

Spice the Spirit

By Alex Taft

What do you think of when you think of “spirit week”? Fun, unique, and out of the ordinary outfits that you normally don’t get to wear to school, right? *Wrong*. Kiss your fun and creative expressions of school spirit goodbye because today we’re wearing *groufits!* Wear some *g r e y* clothes to show your spirit for OHHS! Seriously though, this year’s spirit week was abysmal, but that doesn’t mean we should just pummel it into the ground; there’s always room for constructive criticism. Here we will discuss why this year’s spirit week was so bad, and how we can make sure to nail the next one. This is how we can spice the spirit.

The main problem with this year’s expression of spirit was the inclusion of way too many basic days where students and staff were just wearing clothes that they can wear any other typical day. It’s okay to have a day or two like this in one of these weeks; for example, it’s essentially OHHS tradition for juniors, sophomores, and freshmen to wear designated colors while seniors wear their togas. However, it becomes a problem when the entirety of the week except arguably Monday (Hawaiiin day) is one of these “basic” days.

Tuesday was tie-dye day, where students and staff are supposed to wear tie-dye. Not much room for one to be creative with how to approach this day, but it should be fine to have as long as there aren’t any other days besides Thursday with this basicity. The next day was groufit day, where we were supposed to wear all grey: very basic. You know where I’m going with this evidence. Too many days were too basic, and the spirit needed to be spiced!

I’m not the only student of Oak Hills who feels this way either. When asking students “what are your thoughts on this year’s spirit week?” at random in the hallways and commons, the most common response was along the lines of “it was bland” or “could’ve been better.” Only 8 of the 23 students interviewed had a positive perception of the most recent spirit week.

Now that we know exactly why this week of spirit flopped, we must plan accordingly to make sure the same mistake isn’t repeated. Let’s use our next spirit week, which will be before Christmas break, as a base for planning/examples. Mondays should be days that allow students/staff to wear something that normally isn’t worn to school, but doesn’t require much thought. Going with the fact that winter is a cold

season, I'd personally go with something like "pajama day" since pajamas aren't normal school attire, and are associated with warmth in the winter. Tuesdays should be something that gets everyone to wear the same type of clothing; this year's tie-dye day is actually a good example. Thursdays are always set in stone at OHHS, having seniors wear togas and everyone else different colors depending on grade. Wednesdays and Fridays, however, are each days where extra creativity and uniqueness should be encouraged. Some Wednesday/Friday options for a Christmas break spirit week include ugly sweater day, holiday day, and maybe even a day where everyone is encouraged to dress as their favorite character from a holiday movie.

Just because this first spirit week didn't go so well, that doesn't mean we can't come back with the best dang expression of spirit Oak Hills has ever seen. In this next spirit week, we will come back stronger and more prepared than ever, and we will spice the spirit!

