

OSTRANDER NEWS

September 2026

— WELCOME —

BACK TO SCHOOL

Welcome back! I hope you enjoyed a wonderful summer filled with rest, relaxation, and special moments with family and friends. Over the summer, I spent time reflecting on the successes of last year and planning for the exciting opportunities ahead. I am thrilled to begin another school year and cannot wait to see the smiling faces that I have missed so much!

We have many exciting things coming to Ostrander this year, and I look forward to working together to create an engaging, supportive, and successful experience for all of our students.

To stay informed, please be sure to join **ParentSquare**. This is our primary communication platform and the best way to receive important school updates, reminders, and announcements throughout the year.

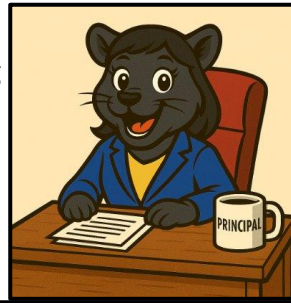
As we begin the school year, please help us ensure safe and efficient arrivals and dismissals by following our established traffic patterns during drop-off and pick-up. This allows staff to assist students quickly and safely as they enter and exit vehicles.

A few important reminders:

- Please bring a valid photo ID whenever you visit the school.
- Contact the main office with any changes to your child's dismissal plans or emergency contact information.
- Join us for our **PTO Welcome Back Event** and upcoming **PTO Meeting**. These are wonderful opportunities to connect with other families and support our school community.

This year, I am especially excited about continuing to build strong family and community connections. Together, we can create meaningful relationships that support our students' growth, success, and well-being.

Here's to a fantastic school year ahead! Anita Hoyt, Principal



Upcoming Events

9/3	Superintendent's Conference Day
9/8	First Day of School
9/10	PBIS Kickoff Assembly @ 9:30 am
9/11	Bus Safety Drills
9/11	PTO Back-to-School Event 5:30 pm
9/14	Principal's Coffee/ PTO Meeting @ 7 pm
9/16	PBIS Grade-Level Assembly (during specials)
9/16	Board of Education Meeting @ 7 pm (WSHS)
9/21	Schools Closed for Holiday
9/25	Homecoming Parade – Walk with OZZIE!
9/29	Open House: Grades UPK-3 @ 6:30 pm
9/30	Open House: Grades 4-6 @ 6:30 pm
10/7	School Picture Day
10/7	National Walk to School Day

Attendance

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building positive attendance habits early on so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Here are some helpful tips:

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Don't let your child stay home unless he/she is truly sick.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

AM Drop Off (8:30 – 9:00 am)

K-6 students are to be dropped off in the designated unloading zone and exit on the passenger side of the vehicle only. A staff member will be there to assist your child(ren). UPK students must be checked in with the teacher/aide at the main entrance of the school building.

Dismissal Procedures

- UPK students are dismissed at 2:50 pm at door #4 (near cafeteria).
- Pickup students will be released at 3:00 pm. Please park in the upper lot and line up at the gymnasium doors to sign your child out. Photo ID is required.
- Walkers are released at 3:00 pm at door #4 (near cafeteria).
- Bus dismissal begins at 3:05 pm.

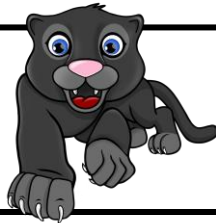
IMPORTANT: Any changes to your child's dismissal plan must be submitted to the main office.

OSTRANDER IS A PBIS SCHOOL

PBIS stands for **P**ositive **B**ehavioral Interventions and **S**upports.
PBIS creates schools where all students succeed.

PBIS ASSEMBLIES

On September 10th, all students will attend a schoolwide PBIS assembly for the 2026-2027 school year. A grade-level assembly will also take place during specials period (Art, Library, Music, P.E.) on September 16th. During these assemblies, students will learn PBIS expectations and the PBIS promise.



PAWS STORE

Through our PBIS Rewards program, students earn points for exhibiting positive behaviors. These points can be used to purchase items in our PAWS Store.

Back-to-School Forms

It is important to complete and return the back-to-school forms sent home in the blue home/school communication folder. This will ensure we have the most up-to-date information.

PBIS PROMISE:

PAWS

Today I will have a
Positive Attitude,
Act Respectfully and
Responsibly, make
Wise Choices, and keep
myself and others
Safe.

Each month, we recognize and celebrate students who demonstrate a positive character trait. We are excited to celebrate our amazing students!

SEPTEMBER'S TRAIT IS **Enthusiastic**

Here are some ways to show enthusiasm in school:

- Smile when you enter the classroom and say, "Good morning!"
- Raise your hand when you have an idea or answer.
- Try new things – even if they seem tricky.
- Use positive language like, "This is fun!" or "I'm excited about this!"
- Clap or cheer when someone does something great.



NEW CELL PHONE POLICY

As required by Education Law §2803, the District prohibits students from using internet-enabled devices (including smartphones, tablets, and smartwatches) during the instructional day both in the building and on school grounds.

During the school day, if you need to contact your child you may call Ostrander's main office at 845-895-7225 or message your student's teacher. Additionally, students may visit the school office to contact their parents.

For more information on Wallkill Central School District's cell phone policy, please refer to District Policy 7402.

National School Lunch & Breakfast Program

WCSD offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast and lunch are free for all students during the 2026-2027 school year. We ask that you kindly complete and return the School Meal Program application at your earliest convenience.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

895-7225	Announcement Line
895-7232	Attendance Office
895-7231	Health Office
895-7229	Health Office Fax
895-7225	Main Office
895-8043	Main Office Fax