

Trojan Tribune



Editor: Mackenzie Gibbs
Instructor: John Kissingford

News From Ouray High School

**Reporters: Anna Biolchini, Caeley Eddy,
 Alessandria King, Cliona Pasek**

Calendar

Friday, September 15

4:00 pm - HS VB in Dove Creek

Saturday, September 16

5:00 am - MS XC departs for Silverton

6:30 am - HS XC departs for Gunnison

10:00 am - HS VB in Ignacio

Monday, September 18

3:00 pm - HS/MS KB in Dove Creek

Heard in the Halls

“I follow only the holy teachings of Santa Claus.”

Ask Anna

Dear Anna,

School really stresses me out between homework and extracurricular activities. I feel like I have no time for anything. How do I get my life back?

~Stressed Student

Dear Stressed Student,

Balancing school, homework, and extracurricular activities is difficult, but it can be done. The best advice I can give is to work on your homework whenever you have the time to. If you have a project due in a couple days and you want to just relax, you still can relax, but it is best if you work on project and try to finish it as soon as possible. That way it is done early and is off your plate.

You can possibly mentally plan out what parts you are going to work on each day along with all the other things you have to work on. Keeping track of your homework in a planner, on a piece of paper, and even on note card is helpful.

Since you are doing an extracurricular activity, it would be best to work on your homework before and after your event, especially if it is a sports practice. Even while eating so you can make the best use of your time! Just remember that if you have a time to take a quick breath of relaxation, to take it.

The earlier you complete your work, the less stressed you will be. Then you can really relax!

Ouray Middle School Implements New Electives

by Cliona Pasek

Ring! School is back in session and Ouray Middle School students have brand new electives including drama, library book club, and foreign language. But, as new opportunities arise, others could potentially leave a hole in the academic world.

One of the new electives, foreign language, taught by Ms. Taylor Chase, has kids seeing a little insight to the curriculum and receiving a basic intro into high school foreign language classes.

“So far it’s a lot of fun,” Ms. Chase commented. “A great group of kids to work with, an exciting and engaging environment, and it’s going to be an overall more positive effect on these kids.”

At the moment, the 7th and 8th-grade students are learning how to talk about different types of food in French and how to ask for things politely. These particular skills are important due to the fact that the middle school students have the opportunity this year to host students from France for two weeks in October.

Ms. Chase plans to continue this year with the goal of getting the middle schoolers excited for learning a new language in high school.

One of the other electives, library book club, taught by Ms. Cappi Castro, is giving a handful of the 8th-grade students a self-directed and self-

Ouray School’s Taste of Italy

by Alessandria King

“Everything was homemade and not greasy,” said junior Abbie Link, as she thought back to the dinner foreign exchange student Giorgia Stazi had prepared for junior Nisha Harding and her family, who are hosting Giorgia. A native of Rome Italy, Giorgia will be studying at Ouray High School the first semester of this year.

Ever since Giorgia was a freshman in high school, she wanted to be a foreign exchange student in America. “I chose America because that’s somewhere I’ve been with my parents,” said Giorgia “and I love the American people.”

Nisha brought Abbie to pick Giorgia up at the airport. “I was so excited!” said Abbie. Abbie and Nisha surprised Giorgia in Montrose with “Welcome to America” signs.

Nisha has been communicating with Giorgia since May, and traveled to Rome this summer to meet her. “I was pretty nervous,” said Nisha, “because we never met before and we didn’t talk that much before we went to Italy.” Nisha

described the people of Italy as “very touchy, unlike Americans.”

Giorgia has been adjusting to life in America these past few weeks, experiencing American food, camping, and a baseball game. She finds school, food, and culture all very different in America. “Food is a mess,” she said. “I miss pizza and pasta.” After her first experience camping and trying S’mores, she described American food as “very different in preparation.”

She is fitting right in at Ouray High School. English teacher Mr. Kissingford called her “an eager, thoughtful, happy presence” in class. Abbie agreed: “Giorgia is an intelligent, compassion-

ate, and happy person.”

So Giorgia will bring her slice of Italy to Ouray this fall. As it turns out, the pizza she made for her host family was the first she had ever made. She had to call her mother and grandmother in Italy for a pizza recipe.

“It was so freaking good!” said Nisha.



Ouray Band Program Crescendos

by Caeley Eddy

Music, instruments, and loud noises! Do you know where you can get all of these things? In band. Now, things will be extra noisy, due to 21 students in Mr. Scott’s band class. This year, band has doubled in size, from 12 students last year. With a bigger band, Ouray High School students will now have an opportunity to play harder songs.

Tenor Saxophone player Keegan Eddy feels good about the enlarged band. “I really enjoy playing with my friends,” he said. “Having a 21 person band will be awesome: it will allow us to play more difficult songs.”

Freshman trumpet player Audrey Gibbs joined band this year for the first time. “I am so excited to play with my older sister Mackenzie,” she said, her eyes bright with exuberance. “It’s so cool, being able to play with older High Schoolers.”

Some students are worried about the challenges a bigger band class will present. Freshman trumpet Player Joy Vann explained, “I love playing in band, but it’s hard with all the new music,” she

sighed. “I like the bigger band, it helps me make friends with older students. I also really enjoy playing with my brother Evan.”

But students are seeing the advantages, too. Junior french horn player Nisha Harding said, “I love band class. I look forward to it everyday because it’s a fun and not a very difficult class.” She also said, “I enjoy playing in a large band a lot. The last couple of years I’d be in a band class with just one other person. Shout out to Mackenzie. Anyways it’s a lot more fun with so many people. Plus it makes playing my part so much easier, because now I can hear all the other parts.”

Band teacher Mr. Scott appreciates his students’ willingness to dive into the music. “I really enjoy teaching, especially since most of my students are quite cooperative.” He grinned slightly. “With a larger band we can take on more literature, but I like to focus mostly on swing, the blues, folk, and rock. I also appreciate the amount of music this high school can take on.”

evaluated experience in reading. “I don’t want to grade them on a book report,” said Ms. Cappi. “It’s instead all about enjoying and loving to read.”

During this class, students get a calm and relaxed end to the day, as well as a self-directed and self-evaluated class where they can read whatever they want, from picture books to novels to histories, and all they have to do is fill out a sheet grading themselves on how and what they did in class.



“The fact that they get to read every other day, as a class, is going to impact them immensely academically,” stated Ms. Castro.

Although there are these new electives to choose from, some of the older ones have now been taken away, such as choir and technology. Ms. Kristi Webb, the 8th and 7th-grade science and literacy teacher, said, “All of them seem to be enjoying it. I haven’t heard any complaints, they’re progressing fine, and don’t appear to be missing the older electives too much.”

Ms. Webb also commented about how the students seem to like a more intense focus with the shorter time periods and how the days seem to go by quicker. But, with these new and shorter classes, kids are left with a gap which concerns teachers, especially when living with the need of 21st-century skills like typing in technology.

One of her students, Charlie Tyler, is ecstatic about the electives. “I feel that it’s so much better than last year. I mean, you never know when you need to just read.”

Another 8th-grade student, Kaden Nelson, who takes both French and library book club said, “I really like it: it adds opportunities, new things, new choices, and is just very exciting.”