

Orchard Park Central School District



Photograph by: Eric Lenyoi
Orchard Park High School



Photograph by: Carolyn Bubar Orchard
Park High School



Photograph by: Colin Manko
Orchard Park High School

Fall 2016 Community Report

Orchard Park High School Named As A 2016 National Blue Ribbon School

Orchard Park High School has been named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Orchard Park High School is one of 279 public and 50 private schools across the country receiving this honor. Across New York State, 20 districts were designated as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2016 with Orchard Park and Honeoye Falls-Lima High School as the only local recipients. The award is based on a school's overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

“National Blue Ribbon Schools are proof that we can prepare every child for college and meaningful careers. Your schools are on the cutting edge, pioneering innovative educational practices—professional learning communities, project-based learning, social and emotional learning, positive behavior systems—making you shining examples for your communities, your state and the nation.” United State Secretary of Education, John King said in a video message to honorees.

Now in its 34th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed this coveted award on fewer than 8,500 schools. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. The award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content. The National Blue Ribbon Schools flag gracing a school's building is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning. National Blue Ribbon Schools are an inspiration and a model for schools still striving for excellence.

Orchard Park High School now joins Eggert Elementary (2007) and South Davis Elementary (2013) Schools as National Blue Ribbon School recipients in Orchard Park. Matthew McGarrity, Orchard Park Superintendent of Schools stated, “We all know that this achievement can only be accomplished with dedicated teachers, support staff members, administrators, students, school board members, community members and parents all working toward the same goals.”

On Nov. 7 and 8, the U.S. Department of Education formally recognized the 2016 recipients at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. Mr. Matthew McGarrity, Superintendent and Mr. Jon Wolf, High School Principal were joined by Mrs. Julie Bastedo, Orchard Park High School English teacher, to represent Orchard Park High School at the two-day awards ceremony. Orchard Park High School will host a local ceremony to celebrate this accomplishment in December.

For more information about the National Blue Ribbon Schools program, please visit <http://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/>.



Mr. Jon Wolf, High School Principal, Mrs. Julie Bastedo, Orchard Park High School English teacher, and Mr. Matthew McGarrity, Superintendent, represented Orchard Park High School at the two-day awards ceremony.

South Davis Kicks Off Rachel's Challenge

South Davis Elementary has joined Eggert Elementary in working with Rachel's Challenge to stimulate academic achievement and social-emotional learning by focusing on the connection between students, faculty and staff. Using the remarkable story of Rachel Scott, the first victim of the Columbine High School tragedy, Rachel's Challenge awakens individual hope, desire and purpose; which in turn promotes safer, more connected school communities. Mr. Chris Mowery, a Rachel's Challenge staff member shared Rachel's story with South Davis Elementary at their Rachel's Challenge Kick Off assembly in September.



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South Davis' Character Education Committee determined the school will dedicate the 2016-2017 year to "Kindness." Rachel's Challenge seemed to be a great fit for both students and staff. South Davis Elementary is joining Eggert Elementary who is participating in Rachel's Challenge for its third year. As a part of Rachel's Challenge students at both Eggert Elementary and South Davis Elementary will be receiving an individual paper chain for each act of kindness they complete. The chains will be connected to see how many acts of kindness have been completed throughout the year. Instead of focusing on "not bullying" the students focus on what they should and can do. The students are being taught that each act of kindness they do can inspire someone else to do an act of kindness, which we call a chain reaction. Together the schools have a goal to complete a "Chain of Kindness" long enough to connect the two school buildings. In order to do that they need to complete 9,870 acts of kindness!

Dr. Robert Marzano, respected education researcher and author states, "Rachel's Challenge is the most powerful intervention I have seen in 40 years of working in education." Rachel's story unlocks the desire for change. Its programs come alongside the existing efforts of the school to sustain a culture where harassment, bullying and violence are reduced, and where teachers are free to teach and students are awakened to learn. An independent study conducted by Multi-Dimensional Education, LLC, a nationally recognized educational program evaluator, found that, "Schools implementing Rachel's Challenge with fidelity achieved statistically significant gains in community engagement, faculty/student relationships, leadership potential, and school climate; along with a reduction in bullying behavior." Using age-appropriate programming for K-12, Rachel's Challenge schools have reported up to 84% reductions in disciplinary referrals. Over 150 suicides are averted annually, as reported by students themselves. In a pre- and post-attitudinal survey of 9,881 students from across the US, respondents report a 282% increase in the number of students feeling safe at school after participating in Rachel Challenge.

In the pursuit of its mission to awaken individual transformation and promote safer, more connected schools, Rachel's Challenge has reached over 22 million students, educators and community members in live settings. Rachel's Challenge continues to work hard to turn the ideals of kindness and compassion into actionable strategies that help promote safe and productive learning environments.

Images From Around the District



Mrs. Oesterle's class at Eggert Elementary celebrated the Grand Opening of Mrs. Oesterle's and Mrs. Pitt's Reading Workshop Library. The brand new books added to the classroom library got the students excited about books, and generated enthusiasm about all the new stories they will encounter this year.



Ellicott first graders took a field trip to three local nursing care/assisted living facilities: Peregrine's Landing, Orchard Heights, and Fox Run on Halloween. They paraded in their costumes and sang Halloween songs to the residents. It was a great way to bring Halloween happiness to all of the residents.

Lunch Menus

The Orchard Park Central School District Lunch Menus are always available on the district website
www.opschools.org/menu.

Transportation Department Receives Safety Training

The Orchard Park Transportation Department attended a live training drill with the Orchard Park Fire Department on Monday, October 3, 2016.

The Fire Department started the drill doing an auto extrication drill on a



Members of the Orchard Park Fire Department are pictured above drilling open the school bus to demonstrate how they would remove potential victims after an accident.

decommissioned school bus by drilling the bus open and safely removing their victims. During the final portion of the training the Fire Department ignited the school bus and safely put out the fire.

Throughout the training members of the Orchard Park Fire Department explained each portion of the exercise to the Transportation employees, giving them a

thorough understanding of exactly what would occur in the event of an accident or fire.

The Orchard Park Central School District continues to make safety a priority for our students, staff and community members. This training was an excellent opportunity for the Orchard Park Central School District Transportation employees to know what to expect should an emergency situation arise.

Windom's Reading Invasion

Windom Elementary had a successful Reading Invasion at the beginning of the School Year. The entire school "invaded" the back field for 30 minutes. Students brought books and a towel or blanket to lay on. Teachers brought lawn chairs and their own reading materials too. Kindergarten teachers brought



Students at Windom Elementary are pictured above reading during the Reading Invasion that took place at the beginning of the school year.

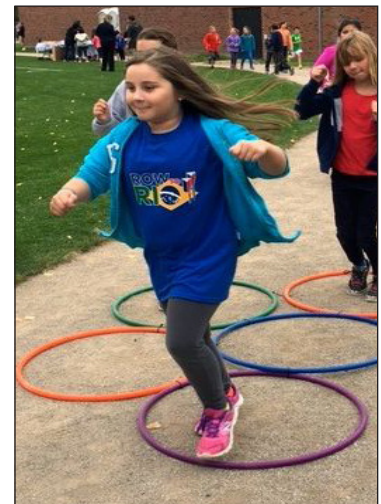
books to read to their classes. It was important to use a space that would fit the entire school community.

The staff members wanted students to witness the large amount of people sharing in reading and feel like they were a part of something big!

Images From Around the District



Teachers and staff members returned to school on August 31st. After the annual Opening Day presentations the Quaker Marching Band surprised teachers and staff members with a performance in the High School Auditorium. The Colorguard is showcased in the picture above performing right in front of the stage.



On Thursday September 29th South Davis held their annual Movin' & Groovin' event. This year's theme was the Olympics. Fourth grader Ella Young is pictured running through some obstacles above. This annual event is sponsored by the South Davis PTO.

New Faces in the Orchard Park Central School District

The Orchard Park Central School District welcomes all of our new staff members this year! Below are pictures of new staff members and staff members who have changed positions and/or buildings.

Eggert Elementary



*Pictured above are: Patrick Norton, Lauren Brechtel, Julia Pitt, Sean Hogan, Anne Telis and Josh Decker.
Not pictured are: Rebecca Banks, Jane Diedrich and Brenda Swayze.*

District Office/Special Education



*Pictured are: Karen Olivieri, Jo Ann Alba, Gretchen Buchanan, Pam Shannon, Nanette Wagner, and Patti Buss.
Not pictured are: Amanda Alba and Wendy Gloss.*

Orchard Park Middle School



Pictured are Jeanette Smith, Brittany Sparks, Bernadette Clark, Bridget McDonnell, Aaron Young, Morgan Falzone, Susan Toth, Chuck Kron and Margie Kaczmarek. Not pictured are: Lindsey Buck and Amanda Pirrami.

South Davis Elementary



Pictured are: Taylor Mango, Amy Washburn and Melany Grimaldi

Ellicott Elementary



Pictured are: Connor Wolfley, Melissa Ermolovich, Lisa Sayoc, Karen Salmon, Jocelyn Hartney, Emily Fleetwood, Catherine Sulski and Carleen Conrad.

Orchard Park High School



Pictured are: Amber Caros, Jessica Godios, Christopher Frankowski, Jennifer McKeone, Erin Calder, Jared Teal, Linda Saskowski, Kaitlyn Hatch, Evan Dewald, Christopher Betrus and Darlene Bonetto. Not pictured are: Jennifer Brewer, Lynsey Cybulski, Nicole Holler, and Lynn Kruszka.

Windom Elementary



Pictured are: Philip Johnson, Ryan Farley, Jim Fitzgerald, Emma Louise Hammond, Melissa Smith, Leslie Garcia and Whitney Wolniewicz. Not pictured are: Jenny Aida-la and Christine Stewart.

Orchard Park High School Students Named Commended Students and Semifinalists in National Merit Competition

Orchard Park High School seniors: Matthew Chiavetta, Joseph Even, Erin O'Rourke, Lauren Smith, Cole Wilkinson, Emily Zhang and Adam Ziccardi were named Commended Students in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise.



The Commended students are pictured above standing are: Matthew Chiavetta, Joseph Even, Cole Wilkinson and Adam Ziccardi. Seated are: Lauren Smith, Erin O'Rourke, and Emily Zhang.

Although they will not continue in the 2017 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2017 competition by taking the 2015 Preliminary SAT.

Tanner Probst and Hope VanDerwater were named Semifinalists in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high schoolseniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$33 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About

90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit



Tanner Probst and Hope VanDerwater were named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

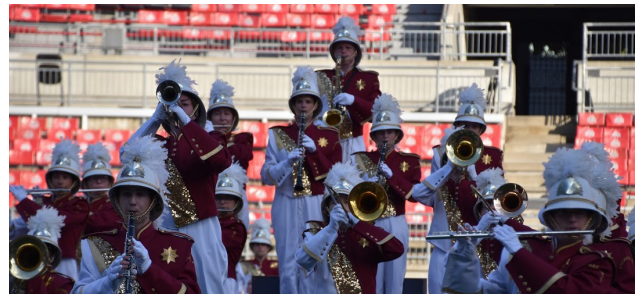
Scholar title. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation is a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 420 business organizations and higher education institutions that share its goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

Quaker Marching Band Selected to Perform at Ohio State Buckeye Invitational

On Saturday, October 15th the Quaker Marching Band performed at the annual Buckeye Invitational at Ohio State University. The Quaker Marching Band was selected to perform at the festival along with 40 of the Ohio region's finest high school marching bands. QMB put on a great show and was third in their class for overall visual effect.

The students completed their trip with a parade performance at the Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio.



The Quaker Marching Band is pictured at the Annual Buckeye Invitational at Ohio State University.

Sophomore Girls Raise Funds to Benefit Ronald McDonald House

In 2015 the Comforting Hugs Foundation formed its first “Hugs for Hope” group that consisted of nine freshman girls; Molly McGowan, Jessica Abate, Leah Ruh, Anna Sorrentino, Ryan Iacono, Julia Schurr, Mackenzie Bush, Claire Hogenkamp and



Pictured are eight of the nine members of “Hugs for Hope” along with Lyn Phillips of Comforting Hugs.

Caroline Yoshida. The girls hoped to renovate a room at the Ronald McDonald house. The Ronald McDonald House provides a place for families to stay while a child is in the hospital undergoing treatment. In an effort to do this the girls held multiple fundraisers including a Paula’s Donut Sale, Car Wash and a T-Shirt Sale.

They raised an impressive \$3,000. Comforting Hugs matched their donation giving them \$6,000 to work with. The students needed to come up with three different designs for the room to present to the Ronald McDonald House before they could officially adopt a room. The design that was chosen was “Buffalo – Canalside”.

The girls had one week to complete the room and this past August they got to work and implemented their design at the Ronald McDonald House. The grand-opening of the Comforting Hugs for Hope Room “Buffalo – Canalside” was held on Sunday, September 11th.

The Comforting Hugs Foundation is a nonprofit organization with the mission of providing comfort to children who are in the hospital by providing care bags. Comforting Hugs is currently working to expand their reach by giving support and comfort not only to the child but their families also.



Different views of the Comforting Hugs for Hope Buffalo - Canalside room at the Ronald McDonald House.

Biology Students Use Hand-Crank Cider Press



Orchard Park High School sophomores Jacquelyn Heinen and Sarah Hanlon pose for a picture while operating Mr. VanDerwater’s hand-crank cider press.

On November 1st Orchard Park High School Biology teachers produced some delicious live science for their students as part of the annual Cider Pressing Day.

Over 400 Biology students participated in this hands-on activity connecting agriculture, the ecology of food chains, cell biology, evolution by natural selection, plant reproduction, and human history.

The students were encouraged to learn to operate, Biology teacher, Mr. Mark VanDerwater’s hand-crank cider press.

1945 Baseball Bat Reunited with Original Owner

In August, Nick Nicoloff, a 1947 Orchard Park alumni, returned to Orchard Park to be reunited with the baseball bat that he used on the Varsity Baseball team in high school. He had not seen the bat since he graduated in 1947.

The reunion took place on Thursday, August 18, 2016, sixty-nine years after Nick graduated from Orchard Park High School. Dr. Thomas Dilamarter, current owner of the bat, invited Nick to his office at Chestnut Ridge Family Medical Care in order to return the bat to its rightful owner.

Dr. Dilamarter purchased the bat at an antique store called 3 Old Dogs in Clarence. He was intrigued by the bat's history. When he purchased the bat OPHS "Nick" 45 was carved into it. He began doing research on the bat's history by utilizing Ancestry.com and Orchard Park High School yearbooks. In the 1945 Orchard Park High School yearbook there was a picture of the baseball team with only last names listed. He used Ancestry.com and the last names on the team to find someone named Nick. He then did more research to find that Nick, an Orchard Park graduate from 1947 is living and working in New River, Arizona. He looked up the number and left Nick a message, eventually getting a hold of him and confirming that the bat was his.

The bat itself has an interesting history. Nick's brother Koester had actually made him the bat in shop class on the first floor of the old Orchard Park High School. The old

Orchard Park High School is the building that is currently across from the Orchard Park Middle School on South Lincoln Avenue in Orchard Park.

Nick Nicoloff played sports throughout high school despite the fact that he had contracted polio when he was 10 months old and ended up with a paralyzed right leg. After graduation in 1947 Nick went on to marry Mary Ann Cosgrove who was from Hornell, NY. They began their family having four sons and one daughter. They left New York in February of 1985 and headed to Arizona after some family members moved there. In 1987 Nick opened Desert West Insurance in Peoria, AZ. At age 87 he is still currently working full time there with his youngest son.



Pictured above Dr. Thomas Dilamarter returns the bat to Nick Nicoloff, the bat's original owner.



Pictured is the bat that Dr. Dilamarter purchased at 3 Old Dogs in Clarence. After researching the bat's history he returned it to the original owner.

OPHS Students Attend 43 North Pitch Session

On October 27, students from the Principles of Marketing, Advertising & Public Relations, and Business Law classes at Orchard Park High School attended the 43 North Final Pitch Session at Shea's Performing Arts Center. During this session, the 10 finalists (as determined by a panel of judges the previous day) pitched their businesses to a group of venture capitalists and entrepreneurs in a "Shark Tank"-like setting. Of the companies pitching, two will not receive a prize, five will win \$500,000 prizes and three will move on to compete for the \$1 million prize. For more information on 43 North and all they're doing to promote business and entrepreneurship in Buffalo, including donating the funds necessary for the bus for these OPHS students to attend this event, visit their website at www.43north.org.



Orchard Park High School students take their seats at Shea's to watch the 43 North Pitch session.

Orchard Park Central Schools Board of Education

Orchard Park, New York 14127

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www.opschools.org

(716)209-6222

November

- 23-25...Thanksgiving Holiday – No School
- 28...Performing Arts OPHS Bands & ECMEA
Wind Ensemble Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. –
8:30 p.m.
- 29...Rehearsal for ECWE & HS Bands
- 30...EL Chorus Concert, 7 p.m.
- 30...Erie County Wind Ensemble, 7 p.m.
- 30...SD Picture Retake Day

December

- 1-2... WE Holiday Bazaar, Auction & Reindeer
Walk during school hours
- 1...WE Holiday Auction Family Night,
4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- 1...Middle School 6th & 7th Grade Choral
Concerts at 6:45 & 8 p.m.
- 1...HS Fall College Night
- 2...SD Holiday House and Basket Raffle,
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- 2...K-8 Half – Day Elementary Dismissal at
11:30 a.m. Middle School Dismissal at
10:30 a.m.
- 2...MS Poinsettia Sale Pick Up 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- 5...SD PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 5...8th-9th Grade Special Education Transition
Parent Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 5...K-8 Half-Day, Elementary Dismissal at
11:30 a.m. Middle School Dismissal at
10:30 a.m.
- 6...EG Vocal Holiday Concert, 7 p.m.
- 7...SD/WE Holiday Concert, 7 p.m.
- 8...EL Band & Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.
- 9...Elementary Report Cards Available
- 9...CCPTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

- 10...OPHS Wrestling Tournament
- 12...WE Vocal Holiday Concert, 7 p.m.
- 12-16...SD Charity Drive
- 13...Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13...EG Band & Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.
- 14...5th-6th Grade Special Education Transition
Parent Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 15...MS 6th & 7th Grade Band & Orchestra
Concert, 6:45 p.m.
- 19...STAP Comm Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 20...HS Holiday Concert, 7 p.m.
- 26-30... Winter Recess – No School
- 29-2...OPHS Girls Varsity and JV Basketball
Tournament

January

- 4...EG PTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 5...WE PTO Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 5...EL PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 5...SD PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 10...Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 11...MS PTO Meeting, 9 a.m.
- 11...Board of Education Work Session, 5 p.m.
- 13...K-8 Half-Day, Elementary Students
Dismiss at 11:30 a.m. Middle School
Students Dismiss at 10:30 a.m.
- 13...HS Early Dismissal, 12:45 p.m.
- 14...Winter Driver Education Registration,
8 a.m.
- 16...Martin Luther King Day – No School
- 17...Winter/Spring Walk-In Community
Education Registration, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- 18...Winter/Spring Walk-In Community Edu-
cation Registration, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
- 18...MS 8th Grade Concert, 7 p.m.

- 19...Special Education 8th Grade Parent
Scheduling Night, 7 p.m.
- 20...WE Winter Family Skate Night,
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- 21...Board of Education Work Session, 8 a.m.
- 23...STAP Comm Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 24-27...HS Local/Regents Exams
- 26...MS/HS Jazz Concert, 7 p.m.
- 26-27... WE Operetta, 7 p.m.
- 30...Winter Community Education Classes
Begin

February

- 2...WE PTO Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 3...CCPTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- 6-10...MS Yearbook Sale
- 6-10...WE Box Tops Contest
- 7...Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 7...SD PTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 7...EL PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 8...HS Winter Choral Concert, 7 p.m.
- 8...MS PTO Meeting, 9 a.m.
- 10...Festival of Bands, 7 p.m.
- 11...HS Winter Homecoming Dance, 8 p.m.
- 13-14...EG Operetta, 7 p.m.
- 13...STAP Comm Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 14-15...EL Operetta, 7 p.m.
- 15-16...SD Operetta, 7 p.m. at MS
- 16...EG Math & Science Night, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- 17...K-8 Half Day Elementary Students
Dismiss at 11:30 a.m. Middle School
Students Dismiss at 10:30 a.m.
- 17...HS Early Dismissal, 12:45 p.m.
- 20-24...Mid-Winter Recess – No School