



*“Home, School and Community Educating for Life”*

Welcome *Erin Zlockie!*



Ms. Zlockie will be teaching Spanish & ENL at the High School. She graduated from Olean High School and Carnegie Mellon University. In her spare time she likes to read, watch her favorite television shows/movies and practice whichever language she’s learning. She is excited about sharing her passion for language and inspiring the students!

# Welcome to Olean City School District!

*Food Service Helpers:*



Jennifer Youngs



Maria Sosa



Stormie Pierce



Kenneth Louk



Nicole Myers

*Cleaner:*

*Teaching Assistant:*

*Teacher Aides:*



Amy Isenberg



Ashlyn Flood



Belinda Mason



Casey Wilcox



Chelsea Quinn



Deanne Gatton



Jenna Blanchard



Meghan Blanchard



Michelle Himes



Tammy O’Dell

## 31st Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner



The Olean Community Schools put on our 31st annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner on November 16th. We had a great turnout. We can’t thank all the volunteers enough! We had over 30 adults and 45 students come and help, and we served about 200 people from the community. Aside from all the help, support and donations from the Olean faculty and staff, we had a record number of donations & help from other

community agencies and organizations such as the Belmont BOCES, BJ’s Wholesale, CUTCO, Directions in Independent Living, the Ellicottville BOCES, Jim’s Park and Shop, Mazza Sheet Metal, McDonalds, Napoli Pizza, Olean Jr.-Sr. League Coasters, & the Salvation Army. We couldn’t have done this without all the support from our community and of course all those in the community that attended. Thank you to all involved!

# News From OHS



## Charity Game to Help Sophia

On November 7th, under the lights on the new turf field, the Olean community came together to raise over \$4,300 for Sophia LaBorde, a ninth-grade student at OHS who is currently battling a rare form of cancer called Fibrolamellar Hepatocellular Carcinoma, during a staff versus student charity soccer game. This was an amazing event that highlighted so many of the characteristics that make Olean a special place. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, and came to support the event!

The game was truly full of excitement! At the conclusion of the hour-long game, the score was deadlocked at 5-5 and was decided by a 4-3 penalty kick shootout in favor of the staff! There were some great goals, a few silly blunders, and a lot of laughs shared as the OCSD employees educated their students outside the classroom and on the field.

A special thank you to the parents/guardians of the varsity soccer programs, as well as Angees, Artic Bites, Ask Design Jewelers, Beef & Barrel, Cumming's Cider Mill, Evingham Auto & West State Auto, Rick's Golf World, Sports Locker, Spragues Maple Farm, The Paper Factory, Union Tee Golf, and Valley Tire for all their donations to the basket raffle. Additionally, The Eatery donated \$1000; \$100 for every goal scored in the 5-5, back-and-forth affair. A final thank you goes out to Mallory Carter, a junior at OHS, who suggested the fundraiser and helped to raise an incredible amount of money for Sophia.

Lastly, while the charity game was an amazing adventure, it is important to note that Sophia's battle is far from over. Anyone who wishes to donate further can reach out to Mr. Lapi at [clapi@oleanschools.org](mailto:clapi@oleanschools.org) or Mr. Freeman at [dfreeman@oleanschools.org](mailto:dfreeman@oleanschools.org).

## Homeless Huskies a Huge Success

This year marked the 31st anniversary of the Olean High School's "Homeless Huskies" event. The Homeless Huskies initiative is an annual event aimed at raising funds and increasing awareness about homelessness in our community and surrounding areas. During the 2024-2025 academic year, the event drew 180 participants and over \$18,000 raised, both record numbers for the event. Huge shoutouts to the students who keep this husky tradition going, the staff that volunteer their time to make it happen, local businesses who contribute prizes, and the Olean Schools Foundation who helped offset the cost of apparel the students receive for participating in the event. All funds for this event stay local to help those with housing insecurity, the food pantry, and a scholarship students who participate in the event are eligible to apply for. Homeless Huskies represents the best of what Olean is about and we hope this tradition only continues to grow!



## Football Players Honor Teachers

Once again, the seniors for the Olean High football team honored a teacher that had a positive influence on their life. This tradition started a number of years ago and culminates with the players giving their away jersey to the teachers that influenced them the most before the last home football game.

A special thank you goes out to the seniors that sparked a turnaround season for the Huskies as they improved from a 2-6 record to a 6-3 record this year placing second in Division B3 and earning a playoff game.

Thanks for living up to "the standard of a Husky!"





## Entrepreneurship Presentation

Did you know that over 1,500 jobs will be added in the Olean region in the next 3-5 years? Students in Mrs. Wolfgang's senior Economics classes recently visited Olean Business Development. There, they heard a presentation on

entrepreneurship from Mr. Bob Forness, Director. He highlighted OBD's "Come Home, Stay Home" campaign, informing students of the many career opportunities right here in our hometown. Mr. Forness finished the visit by giving

students a tour of "Union Tee Golf," his own foray into the world of entrepreneurialism. Thank you to Mr. Forness for showing us the potential for success right in our backyard!

## NYSSMA Zone I Area All State

The Olean High School chorus program was incredibly proud to have two students selected for the NYSSMA Zone 1 Area All State Mixed Chorus this year. Lokesh Anumalasetty (10th grade) and Aaron Budaj (11th grade), along with their chorus teacher, Mrs. Bremner, travelled to SUNY Fredonia for a two-day whirlwind of rehearsals that led up to a wonderful concert on November 23rd. These students spent countless hours preparing to audition for a spot in this prestigious chorus, and their hard work paid off indeed! By demonstrating excellent musicianship and discipline in their audition, they proved to be among some of the top student musicians in Zone 1. Congratulations Aaron and Lokesh!

## Harold Dutton Student Spotlight Award



At Olean High School, we take immense pride in recognizing our outstanding students, affectionately known as our Huskies. The Harold Dutton Student Spotlight Award is presented to students

who consistently demonstrate exemplary behavior, academic excellence, and overall good character. This award honors Harold Dutton, a beloved custodian who served our school for over 20 years. Known for

his outgoing nature and great personality, Dutton made a lasting impact on the OHS community.

On November 21st, a heartwarming celebration was held honoring these remarkable students. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the award recipients. Your dedication and hard work genuinely embody the spirit and values that Harold Dutton stood for.

We would also like to thank the OCS staff for their thoughtful nominations. Their commitment to recognizing and fostering these qualities in our students ensures that Harold Dutton's legacy continues to inspire future generations.

## Aaron Budaj Earns a Perfect Score!

After auditioning last spring for a spot in the Zone 1 Area All State Mixed Chorus, junior Aaron Budaj proved to his adjudicator that he is incredibly talented and devoted to his craft by earning a perfect score of 100 at his audition. This astounding score allowed Aaron to be selected to join not only the Zone 1 All State Mixed Chorus, but the 2024 NYSSMA Conference All State Mixed Chorus as well. This is an incredible honor, as only the top student musicians in New York are chosen to participate. On December 5th, Aaron and his chorus teacher, Mrs. Bremner, will be travelling to Rochester, NY to spend four days rehearsing a wide variety of music to prepare for a performance at the Eastman Theatre on December 8th. Aaron has spent many hours working independently, and with Mrs. Bremner, preparing for this event. We could not be prouder of his musical achievement. Congratulations, Aaron!



## The STARS of French class!

Le Petit Prince is a classic French novel written by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. It is a philosophical story about life that centers around the travels of the Little Prince. This is a wonderful novel that is presented in the target language of French to the upper-level JCC classes AND is the center piece of Monsieur Ahl's classroom. All students entering the French curriculum get to be a part of this mystical universe by creating their own personal star. As students move through the different levels of French, their star (just like their knowledge/proficiency), will grow larger and brighter.

## Roman Mosaics

Students in Mr. Kruse's Global History class collaborated with the high school librarian, Mrs. Howard, on a project making Roman Mosaics from construction paper and cardboard! Many themes were included in their art, and even some staff members got in on creating their own!



## Holiday Adventure



Mrs. Niece's class ventured out of the classroom for some holiday shopping today! They bought ingredients for

their holiday baking, along with checking out some gifts to buy for their friends and family. This shopping adventure provided them with the opportunity to practice their soft skills of talking to cashiers, moving out of the way of other shoppers, being aware of their surroundings, and just being polite to other customers in the store.



*Dear Husky Community!*

This season, all around our district, our Huskies are engaging in various enriching activities, festive events, and meaningful service projects that reflect the spirit of the holiday season and the close of the calendar year!

December marks a time to celebrate our students' hard work and achievements. Honor roll lists have been posted, acknowledging our Huskies' dedication and perseverance since September. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and look forward to continuing to support their academic growth.

It is a wonderful tradition for music and visual arts to take center stage throughout December in our districts. Our elementary choruses, middle school bands, and high school ensembles have been practicing for winter concerts to share the season's joy with friends, families, and neighbors. I hope you've been able to check out our talented students as they share the cheer in our concerts and festivities! We invite all community members to join us for these special performances; please check the district website for specific dates and times.

Our staff and students across all grade levels participate in community service initiatives in the spirit of giving. From food drives and clothing collections to holiday card-making for local nursing homes, these projects encourage students to connect with their neighbors and understand the importance of kindness and compassion.

A friendly reminder to all families: The Olean City School District will observe winter break beginning December 23. Classes will resume on Monday, January 6, 2025. We encourage everyone to enjoy a restful, safe, and rejuvenating break. We want to express our gratitude to our entire Olean community. Your continued support and engagement allow our students to thrive academically, artistically, and socially.

We look forward to ending 2024 positively and welcoming 2025 with new goals, fresh perspectives, and an unwavering commitment to educational excellence.

Warmest wishes to all Huskies for a cheerful December and a wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,  
**Dr. Genelle Morris**  
Superintendent  
Olean City Schools

# News From OIMS



## Cawley Art DJ

7th Graders in Ms. Cawley's art class recently designed and painted their ceiling tiles. A tradition started 5 years ago, students get to design a tile that will hang at OIMS even after they move on to the high school!

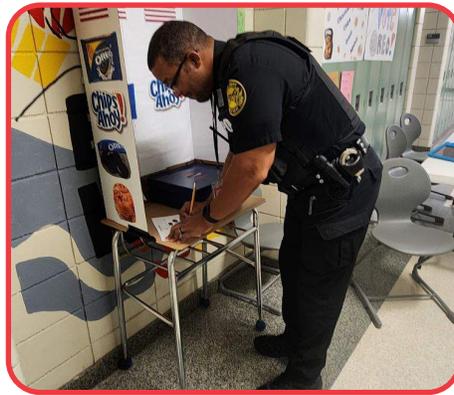


## Girls on the Run

Girls in 4th, 5th, and 6th grades from OIMS participated in Girls On The Run this fall. The program focuses on building social, emotional and physical skills in participants while encouraging healthy habits for life. The Husky's varsity Cross Country team along with OIMS volunteers hosted a practice 5K before the season ended with a joyful and fun non-competitive 5K Celebration at Delaware Park in Buffalo.

## Cookie Election

Students in the Life Skills program at OIMS hosted "The Great Cookie Election of 2024". Mr. Korzeniewski's class campaigned for Chips Ahoy and Mrs. Mest's class campaigned for Oreo. In a close race, Oreo won the election!



## Dollars and Cents

We love playing Dollars and Cents in the gym. Each colored item has a different price value. We give students a price and students must use their scooter and work as a team to gather items to equal the correct amount of money.



# Washington West Elementary School



## 50 Days of Fun

To celebrate the positive start to the 24-25 school year, these husky pups had a fun-filled day embracing our 50th day of school! Sporting their 50s style, students enjoyed an ice cream social. Now - on to the 100th day!



## Warm Hands + Hearts

In thanks to the knitting hands of former OCS D employees and friends from Immanuel Lutheran, our husky pups will be cozy and warm this winter season. Hats, gloves and socks were all brought in to help keep the hands of our husky pups warm and spread some love during the wintry months.

## PAWSitive Attendance

Throughout the month of October, over 130 students maintained PAWSITIVE attendance, with no absences or tardies for the entire month! Their commitment to being in school helped them earn a special SWAG TAG, and four lucky pups had their name drawn in our "PAWS UP" for PAWSITIVE attendance drawing. Thank you to our students - and their families - for making a concerted effort to support positive school attendance.



## Safety 101

Our husky pups know the importance of fire safety, in great thanks to the City of Olean Fire Department. Earlier this school year, they learned all about making sure that smoke detectors were working and having a safety plan in the event of an emergency. They know to get low and GO! Stay safe, husky pups, and thank you OFD for always assuring our Olean community is well-protected.



## Cocoa for Sale

One of our most treasured activities in the UPK classroom is dramatic play. Students have a chance to engage in all sorts of fun and engaging play-based activities. For the next several weeks, the hot cocoa stand is open for business. Who wouldn't love a cup of warm cocoa from these husky pups?

Follow your Husky Pups on Twitter @OleanWW

Olean City School District Newsletter

# East View Elementary School



## Dignity and Belonging

Dignity for all students continues to be a focus across the Olean City School District. Since going into effect in 2012, New York State's Dignity for All Students Act seeks to provide public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying. The Dignity Act sets the expectation that each school provides instruction in civility, citizenship, and character education by expanding the concepts of tolerance, respect for others and dignity. This includes awareness and sensitivity in relations of all people. Some examples include race, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, mental or physical abilities, sexual orientations, and gender. OCS D has charged all buildings to ensure that The Dignity Act will be an integral part of our schoolwide planning to ensure students are not harassed or discriminated against.

In collaboration with this work, East View came together to look for ways to grow our building level instruction and character education in ways that directly teach awareness and sensitivity to a

variety of groups of people. East View has been working hard to bring a greater understanding surrounding a variety of cultures and leaders from various times and places in history. Both our MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) and New York State's Culturally Responsive Framework have guided us in our efforts to design an environment that welcomes and celebrates all. Monthly recognitions honoring various groups who have faced and overcome adversity are on display in our hallways, along with our very own News Crew featuring the monthly celebration schoolwide. For more information on NYS Culturally Responsive Framework, please visit NYSED.gov.

A "Leader Hall" also features eleven people of note throughout history that have shown habits students learn while exploring their "Leader in Me" curriculum. A collection of read-alouds for grades PreK-Third are shared to explore and discuss the stories of these individuals. Discussions surrounding the content of each shared story affords students an opportunity to look within themselves for

character traits allowing them to flourish. Some examples include determination, teamwork, seeking first to understand, and celebrating uniqueness. We want to ensure that our school and classrooms are safe and welcoming environments in which students can focus on learning while feeling accepted and supported.

Additionally, building-wide presentations and assemblies are also becoming an important part of our work. Just prior to Thanksgiving, we celebrated American Indian Heritage Month with a special visit from the Seneca Dancers whose dancing and story telling provided students and staff alike with enriching experiences that highlight the beauty and importance of Indigenous culture and traditions.

East View looks forward to learning and growing within this work. We are always looking for additional voices from all backgrounds and welcome any ideas and discussion pieces to better our work. Future events that we are excited about are our Holiday Hoopla and a celebration surrounding Asian Lunar New Year. Stay tuned for all things East View!



Follow our school on twitter @OleanEastView

December 2024 - January 2025



**OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**410 W. Sullivan St.  
Olean, NY 14760  
www.oleanschools.org**

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**SAVE THE DATES:**

School Resumes Monday January 6th  
**NO SCHOOL Jan. 20th**  
**NO SCHOOL Jan. 27th & 29th**  
*(There is school on Tuesday January 28th!)*

**Winter Break Feb. 15th-Feb. 23rd**  
 School Resumes Monday February 24th

**Upcoming Family Events:**  
 East View: Book Bingo Jan. 22nd & Family Dance  
 February 7th

Washington West: Family Ice Skating Jan. 12th

**WWW.OLEANSCHOOLS.ORG**  
**Choose COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
 from the top menu and then  
**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

*Lots of great information!*



# OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Mission Statement:**  
 The Olean City School District is a student-centered community of excellence in which all members are challenged to learn, achieve, contribute, and innovate.

**Vision Statement:**

- The Olean City School District will support excellence by holding everyone to high standards in academics, character, extracurriculars, and service.
- Our district will uphold a culture of acceptance, inclusion, and equity for all, while embracing the diversity of our community. We will create and foster a safe and positive climate for our students, staff and families that is adaptive for the ever-changing needs of society.
- Our students will graduate future-focused, engaged, resilient, and prepared to achieve their goals.
- Our staff will be learner-centered, innovative, inquisitive, professional, and committed to student success.
- Our families will be engaged, collaborative partners in academic success for all.

**Guiding Principles:**  
**A commitment to fostering:**

- A respectful, safe, and welcoming environment
- Embracing diversity
- Continuous improvement
- Academic excellence and lifelong learning
- Honesty, integrity, responsibility, and accountability
- Student potential and achievement

**Strategic Plan Action Steps:**

- Create and Support a Positive Culture
- Maximize Success for All
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Progressive and Enriching Learning for All Students
- Engaging Parental and Community Involvement

**www.oleanschools.org**