



ORCHARD PARK CSD

# OCTOBER & NOVEMBER UPDATES



Fall 2024

[Click to learn about how we are maximizing the potential of all students.](#)

## A Message from Superintendent Lilleck



As we welcome the month of November, I would like to express my deep gratitude for the Orchard Park community. In my role as superintendent, I have the unique opportunity to witness the remarkable achievements of our district on a daily basis, along with the incredible support our community members extend to one another. As a resident and a proud parent of three graduates, I have personally experienced what sets Orchard Park apart. Our commitment to striving for the well-being of every community member defines our efforts and is very much appreciated.

In this season of reflection and thanks, I also want to acknowledge and honor our veterans for their dedicated service. On November 11, we come together as a nation to honor and celebrate those who have sacrificed for our country. Students district-wide will be honoring our veterans in different ways this week. The work we do within OPCSD is made possible by the sacrifices of our veterans, who have given so much. Thank you for your service.

The month of November also marks our drama and musical season at OPHS and OPMS. Please come out and support our amazing and talented students and adults. Our high school drama **Two Witches, No Waiting** opens this Thursday, November 7 at 7 p.m. and continues performances Friday, November 8 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, November 9, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 general

admission and \$5 for senior citizens (age 62 and up). Tickets may be purchased at the door. Performances are at the Orchard Park High School, 4040 Baker Road. Our middle school musical, **Moana** will be held on November 21 & 22 at 7 p.m. and November 23 at 2 p.m. at the Orchard Park Middle School.60 S. Lincoln Ave. Information about purchasing tickets will be on our website soon.

As we enter the holiday season, let us continue to be thankful for our community. Go Quakers!



## Celebrating Student Growth and Success



### OPHS Holds Successful Mock Presidential Election

On October 30, Orchard Park High School’s History Club held a school-wide US Presidential Mock Election, continuing a tradition that started in 2004. All students had the opportunity to cast their vote during lunch periods, using a secure ballot system organized by History Club members and advisor Mr. Janas. Each student swiped their ID or entered a unique number to link to a single-use paper ballot, ensuring a fair and accurate count.

The event aimed to engage students in the civic process, giving them a preview of the voting experience before they reach voting age. History Club members, alongside staff and teachers, volunteered their time to staff voting booths, distribute ballots, and hand out "I Voted" stickers. The custodians were instrumental in getting the voting equipment, tables and chairs set up. House III Principal Mr. Reiford provided additional support by supplying stickers and organizing the setup.

The ballots were scanned to allow for a breakdown of results by grade and gender. History Club plans to announce the results on QTV on Election Day and will analyze trends to discuss potential voting patterns. This data will also be shared and analyzed in Mr. Janas' government classes.





## Fifth Graders Play Important Role as Safety Patrol Members at Eggert

This year, Officer Wheeler has taken on an exciting role with the fifth graders involved in the Safety Patrol Program at Eggert Elementary. Collaborating closely with fifth grade teachers, as well as Ms. Hall and Mrs. Szczesniak, she helped select the participants and shape the program.

To join the Safety Patrol, interested fifth graders were required to express their interest by writing an essay detailing why they would make excellent members. After careful consideration, 15 students were chosen to take on these important responsibilities. These students play an crucial role during afternoon dismissal, ensuring that everyone is safe and that the process runs smoothly. Additionally, for those who ride the bus, Safety Patrol members assist the bus driver in maintaining a safe environment for all passengers.

This year, the program is introducing some exciting changes. In January, the opportunity to join the Safety Patrol will be extended to other fifth graders, allowing students who were not selected at the beginning of the year a chance to participate. This new initiative encourages all students to strive for excellence and reinforces the values of teamwork and responsibility.

This year Safety Patrol students are now assisting walking pre-kindergarten children into the building. So far, this initiative has been a success, with pre-k students enjoying the support of their



older peers while Safety Patrol members take their new responsibilities seriously and with pride.

The Safety Patrol Program is not only helping to foster a safe environment at Eggert, but is also providing valuable leadership experiences for Eggert fifth graders. Officer Wheeler believes it's a wonderful opportunity for students to develop a sense of responsibility and community spirit.



## Listen Up! Exploring Sound in Science 🦻

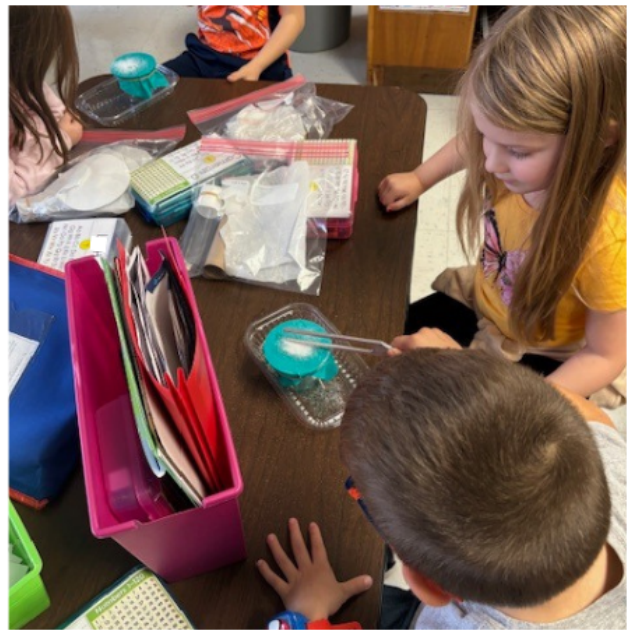
In Ms. Kulczyk's class at Windom, students engaged in an exciting lesson about sound and how it travels. They started by crafting their own kazoos from various materials, which helped illustrate sound production.

The following day, the focus shifted to the anatomy of hearing. Students learned about the eardrum and its role in transmitting sound to the brain. To visualize this concept, they created eardrum models using cups, rubber bands, and rubber sheets, with salt placed on top to demonstrate vibrations.

Using both their homemade kazoos and real kazoos, students made their eardrum models vibrate. They also experimented with a tuning fork and tested different sound-generating methods, such as clapping and singing.



This hands-on approach not only deepened their understanding of sound and vibrations but also fostered collaboration and creativity.



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## 🌟 Connecting with Our Families and Community

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### Gift Card Drive

The Family Solutions Center is holding a Gift Card Drive from November 4 through November 26. The center is collecting gift cards to provide resources for students within our district and the Family Solutions Center. They are seeking gift cards of any amount from: Aldi, Amazon, Target, Tops, Walmart, and Wegmans but gift cards of any kind will be accepted at any OPCSD school building.

# Gift Card Drive



**To provide resources for students within our district and the Family Solutions Center**



**Drop Off To:**

Any OPCSD School Building



**When:**

November 4 - November 26



**More Information:**

[www.opschools.com/familysolutions](http://www.opschools.com/familysolutions)

**GIFT CARDS NEEDED:**

Any dollar amount is appreciated.

- Aldi
- Amazon
- Target
- Tops
- Walmart
- Wegmans



## Crayola Visits Ellicott to Reunite Former Student with Artwork

On October 8, Ellicott welcomed a very special guests – Buffalo Bills wide receiver Mack Hollins and representatives from Crayola – to celebrate creativity and its importance in students' lives. The event was part of Crayola's Campaign for Creativity, which focuses on inspiring children to express themselves through art. Hollins, known for his passion for creativity, encouraged students to embrace drawing and dancing as fun ways to show their individuality.

One of the highlights of the celebration was the return of a special piece of artwork created by Kailey Artiles, a former Ellicott Elementary student. Her artwork made over 25 years ago in 1997, had been safely kept at Crayola's headquarters in Pennsylvania. Now, it was coming home, showing students the lasting impact of creativity on their lives. This was part of a larger Crayola program that began in 1984, where children's artwork from across the country was showcased in museums and galleries.

In addition to inspiring the students with stories of creativity, Crayola made a generous donation of more than \$1500 worth of art supplies to Ellicott Elementary School and The Teacher's Desk, a local nonprofit. These supplies will help students continue exploring their creative sides, ensuring



their artistic journeys are just beginning

The day was filled with excitement, art, and the reminder that creativity plays a key role in helping students reach their full potential.

Photos courtesy of the [Buffalo Bills](#)



## Community Resource Night Connects Families with Resources in Orchard Park

On October 23, the Orchard Park Central School District kicked off its 2024-2025 Parent Information Series with an inspiring Community Resource Night at Orchard Park Middle School. The event featured Dr. Melanie Sage, who presented a compelling keynote on the impacts of social media and technology on youth. Dr. Sage offered valuable, research-backed insights into managing technology's risks and benefits, equipping parents, caregivers, and educators with practical strategies to support youth.

Following the presentation, attendees had the chance to connect with various local organizations, including the Family Solutions Center, Boys & Girls Club, Orchard Park Fire/EMS, Orchard Park Police, the Greater Buffalo Food Allergy Association and more. Resource tables provided information on community services, ranging from health and safety to nutrition and mental health



support.

The event successfully united families with local resources, creating a supportive environment for tackling the challenges of technology and social media.



## Registration Open for Universal Pre-Kindergarten

The Orchard Park Central School District (OPCSD) is currently accepting applications for Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) for the 2025-2026 school year. To participate, children must reside in the OPCSD's attendance area and be four years old on or before December 1, 2025 – meaning, their birthdate must fall between 12-02-20 and 12-01-21. Applications are available online at [www.opschools.org/upk](http://www.opschools.org/upk) and are due by March 19, 2025.

OPCSD is once again able to offer UPK through a grant provided by the New York State Education Department. This grant covers the cost of the program but does not cover transportation. It is the responsibility of each family to transport their child to the UPK site.

There are only a designated number of UPK spots available. A “digital lottery” will determine who will qualify to attend. Children are randomly selected for the program and selection is not based on academic or economic need. All registered children are equally eligible for participation.



All students with complete registration before the March 19, 2025 deadline will have an equal chance for selection in the lottery. More information about the registration process and the UPK program is available online. Interested parents/guardians may also contact Amy Woodward at 716-209-6440 or [awoodward@opschools.org](mailto:awoodward@opschools.org) with program questions. Registration questions may be directed to the Central Registrar at 716-209-6325 or [registrar@opschools.org](mailto:registrar@opschools.org).



# Universal Pre-Kindergarten 2025-2026





## Apply Now

- UPK will be available in the Orchard Park Central School District for the 25-26 school year.
- Applications due by March 19, 2025
- Limited spots available; digital lottery may determine selections





## Details

- Students must reside within the district area.
- Students' birthdate must fall between 12-2-20 and 12-1-21.
- NY State Education Department grant covers the cost of the program.
- Families are asked to provide transportation.





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





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## Important Dates



# Important Dates

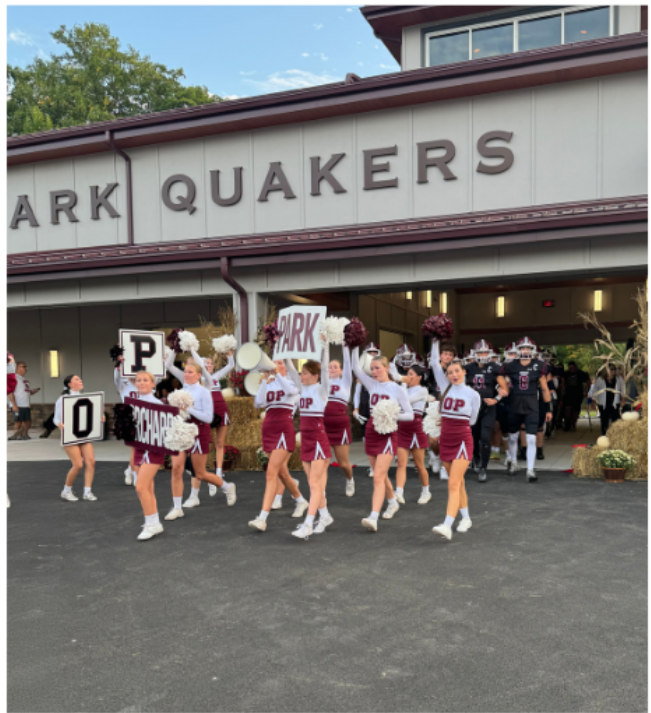
Nov 11	No School, Veterans Day 
Nov 15	PreK-8 Half Day, HS Early Dismissal
Nov 27-29	 Thanksgiving Break
Dec 5	PreK-8 Half Day
Dec 6	PreK-8 Half Day, HS Early Dismissal

## School Calendar

### Athletic Complex Grand Opening

District officials cut the ribbon on the brand-new OP Stadium Athletic Complex in September. This state-of-the-art facility is part of Phase 1 of the "Investing in Our Future Facilities" initiative, which voters overwhelmingly approved on May 16, 2022.





## Stay Connected with Athletics on Social Media

As the fall athletic season comes to a close, we invite you to stay connected and informed! Visit our athletics page at [www.opschools.org/athletics](http://www.opschools.org/athletics), and follow us on X and Instagram for the latest updates and exciting highlights.





**FOLLOW ATHLETICS  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**

View scores, schedules, photos, and more!



@op\_athletics



@orchardpark\_athletics



## ★ Fostering a Positive School Community

### OPMS Kindness Club: Inspiring Acts of Kindness One Project at a Time

The Kindness Club at Orchard Park Middle School is now in its second year, aiming to foster a culture of empathy and positivity within the school and beyond. The club was co-founded by Diane Bond and Nicole Costello after witnessing many enthusiastic students volunteering to support the school's Character Education Committee through the Great Kindness Challenge over several years. Seeing the potential for lasting impact, they decided to channel this energy into an official club focused on kindness.



In its first year, the club organized a variety of impactful projects. Members created blankets and winter accessories for a local family, crafted floral arrangements to show appreciation for school staff, painted ceiling tiles with motivational messages for a nearby hospital, and helped coordinate



the annual Great Kindness Challenge. Each project was designed to bring kindness to the forefront, reinforcing the club's mission to make compassion and positivity a central part of the OPMS community.

This year, the Kindness Club set its sights even higher, aiming to become a Kindness Certified School, which they attained on October 30. The club has already chalked the school's walkways with inspiring messages, crafted cards for the Angel Card Program, and is planning to partner with a local senior center in Orchard Park to spread joy. With a clear mission and a boundless array of ideas, the Kindness Club is dedicated to making kindness a contagious and lasting value at OPMS.



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## South Davis Bike to School

On Wednesday, October 9, South Davis Elementary students took part in the school's annual Bike to School event, a tradition held each fall and spring to encourage a healthy and active start to the day. With support from the Orchard Park Police Department and the South Davis PTO, students and their families were invited to enjoy a morning bike ride to school.

Led by Principal Jeff Dolce, the group rode together on a beautiful fall morning, making the most of the fresh air and exercise before classes began. The event brought students, families, and staff together for a fun, active start to the day, and everyone had a great time.





## Halloween

On October 31, students around the district celebrated Halloween by participating in various activities including: crafts, centers, and special spooky activities.





## Additional Happenings 🍂



### Congratulations Tenure Recipients

A huge congratulations to the dedicated and hardworking educators who were recognized at the September Board of Education meeting for receiving tenure!



### Halloween Experiments

Middle School students used dry ice for spooky experiments on Halloween. They used the dry ice to explore the phase change of sublimation.



### Jack-O-Lantern Science

Student's in Mrs. Puleo's Chemistry class carved pumpkins and performed experiments including: foaming and flaming Jack-O-Lanterns!

## Helpful Links

Parent Portal  

    Menus    

Virtual Backpack 

My School Bucks 

Calendar 

Free and Reduced Meals/Milk  



**Orchard Park Central School District**

Maximizing the potential of every student, every day.



Contact