

# THE ORATOR

Bryan High School

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## Inclucity students return with new attitude

In•clu•cit•y  
(in-kloo-site)

n. 1. From the word inclusion. 2. A place where all people, not just some people, can live and learn in peace, dignity, mutual acceptance and respect.

Marisol Silva  
Staff Writer

Prejudice, bullying and being left out are sometimes a part of the high school experience that no one really wants to be a part of. Inclucity, however, involves a group of students who tackle these types of problems that some teenagers must face every day.

Even the sound of the word Inclucity helps explain its purpose. It is a place where everyone is included and where people do not feel left out.

Shirts that display the defini-

tion of Inclucity on them identify the 15 Bryan teenagers who attended the Inclucity camp Oct. 12-15 in Ashland. At the camp, participants slept in cabins.

The first night, students got to know each other by participating in a number of events, including a camp mudfight.

Even though Inclucity was held over Homecoming weekend and Bryan's participants missed out on all of the Bryan's Homecoming activities, they did not seem to mind.

"It was so awesome," said junior Joseph Chavez, who was attending Inclucity for the second

time. This time, however, Chavez was one of 15 students on the staff. His enthusiasm for the experience was apparent.

"I didn't have a favorite part," Chavez said. "I liked everything. Even the food was awesome!"

Inclucity provides a safe and respectful environment where students examine their own biases and prejudices, discover ways to dismantle stereotypes, build long lasting cross-cultural relationships, learn ways to peacefully resolve conflict, and become allies for one another.

There are two different camps for Inclucity – a week long summer program and a four-day weekend camp.

The summer program focuses on learning skills to confront and challenge prejudice, bias and stereotyping.

The program encourages students to take personal responsibility in creating safe, welcoming and respectful schools and community.

The four-day camp also focuses on leadership and human relations skills.

In the process, high school students learn to take important steps to examine their own biases and discover ways to dismantle stereotypes.

They also learn ways to peacefully resolve conflict.

Open discussions were a norm throughout the entire camp period.

"My favorite part of the camp

was when we did group discussions," said sophomore Alex Toledo. "It really got students interested in everything."

Nearly 60 students and staff from selected high schools engaged in honest dialogues around issues of difference (race, culture, faith, class, sexual orientation, age, appearance and ability).

Bryan students agreed it was a memorable experience and would go back anytime.

The process of selecting participants for Inclucity begins with teacher and counselor nominations.

If there are more than 15 candidates, academic achievement and leadership roles also play a part in the process.

"Anyone who is interested should fill out an application (in the Guidance Office)," Inclucity sponsor Ms. Jessica Frank said. "It's a way to see things from other points of view and others' perspectives in a way never seen before."

Most of the participants agreed their favorite part was meeting new and diverse people from other schools.

Teachers also enjoyed seeing the students grow during those four days. They said most students came back as different people.

"It's definitely an eye opening experience," Frank said. "You are faced with and have to deal with issues you know exist. You have to confront them but in a safe environment."



Photo by Rosa Najera

Lending a helping hand, senior Jaime Blunt assists his sister sophomore Nina Blunt with her suitcase and gear as she and other Inclucity participants junior Karina Ventura and junior Yanim Martinez load the bus for Ashland, Nebraska. Students went to the Inclucity camp over the Homecoming weekend.

## Boo Bash draws over 800 costumed children, parents

Natali Bianco  
Staff Writer

Another one down, and hopefully many more to go.

It was another successful night for Bryan High School's annual Boo Bash held for the first time on a Saturday night.

Drawing all kinds of ghosts, ghouls and witches, it was a packed festive house on Oct. 27 at Bryan.

All Bryan organizations involved treated kids to a spectacular night of games, trick-or-treating and plenty of fun.

Boo Bash, which has been a tradition since the early 1990s, drew approximately 800 people. Although attendance was lower than recent years, the event was held on a Saturday night for the first time because of state football playoffs. Last year, approximately 1,500 people showed up for the event.

"With the NU football game, Treat Street, and Spook-a-Rama all going on at the same time, I'd say attendance was pretty good," said director of the event, Mrs. Krystal Kolb. "Having the Boo Bash on a Saturday, rather than Friday, had

many other advantages also. It wasn't as hectic as it usually is. Previously, we had an extremely tight schedule. We had to get all of the students out, and get all of the decorations put up in only a few hours."

Even with the attendance drop, Boo Bashes in the future may continue to be on Saturdays rather than Fridays. With the school schedule being so busy, the Boo Bash is likely to be held on different dates according to the school activity calendar.

"Next year, we are going to have a real dilemma with the date," Kolb said. "Having it on Halloween, could be a problem, and you can't have a Boo Bash after Halloween. The Friday before is football playoffs, so that Saturday is probably what we are looking at."

Although attendance was not the highest, Bryan still collected 1,014 pounds of food for the Omaha Food Bank.

Whether on a Friday or Saturday night, the Bryan Boo Bash is always a big event for neighborhood children.



Photo courtesy of Ms. Kim Wyllie

Volunteering for the DECA organization, seniors Jenna Nelson and Andrea Jansen assist a young trick or treater at "Pin the Ghost on the Haunted House" at Bryan's annual Boo Bash.

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