



Oceanside Schools

Anchored Together

BY PURPOSE, PASSION, AND PEOPLE

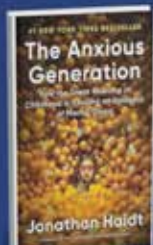
Fall 2024

OSD Parent University “Book Talk” to Explore Solutions for Youth Anxiety

Parents, you're invited!

OSD Parent University presents a two-part book-talk on helping our teens thrive in the digital age.

January 7 & January 13, 7 pm
at Oceanside High School



The Anxious Generation
By: Jonathan Haidt



The Oceanside School District (OSD) Parent University committee is hosting a two-part book discussion for parents to explore the past decade's spike in teen anxiety and how parents and educators can help.

Participants will discuss *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt, a social psychologist and author. Scan the QR code at right to register.



The district will also host a viewing of *Screenagers: The Next Chapter* on February 11, at 7 pm, in the School #6 Auditorium. Scan the second QR code to register for *Screenagers: The Next Chapter*.



OHS Marching Band Wins Group IIA Championship!!



Universal Pre-Kindergarten

Oceanside School District

September 2025

...Tuition-Free for all participants...

<i>Lottery</i> 	<i>Eligibility</i> 	<i>Hours</i> 
<p>Seats are limited.</p> <p>Lottery Selection will take place January 27, 2025.</p> <p>Scan this QR Code to sign up for the lottery between January 6-24, 2025.</p> 	<p>Oceanside District Residents</p> <p>Must be born between Dec. 2, 2020 - Dec 1, 2021</p>	<p>9:20am-2:40pm</p> <p>Monday-Friday</p> <p>Follows District Calendar</p>

Call School #6 Main Office
(594-2345)
if you have questions
registering your child.



Scan for Q&A
containing additional
information on UPK,
eligibility, logistics.



Kindergarten Register for 2025-26

Who is eligible?

Children born between December 2, 2019
and December 1, 2020

Who can I call with questions?

Central Registration at 516-678-6238

Register at oceansideschools.org/parents-students/register-for-school



Students Win National Podcasting Contest

American revolution reenactment featured on NPR

Santiago Ucciferri, Alexis Susca, Samantha Cohen and Kai Sudo, OMS students who were classmates at School #8, learned this past fall that they were winners in a national podcasting competition hosted by National Public Radio. Their podcast was featured on NPR on July 3 to celebrate Independence Day and again when all of the competition winners were announced.

The students had created the podcast, a reenactment of the Quartering Act, as part of a unit on American history. Their grade four teacher, Jennifer D'Amelio of School #8, has been producing podcasts with her students since 2019.

Elementary school podcasts were not eligible for the competition until 2024. When NPR expanded the competition, Ms. D'Amelio was still editing her most recent student podcast. She asked NPR if she could submit a prior year's podcast and sent several podcasts from her previous classes. The NPR judges were impressed with the quality



of all of the podcasts and said that choosing a winner was a difficult decision.

Sixth Grade Students Visit Ashokan

Students from School #3 hiked, played traditional games, learned archery, and explored nature at Ashokan. All sixth grades went to Ashokan this fall.

School #9E Students Learning How Parts of a System Work Together

Students love working with gears in Maker-space, where they explore STEM concepts.



OHS Wellness Coordinator Wins Leadership Award



Dr. Nina Weisenreder has been given the Gil Trachtman Leadership Award by the New York Association of School Psychologists. She is the coordinator of the OHS Wellness Center and has been a school psychologist at OHS for over 20 years. Dr. Weisenreder accepted the award at

the annual NYASP conference on October 17. At the OHS Wellness Center, which opened in September of 2022, Dr. Weisenreder fosters community-building, psychoeducation, and activities that promote resilience. Her focus is on maintaining student well-being by equipping young people with the tools to manage stress, anxiety, and other mental health challenges.

Since opening its doors, the Wellness Center has been a hub of student and staff activity. It has become a place to relax and unplug, play board games with friends, study, visit with dogs, chat with Dr. W., attend yoga classes and other workshops and presentations, and participate in mental-health themed projects. Many of the brochures featured in the Wellness Center were created by students, and there are numerous other touches that students have had a hand in, including the Wellness Center logo and the logo for its adjoining classroom, The Dock.

School #5 Teacher Named A Hero by Student

Jillian Edelman, a Teaching and Learning Coach at School #5, was a winner of the Long Island School Hero Award from the Long Island Coalition Against Bullying. Nominations for the LI School Hero Award come from students and are anonymous.

Ms. Edelman accepted the award at a special ceremony of the coalition in October. She is pictured with her School #5 principal, Michelle Mastrande, and colleagues.



” ALL STARS

OMS Teacher Earns Award of Excellence

Joseph LaTorre, an English Language Arts teacher at Oceanside Middle School, has been named a New York State English Council Educator of Excellence.

Mr. LaTorre is one of the architects of the district’s innovative Bridges program, which began in 2016. Bridges connects the Oceanside and Uniondale school districts to tackle issues confronting our communities, nation and world. Students build relationships and leadership skills together, starting in 7th grade and remaining with their cohorts through the end of high school.

One of Mr. LaTorre’s favorite lessons asks students to create branding campaigns for local businesses. This is part of a unit on rhetoric and the persuasive appeals of logos (reason), ethos (character and credibility), and pathos (emotions, values, beliefs). Students learn to analyze and employ these appeals in their projects, while gaining career skills and building relationships in the community.



“We’re not just learning literature,” Mr. LaTorre said. “We’re thinking critically, and I’m helping my students develop skills they’ll carry with them for the rest of their lives. I want them to leave here with the confidence to solve any problem.”

OMS Math Teachers Selected for Prestigious Program

John Heron and Jenna Hoelzer, OMS mathematics teachers, have been selected for the prestigious New York State Master Teacher Program, joining an elite group of 400 educators across the state. “This honor is a testament to their dedication to STEM education, professional growth, and excellence in teaching,” said Diane Provvido, assistant superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology. The selection was a rigorous, multi-step process including written re-

sponses, academic transcripts, “highly effective” ratings on performance reviews, and recommendations from colleagues and supervisors.

As master teachers, they will participate in advanced professional development alongside SUNY faculty and other Master Teachers across New York State to deepen their expertise and advance STEM education.



School #4 Opens Life Skills Classroom

School #4 unveiled the school's new functional living skills classroom, named Sailors' Skill Cove this fall. The classroom mimics a studio apartment, with a kitchen for learning meal preparation and clean-up, a laundry area for sorting, washing and folding clothes, and a living room and bedroom to practice making the bed and tidying their space.

"We're preparing our students to contribute to their households and communities," said Tracy Murray, executive director of special education. "What better way than to provide a space where they can learn life skills in an engaging and supportive environment?"

While the room is designed for special education students, it will be an inclusive environment for activities with general and special education students working together.



Congratulations to Nassau County Girls Soccer Champs!!



Arboretum Receives Accreditation

Oceanside High School Castleton students celebrated with their teachers and administrators upon learning that Oceanside's arboretum has earned accreditation from ArbNet. The arboretum joins the ranks of arboreta around the globe advancing the study, planting, and conservation of trees.

To prepare for accreditation, Castleton students created labels for the 27 species of tree, including a rare and endangered Dawn Redwood. Arboreta that are accredited are encouraged to become leaders and serve as models for others.

Castleton students, staff and many volunteers including members of the OHS ACE program, spent several years turning an aging botanical garden area founded in the mid-1980s into a thriving outdoor research and learning space. The new Outdoor Research Center in the Arboretum (ORCA) opened in the fall of 2023.

Students in grades K-6 visit in fall and spring to conduct experiments and explore environmental concepts that align with their science curriculum.



Creating a “Calm Down Cove” at School #2

Social worker Amelia Cariddi and psychologist Jordan Marcus at School #2 have collaborated to turn an under-used corner at the end of a hallway into a chilling out space for students. “Calm Down Cove” is designed with cool ocean colors and themes that Emma, a 4th grader, described as “very calming.”

With permission from their teachers, students can take a few minutes to relax on an oversized floor pillow, engage in deep breathing, squish some playdough, or cuddle a stuffed octopus. They can also play a quick card game or color. A timer reminds them not to overstay their visit.



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**UPK Lottery
sign-up
and
Kindergarten
registration
begin
January 6.
See page 2.**