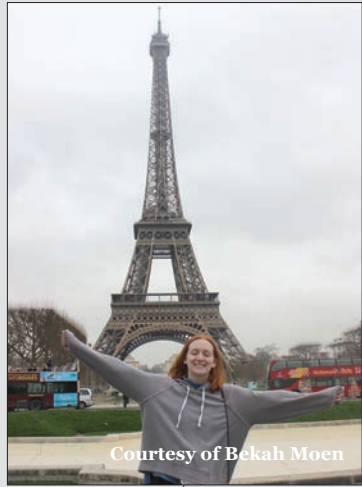


# Wall, French students take trip to France over break



Sophomore **Gretchen Bartholomew** poses in front of the Eiffel Tower while in France during a spring break trip with her French class. During the trip, the group visited Paris, Brittany, and Normandy, France, and went to several museums and landmarks.

Courtesy of Bekah Moen

The French students visited several sites on their trip through France, including the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial where they visited the thousands of grave sites of the American soldiers who lost their lives in Europe during World War II.



Courtesy of Bekah Moen

By **Molly Archer**  
staff writer

Many students use Spring Break as a way to relax, but French teacher Shaundi Wall and a group of her current and former French students packed their bags and left for France to put what they have learned to the test.

The group left the U.S. on March 13 and returned the following Tuesday after visiting Paris, Normandy, and Brittany while on their trip.

“I feel like French, now, is no longer a class for them, but a real way of life that they know that they can partake in because the French way of life is so much different,” French teacher Shaundi Wall said.

As of right now, this will be Wall’s last year teaching French at OHS. Some of her students that attended the trip with her feel that it was a good chance to spend time with her before she left.

“I definitely feel closer to her because we spent a week

together in a different country, and I know I’ve just always thought that she was an amazing teacher,” sophomore Catherine Case said.

In France, the students visited the Eiffel Tower, the Normandy American Cemetery, Notre Dame, Versailles, Mont Saint Michel, and many others places.

“When I asked everyone what their favorite place was, they all said Etretat,” Wall said. “Etretat is simply a beach with a cliff. It’s not man-made. It was nature-made, and that was their favorite place. I thought it’s pretty amazing that nature still out-did all of these man-made monuments.”

Many of the students had never been out of the U.S. before, and were able to experience another country’s culture firsthand.

“I learned so much more about the culture of France and Europe in general,” Case said. “It kind of opened my eyes to that there’s so much more than just what is here in Oxford, Miss.”

This was senior Matt Simpson’s first trip to France as well, but he has decided that he would want to go back after experiencing the trip with his classmates.

“It was one of the best experiences of my life. I miss France a lot,” Simpson said. “I decided that I am going to try and become fluent because of the trip.”

Simpson and Case, along with a few of their classmates, have decided that they want to expand their knowledge and use what they have already learned to continue experiencing places like France.

“I think the ones that have truly learned and listened in class really did understand the value of what they learned that suddenly it wasn’t words in a quizlet,” Wall said. “It wasn’t answers on a test. It was a way of life that they got to experience and step into firsthand.”



# New classes being offered, more programs for upcoming year

By **Eric Maddigan**  
staff writer

Next school year, the variety of classes offered to students will be greatly increased. New classes will give students the opportunity to explore subjects that are rarely looked at in schools.

Over a dozen new classes will be offered to students next school year, including African American Studies, AP Computer Science Principles, Problems in American Democracy, among others.

“We’ve got a plethora of new classes that we’re going to offer next year,” Assistant Principal Paul Ross said. “I think that we have something for everybody.”

These new classes not only give students the chance to earn required credits for graduation, but also a chance to learn specific subjects that students will enjoy.

“We have a diverse student body, both racially, economically, religiously, just across the board, we have a lot of differences,” Ross said. “Everybody has different interests, different strengths, different things that they naturally gravitate towards, so by having a wider range of offerings, students are able to find their niche, whether it be art or history or you’re mathematically gifted.”

The school will also be adding more virtual classes next year.

These classes are also about unique subjects, such as Mississippi

Writers, Botany, and Accounting, and provide students an alternative way to learn.

“Everybody’s learning style and everybody’s learning interests are different, so by having some virtual class options, it allows students to craft a schedule that best fits their needs inside and outside of school,” Ross said. “Some people learn better virtually than in the classroom setting, and I think having the virtual offerings is beneficial to everybody.”

Students agree that the new classes being offered provide a great chance to learn new and unique subjects.

“More classes creates more opportunity for students to go into what they need,” junior Drew Hester said.

“It’s important to offer these classes because it allows more people to go into what they want.”

Some students are glad about class offerings being expanded, as they provide students a chance to gain a deeper understanding of subjects.

“Having a bunch of new classes being offered allows us to really go in-depth on a specific subject that we really like,” junior Lauren Chandler said.

Ross expressed optimism that the number of classes offered will only increase over the years.

“Hopefully, every year, we’re able to add a number of courses that are interesting, but also relevant to our students,” Ross said.

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