



“Home, School and Community Educating for Life”

Welcome to Olean City School District!

Keyboard Specialist:



Kathleen Gibbons

Tenure – Special Education:



Katie Camp

Teacher Aides:



Anna Button



Denzil Beatty



Emily Bean



Garrett Meardink



Heather Riehle



Janelle Hollowell



Julie Hiller



Kyah Williams



Shea’s – The Lion King

A group of music students went on a field trip to Shea’s Buffalo over winter break to see *The Lion King*. For some students, this was their first experience with professional theatre. Students enjoyed going out to dinner, exploring the theatre, and watching the incredible puppetry in the show!

News From OHS



Poetry Contest

The following OHS students were recognized for their original poems submitted to the Friends of the Olean Public Library Poetry Contest. An Open Mic Night, where students shared their poems with the audience, was held on Thursday, December 19 at the Manufacturers Hanover Building. The following OHS students earned awards:

Grade 10 students

Winner: Diyanah Manar

Honorable Mentions: Angelina Qiu, Mia Bean, Emma Adamski, and Audrey Hoffman

Grade 11 students

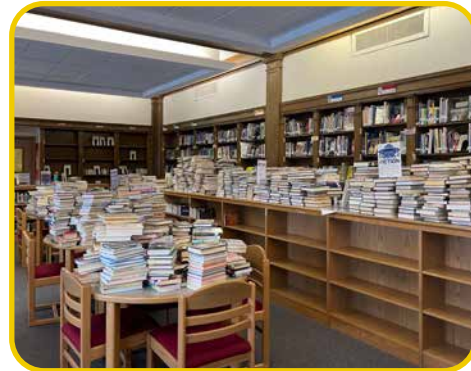
Winner: Braelyn Eaton

Honorable Mentions: Maverick Plants and Mariah Prosser

Grade 12 students

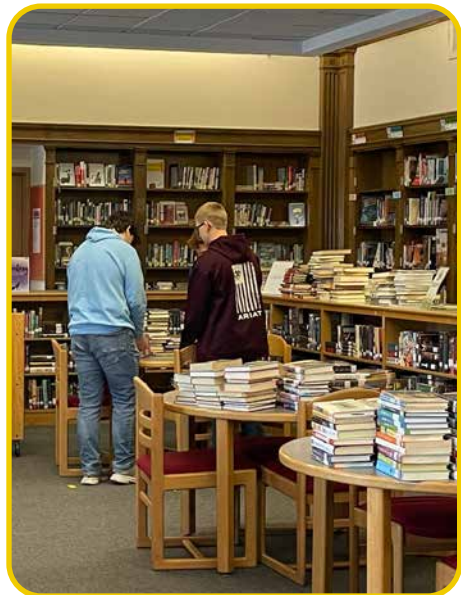
Winner: Zaiden Huy Thach

Honorable Mention: Mia McVinney



Big Changes in the Library

The OHS library underwent big changes recently with the help of many students and staff! We have reorganized and re-cataloged hundreds of books in our fiction section. Initially, it was organized by the author's last name, but we have now organized it by genre instead! Each book had to be handled by a student or staff member to decide which genre we would place the book in. Students and staff alike have been loving the changes and reporting that it's like Barnes and Noble in here! Thank you to all our volunteers; we could not have done it without you!



Andrew Jackson: Tyrant?

The students in Mr. Perry's JCC College Connections history classes took part in a mock trial in which Andrew Jackson was accused of several accounts of Constitutional misconduct: the most severe charge being abuse of power. During his presidency, Jackson was called King Andrew I by his critics, due to his expansion of presidential powers. The students representing the

prosecution called witnesses to show how Jackson's actions were unconstitutional, while the defense brought forth witnesses to show Jackson's innocence. Witnesses were then cross-examined by the opposition and their responses needed to be consistent with the historical witness they portrayed. All participants also had to dress for their respective roles and could earn extra

credit by dressing in period attire. Even though it was a mock trial, the case had tense moments as the lawyers grilled the witnesses to sway the court's opinion toward their side. In addition to learning the course material, students also learned that it is up to the citizens of a nation to hold our elected official accountable to upholding the Constitution.



Connecting Cultures and Building Memories

In mid-December, Ms. Niece's students and Mr. Ahl's JCC level French students came together to make the traditional French dessert: La Bûche de Noël. It is a sponge cake that resembles a Yule Log. This popular French dessert offers the French people a reason

to come together and enjoy the holiday season. Our students took the opportunity to do the same here at Olean High. Two groups of students who are not in the same class came together to make memories and one delicious cake.



DECA Regional Competition at Alfred State College

On December 18, 2024, Olean High School's DECA chapter participated at Alfred State College for a Regional DECA competition. This competition consisted of students not only from Olean but from Hornell, Salamanca, and Whitesville. This special event had several business leaders that served as judges, faculty members, DECA Advisors, student volunteers, and several business education students.

Olean had the most members attend this event with 21 outstanding business students. Each student took a 100-question marketing exam and then performed a business role play showcasing their business knowledge. Eight students advanced onto the next level competing at the DECA's State Competition which is held in Rochester, NY on March 5th, 6th, and 7th.

Sullivan Hoffman, Liam McLaughlin and Michael Bader were the Top 3 Olean students while Sullivan Hoffman was the Top Overall student for the region!

Good Luck to Ava Moran, Lina Chaudrey, Audrey Hoffman, Isabella Flynn, Michael Bader, Sullivan Hoffman, Liam McLaughlin, and Sage Smith as they have begun preparing for their State Competition!



Ski Club

Who loves all the snow? Huskies do! Olean Ski Club members are enjoying an epic winter season at Holiday Valley this year. Students are transported by bus to Ellicottville every Thursday where lifelong memories of skiing or riding the rails with their friends are made. The record snowfall this year and incredible conditions have made this season one to remember forever!



Winter Concert

On December 18th the OHS Music Department presented their annual winter concert. The performance featured approximately 125 music students and included works by P.D.Q. Bach, Randall Standridge, and Kathryn Greisinger. The concert ended with a combined band, orchestra, chorus, community members, and alumnae rendition of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus from the Messiah.



News From OIMS



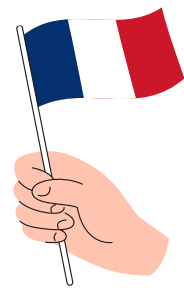
7th Graders in Ms. Cawley's art classes spent the day before the December break challenging themselves to make a wearable



top hat using limited supplies and only one class period. This is a popular challenge that has been taking place for several years.



Students really enjoy seeing how tall they can make their hats and still be able to wear them!



Oh, Là Là!!! Le français, C'est Top!

National French Week was celebrated in each OIMS French class from November 8th through November 13th. This is a week sponsored by the AATF (American Association of Teachers of French) to commemorate all things French and to celebrate the fun experiences in learning the language. This year's motto was "It's all around me, la Francophonie!"



This year's celebration at OIMS entailed five daily theme days: Scarf/Beret Day, Say "Bonjour" to My Teachers Day, Très Chic Day, and, last but not least, Blue/White/Red/Party Day! All of Mrs. Wilton's French classes dressed according to the daily theme, practiced their French listening and response skills with TPR (Total Physical Response) in the



classroom, created their own replicas of French cartes d'identités (ID cards), and, of course, sampled French foods!!

Merci mille fois (many thanks) to all the students who participated, helped decorate our corridors, and read on the daily announcements...en français!

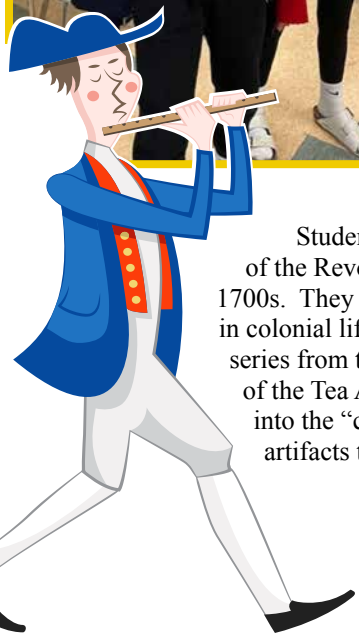
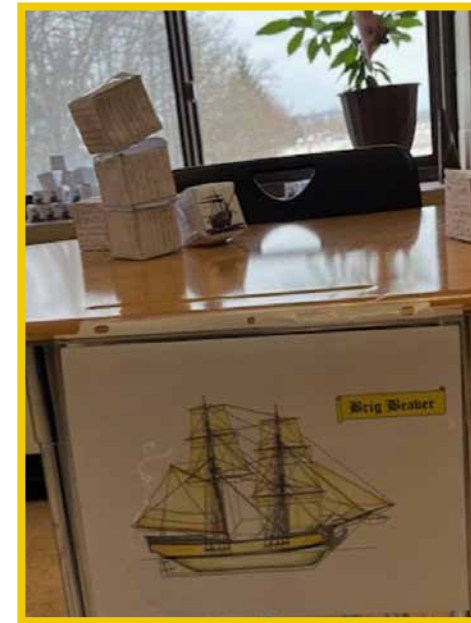


The OIMS Library is full of fun and curiosity!

Recently, we have explored screen-free coding with our new set of Sphero indi robots. After working hard on classification, organization, and research skills, we enjoy some chill vibes with Keva planks, hashtag blocks, chess, or, of course, a good book!



The Winner of the 2024 OIMS Door Decorating Contest and the Keeper of the Coveted Trophy 'til Next Year, was the Nurses Office (Sawaya/Brown)



Students in Mrs. Coulter's 7th Grade Social Studies have been busy studying colonial life and the causes of the Revolutionary War. Students were able to explore and try on various colonial outfits worn during the 1700s. They were also able to read about several colonial games, recipes, and other activities in colonial life with books on this topic. This was part of the Revolutionary Traveling Trunk series from the American Battlefield Trust. Later, after learning about the causes and effects of the Tea Act on the thirteen colonies, students made their own tea crates and tossed them into the "classroom" harbor. Lots of hands-on learning helped bring these historical artifacts to life for students.



Dear Husky Community!

We hope this message finds you well and staying warm during these frigid winter months! We are excited to share that we are in the early stages of planning an upcoming capital project that we believe will positively impact our students and community for years to come. This initiative represents a significant investment in various facets of our facilities. Below is a summary of some of the improvements to be included in the next project:

OLEAN HIGH SCHOOL

- Entrance upgrades to enhance safety and handicapped accessibility
- Roof flashing and parapets replacement
- Upgrade fire alarm and PA system
- Security window film
- Biology classroom renovations
- Sidewalk, manhole, and parking lot upgrades

OLEAN INTERMEDIATE MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Repair cracking terrazzo floors
- Security window film and entry door improvements
- Pool tiling
- Tennis court replacement and lighting
- Replace manholes

WASHINGTON WEST ELEMENTARY

- Crawlspace and foundation repairs
- DDC controls
- Security window film
- Classroom renovations (final 6 classrooms)
- Toilet room updates
- New playground and accessible sidewalks

EAST VIEW ELEMENTARY

- New Elevator
- Mezzanine Improvements
- Concrete stairs and drainage improvements
- Parent drop-off loop

PROPOSITION #2

- OIMS HVAC Systems and Air Conditioning
- OHS Gym, CSE, and Tech Air Conditioning

As we move forward with this project, we want to ensure that you stay informed and have the opportunity to provide input. In the coming weeks, you will begin receiving more detailed information about the project, including key timelines, updates on progress, and opportunities to get involved. You will be able to access more information on our website in the coming weeks. We will also be doing various presentations throughout our buildings on these improvements as well.

We encourage you to keep an eye out for these communications, as we are committed to keeping everyone informed and engaged throughout the process. Your thoughts, questions, and feedback will be invaluable to the success of this project.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to keeping you updated as this exciting initiative unfolds.

Warm Regards,
Jenny M. Bilotta
Business Administrator
Olean City Schools

Washington West Elementary School

LEADERS of the PACK

Our husky pups know the importance of fire safety, in great thanks to the City of Olean Fire Department. Earlier this school year, they learned all about making sure that smoke detectors were working and having a safety plan in the event of an emergency. They know to get low and GO! Stay safe, husky pups, and thank you OFD for always assuring our Olean community is well-protected.



Taking the Stage

Our third graders were immersed in the elements of a drama, and they were enthralled with performing! Several students took on various roles and performed in adaptations of some classic tales, including Peter Pan and Snow White. Their energy and excitement about reading brought the elements of drama to life.



Ice, Ice, Huskies

In thanks to the WW PTO, our husky pups and their families were able to take to the ice for a fun-filled family event. Thank you to the Olean Rec Center for hosting and for welcoming our pup pack to the rink.



Singing through the Season

Holiday spirit was in no short supply, as our second and third graders performed in an Elvis-themed holiday showcase this December. Their voices not only carried through the halls of WW but brought holiday cheer to our families. There certainly was no "Blue Christmas" with these husky pups singing loud and proud!



Our Community

These husky pups took to the greater Olean-community to spread kindness and cheer this winter. Whether they were singing carols to residents at Eden Heights or leaving mystery bags of "snowman soup" for local residents, our pack went on a mission to share kindness and love with Olean.



Follow your Husky Pups on Twitter @OleanWW
Olean City School District Newsletter

East View Elementary School



Congratulations to Mrs. Knight on Her Retirement

Our community wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Mrs. Kathy Knight, one of East View's beloved kindergarten teachers who retired this past December after an incredible 18-year career dedicated to nurturing young minds within our district.

Kathy's impact on the lives of countless children is immeasurable. With warmth, patience, and a genuine love for learning, she created a vibrant and engaging classroom where every child felt valued and supported. Her dedication to fostering a love of learning in her students is truly inspiring.

To celebrate her retirement, students and staff gathered to wish her well. A special edition of "The Night Before Christmas," creatively retitled "The Knight Before Retirement," was read aloud, filling the room with laughter and heartwarming sentiments. This unique tribute, written by Kindergarten staff and

illustrated via current and former students, beautifully captured the spirit of the occasion and the deep affection felt by all for this cherished educator.

Mrs. Knight's contributions extend beyond the classroom. She has been an invaluable member of our school community, always willing to lend a helping hand and share her expertise with colleagues. Her positive spirit and unwavering commitment to our students will be deeply missed.

We wish Mrs. Knight all the best in her well-deserved retirement. May this new chapter be filled with joy, adventure, and countless cherished memories. Thank you, Kathy, for your years of service and for the lasting impact you have had on the lives of our students!



Adventure Awaits for East View Students and Staff

Exciting news for the East View community! Next year, our building-wide theme will be "Adventure Awaits!"

This thrilling theme was chosen by a very special group of students: Mrs. McIntosh's third graders! As part of their recent mathematics unit on data collection, analysis, and interpretation, these youngsters conducted a poll to determine the most popular theme for the upcoming school year.

Students diligently surveyed their classmates, grade level peers, and teachers to gather data on their preferred themes. They then expertly interpreted the results, organizing the information into colorful and informative graphs, as well as a hallway display.

We are incredibly proud of these young mathematicians and their outstanding work! Their dedication to this project and their insightful analysis have helped shape the learning experience for the entire East View community.

"Adventure Awaits!" promises a year filled with exciting learning opportunities for all. Get ready to explore new horizons!

ADVENTURE
AWAITS!



Follow our school on twitter @OleanEastView
February 2025 - March 2025

A Message from Dr. Morris:

Dear Husky Community,

It is hard to believe that we have already reached the second half of the school year. The dedication of our students, staff, and families continues to inspire me, and I am grateful to be part of such a dynamic and supportive school community.

This year, we have made great strides in enhancing student learning, expanding support services, and strengthening our partnerships with families and the broader Olean community. Our students continue to shine in countless ways, from academic achievements to athletic and artistic excellence. I want to sincerely thank our educators and staff who work tirelessly to create an engaging, inclusive, and nurturing environment for all students.

Looking ahead, our district remains committed to ensuring that every student has access to high-quality educational opportunities that prepare them for success beyond the classroom. Our district is actively engaged in curriculum enhancements, staff professional development, and initiatives focused on student well-being. We also continue to advocate for the resources necessary to support our schools and maintain the programs that make Olean a place of excellence.

I encourage families to stay involved by attending school events, engaging in discussions about district initiatives, and providing feedback that helps shape the future of our schools. Your partnership is invaluable, and we will continue to provide the best possible educational experience for all students.

-Dr. Genelle Morris 



A Message from Dr. Morris about OCSD Future Forum:

I would like to ask you to Save The Date for the “Olean CSD’s Future Forum – Preparing the Next Generation for the Workplace and the World”. This community conversation will be held from 5:00 – 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 2025. Who is invited? Anyone who may be affected by our students' success: students, parents/guardians, business leaders, school employees, political representatives, and community members. A light dinner will be available during this event. Space is limited and RSVPs will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. We will share more information about this important opportunity in the upcoming weeks.

RSVP by noon on Wednesday, March 12th, at <https://forms.gle/Xfw4qrBA1KqKpKuQ6> or by calling (716) 375-8018; leave your name, phone number, and email address. All interested parties will receive an email confirmation no later than Friday, March 14.

2025-26 Universal Pre-K (UPK) Open House

The Olean City School District will be holding informational sessions to prepare for Universal Pre-Kindergarten registration and enrollment for the 2025-26 school year. If you have a child who will be 4 years of age by December 1, 2025, you are invited to join us from 5:30-6:30 pm on Tuesday, February 25th at East View Elementary, or Wednesday, February 26th at Washington West Elementary. Please contact Jen Mahar at 716-375-8039 if you have any questions. Information is also available on the District website under Community Schools.

Universal Pre-K (UPK) and Kindergarten Pre-Registration Information

The Olean City School District will begin UPK and Kindergarten pre-registration and screening for the 2025-26 school year in March. If you have a child who will be 4 years of age (UPK) or 5 years of age (Kindergarten) by December 1, 2025, who will be entering the district for the first time, please complete the form below and return it to your neighborhood elementary school or call the school at the number listed below.

SCHOOL	Grade	DATES - 2025		TIMES	PHONE
Washington West Elementary	UPK	Monday	March 10	8:30 AM – 2:00 PM	716-375-8968
	Kindergarten	Tuesday	March 11	8:30 AM – 2:00 PM	
East View Elementary	UPK	Wednesday	March 12	8:30 AM – 2:00 PM	716-375-8921
	Kindergarten	Thursday	March 13	8:30 AM – 2:00 PM	

Child’s name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
First Last

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Phone Number: _____

Please Note: Pre-Registration for UPK does not guarantee placement. Families of students currently enrolled in Olean’s Universal Pre-Kindergarten program do not need to schedule an appointment for Kindergarten.

OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

410 W. Sullivan St.
Olean, NY 14760
www.oleanschools.org

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Jenny M. Bilotta

ECRWSS

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

POSTAL PATRON LOCAL

SAVE THE DATES:
No School Feb. 15th-Feb. 23rd
Winter Break
School Resumes Monday February 24th

No School March 5th for Staff Development

Upcoming Family Events:
March 6th: Junior/Senior/Parent Night
6:00-7:00 PM @ PLC for ACCES-VR
March 12th: FBA/BIP training for parents
6-7:30 @ PLC

Lots of Resources can be found at:
WWW.OLEANSCHOOLS.ORG
Choose **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**
from the top menu and then
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
Lots of great information!

OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mission Statement:
The Olean City School District is a student-centered community of excellence in which all members are challenged to learn, achieve, contribute, and innovate.

Vision Statement:

- The Olean City School District will support excellence by holding everyone to high standards in academics, character, extracurriculars, and service.
- Our district will uphold a culture of acceptance, inclusion, and equity for all, while embracing the diversity of our community. We will create and foster a safe and positive climate for our students, staff and families that is adaptive for the ever-changing needs of society.
- Our students will graduate future-focused, engaged, resilient, and prepared to achieve their goals.
- Our staff will be learner-centered, innovative, inquisitive, professional, and committed to student success.
- Our families will be engaged, collaborative partners in academic success for all.

Guiding Principles:
A commitment to fostering:

- A respectful, safe, and welcoming environment
- Embracing diversity
- Continuous improvement
- Academic excellence and lifelong learning
- Honesty, integrity, responsibility, and accountability
- Student potential and achievement

Strategic Plan Action Steps:

- Create and Support a Positive Culture
- Maximize Success for All
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Progressive and Enriching Learning for All Students
- Engaging Parental and Community Involvement

www.oleanschools.org