



OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL

DECEMBER 1, 2023
VOL. 2023-24, NO.9

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Toddler Day

(one of Kemsley's favorite days!)
Friday, December 8

Winter Break

December 23-January 7

No School

January 15

Semester 1 Final Exams

January 17-19

IMPORTANT LINKS

click these:

[DISTRICT CALENDAR](#)

[BOND UPDATES](#)

[PARENT GROUP NEWSLETTER](#)

[PARENT GROUP MEETING](#)

[MINUTES](#)

NEXT MEETING:

JANUARY 12, 2024

OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY,

Toddler Day is coming up! What is toddler day, you ask? Good question! Toddler day is a day where our child development class invites toddlers (siblings, teachers' kids, etc) to come spend the day at the high school! There is a bounce house, games, etc. It's amazing!

I want to assume positive intentions, but did you know that I have requested for parents NOT to drop off students at the Jolly road lot? Here is the reason why:



This image shows one of our buses for students with special needs stuck in traffic. Additionally, this unnecessary traffic is making it difficult for teachers to get to work. Not good.

To help with this, only those with permission to enter that entrance will be admitted. That door will remain locked until 7:45. Please use the correct student drop off area.

Believe me, I know the mornings can be hectic and the design of our lot is less than ideal. Working together, we make it the best it can be.

Did I mention Toddler day is coming? Yay! - Dr. Kemsley

CONTACT INFO:

Dr. Daniel Kemsley
Principal
daniel.kemsley@okemosk12.net
517.706.4901

Allison Cironi
Assistant Principal Grades 9/11
allison.cironi@okemosk12.net
517.706.4905

Dr. Joseph Schmidt
Assistant Principal Grades 10/12
joseph.schmidt@okemosk12.net
517.706.4903

Ken Hintze
Athletic Director
ken.hintze@okemosk12.net
517.706.4930

COUNSELING INFORMATION

A Parent’s Guide to Post-Secondary Planning

Parents and guardians can get a better understanding of the focus of the OHS Counseling Department through this helpful Guide to Post-Secondary Planning.

Parent Input Wanted

Please complete this short Google Form to help counselors with future program planning.

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.

Counseling Groups

OHS Counselors are once again reaching out to students interested in participating in any psychoeducational groups. Interested students can complete the Google Form located in each grades’ Counseling Google Classroom.

College Visits

Air Force ROTC - Monday, December 4 in front of the cafeteria
U.S. Army - Tuesday, December 5 in front of the cafeteria

Hope College Distinguished Artist Award in Creative Writing (annual \$3000 scholarship)

We award up to eight to ten DAAs each year. In addition, we can award a Trustee Scholarship in Creative Writing, which provides an annual \$24,000 scholarship to a high-achieving creative writer.

Sunday, February 18, 2024 is the due date for the application for students entering college in the Fall of 2024. You can find more information [here](https://hope.edu/academics/english/special-programs-opportunities/daa-cw.html). <https://hope.edu/academics/english/special-programs-opportunities/daa-cw.html>

CMU Scholarships

Applications are now open for the Leader Advancement Scholarship, the Lloyd M. Cofer Scholarship, and the Multicultural Advancement Scholarship. The first step is applying for admission.

After submitting an application for admission, eligible students will gain access to the following scholarship applications:
Leader Advancement Scholarship-Rewards dedicated leaders with \$2,000 per year. Minimum 3.0 GPA required.

Multicultural Advancement/Lloyd M. Cofer Scholarships- Rewards students committed to equality and inclusion. Valued between \$4,125 annually and a full-ride. No minimum GPA required. Applications are due January 15.

FROM DR. LARA SLEE, DIRECTOR of DEI

Policy Spotlight: Unlawful Discrimination & Harassment

Policies at all levels help us create safe, productive, and supportive learning environments. Throughout the school year, we will highlight key policies that shape our practices.

Below are excerpts from OPS Board Policy 4121.5121 - Unlawful Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Against Students, which can be found on the OPS web site in the “Board of Education” section.

The district prohibits unlawful discrimination, including unlawful harassment and retaliation. The district will investigate all allegations of unlawful discrimination and will take appropriate action, including discipline, against any person who, following an investigation, is determined to have engaged in unlawful discrimination.

“Unlawful harassment” is verbal, written, or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward a student because of the student’s race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, or sexual orientation), national origin, disability, or any other legally protected class that has the purpose or effect of:

1. creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment; or
2. unreasonably interfering with the student’s ability to benefit from the district’s educational programs or activities.

A NOTE FROM THE OEF:

OEF APPLE Award

Looking for a way to say 'thank you' to a staff member this holiday season? Once again the Okemos Education Foundation is offering the APPLE (Amazing Performance in Promoting Learning and Education) Award, a simple way to recognize a teacher, paraprofessional, admin asst, principal, custodian, food service worker, bus driver, etc. For a \$20 donation this person will receive a 5x7 color certificate with their name, your (child's) name, and the reason for the award. Proceeds from these help the Okemos Education Foundation give financial support to all seven of our schools. To order an APPLE award visit www.oefsite.org/apple.

Orders received by Friday, December 18 will be delivered prior to the holiday break. Orders received after that date will be delivered at the new year when staff return.

Thank you in advance for your support of Okemos Public Schools staff and the Okemos Education Foundation!

Sue Hallman
OEF Chair

OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL IS A CLOSED CAMPUS

Okemos High School is a closed campus. Our handbook states that when students leave campus, they can only return with permission from an administrator or their designee. In the case of OHS, the administrators' designee is Mrs. Rachel Gutting, head of attendance. Mrs. Gutting may allow students to return to class from an appointment if they provide a note from their doctor's office stating they were seen on that date as verification of the appointment. A student without a note may not return to campus until the next school day. Any exception must be approved by Principal Kemsley, Assistant Principal Cironi, or Assistant Principal Schmidt.

Okemos High School is a closed campus because we know that students are safest during the school day when they remain on campus. Sadly, we know many examples where students have gotten into trouble or were injured when they were off campus and intending to return. We do not want this for any of our students. That is why this policy has been in place since Okemos High School was located in the building currently known as Chippewa Middle School.

At OHS, we offer support for our students with emotional needs in both our main and counseling office. We also have free breakfast and lunch available in our cafeteria. During the school day, our expectation is that once a student arrives, they will stay on campus unless they become ill or have another type of emergency that will force them to leave campus. Beyond our limited number of students who take classes on alternative campuses, students should not come and go during the school day.

BE ON TIME AT OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL

Okemos High School has the longest passing time in the Lansing area at 7 minutes. Students are expected to get from one class to another in this time. Students who are unable to do so may receive a detention if they earn 6 or more tardies in a single class. This is a very generous policy. 94% of our students have yet to earn a single tardy detention this year. This is outstanding.

ATTENDANCE AT OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL

Regular school attendance is an important component of learning for students. Good attendance benefits students academically as well as socially. Group learning assists students to communicate, to gain perspectives and to accept responsibility – all important components of adulthood. Class attendance is necessary for learning and academic achievement, as well as for developing the habits of punctuality, dependability and self-discipline. Days missed from school cannot be completely recovered as the classroom experience is unique and cannot be fully replicated. We must work as a team—parents, students, teachers, and administrators—to ensure that absences are limited to necessities such as illness, family emergencies, funerals, or school-related absences.

Attending school is mandatory in Michigan. The state of Michigan defines truancy as missing 10% of days. The OPS Board policy generously places the attendance policy at approximately 17%, which translates to 15 days missed over the course a semester. Families receive a letter upon the 10th absence. A student in excess of 15 absences in a class may have their extracurricular privileges restricted.

More than anything, we want your child to make the most of this school year. We appreciate your partnership helping create good attendance habits for our students.

COMMUNITY EVENTS/INFO

Dine at Culver's of Okemos South
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11TH FROM 5-9 PM
 and we will donate a percentage of all sales to the:
OHS MAGIC THE GATHERING CLUB

Okemos High School Magic the Gathering Club provides a safe place for kids to play the game. The club is raising funds to purchase new cards & supplies for the club members.



SHARE NIGHT
 Enjoy a delicious meal, benefit a great cause and feel good all over.

Thank you for supporting
OHS MAGIC THE GATHERING CLUB!



No flyer or code needed.

Drive-thru, dine-in, carryout or order online at culvers.com

Come on in to your local Culver's restaurant:

CULVER'S OF OKEMOS SOUTH
 3440 Okemos Rd. Okemos, MI 48864
 (517) 66993-6960 | culvers.com/restaurants/okemos-mi-okemos-rd

ATTENTION SNOW FANS:

Warren Miller's 74th Annual ski/snowboard film premiere is coming to Studio C at Meridian Mall!! Join us on Weds, 12.6 at 7:30 for the premier of ALL TIME and to support the Okemos HS Ski Team! Doors open at 6:45 with all your favorite resorts & outfitters. Get tix TODAY at warrenmiller.blogspot.com



Share The Warmth

WINTER COAT DRIVE!

Bring your clean serviceable coats, hoodies, pajamas, socks, sweatpants, long T's... (you get the idea)

IT'S STARTING TO GET COLD, LETS MAKE SURE EVERYBODY HAS SOMETHING WARM TO WEAR!

Nov. 27th 2023 - Dec. 22nd 2023

Drop-Off Location: Mrs. Reed's Room & Main Office, Okemos High School

Questions: songh24@okemosk12.net, Haven Song

In association with Key Club!

Dine at Culver's of Okemos South
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023 FROM 5-9PM
 and we will donate a percentage of all sales to the:
OKEMOS BAND BOOSTERS

The Okemos High School Band Boosters are raising funds to support their musicians with their performances, travel, enrichment activities, and scholarships.



BAND

No flyer or code needed.

Drive-thru, dine-in, carryout or order online at culvers.com

SHARE NIGHT

Enjoy a delicious meal, benefit a great cause and feel good all over.

Thank you for supporting
Okemos Band Boosters!



Come on in to your local Culver's restaurant:

CULVER'S OF OKEMOS SOUTH
 3440 Okemos Rd. Okemos, MI 48864
 (517) 85993-6960 | culvers.com/restaurants/okemos-mi-okemos-rd