



OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 15, 2023
VOL. 2023-24, NO. 8

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Thanksgiving Break:
November 22-24

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

CONTACT INFO:

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OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY,

POST GRADUATION PLANNING

Families (especially juniors and seniors), now is the time to start thinking about all things post-graduation (can you believe it?!). This can be a complicated time, so the Michigan Department of Education has put together these resources for you. Check them out here: <https://pathfinder.mitalent.org/resources>

Parking Lot

I believe we have our parking lot situation as dialed in as it can be. I want to THANK all of you who have been following the rules! A few reminders:

- When you are near the sidewalk, drop your kids off ASAP. No need to wait until you are right in front of the doors. We made that whole area to get you in and get you out quickly.
- SLOW DOWN! I cannot believe how fast I see some cars going in the parking lot. To be fair, almost everyone is driving at a safe speed. This is just a reminder for all to slow down and be extra cautious in the lot. Parents, please talk to your students as well. Thank you for that.
- Finally, I want to say thank you to all of you for your feedback and suggestions. Let's be honest, the mornings are always going to be hectic, but together, I think we've done a pretty good job.

That's it for now. I do hope you and your families enjoy your break next week. Please reach out if you need anything. As always, I am very proud of our students, staff, and community.

Take care,

Dr. Kemsley

COUNSELING INFORMATION

Class of 2026

All OHS sophomores are asked to schedule their sophomore meeting with their counselor. This is a brief introductory meeting in which counselors will go over students' graduation progress and post-secondary plans. We will also discuss ways that we will be able to provide support to you over the next few years. Meetings can be scheduled for any time in November and December.

Appointments with Mrs. Inglis can be scheduled at <https://calendly.com/carrie-inglis>

Appointments with Miss Thompson can be scheduled at <https://calendly.com/joi-thompson>

Appointments with Mr. Walton can be scheduled at <https://calendly.com/hedlun-walton>

Signs of Suicide Presentations for the Class of 2027

Mrs. Akers will be visiting US History classes in late November/early December to provide the Signs of Suicide Presentation. Please read this letter for more information.

College Visits

Grand Valley State Univ - Thursday, Nov 16 A lunch only 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>

ATHLETICS UPDATE:

Hockey Admissions:

The hockey co-op (Eastside AllStars - Members are Okemos, Haslett, East Lansing, Holt, and Eaton Rapids) are moving to \$6 dollar cash only admissions for all home games. Additionally, all GoFan season passes will NOT be accepted as the hockey admissions go directly to help lower players' ice fees which are \$1,800.00 per player this year. Very steep to play hockey!

National Signing Day:

Senior Athletes,

If you plan on participating in athletics at the next level, sign up for Okemos Athletics National Signing Day. We will host this event in the High School Auditorium, starting at 3:15 p.m.

Fill out this form if interested - The form closes on Feb 1st, late submissions will not be accepted.

This will be our ONLY signing day this year.

FROM DR. LARA SLEE, DIRECTOR of DEI

Diwali is a five-day New Year festival that is celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists, and it is India's biggest holiday of the year. It is based on the lunar calendar, so it can occur any time from mid-October to mid-November. This year, Diwali takes place November 9-14. The name comes from the Sanskrit word Dipavali, which means series of lights. Diwali signifies the victory of good over evil (light over darkness, hope over despair, and knowledge over ignorance). The holiday is commonly celebrated by the lighting of lamps and fireworks, cleaning and redecorating the home, gift-giving, feasts, street processions, and fairs. A greeting of "Happy Diwali" is appropriate. For more information about Diwali, visit the [National Geographic Kids website](#).

LEARNING FROM A MISTAKE: I made a mistake. One of the last DEI tidbits included information about government- and church-run boarding schools in which Native American students were grossly mistreated. They were taken from their families, forced to adopt new names, physically and emotionally abused, prohibited from honoring their spiritual beliefs, and not allowed to speak their own languages. By providing you with a short description of athlete Jim Thorpe without providing any context about the boarding schools, I neglected to give you the full story, nor did I show an authentic appreciation of Native American heritage. This shows a lack of empathy and understanding on my part, which are things I'll be working on. Native American Heritage Month should be a celebration of music, art, stories, and culture rather than a focus on how people have been forced to endure oppression.

The [Native American Heritage Month website](#) has exhibits and collections that truly honor and celebrate Native American culture, such as [Keeping Our Words Alive \(Smithsonian\)](#), [Legacies of Service: Celebrating Native Americans \(Veterans History Project\)](#) and [Why Treaties Matter: Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations](#), among many others. I will be exploring these resources as I develop my understanding of Native American heritage, and I encourage you to do the same.

IMPORTANT SENIOR INFORMATION:

Yard signs for seniors that include your student's yearbook photo will be sold again this spring—expect an order form link in the OHS newsletter in March 2024. A senior parent volunteer will work with a local printer to place a bulk order that can be picked up at school. With an order of 120+ signs, each sign will cost \$15 (with fewer than 120, the cost will be \$20). If you have any questions please contact senior parent volunteer, Valerie Long, at valong11@gmail.com.

Please see more information linked [here](#).

COMMUNITY EVENTS/INFO

CRUNCH THE HUNGER



OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL FOOD DRIVE

WHEN: NOVEMBER 1-21

DONATED TO: GREATER LANSING FOOD BANK

WHAT: NON-PERISHABLE FOODS. NO GLASS BOTTLES OR EXPIRED FOODS.

WHERE: BOXES NEAR THE MAIN OFFICE

QUESTIONS?: LAHARI RAJA
RAJAL26@OKEMOSK12.NET



Dine at Culver's of Okemos South
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH FROM 5-9 PM

and we will donate a percentage of all sales to the:
OHS DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB

Okemos High School D & D Club provides a safe place for kids to play the game. The club is raising funds to help purchase game books and dice for the club library.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

SHARE NIGHT

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



Thank you for supporting
OHS D & D 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



SUPPORT OUR WOOF PACK!
CLICK [HERE](#):

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Free Shipping on Orders of \$50+

WOOF PACK | PRE ORDER - 14985

This Pre-Order will close on November 21st, 2023 at 8pm. Please make sure all orders are submitted before then. All garments will print and distribute within 2-3 weeks of the Pre-Order close date.



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!

