

OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL

MARCH 15, 2024
VOL. 2023-24, NO.16

OHS NEWSLETTER. Published on the 1st and 15th each month.

IMPORTANT DATES

Spring Break
March 21 - March 31

ALC Closed
April 2

**WorkKeys, PSAT 9/10 &
Senior Field Trip**
April 11

SAT (Juniors Only)
April 15

MSTEP (Juniors Only)
April 17

IMPORTANT LINKS

click these:

[DISTRICT CALENDAR](#)

[BOND UPDATES](#)

[PARENT GROUP NEWSLETTER](#)

[PARENT GROUP MEETING](#)

[MINUTES](#)

NEXT MEETING:

APRIL 19, 2024

OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY,

Well, we are almost to spring break! Before we get there, I'd like to share with some important information:

[Test Out Registration Link](#) Registration deadline is MAY 1st.

[Test Out Policy](#)

And, while we're on the topic of testing, please see this document that will give you a simple snapshot for each grade level for state testing.

[OHS State Testing Schedule 2024](#)

In other news, we have had a really great couple of weeks here at OHS. As I speak, students and Mrs. Cironi are setting up for our Touch of Class Luncheon.

Earlier this week, Mrs. Fletcher and our NHS students hosted our annual blood drive. Thank you, Mrs. Fletcher!

I want to thank the Okemos Music Patrons for a fabulous spaghetti dinner last week. It's always nice to see so many families come together at the school. Even better to see our musicians from various grade levels sharing their talent!

As always, I am very proud of our teachers, students, staff, and families. If I don't speak with you, I certainly hope you and your family have a relaxing Spring Break. Oh! And, YES! We will be taking a break--no homework or Powerschool :)

Dr. Kemsley

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COUNSELING INFORMATION

Monthly Counselor Newsletter

Please access the [March Counseling Newsletter](#) here. Be sure to check out the 2024-2025 scheduling timeline.

Cap & Gown Donation

Counselors are accepting cap & gown donations from the Class of 2021 to 2023 to be used by economically disadvantaged students. Please drop them off in the main office if you would like to donate them.

7th Grade Camp Counselors

Pick up your envelopes in the Counseling Office!!!

Senior Decision Form

Seniors-do you want to share your post-high school plans? Would you like those plans featured on the Class of 2024 Decisions Instagram page? Then fill out [this form](#) to be featured!

Senior Yard Sign Info

Please complete an order form and submit payment by Friday, March 15th if you are interested in purchasing a Class of 2024 Yard Sign personalized with your senior's first name and yearbook photo. The order form has all the details and samples of what your yard sign will look like. Signs are \$15 each (we have already sold the minimum # of signs needed for this bulk order discount price!). You will be able to pick up your signs at OHS by mid-April. If you have any questions, please contact the parent volunteer coordinating the sale, Valerie Long, at valong11@gmail.com. ORDER here: <https://forms.gle/1uu1EpKXSotZRRZ77>



Junior and Senior
Great Gatsby
2024 Prom

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024
8-11 pm, You must enter before 9pm, no re-entry

EAGLE EYE GOLF CLUB
15500 Chandler Rd, Bath, MI 48808
APPETIZERS/DESSERTS ONLY
No dinner provided

NO BAGS | NO SOPHOMORE/FRESHMAN | JUNIOR/SENIOR GUESTS ALLOWED
Guest forms due May 6th, School ID to enter

Post Prom

- 11pm - 2am
- Tickets \$25
- Enter by 12am
- Casual
- Games, food, inflatables, and more
- Prom attendance NOT required for Post Prom

TICKETS \$45
SOLD APRIL 26 - MAY 10TH
ONLINE ONLY
NO REFUNDS

STUDENT CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to 9th graders Sage Anderson and Vincent Jiang and 12th grader Lania Mohammed for being selected to participate in the Creative Writing Workshop at the Michigan Council of Teachers of English Spring Conference on Saturday, March 9!

IMPORTANT Senior Information

- April 12, Friday: Last day to personalize a yearbook - Order [HERE](#)
- April 19, Friday: Senior Tribute ads due. Please visit <https://yearbookokemos.weebly.com/> for information on how to order. Everything must be designed, personalized, and completed by the 19th. Direct Link: <https://www.jostens.com/yearbooks/students-and-parents/yearbook-ads>
- April 19, Friday: Senior Video Submissions due to [SENIOR VIDEO SUBMISSIONS](#) (parents and students can submit photos to be in the senior video)
- The parent chaperone Google form will be sent to senior parents next week; please keep your eye out for that if you are interested.

From the desk of Dr. Slee

Celebrate Women's History Month by learning more about Michigan women. The [Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Timeline](#) is a great place to start. The [East Lansing Public Library](#) has several book lists for readers of all ages to explore women's history.

Also, here are two podcasts to help deepen your understanding during Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month:

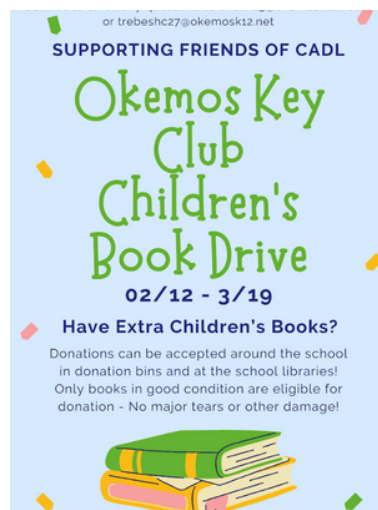
- [Included: The Disability Equity Podcast](#)—a podcast from the Johns Hopkins University Disability Health Research Center that challenges stereotypes of disability by sharing stories, data, and news.
- [Down to the Struts](#)—Qudsiya Naqui is a lawyer and activist living in Washington, D.C. She identifies as a blind South Asian woman and is dedicated to making spaces and systems more inclusive of disabled people through public education, storytelling, and amplifying their voices.

Important NHS Dates

April 15: Applicants will be notified of acceptance or rejection

May 8: NHS Induction Ceremony, 6:30 pm in OHS Auditorium

May 29: Mandatory Chapter Meeting, 7:15 am in OHS Auditorium




or trebeshc27@okemosk12.net

SUPPORTING FRIENDS OF CADL

Okemos Key Club Children's Book Drive
02/12 - 3/19

Have Extra Children's Books?
Donations can be accepted around the school in donation bins and at the school libraries! Only books in good condition are eligible for donation - No major tears or other damage!



OHS Parent Group 03.15.24 Newsletter Updates:

- The next OHS Parent Group meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 19, 2024 at 9 am in the Counseling office classroom, located on the 2nd floor at OHS. Please sign in at the main office before joining us.
- At the April 19th meeting, we will take nominations for the 2024-2025 Board members. If you are interested in being on the Board and would like more information, please email us at ohsparentgroupinfo@gmail.com.
- The Post Prom Planning Committee plans and organizes the Post Prom event, Parent Group's biggest event of the year. We need a couple more parents/guardians to join our meetings to help assemble tickets and other supplies for the event. Our meetings take place in the events room at CADL-Okemos library from 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm on the following Mondays: 3/18, 4/15, and 5/6. Hope to see you there!
- Post Prom is organized by OHS Parent group. Check out the Prom/Post Prom poster in the newsletter for all ticket sale details.
- Post Prom is a casual, safe, and fun event that takes place at OHS immediately following Prom (for Juniors/Seniors). This year it is scheduled on Sat., May 18th, 11 pm – 2 am. There are tons of games, food, music, and giveaways! This event is 100% parent powered and we encourage all parents/guardians to volunteer even if your student is not an upperclassman. You get the chance to see all the fun that happens at Post Prom!
- If you are interested in volunteering to work at a station at Post Prom but not in the planning of it, the event signup for Post Prom will be available in April. We will need lots of parent/guardian volunteers at the actual event.

These are the ways in which you can contribute to Parent Group events and activities:

- Volunteer to staff an event and/or donate supplies as needed throughout the year.
- Donate directly to OHS Parent Group. Checks payable to OHS Parent Group can be dropped off at the school's main office. Please label the envelope "Parent Group".
- Kroger Community Rewards: Our charity name is Okemos H.S. Parent Group (EH042). Parent Group earns at no added cost to you, but you must link us to your card first, online or in person at Kroger.
- RevTrak: [HS Parent Group | Okemos Public Schools \(revtrak.net\)](https://revtrak.net) Use this link and donate through the school's online payment processing system.

You can email us at OHSParentGroupInfo@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook "[Okemos High School Parent Group.](#)"

Meetings take place at 9am in the Counseling classroom at OHS on the following Fridays:

April 19, 2024

(Nominations for 2024-2025 Board positions)

May 24, 2024

(Vote for new 2024-2025 Board positions)

Thank you for your support!

WE LOVE TO READ!



MARCH IS READING MONTH

Earn 1 raffle ticket for every book you check out. Winners drawn every Friday.

BOOK CHECKOUT
RAFFLE

Take a selfie reading your favorite books in front of our shelves & we'll post it on Instagram.

#SHELFIE

Read read your book at an appropriate time. Earn tickets from teachers. Win prizes!

GOT CAUGHT
READING

Get a coupon for free Biggby coffee by recording a book talk, posting on social media, & tagging @library.ohs

BOOK TALKS

Like basketball, but with your favorite books. Get a bracket from the library today!

MARCH
MADNESS

Write a short recommendation to be displayed with a book and get entered to win a prize!

STUDENT
BOOK RECS

Presented by the OHS Library

Thank you, Mrs. Mares and Mrs. Joldersma!

Dear Okemos Community,

What an absolutely fantastic gathering we had with Spaghetti Dinner 2024! Thank you one and all for your enthusiastic participation and for helping Okemos Music Patrons maintain this cherished tradition. This year, we raised over \$45,000 for Okemos K-12 music programs. On March 8th, Okemos High School was vibrant with youthful energy, filled with incredible music and visual live artwork, all accompanied by a delicious spaghetti meal and homemade desserts.

Bravo, Musicians!

Okemos music students rocked the house! Congratulations and thank you to the talented students and teachers for outstanding concerts and for entertaining us with a variety of beautiful classical, jazz and contemporary music throughout the evening. The lively performances showcased the excellent music programs throughout the district— Kinawa band, orchestra and choir groups took us “over the rainbow” in the auditorium, Chippewa and OHS jazz bands kept up the high energy in the cafeteria, and OHS & CMS chamber ensembles welcomed people with lovely classical strains in the hallways. There was even dancing in the halls to the beautiful music!





Thank You, Community Leaders!

Our warm appreciation also goes to the esteemed school and community leaders who served as hosts, greeting and welcoming the thousands of attendees to Okemos High School. Special thanks to Superintendent John Hood and Principal Daniel Kemsley for supporting and guiding our endeavors. Also, a heartfelt thank you to the OPS food service, facilities and maintenance staff for their superior professional dedication and for working alongside us to make the event a success.



Thank You, Business Sponsors!

We are also very grateful for the outpouring of support from our business community. Numerous local businesses sponsored the event with their generous donations and made it possible for OMP to host a live spaghetti dinner and raise funds for our Okemos music programs. You can find the list of sponsors on our [website](#). When you next patronize these businesses, please thank them for valuing and supporting arts education in our community.



Thank You, Volunteers!

Our sincerest gratitude goes out to the hundreds of parent and student volunteers who make such a massive project possible— from the people who worked for months behind the scenes to plan and organize, to the hardy outdoor takeout team braving the rainy weather, it takes a huge village to pull it all together! Our hearts swelled with appreciation in seeing grandparents, alumni parents, friends, and neighbors volunteering! We served over (2400) spaghetti dinners in the dining room, takeout and drive-through and entertained well over (1000) additional attendees. Selling tickets, decorating, publicizing and printing signs and programs, organizing volunteers, serving food, preparing and delivering takeout meals, cleaning up, and donating tasty desserts— it's a dynamic dance. You all pulled it together beautifully!



OMP is an entirely 100% volunteer run organization dedicated to supporting all K-12 music programs in the Okemos Public Schools. You can be assured that your ticket purchases and donations go directly to elementary, middle school and high school music teachers to bolster and improve music education opportunities.

Thank you for coming out, celebrating with us and supporting Okemos Music Patrons! We can't wait to see you again next year!

Sincerely,

Okemos Music Patrons Board

You can see more pictures and read more about our business sponsors, community leaders at okemosmusicpatrons.org.

Thank you from the Okemos Music Patrons Board!!!

