

OXHEAD ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

144 Oxhead Road
Centereach, NY 11720
(631) 285-8700
Phyllis L. Saltz, Ed.D., Principal

Middle Country Central School District
8 43rd Street
Centereach, NY 11720

Roberta A. Gerold, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
James G. Donovan, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Beth A. Rella, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Business
Jonathan Singer, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

August 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to Oxhead Road Elementary School for the 2025-2026 school year. The entire staff at Oxhead is busy preparing for a year full of learning, growth, and fun! We look forward to welcoming back our returning students and to meeting our new students. Please read the information below to familiarize yourself with some of our procedures.

First Day of School and School Hours

The first day of school will be **Wednesday, September 3, 2025**. The school doors open at 9:10 a.m. Any students who arrive after 9:25 a.m. will be considered late and will receive a late pass at the front desk. Dismissal begins at 3:30 p.m., when buses begin to arrive at the building.

First Grade Name Tags

Name tags for first grade students are in the summer mailing packet. If you are the parent/guardian of a first grader, please be sure that your child's name tag is clearly labeled with your child's name and bus information. First grade name tags should be worn for at least the first week of school. This will help our staff assist students in getting to their correct classrooms and buses.

Walkers

Please review safety rules regarding crossing streets, etc. with your child. Be sure that your child is familiar with the route to/from school. Walkers will be dismissed after all buses have departed. Parents/guardians who walk to pick up their children should remain outside during dismissal. Any parents/guardians who are picking up their children in cars must be on the car rider line.

Car Riders

We encourage all students who are eligible for Middle Country transportation to ride the school bus to and from school. However, we understand that some families are not eligible for busing and that others choose to drive their children to and from school. Students who are driven to school, whether on a regular basis or occasionally, will be dropped off in the back parking lot and will enter through the rear doors. School staff members will be in the back parking lot until 9:20 a.m. to assist students who are being dropped off. At 9:20, the staff members will go inside and the rear doors will be locked. Parents/guardians arriving with car riders after 9:20 a.m. will need to park in the front lot and walk their children to the front entrance. **At no time should cars enter the bus lane.** Be sure to observe the flashing lights of buses at all times. It is a violation of the law to pass any school bus that displays flashing red lights.

Parents/guardians picking up car riders at dismissal time will line up along the curb in the back parking lot and will wait to be directed to move forward. Car riders will be dismissed after all buses have departed and will exit through the side of the building.

Early Departure

In order to ensure safety and efficiency during dismissal, **no students will be dismissed between 3:15 p.m. and regular dismissal time**, except in the case of an emergency.

Teacher Assignments

Your child's teacher assignment will be available on the PowerSchool Parent Portal beginning on August 14, 2025. Once you retrieve the name of your child's teacher, please click the "Student & Parent Info" tab on the Oxhead Road Elementary School website for a welcome letter from your child's teacher. If you do not already have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account, please create one at this time. You will need to have a Parent Portal account, not only to find out who your child's teacher will be, but also to access your child's bus information, attendance information, and report cards. For directions on how to create a Parent Portal account, go to www.mccsd.net and click on the "Parents" tab at the top right of the home page. Then, scroll down and click on "Parent Portal."

Please be aware that we take great care in creating carefully balanced classes and that our professional staff gives the utmost thought and consideration when making decisions regarding each child's placement. As such, **no changes in teacher assignments will be made.** We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Information for the 2025-2026 School Year

The following items will be sent home in the summer mailing packet:

- Emergency contact cards (**please complete both cards**)
- NYS School Health Examination form
- Administration of Medications in School form
- Dental Health Certificate
- Allergy awareness letter
- Food services information
- Student use of personal electronic devices information
- Bus tags (first grade students only)
- Transportation release form (first grade students only)
- PTA membership form
- Letter with QR code to access additional important school resource information

Please be sure to complete both emergency contact cards and have your child return them on the first day of school. Please complete all other applicable forms and return them to school as soon as possible.

Additional Important School Resource Information

The following information can be accessed on the District's website. Go to www.mccsd.net and click on the "Parents" tab at the top right of the home page. Then, scroll down and click on "Important School Resource Information." You can also access this information using the QR code that is included in the summer mailing packet.

- Attendance and conduct information
- Childcare information
- Food and nutrition information
- Health and safety information
- Transportation information

The Oxhead Road Elementary School staff and I look forward to working with you to ensure that your child has a successful school year. I strongly encourage you to closely monitor your child's progress, to keep in contact with your child's teacher, and to become involved in school activities and events. If I can ever be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 631-285-8705 or at psaltz@mccsd.net. Enjoy the remaining days of summer!

Sincerely,

Phyllis L. Saltz, Ed.D.

Principal