

Orchard Park Schools Update

Wednesday, December 23, 2020



Message from the Superintendent

As many of us prepare to celebrate the holidays a little differently this year I would like to express my gratitude to all of you.

Our students have shown such resilience in light of how the world around them has rapidly changed;

Our teachers and staff have shown flexibility and a willingness to adapt;

Our families who have partnered with us and continue to work hard to ensure our students are getting the education they deserve;

And our administrative team has worked to ensure we are meeting all of the necessary requirements while doing what we are known for, excelling in educating.

I would like to wish everyone a healthy, safe and relaxing winter recess! Please enjoy a well deserved break.

Winter Recess

The Orchard Park Central School District will be closed December 24th - January 1st for Winter Recess. School will resume on Monday January 4th.

Monday January 4th is a B day.

COVID-19 Testing Update

To help accomplish the required testing NYS requires for schools to be open while in an orange zone, the District is working with our community-based nursing partner, Aveanna Healthcare. On-site testing began for students and staff on Monday, December 14th.

*Pictured to the right Eggert Elementary student Quinn Krueger gives a thumbs up after her random COVID-19 test. * Please note the District had parental permission to take and share this photo.*

As of Tuesday, December 22nd the district has conducted 462 tests and has received one positive result.

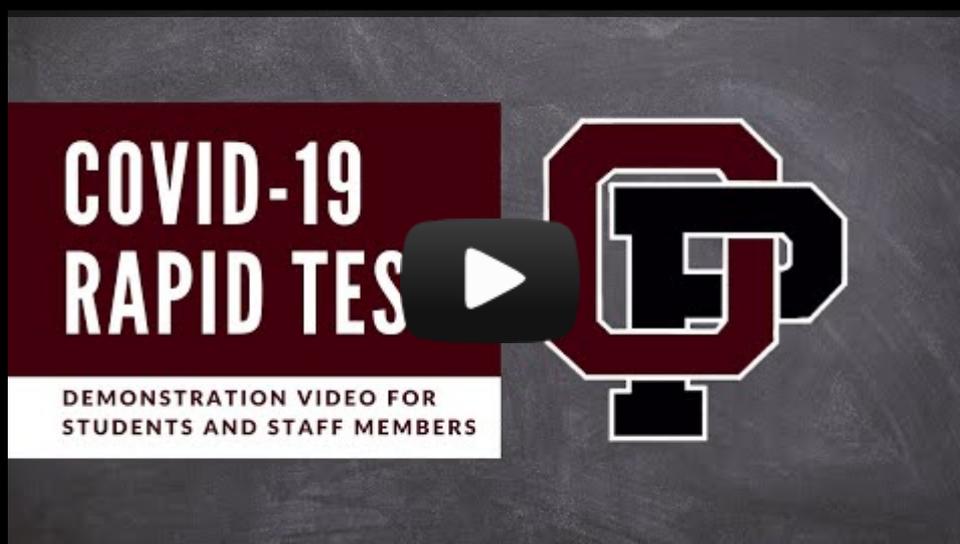
We have put together an FAQ document to answer some of the most common questions the district and our buildings have been receiving about the testing process.

[On-Site COVID-19 Testing FAQ](#)



The District has also created a test demonstration for you and your children to watch to become familiar with the ease of the test and exactly how it will be administered.

OPCSD BinaxNOW COVID 19 Rapid Test Demonstration



Orchard Park Visual Arts Department Showcased

At the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, December 8, the Orchard Park Visual Arts Department provided an update to the Board showcasing what is happening in the Art Department. It was wonderful to see the creative and amazing pieces of artwork and the talents of our Orchard Park students! Thank you to the members of the Orchard Park Visual Arts Department for creating this phenomenal video showcasing their department and our impressive students.

Orchard Park Visual Art Department



Kindergarten Registration

For information on registering your child for Kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school, please visit www.opschools.org/kindergarten. Registration is completed online.

To enter Kindergarten, a child must be five years old on or before Dec. 1 2021. Registration needs to be complete by March 1st. At the orientation, which takes place in late April or early May of 2021, the child and parent/guardian meet the principal, school nurse and some of the teachers, visit a Kindergarten room and sign up for Kindergarten screening. Screening is done at a later date to assess the strengths and needs of each child. This year some of these items may be completed virtually rather than in person.

To begin the kindergarten registration process for the 2021-2022 school year please visit www.opschools.org/kindergarten.

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. We are here to help!



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.

What's Going On In Our Schools

Please check out the stories below to view a sampling of what has been going on within our District.

Kinder-Buddy Campaign

Mrs. Coder and Miss Paolini, Virtual Kindergarten teachers, started the Kinder-Buddy Campaign at the beginning of this school year. The effort began to help meet the social/emotional needs of their virtual kindergarten students.

The Kinder-Buddy Campaign allows each remote kindergarten student to have a stuffed animal friend for use in the home "classroom". Each Kinder-Buddy stuffed animal was "adopted" by a kindergartener for the school year. The Kinder-Buddy is used to model behaviors, both academic and social. These students use their Kinder-Buddies for partner work in all subjects throughout the day. They will also be the one friend that can always be close by!



The Virtual Kindergarten teachers received donations which allowed them to provide a TY Beanie Boo for each of their students. The students have been hard at work this school year with their Kinder-Buddies by their side!

STAP Comm's Roswell Adopt-A-Family Fundraiser

This year STAP Comm, Orchard Park High School's student government, limited its Adopt-A-Family fundraiser to gift cards only. The entire OPHS community contributed to this wonderful event. With the generous donations received STAP Comm was able to support a large family of 7. They received

\$1220 in cash and \$1070 in gift cards. A total of \$2290 was raised to support the family. STAP Comm was able to deliver the donations December 4th.



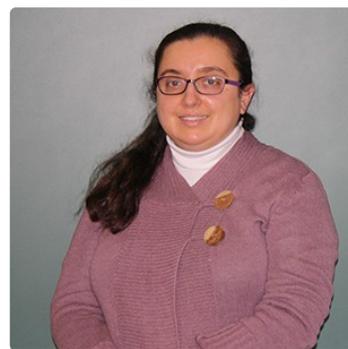
Ellicott Students Create Cards, Videos and Drawings For Orchard Heights Residents!

The Ellicott Student Council just completed a holiday project for Orchard Heights. Annually Ellicott students visit Orchard Heights during the holiday season to sing holiday songs but this year, when visiting isn't an option they decided to have all of the students at Ellicott help us make holiday cards/letters/drawings so that each resident will receive something from us! Everything will be delivered to Orchard Heights Wednesday, December 23rd!

The Student Council members took it a step further and each recorded a holiday video for the residents. They choose to either sing a holiday song, read a holiday poem, do a holiday dance, or play their instrument!

Mrs. Cartwright Recognized for her Advocacy

Orchard Park High School French teacher Anna Cartwright was recently recognized by the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers for her advocacy of multilingualism. According to the NYSAFLT News, Mrs. Cartwright has developed a three-pronged approach which includes: promoting the program, growing the program, and celebrating the program. Anna believes the communication must be open among students, parents, teachers, and administration.



Anna Cartwright was selected for the NYSAFLT's Leaders of Tomorrow Program in 2019. Her project culminated in a presentation on advocacy at the NYSAFLT conference in October .

Orchard Park Middle School Spreads Kindness

Throughout the month of December the Middle School announcements have been encouraging everyone to spread kindness. Many of the classrooms and departments at the Middle School have opted to spread a little kindness by creating ornaments, cards or pieces of artwork to share with patients and staff at St. Joseph's Hospital. The Middle School students, teachers and staff alike are hoping their creations bring some holiday cheer to those at St. Joseph's.



8th Grade Technology students at OPMS have been 3D printing and laser cutting ornaments. All together the 8th grade technology students will be donating approximately 200 ornaments to St. Joseph's Hospital.



Students at Orchard Park Middle School worked hard this month to create posters for the health care workers at St. Joseph's hospital.



6th grade art students created cards for the patients and health care workers at St. Joseph's hospital.

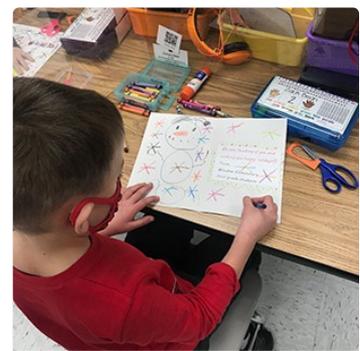
Mr. Ziccardi Celebrates Computer Science Education Week

The first full week in December was Computer Science Education Week. To celebrate Mr. Ziccardi, OPCSD Computer Science Coordinator, put together an array of resources for students and their families to use. Head to his teacher page to view these great computer science resources!

To check out his Teacher Page visit: <https://www.opschools.org/Domain/2958>

Windom Students Spread Holiday Cheer!

First grade students at Windom Elementary recently completed community service project to brighten the days of some who have been feeling isolated due to COVID-19. Teacher assistants Nicole Chelus and Sandra Jensen encouraged the first graders at Windom Elementary to make holiday cards for the residents at Orchard Heights Senior Living facility. What a great way to spread some holiday cheer!



Mr. Muffoletto's Students Board "The Polar Express"

On Tuesday, December 22nd Mr. Muffoletto's class at Eggert Elementary had an opportunity to board their own "Polar Express". Mr. Muffoletto dressed up as the train conductor and student's tickets were punched before they watched "The Polar Express". Afterward all of the students received a small bell and a Santa hat along with a small gift. What a fun way to prepare for winter recess!

Many of you may recognize Mr. Muffoletto after his recent appearance on the Food Network's "Christmas Cookie Challenge". Mr. Muffoletto made Orchard Park proud with his cookie creations!

See the picture below of Mr. Muffoletto from his appearance on the "Christmas Cookie Challenge."



About the Orchard Park Central School District

[Facebook](#) [@OPSchools](#)

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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