

OP Schools Update

April & May

South Davis Holds First Ever Bike To School Event

On Monday, May 8, 2023 South Davis Elementary held its first ever *Bike to School Day*. Students and their families were invited to meet at Green Lake and ride their bikes to South Davis Elementary.

Over 200 students and families participated in *Bike to School Day* by either riding or walking to school. Students and their families met at Green Lake and headed for South Davis Elementary at 8:45 a.m.

Members of the Orchard Park Police Department escorted the group to ensure everyone made it safely to school.



The South Davis Bike to School event was planned in conjunction with the national Bike and Roll to School Day, which is led by the National Center for Safe Routes to School. South Davis Elementary Principal Jeffrey Dolce worked with Chief Fitzgerald and Officer Mazur of the Orchard Park Police Department to coordinate and plan this event for South Davis families. The South Davis PTO assisted with the event's communication and logistics.

Principal Jeffrey Dolce says, "We were hoping to create a community event for our students and their families. I enjoy riding my bike to work most every day, and I felt this event could inspire others to try to do the same. As an added benefit, everyone would get a little exercise before the school day, which we know helps with thinking and learning. The initial feedback was very positive and we are already looking forward to planning our next event, perhaps even later this year."



Brandon Pafk Named Orchard Park High School Principal

On May 2, 2023, Orchard Park Central School District Superintendent, David Lilleck recommended to the Board of Education that Mr. Brandon Pafk be named the Orchard High School Principal. The Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment and Mr. Pafk is set to become the Orchard Park High School principal as of July 1, 2023.



Superintendent Lilleck believes Mr. Pafk will successfully lead the high school in a clear and positive direction and keep the focus on students first. Mr. Pafk's educational goals and philosophy are to always do what is best for students and work to make the decisions that will implement positive outcomes.

Mr. Pafk is looking forward to his new role, saying, "I feel very fortunate to be given this opportunity to lead such an amazing group of students and educators. The task of trying to follow Mr. Wolf is no small feat as he, and the entire team at the High School, have created a high-achieving and driven school community. I am truly excited to learn, work, and continue the standard of excellence at Orchard Park High School with my new teammates."

Mr. Pafk will become only the fifth principal in the history of Orchard Park High School. The district is looking forward to Mr. Pafk continuing the legacy that Mr. Wolf, who will be retiring at the end of this school year after serving for 15 years as OPHS principal, and others have established before him.

OPCSD Honored With Best Communities for Music Education Designation

Orchard Park Central School District has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Now in its 24th year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.



Annual World Affairs Club Trip

On May 5-7, 2023, 173 eighth grade members of World Affairs Club traveled to our Nation's Capital. Students went to the Holocaust Museum, African American History Museum, Smithsonian Museums, The National Cathedral, Library of Congress, and every single War Memorial and Monument. They toured the Capitol Building, and went on a dinner boat cruise. On Sunday they visited Arlington National Cemetery, where four students participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The group was non-stop for three days. It was a trip these students certainly will not forget!

The World Affairs Club has been traveling to Washington, D.C. annually since 1974. The club's focus has been and continues to be citizenship and pride in our great country.



DECA Students Excel at International Competition

Six OPHS DECA students attended the International DECA competition in Orlando, Florida that was held in April. All six DECA students and their advisors did a great job putting their skills to the test. Dillon C. and Bowen S. received a 4th Place finish in the Business Law event of this international competition!



Eggert Elementary Hosts International Night

Eggert Elementary hosted its second annual International Night April 20! The school celebrated different cultures from around the world. Students completed a scavenger hunt, were able to use VR headsets to visit countries around the world, participate in an interactive drum ensemble, complete international crafts, visit a henna station and eat different international cuisine featuring some Eggert family restaurants!



Ellicott Students Tie Dye Shirts For Their Upcoming Fun Days

Students in Miss Fenimore's class at Ellicott Elementary took advantage of the spring weather and tie dyed shirts to wear later this month during Ellicott's Fun Days. The students, with the help of some parent volunteers, were able to create their own tie dye designs!



Winnie Returns to Windom's Courtyard

Winnie the duck returned to the Windom Elementary Courtyard for the fourth year in a row! This year Winnie is caring for her eleven recently hatched ducklings.

In previous years staff members at Windom were trained by the humane society to safely relocate Winnie and her ducklings. On May 10, staff at Windom relocated the family out of the Windom Elementary courtyard to a safer location.



Principles of Engineering Students Visit Moog

Orchard Park High School students in Mr. DeWald's and Mr. Bella's Principles of Engineering class participated in a field trip to Moog, a worldwide designer, manufacturer, and integrator of precision control components and systems headquartered in Elma, NY. Students eagerly learned about developments in rotorcraft aviation and were excited for the opportunity to ask questions and gain insight into engineering-related careers.

"We're happy to do our part to inspire the careers of young people in our community by showing them some of the cool things we do here," said Dan Taylor, who is a director of engineering at Moog. "For some students, field trips like these can be transformational." The students' hands-on learning about flight will continue this spring when they build and fly electric model airplanes.



May is Allergy Awareness Month

This year, during the dates of May 14-23, 2023, the Greater Buffalo Food Alliance and Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Connection Team (FAACT) are part of a local and national call to action that will spread awareness and understanding regarding Food Allergies. A food allergy is an immune system response to a food the body mistakenly believes is harmful. This sometimes results in anaphylaxis, a serious allergic reaction that comes on quickly and has the potential to become life-threatening.

The Orchard Park Central School District hopes to help raise awareness about food allergies to promote a safer and more inclusive world for students with food allergies.

April Athletic Signing

On Wednesday, April 12 seventeen Orchard Park High School seniors committed to college athletic teams. We are so proud to have so many of our seniors be able to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Congratulations to the students, their families and their coaches!



Annual School Vote and Election

Annual School Vote and Election - May 16, 2023

Voting Location, Date, Time & Other Information

Voting will take place on May 16, 2023, in the Gymnasium of the Orchard Park High School from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. Please use the Freeman Road entrance to the high school for safety reasons and access to the voting area (gym). Please remember to bring proof of residency, i.e. driver's license. Education Law Section 2018-c and OPCSD Policy #1630.

The Erie County Board of Elections will be providing school districts with electronic poll books. You will be able to sign in at any table once you enter the polling place. Please have your ID (i.e. driver's license or voter registration) ready for the poll workers.

For more vote information please click the image below.



Annual School Vote and Election, May 16

Upcoming Events

START SAVING YOUR CANS AND BOTTLES

for the Quaker Marching Band



BOTTLE & CAN DRIVE

SATURDAY, June 10th, 9a-12p

Please have your returnable bottles and cans at the end of your driveway by 9am for pickup (OP School District only).

Questions or SPECIAL pick-up on June 10th
call or text (716) 508-0606 (June 10th only)

You may also drop off donations at OPHS Baker Lot on the day of the drive from **9am to noon**.

**PLEASE SEPARATE GLASS FROM YOUR PLASTIC AND
CANS FOR OUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY**

Thank you for your support!!!

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ABOUT THE ORCHARD PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT


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The Orchard Park Central School District covers approximately 50 square miles and includes portions of six adjacent townships: Orchard Park, West Seneca, Hamburg, Boston, Elma, and Aurora. We have four elementary schools, a middle school and a high school, serving more than 5,000 students.

We are continuing a long tradition of excellence in academics, athletics, service, and the arts. Our schools are known for outstanding academic achievement at all levels. More than 90 percent of our graduates advance to higher education.

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