



Orchard Park Schools July Update



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

Congratulations Graduates 🎓🎉

The Class of 2024 is an outstanding representation of young leaders who will work to improve our community. They have collectively earned over \$12.6 million dollars in scholarship money, given back to the community through volunteer work, and advocated for causes that are near and dear to their hearts. We are exceptionally proud of all they have done during their time with us and we look forward to seeing what they accomplish in the future!



Congratulations Retirees 🎉🌟🌅

Collectively, our 2023-2024 retirees have worked in the Orchard Park Central School District for more than 955.2 years! We had an opportunity to celebrate with them before the June 11 Board of Education meeting. We will miss their experience and knowledge and we thank them for their dedication to our district. Good luck and best wishes to each of you in your future endeavors.



Message from the Superintendent



I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. It is hard to believe that the season is already in full swing. I am hopeful that all of you are able to spend quality time with friends and family.

I would like to take this opportunity to update the community on potential changes coming from the state regarding graduation requirements and proposed modifications to high school athletics.

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) recently discussed implementing recommendations from the NYS Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures to enhance equity. The proposed changes include:

- Adopting the New York State Portrait of a Graduate
- Redefining credits
- Phasing out diploma assessment requirements
- Transitioning to a single diploma

Additionally, NYSED has proposed changes to athletic regulations, allowing mixed-gender participation in sports teams. You can review and comment on these proposals during the 60-day public comment period starting May 22, 2024.

- [Proposed amendments](#)

- [Public comment details](#)

Please visit the button below to access my full article and learn more.

As always, thank you for your partnership as we work towards maximizing the potential of all students.

**Mr. Lilleck's Complete Article Discussing Potential Changes from
NYSED**

Class of 2024 Top 10



The Class of 2024 Academic Top 10 pose for a photo outside of Orchard Park High School.

Complete Top 10 Bios and Information



Benjamin Betrus

Benjamin Betrus is attending SUNY Brockport. He is currently considering a field incorporating science. In the future, Benjamin hopes to dedicate his best efforts to his endeavors and inspire others to do the same. He is the son of Melissa and Christopher Betrus.



Alex Cimo

Alex Cimo is the salutatorian of the Class of 2024. He will attend Furman University to study Biology and Psychology. Inspired by his experience on Youth Court, Alex plans to become a psychiatrist to help others. He is the son of Brenda and Ryan Cimo.



Evan Doerr

Evan Doerr is the Class of 2024 Valedictorian. Evan will attend Harvard College to pursue a joint concentration in Government and History. After college, Evan plans to attend law school and pursue a federal clerkship. He aims to return to Western New York to seek elected or appointed office at the state or federal level while continuing to engage in community and civic life. Evan is the son of Renata and Mark Doerr.



Anneliese Henrich

Anneliese Henrich will attend Dartmouth College to study Environmental Science. Anneliese lives by the phrase, "leave it better than you found it," and she strives to spread positivity and improve the lives of those around her. She is the daughter of Lisa Huff Henrich and Chris Henrich.



Elizabeth Marrero

Elizabeth Marrero will be attending the University at Buffalo to study Psychology. Elizabeth hopes that by going into Psychology, she will be able to make a direct positive impact on a diverse group of people. Elizabeth is the daughter of Rachel and Enrique Marrero.



Ella Merritt

Ella Merritt will be attending Binghamton University to study Global Public Health with plans to go on to medical school to become a doctor. Ella hopes to promote justice and equality in the medical field and ensure that every patient has access to high-quality care. Ella is the daughter of Sara and Jason Merritt.



Laila Salgado

Laila Salgado will be attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study Engineering. Laila hopes to combine her engineering degree with a minor in Environment and Sustainability to continue solving problems related to climate change. She is the daughter of Carolyn and Jim Salgado.



Victoria Sánchez

Victoria Sánchez will be attending Syracuse University to study Aerospace Engineering and Computer Science while participating in the Air Force/Space Force ROTC. Victoria aspires to become an officer in the US Space Force, where she hopes to protect US citizens and expand humanity's frontier by exploring the possibilities of space. She is the daughter of Rosanne and Angel Sánchez.



Peter Szczepanik

Peter Szczepanik will attend the University of Vermont, where he plans to study both French and Spanish. In the future, Peter aspires to inspire others to pursue their passions. He is the son of Maria and Mark Szczepanik.



Angelo Tortorici

Angelo Tortorici will be studying Computer Science at Notre Dame, Carnegie Mellon, or RIT. In the future Angelo hopes to use his knowledge of technology to improve human lives in some way. Angelo is the son of Julie and Robert Tortorici.

Educational Outreach Students Raise Funds to Help Local Families

On Friday, June 28, the Orchard Park Educational Outreach Club donated over \$1,000 in supplies to Jewish Family Services, an organization actively assisting many refugee families as they settle into their new homes in Buffalo. Students helped load the truck with the supplies, including pots and pans, toiletries, cleaning products, and bedding, which will greatly assist the families in acclimating to their new lives here. The donation items were purchased with funds raised during a basket raffle fundraiser held by Educational Outreach Club in March.



American Sign Language Club at Eggert

This year, Eggert Elementary introduced a new American Sign Language (ASL) Club for students in grades 3-5. Meeting ten times after school for 45 minutes each session, the club provided an enriching experience for the Eggert students.

Throughout the meetings, students delved into Deaf culture, learning various signs and watching sign language videos. They gained insights into how the Deaf community interacts, including methods for getting someone's attention and conveying emotions through facial expressions. The club also explored how songs, books, and theater are signed, offering a comprehensive view of ASL in different contexts.

In addition to cultural knowledge, students acquired practical ASL skills, learning basic signs such as greetings, the alphabet, food, sports, and colors. The club concluded on a high note with students learning to sign the National Anthem. Please check out the video below to see the students perform what they learned and demonstrate some of their favorite signs.

Eggert's American Sign Language Club



Hillcrest Fire Department Helps South Davis Students Beat The Heat 🚒💧

Chief Hendershot from the Hillcrest Volunteer Fire Company arranged to have a fire truck visit South Davis Elementary at the end of June to help students cool off. All interested students were divided into groups to go out and play with their classmates under the spray of the fire hose. It was a refreshing way to beat the heat. ☀️



Buffalo Bills Community Days

The Buffalo Bills did a community takeover at the end of May and visited 12 local schools, including OPHS and Ellicott Elementary! Players and coaches met with small groups and decorated cookies at OPHS. At Ellicott, they hosted fun activity stations and held a school-wide parade. What an inspiring day for our students!



Windom Pre-K Carnival 🖍️ 🐮 🦁

Pre-K students at Windom Elementary showcased their skills at the annual Pre-K carnival. This year, students performed songs and guided their families through various carnival stations to demonstrate what they had learned, including their phone numbers and ABCs. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate a special year of learning and accomplishments.



ArtSplash

ArtSplash, the annual district-wide art show, opened on Friday, May 17. Artists and their families were invited to come to the opening night celebration. The student artwork was displayed between May 17 - June 9 at the Orchard Park Public Library. ArtSplash provides an opportunity for Orchard Park students in elementary, middle, and high school to showcase their talents and passion for creativity in an authentic presentation. It is a true collaboration between the school district and the community. The district is proud of our students and our outstanding art teachers who help and guide students to realize their creative potential regardless of their career aspirations.



OPHS Goes Bald for Bucks

Orchard Park High School participated in the Bald for Bucks event on Thursday, May 23. Hosted by Mrs. Downs's Leadership Class, the fundraiser supported the Bald for Bucks organization and successfully raised over \$10,000 for cancer research at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

The event offered participants and attendees a variety of activities, including the opportunity to cut, shave, or style their hair in support of the cause. Additionally, there was a spikeball tournament, a basket raffle, and a bake sale, making it an engaging and enjoyable afternoon. The event was a tremendous success, bringing the community together to fundraise for a worthy cause.



OPMS News



Holocaust Assembly

The annual Holocaust Survivor assembly returned to OPMS this spring. Mr. Greg Shershnevsky, of the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo spoke to eighth-grade students and shared stories of Holocaust heroes.



VFW Youth Essay Contest Winners

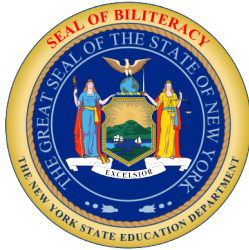
Out of countless entries in our region and state, four OPMS students were recognized for their participation in the VFW Youth Essay Contest. Three students, Mara V., Lena F., and Ellie A. won citations and a \$100 check for their entries and Gianna L. won 3rd in NYS. She received \$1,000 for her entry and attended the regional awards dinner in May.

Congrats! 🏆 ⭐



Mrs. Amy Grossman Named Jane Skrzypek Educator of the Year

Mrs. Amy Grossman received the Jane Skrzypek Educator of the Year Award for the Western Region PTA on May 15, an accolade reserved for recognizing the exceptional contributions of one educator each year. Congratulations, Mrs. Grossman, on your remarkable distinction!



Seals of Biliteracy 🏆

Twenty-seven members of the Class of 2024 received Seals of Biliteracy on their diplomas! Congratulations: Andrew B., Benjamin B., Jackson B., Alex C., Evan D., Carissa D., Anneliese H., Kieran H., Emily H., Oliva J., Kriv K., Faith L., Elizabeth M., Grace M., Ella M., Santiago M., Thomas P., Laney P., Gavin R., William R., Laila S., Victoria S., Sophia S., Peter S., Angelo T., Anastasiya V., and Jacob W.



Orchard Park Receives Best Communities for Music Education Designation 🏆

The Orchard Park Central School District has earned the Best Communities for Music Education title from the NAMM Foundation for its unwavering commitment to music education for the 8th consecutive year. 🎵

News in Athletics

Spring 2024 Athletic Highlights

Seniors Sign National Letters of Intent ✍️

Eleven Orchard Park High School seniors signed their letters of intent to continue their sports at the collegiate level this spring. We couldn't be prouder of these athletes for their hard work and dedication.



Congratulations:

Patrick S. will be playing lacrosse at John Carroll University. 🏑

Alexis G. will be playing softball at Minot State University. ⚾

Brady B. will be volleyball at Buffalo State University. 🏐

Drew B. will be volleyball at Buffalo State University. 🏐

Evan H. will be playing volleyball at St. John Fisher University. 🏐

Kate G. will be playing volleyball at St. John Fisher University. 🏐

Logan W. will be playing lacrosse at Oswego State. 🏑

Gabrielle S. will be playing lacrosse at SUNY Geneseo. 🏑

Laila S. will be playing lacrosse at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. 🏑

Gabriella C. will be playing lacrosse at SUNY Geneseo. 🏑

Coleton F. will be running cross country and track and field at Edinboro College. 🏃

2024 Athletic Hall of Fame Class Announced

HALL OF FAME

Orchard Park High School Athletic Department



The Orchard Park High School Athletic Department is pleased to announce the 2024 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees.

This year's inductees are:

Brian Dux (Class of 1999)
Gregory Michael (Class of 2007)

The selection committee has chosen the following individuals among many student-athletes, coaches and administrators who have contributed to Orchard Park's long and proud tradition of excellence in the area of scholastic athletics.

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The selection committee has chosen the following individuals among many student-athletes, coaches, and administrators who have contributed to Orchard Park's long and proud tradition of excellence in the area of scholastic athletics. This year's inductees are Brian Dux (Class of 1999) and Gregory Michael (Class of 2007).

The selection to the Hall of Fame compliments each individual's highly successful athletic career at Orchard Park High School and their accomplishments beyond their years as a student at Orchard Park High School.

The Hall of Fame festivities are planned around the 2024 OPHS Homecoming Weekend. This year's homecoming is Saturday, September 28, 2024. Our inductees will be honored in the homecoming parade, at a brunch in the OPHS Cafeteria and introduced before the varsity football game.

End Of The Year Highlights ✨



Senior Walk 🌟

This year, Orchard Park High School seniors kicked off a new tradition! Wearing caps and gowns, they revisited their elementary schools to share memories with teachers and inspire the younger students.



Ellicott Student Council Donates to Operation COM 🗣️✍️

For the third year, the Student Council has invited Ellicott to dress up and make a donation to Operation COM. This organization runs a summer program for children of military members and each year Ellicott donates art supplies with the funds they raise.



South Davis Book Swap 📖📖

South Davis fourth graders organized a fantastic Book Swap event! Students from all grades were encouraged to bring in their gently used books from home and trade them for some fresh reads. The South Davis Commons was transformed into a bookstore with a diverse selection of stories waiting for new homes.



Senior Assembly 🚚🚑

OPHS seniors attended a Safety Assembly on May 31. They experienced a simulation of a tragic car accident and witnessed first-hand the physical and emotional consequences of driving while impaired. This was a true community event that involved the Orchard Park Police, volunteers from the Orchard Park fire halls, and emergency medical service personnel. It was a full-scale reenactment and is utilized as a major drill for the local police and fire departments.



Second Grade Glow Day Celebration ✨

Second grade students at Windom Elementary celebrated the end of the school year with a special glow day celebration!

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Find Supply Lists at:

www.opschools.org/supplies ✍️



School Supplies 🗣️✂️✍️📅



Find Supply Lists at:

www.opschools.org/supplies



2024-2025 School Calendar Adopted

[School Calendar](#)

Alumni News

For more alumni information visit the Alumni Association website
[here!](#)

OPHS All Class Reunion



OPHS All Class Reunion
Wings Meeting Place
3964 California Road
Orchard Park, NY
Friday, July 26, 2024
7 - 11 pm
\$25 prepay \$30 at the door



Admission includes:

Beer/Wine/Pop, Pizza, and Wraps
50/50 Drawing
Lots of Laughs with your former classmates!!

Alumni, Family and Friends are invited!!

This year we will be awarding several scholarships to OPHS Seniors pursuing a career in the Trades.

Prepay Electronic Options: (payment between friends)

Venmo: @Lawrence-Graczyk **PayPal:** @LawenceGraczykREUN **Zelle:** larzg@icloud.com

Check: Prepay by check beginning June 25, 2024, through July 15, 2024.

Checks payable to **Lawrence Graczyk** (include Class Year on your check)

Mail to: **OPHS All Class Reunion** c/o Graczyk 3 Water Front Lane, Elma, NY 14059

Bring Proof of Purchase for Check-In

Get your reservation in early and come and join the fun!!

Admittance at the door will be CASH or ELECTRONIC ONLY

Questions: Call or Text: (716) 868-6117 or (716) 912-2313

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Quakers Connect Golf Tournament, Lunch & Raffle



GOLF

TOURNAMENT, LUNCH & RAFFLE



SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024

Ironwood Golf Course 1964 Folsomdale Rd Cowlesville, NY 14037



REGISTRATION: <https://quakersconnect.org/golf2024>

Register Here

Notice of Public Comment Period & Hearing Regarding Safety Plan

Notice of Public Comment Period & Hearing Regarding Safety Plan

The Orchard Park Central School District-Wide Safety & Emergency Management Plan is an important document that is revised by a committee and adopted by our Board of Education. In accordance with the Commissioner's Regulations 155.17 (c) (3) and New York State Education Law §2801-a. the Orchard Park Board of Education will hold a Public Hearing on the District-Wide Safety & Emergency Management Plan at its Regular Meeting on August 20 at 6 p.m., at the Orchard Park Middle School, 60 South Lincoln Drive, Orchard Park, New York, 14127. The Plan has been posted as of July 17, 2024, for a 30-day comment period and is available on the Districtwide

website: <https://www.opschools.org/safety>

The public can send comments about the proposed 2024-25 District-Wide Safety & Emergency Management Plan via this [Google Form](#).

It is expected that the Board of Education will adopt the Plan after the Public Hearing at the August 20, 2024, Board of Education meeting.

Come Drive for Us!

The Orchard Park Central School District is seeking bus drivers. There are great benefits including: competitive pay, annual wage increases, health insurance coverage, paid training, flexible schedule, permanent routes and NYS retirement. If you are interested, please contact the Orchard Park Central School District Transportation Department at 716-209-6237 or visit <https://www.opschools.org/Page/10856>.



Come Drive for Us!



OPCSD IS HIRING BUS DRIVERS

Make a Difference, Be an  Bus Driver

Competitive Pay, Paid Training, NYS Retirement & Permanent Routes Available

IF INTERESTED CONTACT:

The Orchard Park Central School District Transportation Office:

716-209-6237

Helpful Links

Parent Portal  

Virtual Backpack 

Summer Meals for Kids Site Finder 

My School Bucks 

Calendar 

Free and Reduced Meals/Milk  



Orchard Park Central School District

Maximizing the potential of every student, every day.



Contact