SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

Dr. Genelle Morris

Volume 4 Issue #3 I December 2025

A Message from Dr. Morris:

As we enter December, I'm inspired by the enthusiasm and dedication of our students, families, and staff. The first stretch of the school year has been filled with learning, creativity, and collaboration across all of our buildings, and it's been a joy to see our classrooms, hallways, stages, and athletic spaces come alive this fall.

This time of year naturally brings moments of reflection and gratitude. I am especially thankful for our educators, whose commitment to excellence shines through each day, and for our families and community partners who support and strengthen our work. Together, you help create an environment where every student feels valued, supported, and encouraged to grow.

As we look ahead to the winter months, our focus remains on strengthening academic opportunities, expanding mental health and wellness initiatives, and ensuring that every Husky has what they need to succeed.

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

Students Explore Siemens Energy and SBU:

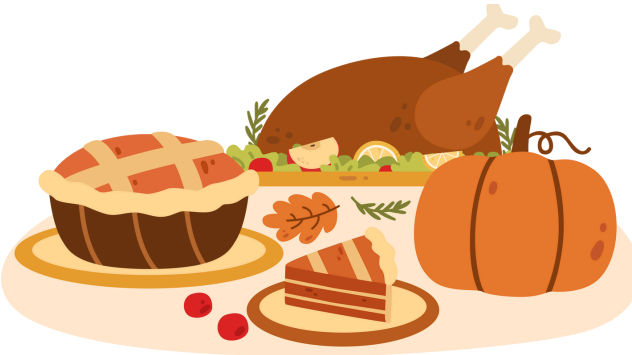
OHS Physics students stepped out of the classroom and into the world of innovation during an exciting field trip to Siemens Energy and St. Bonaventure University. The experience gave students a firsthand look at how the concepts they study, such as energy, motion, and electromagnetism, come to life in real-world careers, laboratories, and industries.

November Harvest of the Month:

Farm to School brought a delicious experience to OIMS with a Harvest of the Month applesauce taste test. Homemade applesauce made from locally sourced Crispin apples was offered in the cafeteria and was a huge success, with more than 300 servings enjoyed by students and staff! A big thank-you goes out to Dan Dunkleman and his amazing cafeteria staff, and to our partners at Cornell Cooperative Extension for their continued support to our schools.

Community Schools Thanksgiving Dinner:

OCSD held its 32nd annual Community Schools Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, November 15, and it was another amazing success, as we served around 340 people from our community! A huge thank you to our staff volunteers and student volunteers who helped make the day run smoothly. Also, another huge thank you to everyone who donated to make this year's dinner so special.



Washington West Fall Family Fun Night:

East View's "Paint with the Principal" Night:

On November 5th, East View families got together for a night of painting and quality time with Principal Heather Keller. With help from District Art Teacher Stacie Ermer, everyone painted the cutest little squirrels. A big thank-you to our OHS student volunteers for helping things run smoothly, to the East View PTO for supplying all the materials, and to Mrs. Keller for organizing the event.

Golisano Institute at OHS:

OHS students had the opportunity to explore the future of business education during a special visit from Dr. Ian Mortimer, President of the Golisano Institute for Business & Entrepreneurship. Dr. Mortimer shared how the Institute's innovative, hands-on approach to higher education is empowering young entrepreneurs across Western New York. We're so thankful to Dr. Mortimer for inspiring our Huskies and providing them with a path for the future.

Homeless Huskies 2025

Harold Dutton Award Winners:

On November 13th, OCSD proudly recognized a group of exceptional students with the Harold Dutton Student Spotlight Award. This honor celebrates Huskies who embody the spirit and qualities of Harold Dutton, a beloved OHS custodian for more than 20 years.

Winter Recess.

December 22, 2025-January 2, 2026

Washington West Rocks the 50th Day of School: Washington West stepped back in time to the 1950s to celebrate the 50th day of school! Students showed up in poodle skirts, leather jackets, and lots of Husky spirit as they headed to the "ice cream parlor" and danced to jukebox hits. It was a day full of fun, nostalgia, and school pride now, on to day 100!

Honor Roll Pizza Party at OIMS:

In late November, More than 100 sixth- and seventh-grade students at OIMS celebrated their academic achievements at an Honor Roll Pizza Party! Students earned this recognition by working hard, staying focused, and showing what it means to be responsible learners. We are so proud of their accomplishments and the example they set for others.

OHS Musicians Shine at Area All-State:

Congratulations to our talented OHS musicians who performed in the Senior-High Area All-State Band and Orchestra this past weekend in Elmira, NY! Their hard work, dedication, and passion for music were on full display. We couldn't be prouder, way to go Huskies!

OHS Musicians Honor Veterans:

The Olean High School band and chorus had the honor of performing at Olean's Veterans Day celebration in Lincoln Park. Their music set a meaningful tone as the community gathered to recognize and thank those who have served our country. We are so proud of our students for sharing their talents in such a powerful and respectful way to honor our veterans.

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.

Celebrating Academic Excellence at OHS:

On November 24, we proudly recognized 346 OHS students who earned a place on the Honor Roll! To qualify, students achieved an overall average of 85% or higher. To celebrate their accomplishments, students enjoyed a special breakfast together, surrounded by staff cheering them on. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and can't wait to see what they do next!

Coffee with the superintendent:

You are invited to the next Coffee with the Superintendent

Future Coffee Dates:

- Tuesday, December 16, 2025, from 7:30 am to 8:30, OHS, Board Room
- Tuesday, January 27, 2026, from 7:30 am to 8:30, EV, Library
- Tuesday, February 10, 2026, from 7:30 am to 8:30, WW, Library

If you're interested in attending,

please pre-register by emailing O'Brien Dailey,

OCSD Media, Brand & Communication Specialist: odailey@oleanschools.org

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