



# SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

Dr. Genelle Morris

Volume 4 Issue #1 | Sept. - Oct. 2025

## A Message from Dr. Morris:

Welcome to a new school year! Each fall brings with it a sense of excitement and possibility, and I am thrilled to begin this journey with our students, families, and staff. The dedication of our community continues to inspire me, and I am grateful to serve alongside such a talented and committed group of educators, leaders, and families.

As we step into this year, we are building on the strong foundation of growth and achievement from last year. Our district remains focused on expanding learning opportunities, strengthening student support systems, and deepening our partnerships with families and the greater Olean community. We know that our Huskies will continue to excel in academics, athletics, the arts, and numerous other areas.

This year, we are especially committed to advancing curriculum enhancements, providing meaningful professional development for staff, and prioritizing student well-being. These efforts ensure that every student has access to a high-quality education that prepares them for success not only in school but also in life beyond the classroom.

I encourage families to stay engaged by attending events, participating in conversations about district initiatives, and sharing feedback that helps us shape the future of Olean schools together. Your partnership makes all the difference, and together, we will make this a year of excellence, growth, and Husky Pride.

*-Dr. Genelle Morris*





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## Celebrate Excellence at OCSD – Nominate Today!

### The Mr. Ron Shoup Memorial Award

This award honors a teacher who goes above and beyond for students, carrying on the legacy of Mr. Ron Shoup. For over 40 years, Mr. Shoup served OCSD as a teacher and coach, known for his generosity, humor, and his ability to make every student feel accepted and valued. The award continues his tradition of care, commitment, and excellence in education.

### The Leader of the Pack Award

This award celebrates staff members or volunteers who embody Husky Pride and lead with integrity every day. Recipients are recognized for being strong communicators, showing self-awareness, encouraging others, stepping up in times of need, and serving as dependable role models throughout the district.



Do you know a teacher, staff member, or volunteer who deserves recognition?



Submit your nomination today:



<https://www.oleanschools.org/resources/teacherstaff-recognition-nomination>



\*Recognitions will be announced each September and March.



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### **OCSD Hosts An Evening of Jazz with Bill Easley and Friends:**

On September 17, the Olean community enjoyed a spectacular evening of live jazz, headlined by the Bill Easley Trio. The group featured Olean's own world-renowned musician Bill Easley, joined by Dino Listo (organ) and Jimmy John (drums). The concert also featured guest performances by Doug Bushnell (pianist), Tim Spiller (vocalist), and Clarissa Spiller (vocalist). This concert was made possible by the Olean Schools Foundation and the generous support of numerous sponsors. Proceeds from the concert will benefit both the OHS Music Boosters and the Olean VFW.







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### Harvesting the Fruits (and vegetables) of Hard Work:

The partnership between the Olean Work-Based Learning Program and Canticle Farm continues to thrive! Last week, students in Mrs. Niece's and Mrs. Graves's classes harvested potatoes, cherry tomatoes, basil, green peppers, and even flowers. After preparing the beds last school year, students were able to enjoy the results of their dedication and teamwork with a beautiful and bountiful harvest.







## OHS “Book Tasting”:

September was a month full of reading at OHS. Students in grades 8–11 participated in a “Book Tasting” event in the library, sampling different genres from a special menu to discover books that piqued their interest, and it was a HUGE success! This time last year, the OHS library had just over 30 checkouts. This year, we’re thrilled to share that we’ve skyrocketed to 300!







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### Homecoming Dance 2025:







## Seniors Give Back Through Community Service:

On September 15, seniors in Mr. Vecchio's government class took important steps toward completing their required 15 hours of community service. With guidance from Ms. Milne and job coach Mrs. Graves, students spent the day giving back through a community and park cleanup. Their efforts made a noticeable difference around the school grounds and at Oak Hill Park, showcasing the pride they take in caring for their community.







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**OHS Art Club Brings “Hermie” the Squirrel Back to Life:**  
On August 20, the Olean community gathered at Magnano Park to celebrate the re-dedication of “Hermie,” the beloved squirrel statue, following a creative makeover by the OHS Art Club. In partnership with the Olean Historical & Preservation Society, students redesigned Hermie to highlight meaningful landmarks from the community, including School #9, Cloud 9, Mount View Cemetery, Swarts Food Store, and Kamery’s Farm. The updated design beautifully reflects Olean’s history while showcasing the talent of our young artists.







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### Senior sunrise 2025:





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### **Area All-State Honor Ensembles:**

Congratulations to the students below for being accepted into Area All-State Honor Ensembles. They were selected based on their performances and scores at the NYSSMA solo festival last spring. These students are top musicians in our part of the state!

|                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>KEVIN SUN</b>      | <b>ALAN RUSZKOWSKI</b>     |
| <b>LIAM HERNE</b>     | <b>NATALIE SNYDER</b>      |
| <b>SAMUEL MORGAN</b>  | <b>LOKESH ANUMALASETTY</b> |
| <b>SEAMUS BURNETT</b> | <b>TEDDY MCCLELLAN</b>     |
| <b>JADYN OURS</b>     | <b>ISAIAH SAYERS</b>       |
|                       | <b>AARON BUDAJ</b>         |

\* OIMS Student Lillian Sweitzer named Area All-State Treble Chorus after original list

**Columbus/Indigenous  
Peoples' Day  
Monday,  
October 13, 2025**







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### East View Elementary Family Bike Ride (9/30/25):







## Pre-K Pup Pals Explore Apples:

Young learners at Washington West spent one week in September diving into all things apples! From hands-on apple centers and engaging apple-themed books to fun activities, the week was full of learning and excitement. To wrap things up, the Pre-K pup pals rolled up their sleeves to peel apples and make homemade applesauce. The best part? Sharing their delicious creation with lots of happy adults in the halls of Washington West!







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### Junior VS Senior Powderpuff Game (9/18/25):







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## OHS ATHLETIC EVENT RULES

- Any student 7th grade or younger must be accompanied by a parent/guardian/caregiver for admission to any Olean high school football or basketball game. The adult accompanying the student needs to be in attendance as a point of contact for the duration of the event. This allows OHS staff to respond appropriately if issues arise among younger students who are unfamiliar to high school staff, and can help ensure a safe environment for students and families who are there to enjoy the game.
- Students are not allowed to bring bags or backpacks.
- No outside food or drinks are allowed.
- Only high school students from the home team or the visiting team are permitted to attend the game without a parent or guardian. (ID required).
- Students attending athletic events must bring valid student identification with them to show high school staff upon entering an athletic venue.





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### OHS hosts “mini” college fair:

On September 25th, OHS hosted the Western NY College Consortium for a “mini” college fair! Students had the chance to learn more about their future opportunities. Colleges and universities that participated included: Alfred State College, Alfred University, Buffalo State University, Canisius College, Daemen University, D'Youville University, SUNY Erie Community College, SUNY Fredonia, Genesee Community College, Hilbert College, Jamestown Community College, Niagara County Community College, Niagara University, St. Bonaventure University, University at Buffalo, Villa Maria College.





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## Coffee with the superintendent:

You are invited to the next Coffee with the Superintendent

### Future Coffee Dates:

- Tuesday, October 7, 2025, from 7:30 am to 8:30, WW, Library
- Tuesday, November 4, 2025, from 7:30 am to 8:30, OIMS, LGI
- Tuesday, December 16, 2025, from 7:30 am to 8:30, OHS, Board Room

If you're interested in attending,

please pre-register by emailing O'Brien Dailey,

OCSD Media, Brand & Communication Specialist:  
[odailey@oleanschools.org](mailto:odailey@oleanschools.org)

JOIN US FOR

**COFFEE WITH THE  
SUPERINTENDENT**



*Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our district. Let's keep moving forward together with Husky pride, purpose, and perseverance.*

Sincerely,

*Dr. Genelle Morris*

Superintendent Olean City  
School District

