In addition to Fisher, G. Harget, M. Harget, Kolie, Lorenz, Sallee, Sisk and Tribble, other students on the trip included **Leigha Hadlock**, **Meric McCarthy**, **Taren McCarthy** and **Caitlyn Sanders**.