

DISTRICT UPDATES

A Message from Superintendent Lilleck

Welcome to the 2025–26 school year! Each new year brings excitement, opportunity, and the chance to grow together as a school community. Thank you for your continued partnership; it's what makes Orchard Park such a special place for students to learn and thrive.

This fall, we are proud to launch a few initiatives that reflect our commitment to equity and student success. Our new Basics Supply Lists simplify back-to-school shopping and ensure every child starts the year prepared. We're also focusing on strong attendance, because every day in school matters, and we're creating Distraction-Free School Zones to help students engage more fully in their learning and with one another.

Together, these efforts support our mission: maximizing the potential of every student, every day. We look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and memorable moments.

Go Quakers!

Supply Lists

New Distraction-Free Schools Law & Personal Technology Policy 📱

In the spring of 2025, New York State introduced legislation requiring schools to ban personal technology use by students during the school day starting in the 2025-2026 school year. The State's goal is to create distraction-free learning environments and support student well-being. Elementary and Middle School students will keep devices stored as they have in the past, while High School students will use locked pouches that can remain with them throughout the day. Learn more about our district plan by visiting our website at opschools.org or by clicking the link below.

📋 https://www.opschools.org/parent-and-student-resources/distraction-free-learning

For information about the procedures at the Orchard Park High School please watch the video below.

Distraction Free Learning: Yonder Pouches



Universal Free Lunch 🥪

2025-2026

Universal Free Lunch



Starting in the 2025-2026 school year, all New York State schools will offer free meals to all students. The state will cover the full cost of each meal by reimbursing the schools. This change will apply to every school and every student within the Orchard Park Central School District.

Even with universal free meals this year, we encourage families to complete a Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application, as eligibility may qualify your household for additional benefits beyond school meals. Applications are available online at www.opschools.org or in your child's cafeteria and are accepted throughout the school year.

Households that were approved in the previous year must submit a new application by October 1st to remain eligible.

Please remember: participating in the program not only supports your student—it also benefits the district as a whole by contributing to funding and resources based on need. If you need an application printed and sent to you, please call Jody Schwarz at (716) 209-6244.



Free and Reduced Meal Application 🔗

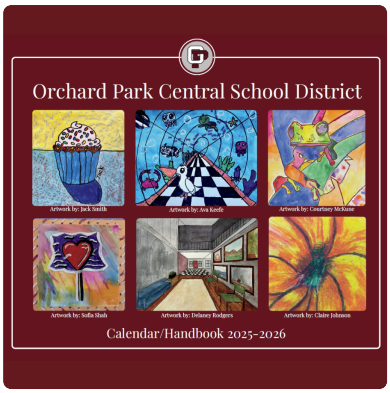
Transportation Information 🚌

Transportation details are currently live in the Parent Portal. Click below to log in and view your student(s)' information.

Please check back for updates on/or after the Labor Day weekend, as some changes may still occur.

Thank you in advance for your patience over the first few days of school, as our drivers will be growing accustomed to their routes and students are learning where to find their buses.

Parent Portal



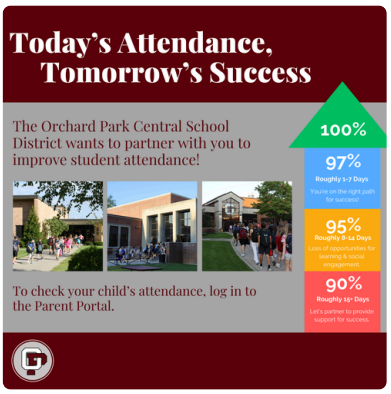
Calendar Distribution 🗓️

The Orchard Park Central School District will be distributing calendars beginning Friday, August 29, 2025. As in years past, calendars will be distributed only to the youngest student in each district family. If the youngest student is at Orchard Park High School, a copy will arrive via mail to that student's address on file after August 29. The youngest students at Orchard Park Middle School and each of the four Elementary Schools will take home their calendars on the first day of school, scheduled for Wednesday, September 3. Each of the Orchard Park Central School District locations will have extra calendars available in their main offices. Members of the Orchard Park community also may find a limited supply of calendars at the following locations beginning Friday, August 29, 2025:

- Anthony-Brown Pharmacy: 4328 South Buffalo Street
- Beerz Food Shop: 4916 South Buffalo Street
- Orchard Park Public Library: 4570 South Buffalo Street

Additionally, the District encourages the public to view its online calendar at www.opschools.org for the most up-to-date schedule of events. The website calendar will be updated regularly throughout the 2025-2026 school year.

Submit Attendance Notices Online



The Orchard Park Central School District is committed to partnering with parents and guardians to support strong student attendance, helping every child reach their full potential each day. We understand that absences can add up, often due to illness or other unexpected circumstances, and our goal is to work together with families to support students' academic success.

To make the process easier, parents and guardians can now submit attendance notes and pick up information online. Simply log in to the Parent Portal, click on *Attendance Notes,* and complete and submit the form. Please view the video below for detailed instructions.

Creating Attendance Notes for Students in PowerSchool



🌟Fostering a Positive School Community

District Introduces Streamlined School Supply Lists to Support Families 📓

Beginning in the 2025–26 school year, families across our district will notice a change in back-to-school supply lists. Elementary principals have collaborated to create a simplified, district-wide "Basics" Supply List for each grade level, part of our ongoing commitment to equity and reducing barriers for students.

The new approach is designed to:

- **Ease financial strain** – In the past, families were spending as much as $100–$140 per child on supplies. The basics list eliminates unnecessary items, lowering costs and making school readiness more affordable.
- **Promote fairness** – All four elementary schools will now share the same expectations, ensuring students aren't at a disadvantage based on classroom-specific lists.
- **Improve access to support** – With standardized lists, our Family Solutions Center can more efficiently provide supplies to any student in need, without the challenge of last-minute shopping for unusual items.
- **Create consistency** – Each student will receive a take-home folder provided by their school, replacing the need for families to purchase one.

While teachers may still request a few additional items when necessary, these requests will be purposeful and minimal, keeping the focus on affordability and accessibility for all families. The district will also be purchasing certain supplies centrally, leveraging bulk savings to further reduce costs.

This initiative reflects our commitment to ensuring every child enters the classroom ready to learn, without unnecessary financial or logistical barriers.

Supply Lists

🌟Connecting with Our Families and Community

Back to School Clothing Closet Success

The Orchard Park Family Solutions Center, in partnership with The Wesleyan Church, recently held a successful Back to School Week at the newly relocated clothing closet at the Emmanuel Hall Campus, 6779 Powers Road in Orchard Park.

From August 18–23, families were able to select clothing for children and adults at no cost. The event was well attended and provided needed support for many local households as the school year began.

The clothing closet will continue to serve the community beyond this event. Donations are still being accepted year-round at the Emmanuel Hall Campus. Beginning in September, regular hours will be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 4-6 p.m. and the 4th Saturday of each month from 9-11 a.m. during the school year.

For those in need of resources, more information is available on our website: https://www.opschools.org/departments/family-solutions-center.



Stay Connected This Year! 📆

Be sure to check our district website throughout for updated school supply lists, important dates, and calendar changes. It's the best way to stay informed and prepared for the new school year!

School Calendar



🌟Celebrating Student Growth and Success

Dobmeier Named Student Ex-Officio

Orchard Park High School senior Sydney Dobmeier has been named the ex-officio student member of the Board of Education for the 2025-26 school year. In this role, Sydney will join Board members at all public meetings, take part in discussions, and attend one to two meetings each month, as well as STAP Comm meetings to help keep communication open between students and the Board.



Important Notices ❗

Annual Notification of OPCSD Life Threatening Allergy Policy

The Orchard Park Central School District is committed to keeping all students safe, healthy, and included. We follow Federal and State food service regulations and work closely with families to support children with life-threatening allergies.

The most common allergens are milk, egg, soy, wheat, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, sesame and shellfish. Because every child's needs are different, some families prefer their child eat only food from home, while others want their child to join in school food activities with extra safeguards. Our goal is to respect all students' rights while helping everyone stay safe and well nourished.

Instead of "allergen-free" rooms or removing entire food groups, we create individual care plans with families, healthcare providers, and our health and food service staff. All supervising adults are trained to recognize allergic reactions, and emergency medicines are always accessible.

Click the buttons below to access our district policy and New York State Education Department Guidelines. If you'd like more information about how we manage allergies and anaphylaxis, please

contact your school nurse.

NYSED Guidance

District Policy

Photo/Video Opt Out Procedure & District Use of Student Information 📸

Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, certain information known as “Directory Information” may be released for non-commercial purposes without prior written consent. Directory information is identified as information that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Directory information may include a student’s name, names of parents or legal guardians, grade designation, participation in school extracurricular activities, achievements, awards and honors, and relevant statistics and personal data of members of an athletic team or other school-sponsored activity. If you wish to refuse permission for the release of any or all directory information described above, you must notify the District in writing. Please submit your request to refuse the release of directory information to the building principal of your child’s school.

Please note: Although not considered directory information, photographs, video or audio recordings, electronic images of students, or student work may be used without prior consent in order to publicize or promote a school district program. If you wish to refuse permission for the use of your child’s photograph, video or audio recording, or electronic images in district publications, media releases, the District website, or social media i.e. Facebook, X and Instagram you must notify the building principal of your child’s school in writing.

Click to learn about how we are maximizing the potential of all students.

Calendar 📆

Free and Reduced Meals/Milk 🥛🥪

🍎🌮🍕🍝 Menus 🍎🌮🍕🍝

My School Bucks 💲

Parent Portal

Virtual Backpack🎒

Orchard Park Central School District

Maximizing the potential of every student, every day.

Contact