



SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

Dr. Genelle Morris

Volume 4 Issue #5 | February 2026

A Message from Dr. Morris:

As February unfolds, there is a renewed sense of momentum and pride felt throughout the Olean City School District. Our schools continue to be vibrant places of learning, creativity, and connection, where students are engaged, staff are dedicated, and the spirit of Husky Nation is on full display each day.

This time of year reminds us how important our shared commitment is to every student's success. I am incredibly grateful to our educators who go above and beyond, our families who support learning at home, and our community partners who strengthen the work we do. Together, we continue to create welcoming environments where students feel supported, inspired, and encouraged to grow, grounded in care, kindness, and a genuine dedication to one another.

I encourage families to stay connected by attending school events, engaging in conversations about district initiatives, and sharing feedback that helps guide our work. Your partnership is essential, and together we will continue to build a year defined by excellence, growth, and Husky Pride.

Dr. Genelle Morris





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February 2–6 marked National School Counseling Week, a time to recognize the incredible impact school counselors have on our students, families, and staff every day. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to our amazing school counselors for all that you do!



**NATIONAL SCHOOL
COUNSELING WEEK**



Nicole Conroy



Janna Davis



Leah Allen



Mary Lee Wenke



Kelly Gumtow



Caitlyn Callahan



April Hayes



Karen O'Dell



Rene O'Connell



Matt Threehouse



Heather Billings



Cindi Rhoades



K-9 Unit Visit OIMS:

On January 30, Olean Intermediate Middle School's quarterly assembly has some special visitors! Members of the Cattaraugus County K-9 Unit stopped by to show off their amazing dogs, answer student questions, and talk about how they serve and protect our community. Thank you to the Cattaraugus County K-9 Unit for taking the time to visit OIMS and share this memorable and educational experience with our Huskies!





Students Inducted into National Honor Society:

On Friday, January 9, at the Pulaski Club, 38 students were inducted into the OHS Chapter of the National Honor Society. The National Honor Society recognizes high school students for outstanding scholarship, service, leadership, and character.





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OLEAN HIGH SCHOOL

After School Homework Help

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS
2:45 - 4:15

GRADES 8-12

WHAT WE PROVIDE

- Homework Help
- Study Skills
- Organization
- Tutoring
- Regents Prep

OHS Library



Student honored with Special Olympics Award

At the Special Olympics Sports Banquet in January at St. Bonaventure University, Olean student Jacob Spears was honored with the Sportsmanship Award, and it couldn't have gone to a better person. Jacob's kindness, humility, and heart for others shone through in everything he did, and he truly represented what Special Olympics is all about. Congratulations, Jacob!



Congratulations to each and every athlete. Your achievements matter, and you deserve to be celebrated today and always.

– *Catt County Special Olympics athletes honored*





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OHS Musical production of "Big Fish"





Champions of Change:

At the January 13 Board of Education meeting, tech teacher Scott Rucinski and a group of OHS students were honored with the Champions of Change Award by the New York State School Boards Association for their efforts in beautifying the OHS National Honor Society's adopted community garden along North Union Street.



February Break

No school.

February 16-20, 2026





East View Character Trait Students of the Month: Each month, EV teachers recognize students who best embody the school's character trait. Last week, we celebrated our latest winners for this month's trait, Put First Things First (Prioritizing), during the Cutco Cutlery Character Assembly and a special lunch with CUTCO representatives, made possible by the Olean Schools Foundation.





DOGGONE Good Attendance

Throughout January, students at Washington West Elementary stayed committed to showing up, and it paid off in the best way possible! As part of the DOGGONE Good Attendance incentive, the three classes with the highest attendance percentages earned a special visit from some very special guests, therapy dogs Ellie, Delilah, Paxil, Guthrie, and Posie.





OHS Adventure Activity:
January's OHS Adventure Activity sent students bowling at Byllye Lanes in Bradford, where 25 Huskies rolled some strikes and had a ton of fun with all their friends!



February's Harvest of the Month: Potatoes

Did you know potatoes are grown in all 50 states and in about 125 countries worldwide

Potato fun facts:

- Sweet potatoes are related to morning glories, while white potatoes are in the same family as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and even petunias.
- In 1995, potatoes became the first vegetable grown in space!
- Thomas Jefferson is credited with introducing French fries to America after serving them at a White House dinner.





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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.



A Bite of Reality:

OHS students had a taste of adulthood on January 14 with a "Bite of Reality," a "Real World Simulation" that gives students a sense of what being an adult is like. Each student received a job, income, credit score, family situation, and potential debt, then moved from booth to booth, making choices about housing, transportation, and food, learning firsthand what it takes to balance a budget and manage real-world responsibilities.





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Coffee with the superintendent:

You are invited to the next Coffee with the Superintendent

Future Coffee Dates:

- Tuesday, February 10, 2026, from 7:30 am to 8:30, WW, Library
- Tuesday, March 17, 2026, from 7:30 am to 8:30, OIMS, LGI Room
- Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 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

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

