

OP Schools Update

A Quick Look Back at January, February and March 2023

Celebrating Women's History Month and International Women's Day

The month of March is dedicated to celebrating Women's History and Wednesday, March 8, 2023 was International Women's Day! We celebrate all of the girls and women who are our students, teachers, school related professionals, administrators, PTO members, parent volunteers and Board of Education members. They are an integral part of the Orchard Park Central School District community.



OPHS Drama Club Presents Chicago: Teen Edition

The OPHS Drama Club is presenting **Chicago: Teen Edition** March 16 - 19. Tickets will be available at the door before each performance.

Performances:

March 16-18, 7 p.m. and March 19, 2 p.m.
Orchard Park High School, 4040 Baker Road, Orchard Park

*This performance may not be suitable for children under 12 years of age.



STEAM Expo

The 2nd Annual STEAM Expo, held on Thursday, March 2, was a huge success! Attendees engaged in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math Activities! All of the students, teachers and staff involved did a phenomenal job putting this awesome event together! Click the video below to see some of the event's highlights.

STEAM Expo 2023



Master Teachers

Congratulations to Orchard Park teachers, Nicole Costello and Jim Roland on becoming New York State Master Teachers! The NYS Master Teacher Program fosters a collaboration among the selected outstanding STEM educators (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), whereby they develop expertise in the areas of content, pedagogy, and student's families and communities. Their efforts engage talented students and introduce them to careers in STEM fields. Nicole and Jim join nine other Master Teachers within the Orchard Park Central School District.



Third Grade Students at Eggert Host Historical Biography Bingo

Third Grade students at Eggert Elementary hosted their families for mystery Bingo to showcase biography projects the third graders researched and completed. Guests were able to learn about each of the historical figures by scanning QR codes that linked to FlipGrids the students created. Guests

traveled through the cafeteria learning about different historical figures and completing their Bingo boards as they went.



Ellicott Students Participate in Snowshoeing Scavenger Hunt

Mrs. Block's grade 3-5 P.E. classes were able to get out on their snowshoes in March! Students even had a chance to participate in an outdoor scavenger hunt!



OP Students Perform at NYSBDA

In early March middle school and high school students performed in Syracuse for the NYSBDA - New York State Band Directors Association Honor Band and Jazz Ensemble.



Senior Citizen Spaghetti Dinner at OPHS

On Thursday, March 9 the Orchard Park High School Class of 2023 hosted the annual Senior Citizen Spaghetti Dinner at the high school. Student volunteers worked the event to give our senior citizens a fun night out with good food and friends!



DECA Students Excel at States

HS DECA students brought home 16 medals for Top 10 performance in role play and/or test competitions at the NYDECA State Career Conference. In addition, 6 students qualified for the International Career Development Conference in Orlando next month!



Pajamas for PUNT Fundraiser

On Thursday, February 16, 2023 Eggert, Ellicott, South Davis and Windom wore pajamas as a fundraiser to benefit P.U.N.T., the Pediatric Cancer Collaborative. The fundraiser supported the "Helping Hands" Program. This program works as a financial safety net for WNY families in pediatric cancer treatment. The Orchard Park Elementary schools raised over \$12,000!



South Davis Kindergarten Students Celebrate Reading

Kindergarten students at South Davis participated in a book parade to kick off South Davis' March Madness Read-A-Thon! They paraded through the school with a favorite book while other grade levels cheered them on!



The Buffalo Sabres Visit Windom

The Buffalo Sabres visited Windom Elementary as part of the NHL's "Students of the Game" program! They came in to work with students in grades 2-5 to introduce some hockey skills during their PE classes. Students also received a free ticket to a remaining Sabres game.



Mr. Morton Visits Ellicott and Windom

In early March Mr. Morton, of Sun-Dance-Kids Farm, visited Ellicott and Windom with his friend Larry the Lamb!

Mr. Morton goes to local elementary schools to provide educational hands-on experiences with animals and science enrichment. The students learn about each animal's habitat, behavior and how it lives. They even get to pet or touch the animal.



Upcoming Parent Info Series Sessions

Up Next: Orchard Park Central School District's Parent Information Series will continue with a Teen Driving Safety presentation held Tuesday, March 21, 2023 from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the Orchard Park Middle School auditorium. The Orchard Park Police Department will present the dangers of distracted driving, driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs, and license restrictions for permit holders and junior drivers, vehicle and traffic laws, pedestrians and other safety issues. This presentation is for both teenagers and their parents. Parents, teens and interested community members are encouraged to attend this free presentation.

Recently Added: The 2022-2023 Parent Information Series will wrap up with a session given by Dr. Meichenbaum, a NYS licensed clinical psychologist specializing in the diagnostic evaluation and treatment of developmental and mental health disorders. The session **Redefining Consequence: Considerations and Strategies for Addressing Challenging Behaviors and Developing Emotional Functioning Skills** will be held in the Orchard Park Middle School Library on Tuesday April 11 at 6:30 p.m.

OPMS News and Views Club Hosts Speaker from Journey's End

In February, the News and Views Club, run by middle school teachers Jeff Bird and Katie Dunlop, hosted speaker, Zubair Anwari, from Journey's End of Buffalo. Journey's End is an organization that helps resettle refugees. The News and Views Club was able to collect and donate school supplies to the Journey's End organization.



South Davis Elementary Holds a Peaceful Bus Assembly

Students at South Davis Elementary had a Peaceful Bus assembly and learned about good bus behavior with their fellow riders and bus drivers!



The Student to Student® Program Visits OPMS

In February, Middle School Social Studies teacher, Daryl Helfman, invited students from the Student to Student® program to speak to sixth graders. Modeled after a national program that started in St. Louis nearly 20 years ago, Student to Student® uses peer-to-peer dialogue that strives to foster understanding, empathy, and connection by educating others about what it's like being Jewish. Local Jewish students were able to visit sixth grade students at Orchard Park Middle School to talk about their lives as Jewish teens and facilitate discussions.



In February We Celebrated Black History Month

Check out the video below to see how Ms. Slocum's class at Ellicott celebrated and learned about Black History Month.

OPCSD Classroom Spotlight - February 2023



In February Racial Equity Alliance along with STAP Comm hosted Dr. Donte McFadden, UB Professor, to speak to students about Black filmmakers. Donte McFadden, PhD, is a leader, educator and mentor. Prior to joining UB as the director of the Distinguished Visiting Scholars, he served as the Senior Associate Director for Undergraduate Research and High Impact Practices for the Educational Opportunity Program at Marquette University. In this role, he served as the Director of the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program. He has held other leadership roles with the Educational Opportunity Program at Marquette, including serving as its Interim Director and Associate Director of Administration, Curriculum and Evaluation. Donte received his PhD in English with an emphasis in Film Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He earned a master's degree in English and a BFA/BA in Film/Film Studies also from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Donte is co-founder of Black Lens, a showcase for African American filmmakers as part of the Milwaukee Film Festival.

This learning opportunity was coordinated by STAP Comm's Vice-President, Annie H.



STAP Comm and the Racial Equity Alliance at OPHS came together to put up a "History in the Making" bulletin board to celebrate Black History Month!



February Athletic Signing



Fifth Grade Students Graduate from the D.A.R.E. Program

In January Eggert and Ellicott Elementary fifth grade students graduated from the 15 week D.A.R.E. program. The students spent the 15 weeks of the program meeting with Orchard Park Police Officer Kristen Mazur, learning and discussing ways to appropriately make decisions that could affect their lives.

The D.A.R.E. program teaches 5th grade students many lessons that can be used throughout their lives. Students learn about making safe and responsible choices using the D.A.R.E. Decision Making Model, dealing with negative peer pressure, social media safety, dangers of alcohol, tobacco and vaping, bullying and so much more. The program emphasizes teaching students how to become good citizens within our community



Important Calendar Updates

- Friday, March 31, 2023 is an Early Dismissal for High School students. Students will be dismissed at 12:45 p.m.
- Spring Recess will be held Monday, April 3, - Friday, April 7.
- **Updated NYS Assessment Dates:**
 - The ELA assessments for grades 3-8 will be held April 19 - 21.
 - The Math assessments for grades 3-8 will be held May 2 - 4.
- **The 2023-24 Adopted School Calendar has been adopted.** Please click the button below to view the 2023-2024 calendar.



[Click here to access the calendar online.](#)

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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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