Winter 2025-2026 Volume 22, Issue 2

"Home, School and Community Educating for Life"

Olean City School District

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER



Dear Families and Colleagues,

As we find ourselves deep in the heart of winter—with frost on the windows and the familiar hum of snowplows in the early morning—I want to take a moment to share a mid-year update and reflect on the important work happening across our district.

I have been closely observing our operations, classrooms, and initiatives, paying careful attention to the details that matter most for our students' success. From instructional practices to support services, I've been watching our progress with intention and focus.

Despite the challenges that winter inevitably brings—weather disruptions, seasonal illnesses, and the general fatigue that can settle in this time of year—our staff has shown remarkable steadiness. I see educators leaning into collaboration, support teams going the extra mile, and leaders keeping our priorities in sight.

At this mid-point in the school year, here are a few highlights:

- Student learning continues to grow, with early indicators showing promising gains across several grade levels.
- Our winter programs and athletics are running smoothly, ensuring students have consistency.
- Facilities teams have kept our buildings safe and operational, even during the harshest stretches of weather.
- Family engagement remains strong, with community events and communications helping maintain positive partnerships.

As we push through these colder months, I am encouraged by the dedication I see every day. Thank you for your hard work, resilience, and commitment to our students. The second half of the year is full of opportunities, and I look forward to continuing this journey with all of you.

Warmly,
Dr. Genelle Morris







Olean Students played their hearts out at NYSSMA's Zone 15 and Zone 1 Junior and Senior High Area-All State! Zone 15's Junior High took place November 7 & 8 at Genesee High School and featured students from 7th-9th grade, while Senior High took place November 21 & 22 at Elmira High School and featured students from 10th-12th grade. For Zone 1's JH Area-All State, it took place on November 7 & 8 at Pioneer High School. In order for students to be selected for these Honor Ensembles, they needed to audition in front of a judge at NYSSMA's solo festival, occurring in the spring of each school year. Area-All State is the combination of students from all their respected Zones. Zone 15 extends from Allegany to Chemung and about halfway up the state, while Zone 1 extends from Cattaraugus and Chautauqua County all the way up to Niagara. Students work with guest conductors, typically from universities and out-of-zone school districts, giving students a new and fresh perspective of the music they work on. Additionally, these students are given music for about a month before the event, which is very different from the 4-5 months they receive in school for our concerts here at Olean. The music department was pleased to take Kevin Sun, Alan Ruskowski and Liam Herne to Zone 15 JH Area-All State, and Seamus Burnett, Jadyn Ours, Samuel Morgan, Natalie Snyder, Lokesh Anumalasetty, Isaiah Sayers and Theodore McClellan to Zone 15 SH Area-All State, while Lillian Sweitzer went for Zone 1 for JH. They have truly shown what it means to be a husky by stepping up to the challenge and representing Olean at these NYSSMA events, we are so proud of them!

Welcome to Olean City School District!



ERIC DIMARTINO

Human Resources Specialist at OCSD

Eric DiMartino joins the Olean City School District as our new Human Resources Specialist, supporting faculty and staff across all buildings. A graduate of Archbishop Walsh, Eric earned his undergraduate degree from St. Bonaventure University and his master's degree from Canisius University. Eric is excited to help the Husky Pack reach its full potential and looks forward to serving as a resource for current and future employees by providing career opportunities and support. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with family, playing golf, and cheering on the Buffalo Bills. Welcome, Eric!

Registered Nurses



Caitlin Rupp



Holly Whippo

I.T. Specialist



Lucas Smith

Long-Term Substitute



Megan Zampogna

Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant



Shannen Wilson

Keyboard Specialists



Valorie Magara



Michelle Shufelt

Custodian/ Buildings + Grounds



Robert Colf

Teacher Aides:



Abigail Benson



Garen LeRoy



Alison Kintner



Amelia Robbins-Martinelli



Ashtin Harenda



Caleb White



JoAnna Hendryx



Joshua Sisson



Elina Lozynska



Landon Tilly



Michael Stillman



Mikaela Austin



Morgan Leonard



Nicholas Patrone



Noah Blair



Victor Lozynski

We're getting ready for the 2026-27 school year!

UPK & KINDERGARTEN VISIT NIGHTS

Olean City School District
EST. 1868

Washington West: Tuesday, Feb 24th - 5:00-6:30 PM

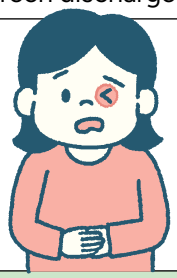
East View: Wednesday, Feb 25th - 5:00-6:30 PM

For More Information:

Visit: oleanschools.org/registration

& Follow us on Instagram & Facebook

When to Stay Home from School

FEVER	COUGHING THAT WON'T STOP	DIARRHEA OR VOMITING	RASH	HEAD LICE	EYE INFECTION
A temperature of 100.4 ° or higher	Or other problems with breathing	Within the past 24 hours	Body rash with itching and/or fever	Itchy head, active head lice	Eye is red and oozing a yellow or green discharge
					

When to Return to School

Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen	Cough is mild and infrequent and evaluated by doctor if needed	Free from diarrhead and/ or vomiting for at least 24 hours and evaluated by doctor if needed	Free from rash, itching, or fever and evaluated by doctor if needed	After first head lice treatment	24 hours after starting antibiotic eye drops or oitment

News From OHS

On October 28th, HS Business students had the opportunity to participate in class at Niagara University. During the class students heard from Anna Stolzenburg, the VP of content and production at the Buffalo Sabres organization.







GOLISANO FIELD TRIP

Golisano Institute for Business & Entrepreneurship is here for business. Yesterday at OHS, Dr. Ian Mortimer, the business school's president, shared with our students how the transformative model for higher ed is uplifting entrepreneurs across Western New York. A big thank you to Dr. Mortimer!

Learn more about the Golisano Institute at www.golisanoinstitute.org

COOKING UP A GOOD LESSON IN LA CLASSE DE FRANÇAIS

Throughout the months of November and December, Mr. Ahl's French class learned about popular street foods in French speaking countries. They examined Crêpes in France in order to learn how to order food and identify common ingredients. They then turned to Canada to discuss Poutine where they learned how to describe food and read reviews of restaurants. Finally, they explored African street food looking at Foufou to learn how to discuss the price of a meal. To end the unit, Mr. Ahl brought a familiar face back to the halls of Olean High. Mrs. Napoleon, our recently retired French teacher, agreed to come back to her former classroom to make Crêpes while Mr. Ahl cooked authentic Poutine for the class. In order to eat, all French I students had to order in French, describe what ingredients they wanted included, and ask how much the food cost (which they paid with using fake euros). After they ate, students worked on writing reviews of the food in French. A memorable experience that was cultural, educational, and real-world. Smells like success for these students!



KICK FOR THE CURE

By Cole Lapi

The 2nd Annual Kick for the Cure, helping to raise money for local families affected by cancer, was another huge success. It has been a true honor to help organize this event to bring our community together to benefit local families in need, while also creating a fun and exciting event for our high school soccer teams!

This year's game was paired with a chicken barbeque the weekend prior that raised over $2,300! First, I would like to give a huge thanks to Dan Freeman who took charge of arranging this new addition. I would also like to shout out Guiddo's Yard Bird and Dick's Dogs who donated their time and product to supply the chicken barbeque and Texas hots, respectively. Lastly the Olean girls' soccer program purchased the sides that were graciously created by our OHS kitchen staff. With the help of both the boys' and girls' soccer programs volunteering, we were able to sell out within two hours, and donated all of the profits to Sophia LaBorde, a local student who bravely continues her battle with Fibrolamellar Hepatocellular Carcinoma.

On November 6th, the Olean faculty and staff took the field against a mixed boys and girls soccer team under the lights on our new turf field. The game was truly a back-and-forth affair! The teachers struck first only to be answered minutes later by the students, bringing the score to 1-1 at halftime. In the second half, twice the students took the lead and twice the teachers answered the call to level the score, and the teams found themselves deadlocked at 3-3 with just minutes to go. Then, in the final minute, the teachers scored to secure back-to-back victories!



While all the fun was taking place on the field, several of my amazing coworkers were helping to ensure that the game's purpose was truly fulfilled! They helped to collect gate fees and donations, sell basket raffle tickets and 50-50s, and run the scoreboard! This year, we had 42 total baskets created from donations from the following businesses:

AMC, Adam's Services, Angee's, ASK Design Jewelers, Burton's Farm Market, Be-You-Ti-Full-You, Beef 'N' Barrel, Century Manor, Christie's Boutique, Clark's Subs, Cummins Cider Mill, Cutco, The Eatery, Evingham Auto, For Craft's Sake, Granny's Verona, Gypsy Soul Nutrition, McLaughlin Groups Ameriprise Financial, Renna's Pizza, Rick's Golf World, Sports Locker, Sprague's Maple Farms, Staples, State King, The Beach House Tanning Salon, The Hatch Cafe, TK Nails, Union Tee Golf, Union Whiskey, Valley View Tire, and Worth W. Smith's.

This year's game would not have come together without the entire boys' and girls' soccer programs donating their time to help facilitate the chicken barbeque and the collection of local businesses' donations for our basket raffle! However, one athlete in particular, Mallory Carter, took home the first Sophia LaBorde Game MVP Award for all her efforts. Mallory first came to me last year with the idea of creating the charity game and has since been the driving force to make it all possible, meeting with me several times over the summer and working tirelessly in the weeks leading up to it. I couldn't think of anyone more deserving of the inaugural award!



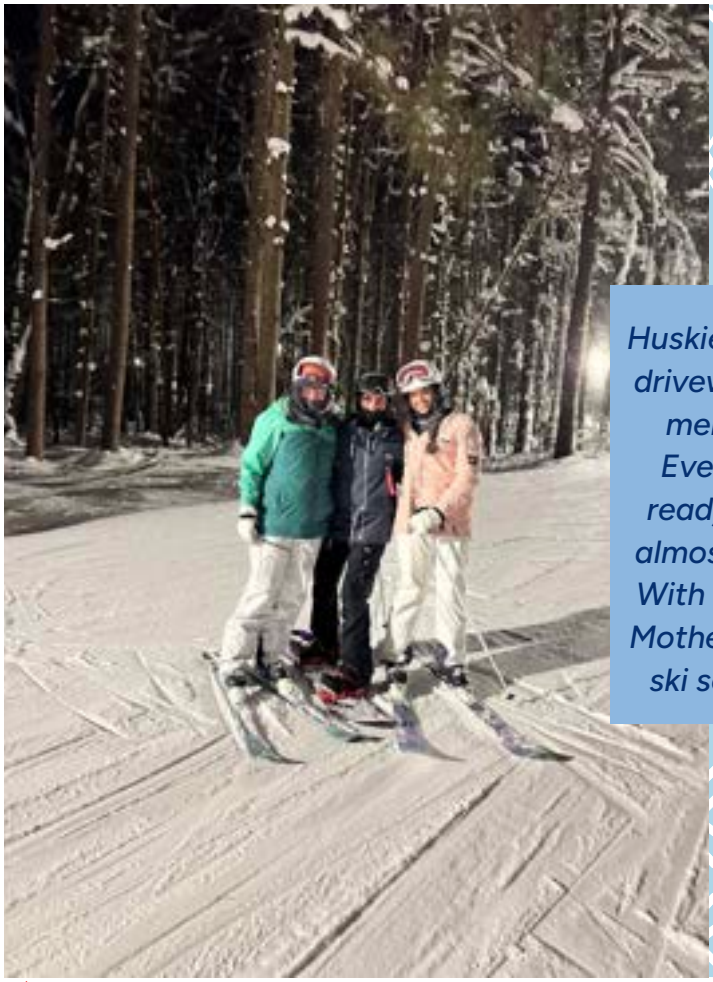
The money raised from the basket raffle totaled just over $3,400! While the majority of this went to Sophia LaBorde, $500 was donated to a Denise Renaud memorial fund to help local students interested in becoming a dental hygienist and the remaining $500 is just the start of our efforts to help Sierra Cassford in her battle with recently diagnosed Stage 4 Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Although the game itself is a wonderful way to cap off our boys' and girls' soccer seasons, it's important that we don't lose focus on the real battle at hand, and the knowledge that our community can, and continues to do, amazing things for those around us that need our help. Continue fighting bravely Sophia and Sierra!

Please reach out clapi@oleanschools.org if you would like to donate further.

The Olean Varsity Volleyball team had a very successful season that culminated in the first sectional title since 2021! Overall, they finished the season with a league record of 8-4 and an overall record of 16-6. In the playoffs, the girls controlled both of the first two games beating Buffalo Academy of Science and East Aurora 3-0 and 3-1, respectively. Then, they went on to dominate the Class B1 sectional finals, beating Depew 3-0, before dispatching the Class B2 sectional champions Roy Hart 3-0 in the sectional crossover game. Unfortunately, their amazing run came to an end when they fell short against Charles G. Finney.
Their playoff run was incredible to watch! The girls are so thankful for all of the parents and fans that came to support and fill the spectator buses to cheer them on. Congratulations to the graduating seniors and best of luck to the 2026 team! **GO HUSKIES!**







Huskies love snow! While some people are busy shoveling driveways and complaining about winter, Olean Ski Club members are living their best lives at Holiday Valley. Every Thursday, students load the bus to Ellicottville, ready to hit the slopes, ride the rails, and perfect those almost graceful wipeouts with friends cheering them on. With record snowfall and incredible conditions this year, Mother Nature clearly gets an A+ for effort—making this ski season one the Huskies won't forget anytime soon!





This year we inducted 38 members. The ceremony was held at the Pulaski Club on Friday, January 9th. Aside from the inductees and their family members, as per tradition, all of last year's inductees also attended. Additionally, 22 of those inducted last year acted as the officiants for the event. Ranging from greeters, to escorts, to candle lighters, to speakers... it was entirely student run. On hand to give congratulatory remarks were Superintendent Dr. Genelle Morris, Interim Principal Michael Martel, and NHS Advisor Scott Rucinski.

More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to acknowledge those students who have demonstrated excellence in Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character.

Chapter membership in the National Honor Society at Olean High School not only recognizes students for their accomplishments but challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service.

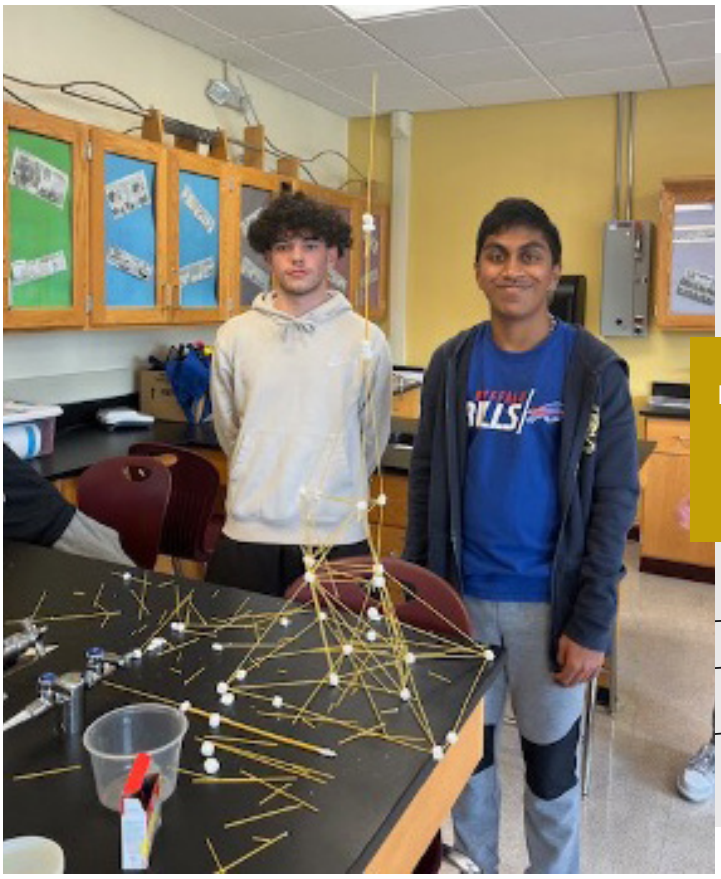
Aside from participating in school clubs and sports teams, in years past, members of our chapter have helped with the Special Olympics, spent time with animals at the SPCA, served with the Salvation Army, volunteered at the Warming House, and aided countless other charitable organizations.

Emma Adamski
Emma Anderson
Dillon Anthony
Lokesh Anumalasetty
Nicholas Bader
Mia Bean
Logan Bennink
Declan Boutillette
Seamus Burnett
Sierra Cassford
Simran Chahal
Lina Chauhdry
Addison Crosson
Camren Driscoll
Jonas Easley
Colby Gibbons
Grace Giovine
Alexis Guglielmi
Jack Harris
Alaina Hirliman
Audrey Hoffman
Caidence Hutchison
Landon Johnson
Diyanah Manar
Raine Maynard
Theodore McClellan
Lucian McPhee
Megan Morgan
Jourdan Morris
Carly O'Connor
Jadyn Ours
Angelina Qiu
Brady Riehle
Colin Simons
Natalie Snyder
Haylie Storms
Emma Veno
Ethan Woodring

Recently Mrs. Ring's physics classes toured Siemans Energy and the Physics Department at St. Bonaventure University. Students appreciated that the discussions centered around topics covered in class and were impressed with the science departments at SBU.







It's a new Physics Olympic record! Lokesh Anumalasetty and Brayden Ruggles created the largest, freestanding tower (91cm) out of raw spaghetti and marshmallows! How long will the record stand?














ON NOVEMBER 10TH, THE OHS LIBRARY HOSTED LOCAL VETERANS FOR A 'LIVING LIBRARY.' STUDENTS ASKED VETERANS QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR TIME IN SERVICE AND MANY STORIES WERE SHARED!

News From OIMS







BRIGHT IDEAS IN ACTION!

6th grade students had the opportunity to spark their learning through a variety of hands-on activities exploring electricity. It's shocking how fun science can be!



OIMS ANNUAL DOOR DECORATING CONTEST WAS A HUGE SUCCESS WE HAD GREAT PARTICIPATION WITH OUR FACULTY AND STAFF THIS YEAR, IT WAS A FESTIVE, FUN CONTEST FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY OUR WINNER WAS THE CAFETERIA STAFF





After finishing their chapter on Ancient Egypt, Mr. Talbot's class had the opportunity to make 3-dimensional projects based on what they learned and present their projects to the class.
Students showed their creativity making canopic jars, Anubis puppets, Sphinxes, burial tombs, and more!





During Christmas Mrs. Douthit's class made gingerbread houses together! Everyone brought in materials and then shared them amongst their peers. This was a great bonding experience for the kids!







In December eight of our OIMS students were chosen to participate in the Shop with a Cop program. The students came prepared with a shopping list to buy Christmas gifts for their family members. At the end of their shopping excursion, they were allowed to pick out something for themselves. Their exciting day ended with a pizza lunch. Thank you OPD for arranging this for our students!



Washington West Elementary School



SKATING INTO A NEW YEAR:

Our husky pups spent some time on the ice this year, skating around in celebration of the season. As we kick off 2026, we are skating into a new year and celebrating with a school-wide skating celebration on February 8th. We will take to the ice to have “SNOW” much fun this winter!



READING OLYMPIANS:

Coming soon: our husky pups will be challenged to become "reading Olympians!" With the winter Olympics beginning, we are encouraging our students to "go for the gold" with their at-home reading. With a theme-week and reading challenge over our upcoming winter break, our husky pups will be standing upon the winners' podium as readers – and as LEADERS!



FINE MOTOR FUN FROM THE OT TEAM:

Fine Motor Skill Development is a target focus for our elementary students. Building finger strength and dexterity helps our students to become all the better at handwriting. With the help and support of our own occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant, our husky pups are getting stronger and stronger with each day. For at home support, our therapists encourage something simple: PLAY! Check out some of the ways they recommend you can use games at home to support fine motor development!





PUTTING OUR MINDS TO WORK IN 2026:

NEW in the 2026 school year, our husky pups have a challenge – to put their math minds to work and problem-solve, AND to use a word of the week in everyday conversation. Through continued focus on problem solving skills and vocabulary development, it is our goal to support student development of key math and reading concepts. Being able to use words in context, and in using problem-solving skills, our students are LAUNCHING as LEADERS here in our halls.

East View Elementary School

East View Elementary School Happenings





East View PTO held our annual Santa Night and announced the winners of the Family Art Contest. About 170 children and their families came to celebrate the holidays.



In addition to the Student of the Month sponsored by CUTCO and the Olean School Foundation, East View brought back their Students of the Week Winners that get to have donuts with the Principal.



East View held a flash attendance challenge in December to gear up for this month's big attendance incentive program for students called "Sled into a New Year!" So let's see how many students will qualify to win a sled, a snow fort making kit, or snowman crafts for attending everyday in January!





JANUARY

In Physical Education class at East View students have been working really hard to get STRONGER! At the beginning of January, they learned the name of several muscles of their bodies. Check out how big their BICEPS have grown! I wonder how big they will be by June if they keep doing their best and practicing at home?
By. Mr. Folland

Winter Fun at East View Elementary!

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



OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
410 W. Sullivan St.
Olean, NY 14760
www.oleanschools.org

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Jenny M. Bilotta

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ECRWSS

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

POSTAL PATRON LOCAL

A registered sex offender living in the Olean City School District boundaries can be found by accessing the following:
https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/SomsSUBDirectory/search_index.jsp



OCSD Board of Education meetings are now streamed live on our YouTube Channel: @oleancityschooldistrict6451

Visit our website: www.oleanschools.org

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/OleanSchools

Follow us on Instagram: @oleancsd



SCHOOL CLOSINGS OR DELAYS

The Olean City School District will announce school closings or delays on the district website, Parent Square, Facebook, Instagram and TV Channels 2, 4, 7 and Spectrum News, as well as on radio stations WMXO and WPIG.

CABOCES Design & Print Publication