



SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

Dr. Genelle Morris

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A Message from Dr. Morris:



Dear Husky Community,

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2024, I'm pleased to provide you with the first Superintendent's Brief of the year, sharing important updates and news from our school district. The start of a new year brings fresh opportunities and renewed energy. I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable winter break, ready to embrace the possibilities that lie ahead this year.

I'm happy to share that our students and educators are back in full swing, diving into the new year with enthusiasm and dedication. This month, we celebrated several student achievements, including welcoming new inductees into the National Honors Society and National Technical Honors Society. These scholars have academic achievements but a commitment to giving, serving, and making a meaningful contribution to our community and beyond.

Several of our students will attend the Ivy League Model United Nations Conference at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia from January 25-28. We are so proud of these students for many reasons. Still, their impressive performances over the last few years have given them qualifications that led to their earning a scholarship through UPenn toward their attendance there. Thank you to our fantastic Model United Nations Advisor, Marie Rakus, for her work with our students, and we can't wait to hear how they excelled on the national stage!

With the winter season upon us, please be mindful of weather-related updates. In inclement weather, we will promptly communicate any school closures or delays. The safety of our students and staff is our utmost priority. We remind everyone to dress warmly, especially on cold, blustery days. Our buildings have hats and gloves to hand out to students who might need them. Please contact our schools if you require warm clothing for students, such as coats and sweaters. We can connect you with Operation Warm Hearts, an Olean foundation that provides children with new clothing and needed accessories.

We value the input and involvement of our school community. Please be on the lookout for upcoming opportunities to participate in forums, meetings, and events that contribute to the growth and development of our district. Your engagement is crucial to our success. To draw upon a quote by Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."



A Message from Dr. Morris (continued):

As we navigate the new year, we look forward to implementing exciting initiatives and working towards our goals for continuous improvement. Your support and collaboration are instrumental in shaping the future success of our school district.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the success of our students. Wishing you a fantastic start to 2024!

Sincerely,

Dr. Genelle Morris

Superintendent
Olean City School District

Coffee and Conversation with Dr. Morris:

The January 9th Coffee and Conversation with Dr. Morris was a success!

You are invited to the next Coffee Session with the Superintendent scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2024 from 7:30am to 8:30am at the East View Elementary School. If you are interested in attending, please pre-register by emailing Melissa Biddle, OCSD Public Relations Specialist at mbiddle@oleanschools.org.





Harold Dutton Spotlight Award:

During the month of December, the following students were awarded the Harold Dutton Student Spotlight Award:

- Izabella Ayala
- Ayonna Battle
- Levi Bish
- Austin Burdick
- Lina Chauhdry
- Cruz Clark
- Tyler Cross
- Tawny Hein
- Billy Jean Hilliard
- Domonick Hirliman
- Sophia LaBorde
- Layloni Larkin
- Viktoria Lozynska
- Alyssa Metz
- Dez Muir
- Nicolie Portlow
- Cali Weber

Congrats!



Individuals who received the December Harold Dutton Award were seen doing the right thing, showing good character, performing well in school or other positive actions are recognized for living up to a model set by former district employee, Mr. Harold Dutton.



Spreading Holiday Cheer:

Husky Pups from Washington West visited a local nursing home in December to spread some Holiday Cheer!



February Break Reminder:

There is no school Monday, February 19th - Friday, February 23rd for February Winter Break. School will resume on Monday, February 26th.





OIMS Huskies Give the Gift of Kindness:

6th grade Huskies at OIMS gave the gift of KINDNESS during the month of December. One of their projects was to make homemade ornaments that were delivered to area nursing homes.



Seasonal Cheer:

Snowman soup delivery from this pack of pups! Spreading seasonal cheer to those in their local neighborhood.





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Shop with a Cop 2023:

On December 13th & 14th, OIMS Huskies had the opportunity to 'Shop With a Cop' at the Olean Walmart to select gifts for their loved ones. A special thank you to the Olean Police Department and Walmart for supporting this event.





New Cafeteria and Kitchen Remodel Complete:

We are excited to share that the new kitchen remodel at Washington West is complete! The project launched mid-June 2023 with complete renovation of the space to include the following: new flooring, walk-in-cooler, reach in freezers & refrigerators, dry storage room, convection oven, steamer, sinks, work-tables, warming cabinets, dish machine, milk coolers, exhaust hood, hot food serving line, cold food serving line, fire suppression system and, planetary mixer. The new kitchen provides staff with more working space to prepare meals, while the new equipment allows meals to be prepared much more efficiently and in a timelier manner for our Husky Pups.





Singing at the Bartlett House:

At the beginning of December, 6th and 7th grade chorus members sang at the Fannie Bartlett House for their annual Open House. The students' joyous singing put everyone in the holiday spirit and ushered in a visit from Santa. Way to go Mrs. Stein and the OIMS Chorus!





East View 2nd Grade Skating Tip:

East View's annual 2nd grade ice skating trip was a merry success! Thanks to the East View PTO for sponsoring such an awesome event for our Husky Pups!





OCSD Staff Milestones:

The Olean Educational Support Personnel Association (OESPA) and the Olean City School District would like to acknowledge and thank the following staff for their years of service and dedication to our Huskies:



30 Year Milestone

Kathy Searles, Resource Room Aide

Kathy began her career with the Olean City School District in the Fall of 1991 as a substitute teacher and, soon after, began working in the Special Friends program. In January 2003 she was appointed to the position of Resource Room Aide in the High School, and she still holds the same position. Children of various ages have been a part of her life for over thirty years and have been a constant source of laughter and pride in their accomplishments.



15 Year Milestone

Mark Hayman, Shipping & Receiving

Mark began his career with Olean City School District on September 2, 2008, as a cook in the Olean High School. Mark later went on to become a Kitchen Manager and now works in the District Shipping & Receiving Department. He enjoys the students and his co-workers. Mark stated that going full-time in his current Shipping & Receiving position is the best move he has ever made. He really enjoys working for the school district.

Congratulations



Staff Milestones (continued)



15 Year Milestone *Jodi Mallery, Keyboard Specialist*

Jodi began her career with Olean City School District on September 2, 2008, as a Travel Aide between Boardmanville and Washington West. She later went on to serve as a 1:1 Aide, Teacher Aide, Test Lab Coordinator and is now a Keyboard Specialist. During her 15 years with the district, she has worked in the Elementary school, OIMS and the High School buildings. The students are her main reason for coming to work every day. She enjoys working with students and encouraging them to accomplish their goals, leading them to the main goal to graduate and achieve their life goals. She tries her best to attend student sporting events to cheer them on when she can. Jodi is thankful for the amazing co-workers she had throughout her 15 years. Her most memorable experience is being told every day that she made a difference in the lives of students. She stated that it is amazing to see them reaching their goals beyond their high school career which truly makes her very proud of every single one of them. Jodi was raised in Hinsdale but is now raising her family in Olean. She has been married for 19 years to her husband, Don. They have three amazing boys (Tyler, Dawson, and David) that she is very proud of. They also have two dogs (Leo and Zayla) and two cats (Midnight and Oreo).

Stay in Touch:

Stay in touch by signing up to receive my digital Superintendent Briefs. Please click on the link provided in the initial facebook posting regarding this issue of the brief. If you have news you would like to potentially be included in an upcoming edition of the Superintendent's Brief, please email our Public Relations Specialist at communications@oleanschools.org. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at huskystrong@oleanschools.org



- Dr. Genelle Morris