

# Orchard Park Schools Update

October 2022

## September Highlights with Superintendent, Dave Lilleck

### September Highlights



## Homecoming 2022

The Orchard Park Central School District celebrated Homecoming on Friday, September 23 and Saturday, September 24. Thank you teachers, support staff and administrators for your support of the homecoming events. Check out the video below to see some of the weekend's festivities.

## Homecoming 2022



## Orchard Park High School Recognized as 2022 National Blue Ribbon School



On Friday, September 16, 2022 U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona recognized 297 schools, including Orchard Park High School, [National Blue Ribbon Schools](#). Orchard Park High School is one of

twenty schools selected for this honor in New York State.

National Blue Ribbon Schools serve as models of effective school practices for state and district educators and other schools throughout the nation. A National Blue Ribbon School flag gracing a school's entryway or on a flagpole is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.



Orchard Park High School has been named among the Exemplary High-Performing Schools for the second time.

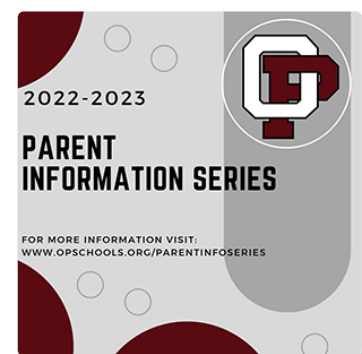
"On behalf of Orchard Park High School's staff, students, and families, we are incredibly proud to be recognized as a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School. said Orchard Park High School Principal Jonathan Wolf. "This award recognizes the outstanding work of the entire Orchard Park School District culminating with student achievement at the High School. We are humbled by this honor in that OPHS is being recognized again in our first year of eligibility since receiving this award in 2016."

"I am incredibly proud to be a part of a district with multiple schools named National Blue Ribbon Schools. District recipients include Eggert Elementary (2007), South Davis Elementary (2013) and Orchard Park High School (2016 and 2022). This honor is a testament to the dedication of teachers, support staff members, administrators, students, school board members, community members and parents. Orchard Park is a district of excellence that works to ensure all members of our school community have the opportunity to reach their full potential." said David Lilleck, Orchard Park Superintendent of Schools.

## Parent Information Series Kicks Off With Executive Functioning Presentation

The Orchard Park Central School District will kick off the 2022-2023 Parent Information Series with a virtual presentation: *Executive Functioning*, given by Dr. Peg Dawson.

Executive skills are critical to the acquisition of academic skills, but, more importantly, they are the skills students need to get things done. They are brain-based skills such as task initiation, sustained attention, working memory, planning, organization, and goal-directed persistence that are critical to school success. Some students seem to acquire them naturally, but many students struggle with them. Dr. Peg Dawson will describe how these skills develop throughout childhood and suggest strategies parents can use to help children acquire the critical skills they need to be successful students.



Dr. Dawson will be virtually presenting to parents and community members in Orchard Park on Wednesday, October 12, 2022. The presentation will be held from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Visit [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_LtiXCneRWWqXxmAP4PFMg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LtiXCneRWWqXxmAP4PFMg) to pre-register for this free presentation.

Peg Dawson, Ed.D., is a school psychologist with an expertise in the assessment of learning and attention disorders. She is the co-author of numerous books on executive skills, including *Smart but Scattered* and *Smart but Scattered Teens*. is a past president of the National Association of School

## Family Solutions Center Available to Orchard Park Families



The Orchard Park Central School District and the Town of Orchard Park have come together to assist the families of the community by opening the Orchard Park Central School District Family Solutions Center, located within the Orchard Park Community Center at 4520 California Road. The center officially began serving community families on Monday, September 19th.

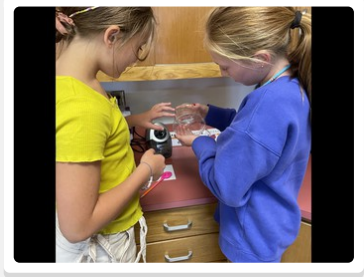
The Family Solutions Center supports district and community families with school age children by providing direct counseling services to families, hosting parenting classes, and providing resources. The mental health professionals at the Family Solution Center will work with families to promote problem solving strategies to develop healthy relationships using solution focused communication. By recognizing the family as the most significant influence in the development of a child, mental health professionals will optimize student success by empowering families.



"We understand that the family is the most important aspect in the development of the child and by assisting families with improved communication, conflict resolution and reducing stress in the functioning of the family, it will have a positive impact on the child's overall academic, social and emotional development." said Katie Connelly, Family Solutions Center Coordinator.

To learn more about the Family Solutions Center, its current offerings and the plans to grow the program in the future please visit [www.opschools.org/familysolutions](http://www.opschools.org/familysolutions).

## Eggert Students Study "How Living Things Get What They Need To Live and Grow"



Mr. Rozansky and Miss Torcello's 5th Grade students at Eggert Elementary experimented in science with mealworms as they measured, investigated, and observed their living species. Students completed a mini-lab on how the mealworms were affected by light and dark environments as well as when oatmeal was added to the equation on how the movement and behaviors of the mealworms changed. Their unit is focusing on "How Living Things Get What They Need to Live and Grow" and the students throughout enjoyed some live action and discussions in the classroom.

## Ellicott Students Attend The Play 60 Kickoff Event at Highmark Stadium

Thirty Ellicott Elementary students were invited to attend this year's Play 60 Kickoff event at Highmark Stadium. PLAY 60 is the NFL's health and wellness campaign that encourages kids to get physically active for at least 60 minutes a day and make healthy choices. Two students from each 3rd, 4th and 5th grade class at Ellicott Elementary were selected to this neat event!

Check out the video to see Ellicott Elementary students attending the 2022 Play 60 Kickoff event.

## Ellicott Attends the Play60 Kickoff at Highmark Stadium



## South Davis Holds Annual Fun Run

South Davis Elementary held their annual Fun Run on Thursday, September 22. The annual run raises funds for the South Davis PTO. Funds are used to support PTO sponsored events like Mr. Morton's animal visits, author visits, Sunrise Ecology and much more.



## STEM Students at Windom Build Cross-Curricular Connections

First grade STEM students in Mr. Wert's class at Windom Elementary were charged with the task of drawing a community helper (fireman, policeman, mail carrier, etc.) on a paper plate, then building roadways to connect the community workers using Keva blocks. Through this cross-curricular activity, students identified jobs, tools, and uniforms of community helpers with their teacher in their classroom, then created a community connected by roadways during their STEM class with Mr. Wert.



## OPMS Technology Department Is Keeping Busy

The Technology Department at Orchard Park Middle School had a busy September. Students have been working on their Air Skimmers: laying them out, testing and launching them as iterations to improve their designs, cutting out blueprints for architectural models and exploring STEM careers. It is so exciting to see all this learning in action!



## OPHS Club Spotlight

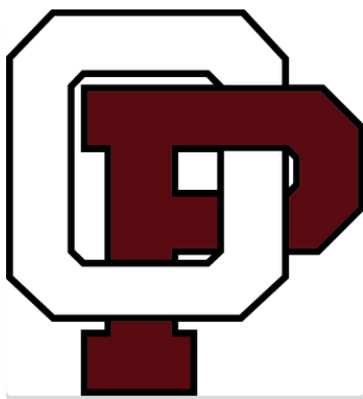
### Masterminds

Masterminds is an academic quiz team that travels to other schools (approximately every six weeks) to compete and meet new people. Standings and statistics are kept, playoffs are run, awards are earned and connections to colleges are established. To be eligible to participate students should have a vast knowledge base including the high school classroom, current events and pop culture. Masterminds begins meeting for the year in October. This is a great way to get involved if you have varied interests and like a little competition!



*Pictured to the right are some of last year's Mastermind participants after a competition.*

Click the October Image Below to Access the October Calendar



## 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 more than 5,000 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. More than 90 percent of our graduates advance to higher education.

 2400 Southwestern Boulevard, ...

 jbecker@opschools.org

 716-209-6200

 opschools.org

