



# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2024 - OUUSD BOARD

# SHOUT OUTS



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## **FRONT OFFICE STAFF**

THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING TO A SMOOTH START TO THE YEAR. EVEN WHEN THINGS ARE CRAZY YOU CONTINUE TO GET THE JOBS DONE.

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## **TO ALL TEACHERS**

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO EVERY SINGLE DAY! YOUR FLEXIBILITY AND OPTIMISM ARE INFECTIOUS.

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## **TO OUR SUMMER CUSTODIAL CREW**

THE BUILDING AND CAMPUS LOOK EXCELLENT BECAUSE OF YOUR HARD WORK AND ATTENTION. THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE EFFORT YOU PUT IN OVER SUMMER VACATION.

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## **TO OUR PARAEDUCATORS**

YOU ARE SUPER HEROES. THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUESTIONS, YOUR FLEXIBILITY, AND YOUR EFFORTS WITH OUR STUDENTS.

# VISION ALIGNMENT

It has been great to have students back in the building! During August Inservice, Faculty and Staff gathered to discuss the need to meet challenges that arose due to a support staff shortage, to introduce new staff, and to outline priorities for the coming year.

This report is presented in alignment with the OUUSD Vision Statement.

## **1. Engage all stakeholders:**

**Faculty & Staff:** We have assembled a comprehensive committee to look at a new bell schedule for next year. The committee has representatives from all grades, the union, all departments, and administration. The charge is to come up with a schedule that reduces the number of minutes students are passing in the hallway, builds in a “flex block” or two for clubs, enrichment, assemblies, and support, is in keeping with the CBA, and reduces the number of students in studyhalls. The first meeting takes place later this month.

**Students:**

A top priority this year is to lay the grounds for students to reflect on their own learning by implementing portfolios of work for every student. On October 6, we’ve scheduled consultants through the Great Schools Partnership to offer concrete examples of portfolios and meaningful, personalized learning plans that are living documents.

By allowing students some leeway in choosing what work they wish to include and reflect upon in their portfolio, OHS will be able learn which assignments resonate with our students, and why. We plan to hold the traditional Parent-teacher conferences in November, as usual, this year, but to move to student-led conferences and a celebration of learning for the spring. A critical element of the portfolio will be the personalized learning plan, and students’ evolving visions for their own futures. The spring event will be centered around student work.

**2. Hire, train, and retain quality employees:** OHS continues to have openings for a math interventionist and paraeducators. The paraeducator shortage hit us pretty hard this year. We’re thrilled with our three new hires: building-based subs: one about to be certified in Math, one former English teacher who is anxious to return to the field.

**3. Communicate to, among, and with stakeholders:** We have identified this is a priority this year. We’ve backed off on our use of robocalls through Infinite Campus. Our school social media page and website continue to receive a lot of viewing traffic (Facebook posts have reached 3,954 people with 1600 moments of post engagement in the last 28 days). Families of athletes are making great use of Team Snap. We are working to publish a quarterly newsletter for the community and families and will send it via email.

# VISION ALIGNMENT

4. Maintain clean, safe, and well-functioning facilities. Summer work included the replacement of highly efficient lighting and a major electrical upgrade throughout the A-wing of the building, primarily funded through ESSER grants. We completed asbestos abatement in the classroom greenhouse and in room B212, where we also installed a floor drain, painted, and installed new and safer shelving, sinks, and chemical storage, also funded through ESSER. .

5. Empower students to chart their future. Our VSAC Gear-up counselor will continue to work with us this year. She has developed terrific relationships with students and regularly checks in with faculty and student services.

Work-based learning: We are intensifying our efforts to expose students to college and career pathways through our shared WBL Coordinator. High School Students are now able to receive elective credit through jobs that they hold outside of [and, in some cases, during] school hours. Credit for this work is not a given - students will be required to keep a journal and to solicit feedback from their employers on their employability skills. This is a work in progress.

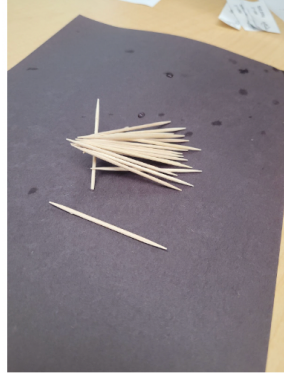
Personalized Learning Plans. As we implement portfolios and work Personalized Learning Planning into our school routine, future intentions should begin to seem more real (and will finally begin to bring us into compliance with Act 73!)

6. Hold those in leadership positions to high standards. OR hold leaders accountable. We are working hard to inform our leadership through honest faculty input and to establish a sense of trust and transparency with OHS staff. We try to manage this by walking around, visiting classrooms, and being present in the halls as often as possible.

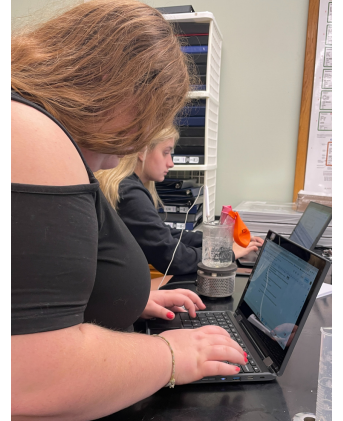
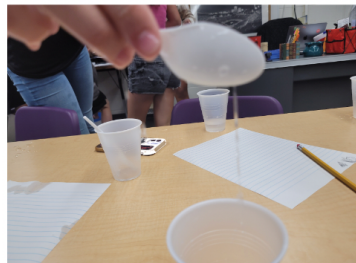


# STUDENT WORK & STUDENT ADVENTURES

Over two class periods, Mr. Fisher's World History class simulated survival in ancient times. The first day was spent working individually to collect food, transport water, and build shelter. Day two was a bit different, with students put into small groups and able to use teamwork to survive. Afterwards, students talked about the benefits of living in groups for survival purposes and plotted a location for a settlement based upon geographical features.



BELOW: Students work on a mini-lab in Dr. Carson's class.



LEFT: Students working on drawings in their art class.  
ABOVE: A student attempting to recite his memorized information to Mrs. Rimal (he needs to work on this more and try again, but he is eager to try again!)

# ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES



## ***Alice in Wonderland:* Auditions Held, Cast Created**

Students from all grades auditioned for a coveted place on the cast of OHS' fall production of *Alice in Wonderland*. A panel of staff watched student auditions and deliberated to create a cast which highlights our students talent. The curtain will rise on this adventure later this fall.

## **The Fall Season is off to a Great Start**

### **Fieldwork**

We have completed the first step in the field top dressing project. We have super lush and green fields to start this season.

### **Equipment**

Full-size soccer game goals  
7v7 goals for MS games and training  
Turf Tank

### **High School Boys' Soccer**

New Head Coach Chuck Simmons  
New Assistant Coach Blake Begnoche  
Increased numbers 25 athletes playing

JV games were added to help keep all 25 athletes engaged and playing  
The last two games have been decided by 2 goals or less, which is a huge improvement. The team has been competitive on the pitch in all matches thus far this season. As of today's report, their record is 0-2.

### **High School Girls Soccer**

New Uniforms  
Increased numbers

The team picked up their first win against Thetford on the road to open the season. The team is working hard to grow as a squad. They dropped the second season game 3-0 to Paine Mountain. They play Lake Region tonight.





# ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES CONT'D.

## Varsity Football

Numbers increased as kids returned to playing as the school year went on. The season's first two games were against very strong teams, Windsor being the defending state champions and Springfield returning most of their team.

## Cross Country

Varsity and middle School Cross Country will compete in their first season match on Thursday. The team is training hard and having a great time.

## Middle School Athletics

The girls' soccer team improves in skill each time they practice; the first game is on Wednesday. The younger Lady O's are having a great time and learning every day. The team has 15 athletes.

The boys' soccer team is increasing their technical skills this fall. They will play on a 7v7 field this year as the numbers are smaller if we combine with the girl's team and make a larger co-ed team. With 9 student-athletes, we will play a 7v7 game on a smaller field with a smaller goal to help these athletes grow, learn, and have more playing time. They, too will kick off their season this Wednesday.

## Welcome Back Dance was well attended and fun.

The first dance of the year was hosted by the Student Council. Around 90 students attended the dance. The dancing was enthusiastic and every student had a great night out.



# EVENTS

- Drama Auditions for *Alice in Wonderland* - Sept. 5 & 6
- Welcome Back Dance - Friday, September 8
- School Picture Day - Thursday, September 7
- NEL Field Trips - September 18, 21
- Yearbook Workshop - September 19
- Biology Field Trips - September 22, 26, 28, Oct. 2
- Hiking Trips - September 27, Oct. 3
- Homecoming - Friday, September 22
- Annual Title IX Meeting - Thursday, September 28
- Teacher Inservice, No School - Fri., October 6
- No School - Monday, October 9