

Important Back to School Updates

September 2022

**TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER, 6**

2022-2023 School Year Updates

Transportation Information

Thank you for your patience as we worked to plan the transportation routes for our K-12 students. On a daily basis we safely transport over 5,000 students to at least 65 different instructional locations throughout the WNY area.

With the shortage of drivers throughout the region we have faced many challenges in finalizing pick up and drop off points for our students. As always we appreciate your support and understanding that during the first weeks of school we will continue to closely monitor travel times and make any necessary improvements to routes.



At the elementary level, we will have door to door pick-up in most situations. Two exceptions:

- Dead-end streets where we cannot turn around safely. This is the case for many current dead-end streets.
- In certain neighborhoods we may use a consolidated bus stop so we are not stopping at each individual house. *The goal for these stops will be for each residence to be able to view their elementary child getting on the bus from their property.*

For grades 6-12 we will begin the year with neighborhood stops that have been developed with safety as our top priority.

At the elementary level, we ask that you have a plan for your child to enter the residence, either by you being present, or by having a plan for your child to access the home, as we drop children off at the end of the day. If you have an emergency where you will not be present and your child does not have access to his/her residence, please contact the Transportation Department immediately upon being aware of this issue so we can appropriately handle the concern.

As a reminder, during the first week of school, transportation is typically delayed, particularly on the way home from school, since drivers are still learning routes and students are working to become familiar with where to find their bus in the school lot.

You can find the pick-up drop off location information in the [parent portal](#). **Please continue to check back Sunday and Monday as there may be slight changes to routes through the weekend.**

We are all very excited to be seeing students again and look forward to a great year!

The Orchard Park Transportation Department

Parent Portal

Parent Portal

At least one parent from each student household should maintain a Parent Portal account and ensure that the email address and phone number are current. If you have login problems, please click the ***Parent Portal HELP*** button located at the bottom of the portal login screen. One login will provide access to information for all of your children.

With this account, you will have access to: Report Cards, Attendance History, Bus Information, Student Schedules, Test Scores and Parent Notification Preferences.

If you already have an account, you do not need to re-register each year. Parents who prefer to have information mailed home should make a request directly to their child's school building.

If you do not receive an email OR have any problems, please contact pshannon@opschools.org for assistance.

Food Service Information

Menus

The Orchard Park Central School District offers a comprehensive breakfast and lunch program for all students in K-12 based upon federal dietary guidelines. The menus are nutritionally analyzed and offer a variety of popular foods designed to please varied palates, including vegetarian options at a great value. A la carte items are available for purchase daily. Monthly menus can be found by clicking the link below.

[Menus](#)

2022-2023 School Lunch Pricing

Breakfast Grades K-12 - \$2.00

Lunch Grades K-5 - \$2.90

Lunch Grades 6-12 - \$3.00

The District encourages cashless meal purchases. Parents have the option of preloading money onto their child's [MySchoolBucks account online](#). Parents can preload the funds with a credit card or send a check in with their child. Please make checks payable to the Orchard Park Central School District.

It is essential that anyone who feels they may be eligible for free and reduced meals to fill out the 2022-2023 Free and Reduced lunch application that is available above. Procedures are in place to protect the privacy of students participating in the free and reduced program. Receiving Free and Reduced meals does not solely benefit the student receiving the meal, it also benefits the district community; depending on the amount of need within our district, we will receive/be eligible for additional funding. Completed applications should be sent to J. Schwarz at 4040 Baker Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127.

[For an application for a free or reduced-cost meals, please click here.](#)

MySchoolBucks

Free and Reduced-Cost Meal Application

Calendar Distribution

The Orchard Park Central School District will be distributing calendars beginning Friday, September 2, 2022. As in years past, calendars will be distributed only to the youngest student in each district family in most cases.

If the youngest student is at Orchard Park High School, a copy will arrive via mail to that student's address on file after September 2. The youngest students at Orchard Park Middle School and each of the four Elementary Schools will take home their calendars on the first day of school, scheduled for Tuesday, September 6.

Each of the Orchard Park Central School District locations will have extra calendars available in their main offices. Members of the Orchard Park community also may find a limited supply of calendars at the following locations beginning Friday, September 2, 2022:

- Anthony-Brown Pharmacy: 4328 South Buffalo Street
- Beerz Food Shop: 4916 South Buffalo Street
- Orchard Park Public Library: 4570 South Buffalo Street

Additionally, the District encourages the public to view its online calendar at www.opschools.org for the most up-to-date schedule of events. The website calendar will be updated regularly throughout the 2022-2023 school year. To view a pdf version of the printed calendar please click the link below.

[OPCSD 2022-2023 Calendar](#)

2022-2023 School Year Health Guidance

As we prepare for the start of a new school year, The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYDOH) have published new health guidelines and mitigation strategies for the 2022-2023 school year. Please visit the link below for a letter that includes important health information. The purpose of this letter is to highlight essential aspects of these guidelines for the best interests of your child and our school community. As always, our top priority is to enable safety among all students, faculty, and staff members.

2022-2023 School Year Health Guidance

Back to School Community Report



Orchard Park Central School District 2022

Back to
School
Edition

Community Report

First Day of School

The first day of school
for students is
Tuesday
September 6, 2022

Lunch Menus & Pricing

Lunch menus are available at
www.opschools.org/menu

Breakfast Grades K-12
\$2.00
Lunch Grades K-5
\$2.90
Lunch Grades 6-12
\$3.00

The application for the 2022-
2023 Free and Reduced Price
School Meals/Milk can be
found at
www.opschools.org/menu

Congratulations Class of 2022

See pages 4-5
and 8-12

K-5 STEM Program To Launch This Fall

This fall the district will launch its K-5 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program at all four district elementary schools. Over the course of the summer the spaces that once housed the elementary computer labs have been renovated to create elementary STEM classrooms. The renovation includes flexible and collaborative seating options, open floor space for robotics lessons, Lego walls and dry erase surfaces and upgraded classroom technology. Students in grades K-5 will have STEM once every 6 days which is approximately thirty STEM classes per school year.

The transition from an elementary computer class to a STEM class is an initiative the District has been



Ellicott Elementary student, Mia Wright tests out the Sail Car STEM Challenge project prior to the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

planning since 2018 as part of the District's Long Range Technology Plan. The curriculum is being developed based on the ISTE (International Society for Technology and Education) standards and the NYSED K-12 Computer Science and Digital Fluency Standards.

The K-5 STEM program will allow students to have learning experiences rooted in the "4 C's" of 21st Century Learning - creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication. Students will be participating in a variety of STEM challenges and projects. One of the projects students will be completing this year is a Sail Car project and an Air Racer Electric Fan Car. They will use the engineering design process to design and build their cars, and will evaluate measurement and how the design variables can impact speed and distance traveled. In addition to the STEM challenges, students will be utilizing Osmo coding activities, Lego BricQ lessons, Sphero Indi robots, Dash and Dot robots

and Glowforge laser cutters. The K-5 STEM teachers have been working throughout the spring and summer to develop their curriculum.

The K-5 STEM program will have both immediate and long-term benefits for students. The immediate benefit of the program for K-5 students will be the increased hands-on learning and the ability to collaborate and problem solve with peers. "The thought of students working together to create their own solutions to problems is an exciting thought as a teacher and parent in the district," said Emerson Smith, STEM teacher and Science Instructional Leader at South Davis.

Students will still receive computer instruction, but will have less screen time and more *Continued on page 2.*

Fall Community Education Brochure Enclosed. Pull out and Save Center Insert!

2022-2023 Back to School Community Report

Click the button above to view the 2022-2023 Back to School Community Report



ABOUT THE ORCHARD PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



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@OPSchools

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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