

Orchard Park Schools Update

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

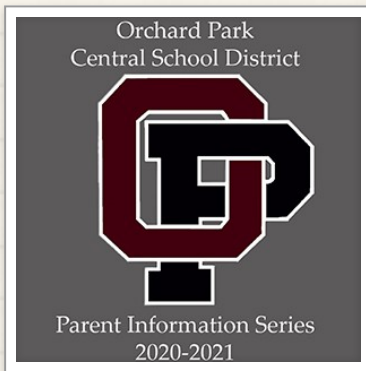
General Communications

The 2020-2021 school year has been an unusual year to say the least. With so much going on that needs to be communicated to our parents and families, the District will be sending out regular OPCSD updates that include general information that our families should be aware of and news from within our buildings.

Upcoming Half-Days

Please note Thursday, December 3rd and Friday, December 4th are half-days for Elementary and Middle School students. Even though students are learning remotely the half-days will continue as scheduled to allow for Parent Teacher Conferences.

Friday December 4th was originally scheduled as a High School Early Dismissal but the high school will be following their regular online schedule.



Parent Information Series Continues with "Race, Racial Bias, and Racism: Increasing Understanding"

Presenter, Dr. Diantha Watts, focuses on defining race, racial bias and racism. Participants will increase their understanding of the meaning of race and the impact of racism on society at various levels on Thursday, December 3 from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Dr. Diantha Watts has over twenty-five years of experience working at various levels of public education. Dr. Watts served as a classroom teacher and school administrator with the Rochester City School District for over 16 years. Subsequently, she has held roles as program director, consultant, adjunct professor, and college administrator. Her experiences in education have always included a passion for supporting the development of cultural competence and anti-racist practices in educational systems.

To pre-register for this webinar please click the link below.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NH-uuAvERgmvXroPEa8Alw

COVID-19 Testing Update

The Orchard Park Central School District is currently awaiting our site license to allow COVID-19 testing on-site for students and staff. The District has received the testing kits needed to begin testing on-site and will be sending further communication about this requirement soon, including a form for parents to give the district permission to do on-site COVID-19 testing.



UPK Registration Begins

Applications for Universal Pre-Kindergarten will begin being accepted for the 2021-2022 school year on December 1. In order to participate in the UPK program children must reside in the Orchard Park Central School District attendance area, and be four years old by December 1st of the year they start the program. To qualify for UPK during the 2021-2022 school year the child's birthday must fall between 12-2-16 and 12-1-17.

UPK applications are due by March 5, 2021. To begin the registration process please visit www.opschools.org/upk. For questions regarding the Universal Pre-K program please contact Amy Woodward at 209-6367, or email awoodward@opschools.org. If you have questions about the registration process, please call the Central Registrar at 209-6325.

Need Technology Help

If you need technology assistance please email technology@opschools.org and include your child's name and a description of the issue you are experiencing. You should immediately receive an automated response. If you don't receive the **automated** response within 5 minutes of sending your email, please call 209-6320.

What's Going On In Our Schools

Please check out the stories below to view a sampling of items that went on within our District this fall. Many of the items listed below occurred before the District shifted to remote learning on November 23rd.

Studio In Art Students Create Masked Self-Portrait Collages

Ms. Kelley, high school art teacher, tweaked her first Studio in Art project of the school year which would normally be a self-portrait collage. Instead the students created COVID-19 mask self-portrait collages to reflect the fact that we are all experiencing a global pandemic. The students chose magazine items that reflected their personality and collaged them to create a COVID-19 mask.



Ms. Kelley teaches Studio in Art at the Orchard Park High School. Studio in Art is the prerequisite introductory art course at the high school level.



Kindergarten Students Learn About Lockdown Drills

Earlier this fall, Orchard Park DARE Officer Kristen Mazur, visited kindergarten classrooms at all four district Elementary schools to teach our youngest students about lockdown drills. Officer Mazur read the students “The Lockdown Drill” written by Deputy Becky Coyle and discussed what the students should do in case of a lockdown. It was a great way for the kindergarten students to get more familiar with what a lockdown drill involves.

Individual Music Bags Distributed to Primary Students

This year the Orchard Park Central School District supplied every K-2 student with their own individual music bag to use in their general music classes. The bags were distributed the week of October 19th.



The elementary music teachers met virtually over the summer and suggested individual music bags as a possible solution to the problem of shared musical equipment.

Each bag contains one scarf, jingle bells, a shaker egg, a pair of pool noodle pieces that are used as sand blocks, and a pair of rhythm sticks. These items are classroom instruments that the students would typically use in a school year but weren't able to due to COVID.

These items will be used in every music class for the primary level musicians. The bags went to every student in the district in kindergarten, first and second grades including remote kids. Almost 1,200 bags were distributed.



Wind Ensemble Takes Advantage of Fall Weather

Members of OP Wind Ensemble took advantage of the beautiful weather fall weather we had this year to practice outside and they sounded great!

Mr. David Hack Recognized as a Certified Master Athletic Administrator

The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association announced that Mr. David Hack, Director of Physical Education & Athletics and House I Principal at the Orchard Park High School, has been recognized as a Certified Master Athletic Administrator.



Mr. Hack is one of a very elite group of interscholastic athletic administrators nationwide to attain this level of professionalism.



OPMS Technology Teachers Create STRIDES Letters for American Cancer Society

OPMS Technology teachers volunteered to create the STRIDES letters for the American Cancer Society's "The Drive to Make Strides" which took place on Saturday October 17th at the Galleria Mall. The technology teachers used a projector to project the letters on the plywood and then cut them out, used a router to make the edges smooth, created stands for them to stand on their own, and painted them pink.

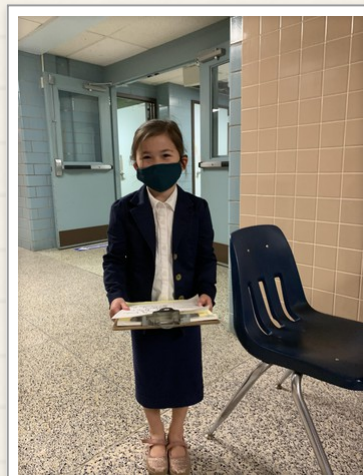
Windom Students Interviewed for Classroom Jobs

Ms. Miller's class at Windom Elementary has been discussing what it means to be a member of the classroom community and their home community.


The class talked about how adults need to apply for a job and then possibly go for an interview. The first graders re-created this process in order to get the classroom job they were interested in and become an integral part of their classroom community.

Students were given interview questions to practice at home and were interviewed by staff at Windom. Some students even dressed up for their interview!

Everyone in the class was "hired" for a position. Some of the jobs included gardener, electrician and line leader. The students have been taking their new jobs very seriously.



About the Orchard Park Central School District

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The Orchard Park Central School District covers approximately 50 square miles and includes portions of six adjacent townships: Orchard Park, West Seneca, Hamburg, Boston, Elma and Aurora. We have four elementary schools, a middle school and a high school, serving some 5,400 students.

We are continuing a long tradition of excellence in academics, athletics, service and the arts. Our schools are known for outstanding academic achievement at all levels. Over 90 percent of our graduates go on to higher education.

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