

Student organizes voter registration drive for juniors and seniors

By George Monroe
staff writer

As Oxford High School students approach adulthood, a new opportunity to participate in our democratic society arises. At the age of seventeen, students can register to vote in the state of Mississippi even though the legal voting age is eighteen.

Encouraging students to take advantage of this early opportunity has been something OHS junior Noah Amidon has worked hard to do. He is working with MS Votes, an organization dedicated to getting young Mississippians involved in democracy. Amidon set up a voter drive in the OHS library after his former teacher recommended that he get involved.

“The way I got involved with MS Votes was through a youth advisory council fellowship group, which my old debate coach, Dr. Lowe, recommended me to apply to. Dr. Lowe found out about this initiative and thought I was a good candidate to lead it, so I applied and went through the MS Votes program,” Amidon said.

Amidon was not the only OHS member to lead this event. OHS librarian Amanda Osborne was chosen by Amidon to help as well.

“He needed a faculty sponsor, so

he reached out to me this summer,” Osborne said. “The National Honor Society students volunteered and helped register kids as well.”

Amidon, Osborne and National Honor Society members experienced a great turnout, with many juniors and seniors participating.

“We had 130 new people who registered to vote. Since we set up before school and during lunch at the library, there was a lot of foot traffic. We called out students and asked them if they registered, and if they didn’t, we would urge them to do so,” Amidon said.

The foot traffic was not the only reason why this large turnout occurred. Amidon spread the word through social media, and the school took part in informing students about this event.

“I posted about it on my personal Twitter and Instagram. It was picked up by the OHS PTO page, and Principal Hamilton shared it in his weekly newsletter,” Amidon said.

Certain classes also went to the library to register, with Osborne leading one of them.

“Some college and career readiness classes came into the library to register. They had a democracy class during that time as well. MS Votes

gave this class to me to teach the day of the drive,” Osborne said.

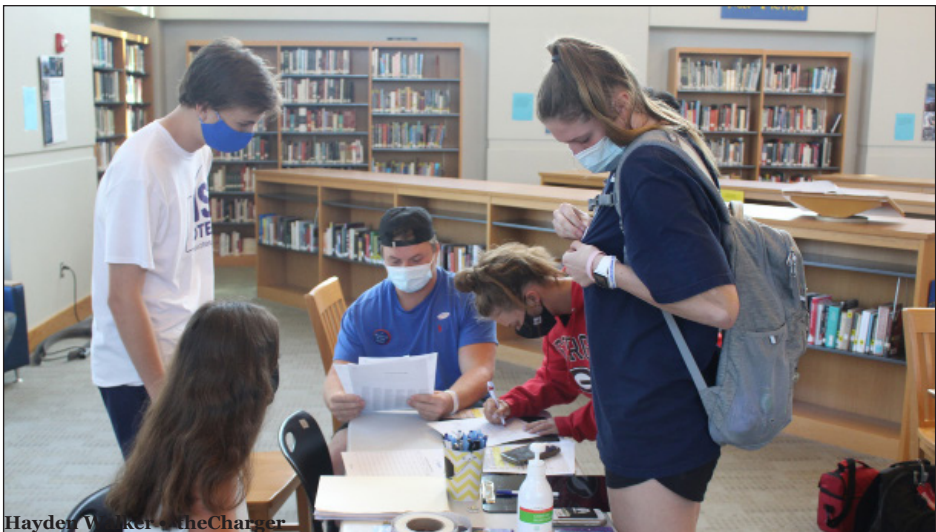
These classes help with a student’s future and make a brighter and better world, something that Osborne and Amidon believe voter registration does as well.

“Young people have a different perspective on politics and changing the world,” Osborne said. “They are very energetic. Getting young voters excited about democracy is important to the future of our country. We need

them to know their vote counts and matters.”

For Amidon, voter registration helps students get a leg up on being knowledgeable about the adult world.

“Being aware of current events is very important for young people,” Amidon said. “They will be more likely to research candidates and information. It’s good to get into the habit of voting at a young age, so you can vote more frequently and change the world.”



Hayden Walker/TheCharger.com
Junior Noah Amidon, far left, at the voter registration drive, works with seniors Celie Rayburn, Ainsley Tacke, Molly Swingle, and Bryce Mullen. Amidon organized the drive with the help of OHS librarian Amanda Osborne. Both junior and senior students were registered to vote.

OHS honors Breast Cancer Awareness Month with breast cancer walk

By Vivi Tomlinson and Callie Carter
staff writers

The month of October is recognized as International Breast Cancer Awareness Month. To celebrate, OHS held its seventh annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk on Friday, October 8th at 7:30 A.M. girls fitness teacher Rose Hickey spearheaded the walk.

“The breast cancer walk was started just to raise awareness to students of Oxford High School,” Hickey said. “Over the years, teaching health and girls fitness, we spend time talking about cancer. There is always someone that has been affected; they know someone who has been affected, or has died or survived [breast cancer].”

Hickey began the walk when she noticed how little students knew about breast cancer and the affects of it.

“It was started by me, when we started talking about cancer in our fitness and health classes,” Hickey said. “I realized that so many high school students don’t really know much about breast cancer, or any type of cancer, unless they know someone who has been affected by it.”

Members of the community participate in the walk alongside students. It brings the whole community together for something important.

“I think it gets the students thinking more about it; they tell their friends about it and they tell their family,” Hickey said. “We have a lot of community members that come out. It’s an awareness walk for anyone and everyone who’s had it or knows someone who’s had it.”

Photography teacher Amanda Gullledge

assisted Hickey with the preparation for the walk this year.

“This is the first year I have assisted Mrs. Hickey in the walk. I will be taking over the walk next year,” Gullledge said. “I was in charge of all of the social media announcements, making signs and setting up that morning.”

Gullledge believes the walk shows students the importance of being aware of breast cancer.

“I think it is a great thing, especially for young students, because a lot of people have not been affected by it,” Gullledge said. “It kind of makes them aware of how close it is to everybody. They may not be aware that someone close to them could have been affected.”

Gullledge is passionate about breast cancer awareness because her mother passed away from it and wants to commemorate her.

“One of the reasons I joined Mrs. Hickey was because four years ago I lost my mother to breast cancer, and she only fought for nine months,” Gullledge said.

Senior Lyla Huggins attended the walk with the cheer team and appreciates the awareness brought with the walk.

“I’ve attended it every single year and it’s something I’ve enjoyed,” Huggins said. “And this year, we actually got to take the whole cheer team out and go walk. It’s always a good cause and so fun.”

Huggins knows multiple people who have suffered from breast cancer; she walks to remember and support them.

“My aunt passed away from [breast cancer] a few months ago, and then two of my best friends have it and my godmother has it,” Huggins said.

Huggins is appreciative of honoring people who have been affected by breast cancer through the walk at school.

“I think it’s important because I know people with breast cancer, and they have either passed away from it, fought it or currently have it,” Huggins said. “It’s a really relevant cause, and [the walk is] just fun and it’s also something that is important.”

