

# Orchard Park Central School District



Photograph by: Jane Lawicki  
Orchard Park High School



Photograph by: Sarah Bryk  
Orchard Park High School



Photograph by: Nicholas Malec  
Orchard Park High School

## Back to School 2016 Community Report

### OPCSD Administrators Receive Safety Training

Reminder: The First  
Day of School  
for Students is  
Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>

In July the Orchard Park Central School District Administrative team was trained by Lieutenant Patrick Fitzgerald of the Orchard Park Police Department on the Incident Command System.

The Incident Command System or ICS is a standardized, on-scene all-hazard incident management approach. This approach allows the school district and any responders to adopt a structure of how incidents would be handled and it can vary depending on the type of incident. The ICS training also emphasized the need for a common language between all school district administrators and the different emergency responders. Having this type of system enables Administrators to know what role they play in each type of emergency, and how jobs and responsibilities would be delegated so the incident could be handled in the most efficient way possible.

The Orchard Park Central School District continues to make safety and emergency preparedness a priority. The ICS training is one of several ways that the District is improving safety and security for students, staff and community members. The District truly appreciates the unwavering support and guidance of the Orchard Park Police Department.



*Lieutenant Patrick Fitzgerald is pictured training the Orchard Park Central School District Administrative team on the Incident Command System in July.*

### Calendar Distribution

Calendars will be distributed to students in kindergarten through 8th grade on September 6<sup>th</sup>, the first day of school. Calendars going to students at the high school level will be mailed home prior to the first day of school. As we have done in years past, the calendars will be given to the youngest student in each family. Calendars will be available to District residents at the Orchard Park Public Library, Anthony Brown Pharmacy, Beerz Convenience Store and the Orchard Park Central School District Office located at 2240 Southwestern Blvd.

### Calendar Update

Each year school district administrators work with bargaining units to develop the school calendar. This year there are a few dates that have been recently changed.

- Students return to school on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>
- There is no school Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- There is school Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Lunch Menus

The Orchard Park Central School District lunch menus are available on the district website:

[www.opschools.org/menu](http://www.opschools.org/menu).

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



# Superintendent's Column

It has been a very busy summer in the Orchard Park Central School District due to the extensive amount of work taking place in our buildings because of the capital improvement project. We will be ready for the start of the school year and I am looking forward to welcoming back our staff on Wednesday, August 31 and our students on Tuesday, September 6.

The project work will continue during the school year in the Middle School auditorium and in the Middle School pool. While we are still undergoing construction, I would encourage everyone to check the district website and online calendar for updated events and location information. Not only is the website a great place to go for updated event information, it is also a great resource for both parents and students. For additional information on the progress of our capital project, please refer to pages 6-7.

Construction is not the only area

of improvement in the district. When we return in September, there will be changes to the district's security and safety procedures. Throughout the past year the administrative team has been working to improve school building access and control before, during, and after student attendance hours. The district is focused on continuing to improve safety measures. Visitors will now be required to show photo identification, i.e. drivers' licenses, in order to gain access into the buildings. Each building will now have full-time security monitors during the school day and security monitors after school hours. Throughout the summer, the administrative team and the clerical staff received safety training to improve communication during an emergency. We will continue to make safety and security a top priority.

Finally, as we prepare for the start of the upcoming school year, I know we all wish the class of 2016 great success as they begin their college experiences, join the work force or the armed services. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

## Orchard Park Pride Awards 2016-2017

Each year, approximately 10 percent of students in the senior class are selected to receive an Orchard Park Pride Award. This award is given to those who have exhibited excellence in one or more of the following areas: character, work ethic, and involvement and impact. Not everyone who exhibits these qualities will be chosen. Selection is made on the basis of information submitted on the OP Pride Form, as well as faculty votes. Each student who is chosen will be paired with a local business representative who will host the student and his/her parents at a dinner in the spring.

We are asking students to self-nominate by submitting the OP Pride Form to Mrs. See or Mrs. Linder in House III by November 1st. The forms are available in the House offices.\*\* Only students who have completed this form, checked the Orchard Park Pride box at the top, and submitted it by November 1st will be considered in the voting process.

This is not a time to be overly modest. If students have contributed to Orchard Park through activities in the classroom, in the community, or in school sports, clubs, or organizations, we encourage them to self-nominate by submitting the OP Pride Form. The process is similar to submitting a resume to apply for a job and we feel this will be a good learning experience.

If you prefer to fill out the form on a computer, you will need to log on to the school's website – [www.opschools.org](http://www.opschools.org). Click on High School (located under schools). Click on Guidance and Counseling Services (in the left column). Select Orchard Park Pride Awards. Select Related Files – OP Pride Form. Open the OP Pride form, fill it out, save it, and print three copies – one for your records, one for Mrs. See or Mrs. Linder, and one for your counselor.

## Orchard Park Website

The Orchard Park Central School District website is the place to check for up-to-date information from your child's building and the district. The website address is [www.opschools.org](http://www.opschools.org)

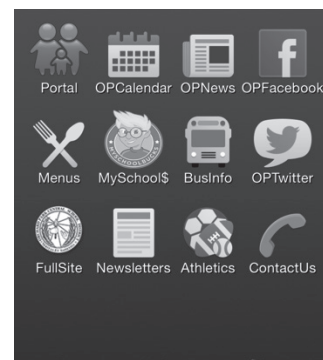


## Check out the OP App!

Smartphone users can use the iOS or Android version of the OP App for quick access to a variety of information including:

- Parent Portal Access
- OP News
- OP Facebook
- Lunch Menus
- Athletic Information
- Phone Numbers
- Teacher Pages
- Health Office
- PTO webpages

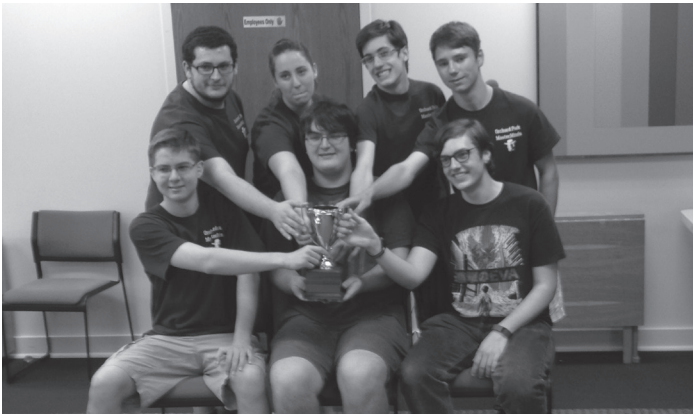
The app is available in the Google Play Store or the iTunes store.



Schools



## Images From Around the District



*Pictured is the 2015-16 Masterminds team who became the Buffalo Division Champions and finished #2 in the State Tournament.*



*Ella Newell is pictured selecting a book at the Ellicott Elementary book exchange. Families are able to recycle books that are like-new or gently used from home. This is a great way for students to get some new books to read over the summer.*



*The Orchard Park High School Destination ImagiNation team "Team Tim" placed 3rd in the Fine Arts Challenge at the Destination ImagiNation Global Finals this year out of 81 teams!*



*The class of 1946 held their 70th class reunion at the Roycroft in July. Mr. Matthew McGarrity, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Jon Wolf, principal of the Orchard Park High School attended the reunion and visited with the Orchard Park Alumni.*



*Kindergarten bus rides were held the week of August 8th through the 12th. Pictured above are several members of the class of 2029 making sure they know how to safely get off the school bus. Orchard Park drivers took students on a short ride and spoke to them about safely riding the school bus when they head to school in September.*



# Practice Plus Time Equals Success

By: Lisa Krueger, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Pupil Services

In his 2008 best selling book, Outliers: The Story of Success, Malcom Gladwell contended the difference between world-class experts and people of typical skill level is practice. In his study of athletes, experts in their field of study, or other world-class individuals, the magic number of 10,000 hours of practice was revealed. The notion of devoting hours and hours of practice to enhance a skill can be applied to many aspects of schooling – from learning a musical instrument to learning how to read. The vast majority of people are not naturally gifted; their natural skills coupled with hours of practice is what leads to success.

Throughout the past school year, teachers in grades 3-6 have participated

in professional development focused on literacy instruction in the Reading Workshop model. Many leaders in the field of reading instruction from Lucy Calkins to Richard Allington have researched the connections between time “practicing” reading and reading achievement. Simply put, to improve reading skills our students must have ample time on task reading. Practicing reading will improve our students’ reading abilities.

The Reading Workshop model of instruction is anchored in the philosophy that kids need to read a lot, with high comprehension, in order to improve their reading skills. This instructional model allows for students to read every day for approximately 30 uninterrupted minutes. A vital element of this reading instruction is for students to be given adequate time reading text they are able to

read independently, meaning text that is an appropriate reading level where a child is not frustrated and able to comprehend what he/she is reading.

In a Reading Workshop model, students read text (i.e. books) of differing levels. The beauty of this is that those students who are reading above grade level can be appropriately challenged with above grade level texts, while struggling readers can be provided texts at their reading level. In doing so, students can be challenged to stretch and grow without being pushed beyond their reach, which would result in frustration. The Reading Workshop model is differentiated instruction, responsive to the individual needs of our diverse readers.


As we focus on increasing students’ independent reading time, we encourage families to continue to support reading at home. Whether reading to your child, having your child read to you, or the encouragement of independent reading time, practicing reading will improve students’ reading skills.

## Technology Tips

Check out the Tips Below Regarding How To Utilize District Technology

### Parent Portal

#### To Create a Parent Portal Account

1. Browse to [www.opschools.org](http://www.opschools.org)
2. Click “Parent/Student Portal” under Quick Links
- 3 Click Create Account 
4. Enter in your Name, Email and Username information
5. Then below, enter in your child’s / children’s portal information from your PowerSchool welcome letter
6. Save your username and password and destroy your PowerSchool account letter.

### Parent Portal

#### Login to Parent Portal Account

1. Browse to [www.opschools.org](http://www.opschools.org)
2. Click “Parent/Student Portal” Under Quick Links
3. Login using your parent parent power account. Note: This is the account you created with the parent portal letter
4. If you need to reset your password or cannot remember your password click the link: “Having Trouble signing in?”

### Parent Portal Notes

1. Bus Number Information as well as pick up and drop off time is listed under Bus Info
2. Parents of 6-12 graders can view their students report cards under Report Cards
3. You can change phone numbers, contact and emergency alert settings, and email addresses from this page. Your addresses can only be changed in person at the District Office
4. To change contact information click Demographics Modify (it may take 48 hours for the changes to be verified)
5. Do not give your child/children access to your Parent Portal account.



## A Word From The Board of Education President

On behalf of the Board of Education I would like to welcome everybody back to a new school year. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome two members to the Board: Robert Mahany and Dwight Eagan. Please congratulate them as you see them about town.

It has been a busy summer throughout the district. There has been significant progress made on the health and safety construction project with the work beginning this past spring. While every building is being impacted, the most noticeable is the middle school's parking lot and the main entryway repairs. While some work will continue into the winter, we have been assured that other than the work being done to repair the middle school pool, the rest of the project work should not impact the normal operations of any of the buildings or the academic day.

Over the summer the board received a technology update on the rolling out of a new batch of chrome books to both the middle school and high school students. This is part of the New York State

Smart School Investment Plan, a 2.2 billion dollar program to enhance technology throughout the state. Our Board will be holding a public hearing related to this program on August 29th at 6 p.m. in the district office. Please feel free to attend if you would like the information about this exciting opportunity for our students and the district.

We will also be reviewing the mandated building condition survey which is done every five years. Once this is finished we will be reconstituting the facilities committee which will be tasked with making recommendations for the next phase in our long-term capital project. We hope to receive these recommendations by the end of 2017. Community members who are interested in being part of this committee should contact the superintendent's office.

Thank you for your continued support of the district, especially our students. The Board of Education welcomes input from community members on all aspects, particularly with respect to how we can continue to improve transparency, communication and promote a greater partnership with the community. We encourage you to stay informed by attending board meetings, visiting the district website, Facebook and/or attending PTO meetings.

## 2016-2017 Board of Education Meeting Dates

Board of Education meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the District Offices, 2240 Southwestern Blvd. West Seneca, unless otherwise indicated. Additional work sessions/meetings may be scheduled, as needed, throughout the year. Meetings are open to the public.

September 13, 2016

October 11, 2016

November 8, 2016

December 13, 2016

January 10, 2017

February 7, 2017

March 14, 2017

March 28, 2017

April 4, 2017

May 2, 2017

May 16, 2017 - District Budget Vote,  
High School

June 13, 2017

## More Technology Tips

### School Messenger

The Orchard Park Central School District uses School Messenger to communicate with parents. Messages may include: important school announcements, emergency alerts and school closings.

You have the ability to control how you are notified: phone call, email message and/or SMS Text

### To Set Up School Messenger Preferences

1. Log in to the Parent Portal
2. Click School Messenger
3. Click Contacts
4. Select a student and press "Edit"
5. Choose your notifications settings, by checking and unchecking boxes
6. The top 6 phone, 2 email, and 2 SMS

- are imported from PowerSchool. You must go back to the parent portal to change these numbers
7. You can add 6 additional phone, 2 email and 2 text lines underneath
8. Emergency, School Closing and Attendance require one number to be selected
9. To verify your SMS/Text settings text Y to 68453.



# Capital Project Update

\* The Capital Project was approved by voters in December of 2014.

## Orchard Park High School



*Pictured above are the softball diamonds. Currently the infields have been laid and the warning track is in. The sod will be laid early this fall.*



*Pictured are the baseball dugouts during construction. Since the photo was taken the work has been completed and the concrete pads have been replaced.*

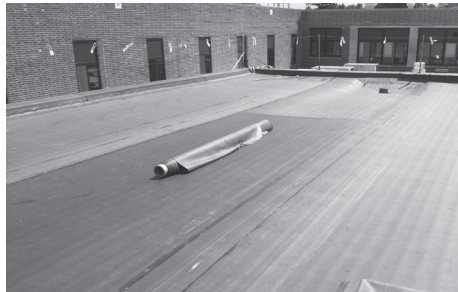


*The foundation work at the Visitor Concession Stand at the High School Stadium has been completed.*

## Orchard Park Middle School



*Construction on the Middle School Auditorium will continue into the fall and is expected to be complete by the end of December.*



*Work on the Orchard Park Middle School roof is wrapping up.*



*The Middle School front stairs and ramp to the main entrance has been redone and will be completed before school begins.*



*The old boiler underneath the Middle School loading dock has been removed. The space it occupied will now be used for storage.*



*The construction at the Middle School pool will continue into the school year.*



*The redesign of the Middle School front parking lot is nearing completion and will be open for the start of school.*

## Windom Elementary



*The Windom Elementary front loop and sidewalks have all been replaced. Pictured above is the front loop during construction.*



*The basketball, tennis and pickleball courts at Windom Elementary have been paved and will soon be painted.*

## Maintenance Shop



*New fuel tanks have been installed at the Maintenance Shop next to the Middle School. They will be operational in the fall.*

## Ellicott Elementary



*The old roof units at Ellicott Elementary have been replaced. They are pictured above after they were removed.*



*A new water line has been installed to supply three fire hydrants on the west side of Ellicott Elementary.*



*All of the roof work scheduled at Ellicott Elementary is nearly completed.*

## Eggert Elementary



*Pictured are the new roof units that were installed at Eggert Elementary in early August.*



*Basketball and Tennis courts at Eggert Elementary have been completed.*

## South Davis Elementary



*Areas of roof at South Davis Elementary slated for replacement are nearing completion.*



## Orchard Park Central Schools Board of Education

Orchard Park, New York 14127

Editor: Julianne Becker

www.opschools.org

(716)209-6222

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# Resident

## August

- 29...MS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation
- 29...Board of Education Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 30...EL New Student & Family Orientation, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
- 30...MS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation
- 31...EG Kindergarten Welcome, 2:30 p.m.
- 31...EG New Family Orientation, 4 p.m.
- 31...EG Family Welcome Carnival, 5 p.m.
- 31...Student/Parent Orientation and KKS (Keeping Kids Safe) Presentation, 6:30 p.m.
- 31...Superintendent's Conference Day, No School for Students

## September

- 1...HS Senior Tie Dye, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- 1...Superintendent's Conference Day, No School for Students
- 1...SD Kindergarten & New Student Orientation, 2:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- 5...Labor Day – No School
- 6-7...HS Student ID and Underclassman Photos
- 6...HS Senior Panoramic Photo
- 6...MS Coupon Book Fundraiser Begins
- 6...First Day of Student Attendance
- 8...WE PTO Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 9...OPHS Girls Varsity Volleyball Tournament, 4:30 p.m.
- 10...Fall Driver Education Registration, 8 a.m.
- 12...MS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Open House, 6:30 p.m.
- 13...Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13...EL Parent Information Night, Grade 1 @ 6:45 p.m. & Grade 2 @ 6 p.m.

- 13...SD PTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 13...SD Volunteer Orientation, 10:15 a.m.
- 13...Fall Community Education Walk – In Registration, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- 14...EG Scholastic Book Fair, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- 14...EG Parent Volunteer Orientation, 6:30 p.m.
- 14...HS Open House, 6:30 p.m.
- 14...EG Open House Grades K-2, 7 p.m.
- 14...MS PTO Meeting, 9 a.m.
- 14...EG PTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 14...MS PTO Volunteer Training, 10:15 a.m.
- 14...SD Volunteer Orientation, 6:30 p.m.
- 15...EL Parent Information Night: Grade 3 @ 6 p.m., Grade 4 @ 6:45 p.m. and Grade 5 @ 7:30 p.m.
- 15...Fall Community Education Walk – In Registration, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- 19...WE Primary Open House: Kindergarten @ 6 p.m., Grade 1 @ 6:45 p.m. and Grade 2 @ 7:30 p.m.
- 19...HS STAP Comm Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 20...HS Senior Portrait Retakes
- 20...EG Scholastic Book Fair, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- 20...EL Volunteer Training, 6 p.m.
- 20...SD Grades 3-5 Open House, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- 20...EG Parent Volunteer Orientation, 6:30 p.m.
- 20...EG Open House Grades 3-5, 7 p.m.
- 20...EL PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 21...MS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Picture Day
- 21...SD K-2 Open House, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- 21...WE Intermediate Open House: Grade 5 @ 6 p.m., Grade 3 @ 6:45 p.m. and Grade 4 @ 7:30 p.m.
- 22...MS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Picture Day

- 22...MS PTO Volunteer Training, 6 p.m.
- 22...HS Open House, 6:30 p.m.
- 22...MS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Open House
- 23...MS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Picture Day
- 24...OPHS Girls Diving Invite, 7 a.m.
- 26...WE Picture Day
- 26...HS KKS (Keeping Kids Safe) Presentation, 7 p.m.
- 26...HS PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 26...Fall Community Education Classes Begin
- 27-28...WE Book Fair
- 27...MS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Open House, 6:30 p.m.
- 28...EL Fall Family Ice Cream Social, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- 28...WE Book Fair/Literacy Night/Meet the Co-Curriculars, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- 29...SD Movin' & Groovin', 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- 29...EL Kindergarten Open House, 6 p.m.
- 30...HS Homecoming Pep Rally, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- 30...HS Powder Puff Football Game, 7:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
- 30...HS Early Dismissal, 12:45 p.m.
- 30...SD Fall Fundraiser Begins
- 30...Walk for Ellicott

## October

- 1...Homecoming Parade
- 1...Homecoming Carnival, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- 1...Homecoming Varsity Football Game, 1 p.m.
- 1...HS Homecoming Dance, 8 p.m. – 11 p.m.
- 3...EL Picture Day
- 3...WE Fall Fundraiser Sale Begins
- 6...WE PTO Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 6...SD PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 7...MS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Activity Night, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.