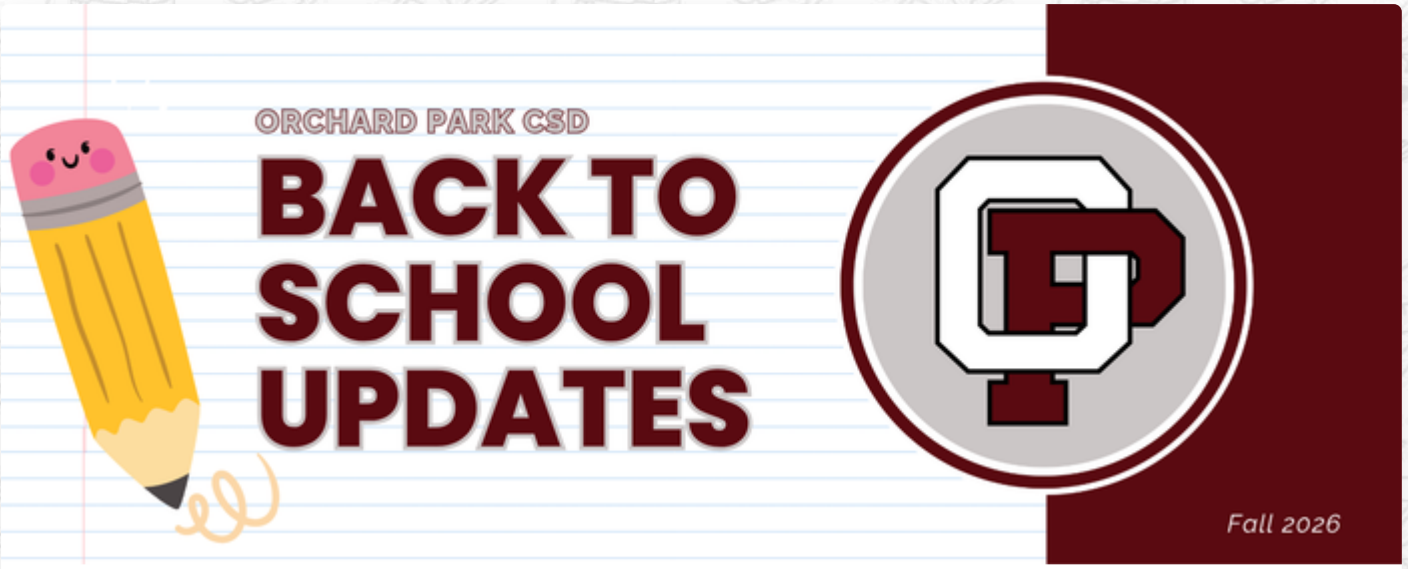


DISTRICT UPDATES

A Message from Superintendent Lilleck

As we welcome students back into our classrooms, we look forward to a year of learning, growth, and opportunity. Our work continues to center on three priorities: student learning and achievement, a culture of belonging, and strong partnerships with families and our community.

This fall also marks an exciting milestone in our capital project. Six-classroom additions at each elementary school will allow us to launch in-building Pre-K for eligible students, with district busing provided. Additional facility improvements are underway across the district, with more work continuing throughout the coming year.

We are grateful for the continued support of our families, staff, and community as we begin another school year together. We look forward to a year of growth, connection, and success for every student.

Go Quakers!



The Board of Education had an opportunity to take a tour of the new additions in August.



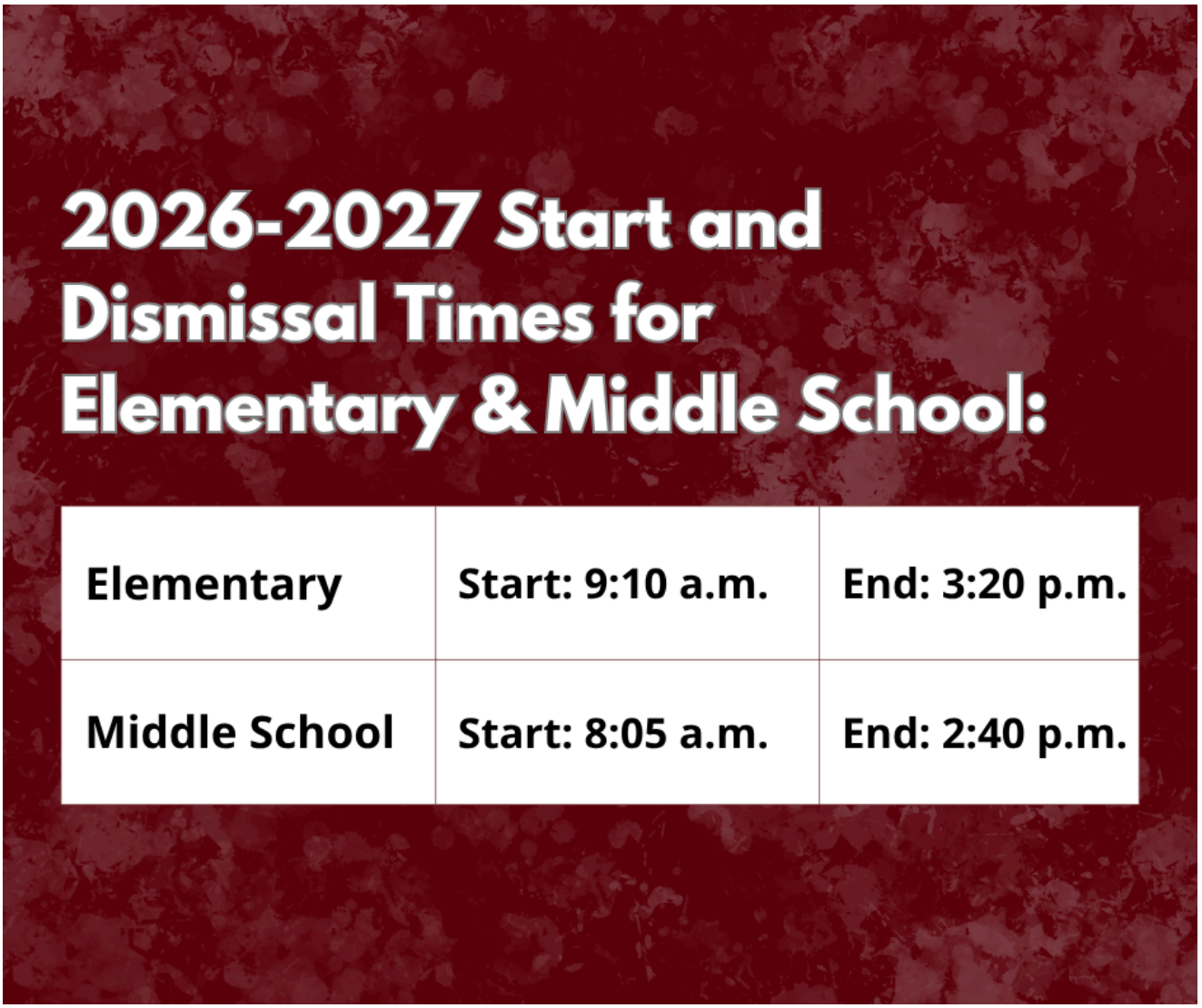
Printable Back-to-School Signs

Our Start Times are Changing ⏰

At Orchard Park CSD, our mission is to maximize every student's potential through high-quality learning for all. To support this goal and ensure reliable transportation, we are adjusting the start and end times for the elementary and middle school. Like many districts, we are impacted by ongoing bus driver shortages. These schedule changes will help us use our transportation

resources more effectively and ensure consistent, dependable service for all students.

Aligning these schedules ensures buses can complete middle school routes and arrive at elementary schools on time, creating a more predictable experience for students and families.



Universal Free Lunch 🥪

2026-2027

Universal Free Lunch



All New York State schools will offer free meals to all students during the 2026-2027 school year. The state will cover the full cost of each meal by reimbursing the schools. This 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 an Educational Benefits form, as eligibility may qualify your household for additional benefits beyond school meals. The forms are available online at https://www.opschools.org/parent-and-student-resources/menu/free-and-reduced-application and are accepted throughout the school year.

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.

Educational Benefits Form 🔗

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 🗓️

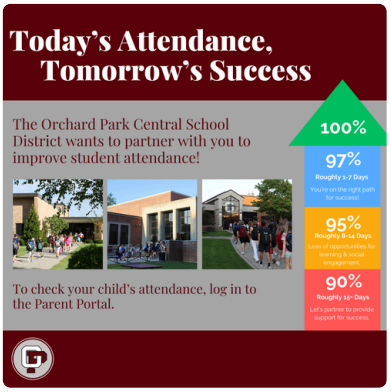


The Orchard Park Central School District will be distributing calendars beginning Friday, September, 4 2026. As in years past, calendars will be distributed only to the youngest student in each district family. If the youngest student is at Orchard Park High School, a copy will arrive via mail to that student's address on file on or after September 4. 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 9. 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, September 4, 2026:

- 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 https://www.opschools.org/orchard-park-calendar for the most up-to-date schedule of events. The website calendar will be updated regularly throughout the 2026-2027 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

What I Need: Introducing WIN Time



This year, Orchard Park Central School District is introducing WIN Time at the elementary level. WIN stands for “What I Need”. This dedicated time during the school day gives students extra support or enrichment based on their individual learning needs.

Teachers use classroom work, assessments, observations, and student progress to decide how students will use WIN Time. Some students may work on a specific skill, practice in a small group, review a concept, or receive additional support. Others may take part in enrichment activities or explore topics in greater depth.

WIN Time is for every student. Students who need extra help can receive targeted support, even if they do not qualify for formal Academic Intervention Services (AIS).

WIN Time is flexible. Students may work with a teacher other than their classroom teacher or join a group with students from other classrooms with similar skill needs or interests. Groups may change as students’ needs and progress change.

Our goal is to make sure every student has the time, support, and challenge needed to keep growing. We look forward to building this program throughout the year.

Back-to-School Supply Lists: Keeping It Simple

Following a successful first year, the Orchard Park Central School District is continuing its simplified, district-wide “Basics” Supply List for elementary students in 2026–27. Introduced last year to promote equity and reduce barriers for families, the streamlined lists helped make back-to-school shopping more affordable, accessible, and consistent across the district.

The Basics Supply List is designed to:

- **Reduce costs** by eliminating unnecessary items and keeping supplies affordable.
- **Promote fairness** by providing the same grade-level expectations across all four elementary schools.
- **Improve access to support** by allowing our Family Solutions Center to more easily provide supplies to students in need.
- **Create consistency** with a take-home folder provided by each school.

Teachers may still request a few additional items when necessary, but these requests will remain purposeful and minimal. The district will also continue purchasing select supplies centrally to take advantage of bulk savings.

We are pleased to continue an initiative that has proven successful in making the start of the school year simpler and more equitable for our families.

Supply Lists

🌟Connecting with Our Families and Community

ParentSquare

Over the summer the Orchard Park Central School District transitioned from the iConnect messaging platform, to ParentSquare. (This is the system we use to message families about things like half-day reminders or snow day notifications.) This move is part of our long-range communication plan to make connecting with families easier, more accessible, and more streamlined.

ParentSquare brings district, school, and classroom communication together in one place, helping families stay informed and connected to OPCSD.

All guardians are automatically enrolled in ParentSquare using the email and phone number we have for you in the PowerSchool (our school information system). If you have not already activated your account you can do so at any time using your email or phone number.

However, you do not need to login to ParentSquare to receive messages. Activating your account allows you to customize your notification preferences.

To register for the first time:

1. Visit parentsquare.com/signin
2. In the box marked Register, enter your email address or phone number on file.
3. Follow the prompts to register and set up your notification preferences.

If you have already registered, visit parentsquare.com/signin

ParentSquare automatically generates an account for each parent/guardian, using their preferred email address and phone number. Download the app or log into the ParentSquare web portal.

Once you activate your account you can set your communication frequency and language preferences.

If your email or phone number does not work, contact your school or update your information in the Parent Portal which will then update in ParentSquare, usually within 24 -48 hours.

More Information About ParentSquare

Elementary Pick-Up Information



Our elementary parking lots will remain closed to vehicles arriving for dismissal pick-ups until 2:55 p.m.

We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our campuses safe and accessible for all students and staff.

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





Homecoming is September 26, 2026!





🌟Celebrating Student Growth and Success

Houseknecht Named Student Ex-Officio

Orchard Park High School senior Abigail Houseknecht has been named the ex-officio student member of the Board of Education for the 2026-27 school year. In this role, Abigail 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.

All supervising adults are trained to recognize allergic reactions, and emergency medicines are always accessible. Stock epinephrin is located in all school buildings within our AED cabinets to ensure access if needed.

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 by September 30th.

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🎒