



# OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL

AUGUST 15, 2023  
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OHS NEWSLETTER. Published on the 1st and 15th each month.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Freshmen Connect:

Thursday, August 17 9-11:30 (bring device)

### 1st Day of School (1/2 Day)

Wednesday, August 23rd  
7:45 am-10:55 am

### Open House:

Thursday, August 24th  
Parent Meeting: 5:30-6pm Aud  
Open House: 6-7pm

### No School:

Friday, September 1st  
Monday, September 4th

### Picture Retakes:

Friday, September 8th  
During students' respective lunches

## IMPORTANT LINKS

click these:

[DISTRICT CALENDAR](#)

[PARENT GROUP](#)

[BOND UPDATES](#)

## OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY,

We have **BIG NEWS** on three fronts:

**FREE BREAKFAST and LUNCH** starting on the first day. This is the standard breakfast and lunch; a la carte items will be available for purchase.

**NEW CAR LINE DROP-OFF ZONE! Watch this video for a demonstration:**  
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CwAmYtpt8rQ/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>

Basically, I want you to pull in, use the drop-off zone as soon as possible and head on out. No need to pull up to the front doors. Kids (barring disability or injury, of course) can walk a little bit.

**COMMENCEMENT DATE CHANGE:** We have several sports teams that may go deep into their seasons, and I don't want any kids to miss commencement. Some schools do a separate, smaller ceremony in those cases, and I don't want to do this. So, commencement will be **WEDNESDAY, MAY 29TH AT 7PM** at the Breslin Center.

Moving the date also has **ADDED BENEFITS for ALL seniors!** Seniors last day is now moved up to May 23rd (a week earlier). Also, Monday the 20th will allow them to have their "senior skip day." I apologize for any confusion, but am hopeful the students will really enjoy this change. It is a year away, and commencement is going to be great! Reach out to me directly if you have any questions or concerns, please.

I would be remiss if I did not address the question that is on your mind, "Why didn't you schedule it that way in the first place?" When I secured the Breslin, I didn't realize the possible conflicts on the original date. That's on me. Honestly, I think this new plan is fantastic and am confident our students will be super happy with it as well.

We are in a really good position for a successful start to the school year. I can't wait to see and meet all of our students! As usual, I'm very proud of our students, staff, and our school community. Take care, - Dr. Kemsley

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## COUNSELING INFORMATION

### Cap & Gown Donation

Not interested in keeping your cap & gown after commencement? Counselors are accepting cap & gown donations from the Class of 2021 to 2023. Please drop them off in the main office.

### Class of 2024

Eager to start working on your college applications over the summer? [Check out this link for helpful information](#). You will be meeting with your counselor for your Senior Meeting this fall and you can bring your list of questions to this meeting.

### National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

This test is open only to OHS students in the Class of 2025. More information is available here: [Digital PSAT/NMSQT October 12, 2023](#)

## EMERGENCY CARD UPDATE

The Returning Student Emergency Update Code (SnapCode) for the 2023-24 school year will NOT be sent at the start of this school year.

We are implementing a new Student Information Update Form that will be introduced at the start of the new school year. Instruction links will be posted on start-up newsletters, and on the OPS website under Families/PowerSchool Portal. Stay tuned...

## END OF DAY ROUTINE

At 3pm every day, students may do the following:

1. Head home
2. Wait outside for a ride
3. Work with a teacher
4. Work with a coach
5. Work in the library from 3pm-4pm M-TH

It seems like we start off well enough, but then the system breaks down. That won't happen this year. Students and families need to plan ahead. We cannot have students unsupervised in the building after 3pm. Unsupervised students will be asked to leave the building at 3pm, which seems counterintuitive, I know. We will be happy to provide them a place to work from 3-4, the library. I hope this makes sense and please reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks!

## FROM KEN HINTZE, OHS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Hello Okemos Wolfpack!

Our stadium project is drawing to an end, but will not be completed in time for our first soccer and football games. With this in mind, we have made slight adjustments for the last two weeks of August. I want to thank both East Lansing High School and Clio High School for their flexibility.

### Football:

Varsity v. St. Johns: will play at East Lansing High School on August 25th; kickoff is 7:00 PM.

Junior Varsity v. Clio: will play at Clio High School on August 30th; kickoff is 6:30PM.

### Soccer:

Soccer will play their August home games at the place that started it all, Old Varsity Field at Chippewa Middle School.

- Junior Varsity - 4PM
- Varsity - 5:30PM

I am hopeful we will be in our facilities soon; however, there may be unforeseen supply chain delays, etc. As we draw closer to the end of August, we will have a more concrete timeline of finishing stadium upgrades and bringing games back home.

Special thanks to our fans and student athletes for their grace and flexibility as we complete these projects. And, THANK YOU for supporting Okemos Public Schools and these amazing bond projects!

I look forward to meeting you all throughout the year. It is a great time to be a Wolf!

Ken Hintze

## CELL PHONES:

The short version: we all know phones are a significant distraction. Student MAY use phone before school, during passing time, lunch, and after school.

From bell to bell (instructional time) phones will either be stored in the teacher's caddy or out of sight. Easy peasy.

This will be our common expectation for all students. They are here to learn and can do TikTok at lunch, lol. Thanks for your support from home.