

Back to School

September 2023



Welcome Back from Superintendent Lilleck

<https://youtu.be/Xf2xXGARKIE>



Transportation Information 🚌

Updated Transportation Information including bus and time information is available on the Parent Portal. Click the link below to view.

[Parent Portal](#)

Please check back for updates on/or after September 4th as some changes may still occur.

If you have any questions please email transportation@opschools.org.



School Supplies

Click here to access
2023-2024 School Supply Lists



Food Service Information 🍴

Menus 🍴 🍷 🍰 🍕

The Orchard Park Central School District offers a comprehensive breakfast and lunch program for all students in K-12 based upon federal dietary guidelines. The menus are nutritionally analyzed and offer a variety of popular foods designed to please varied palates, including vegetarian options at a great value. A la carte items are available for purchase daily. Monthly menus can be found by clicking the link above.

2023-2024 School Lunch Pricing

Breakfast Grades K-12 - \$2.00

Lunch Grades K-5 - \$2.90

Lunch Grades 6-12 - \$3.00

The District encourages cashless meal purchases. Parents have the option of preloading money onto their child's [MySchoolBucks account online](#). Parents can preload the funds with a credit card or send a check in with their child. Please make checks payable to the Orchard Park Central School District.

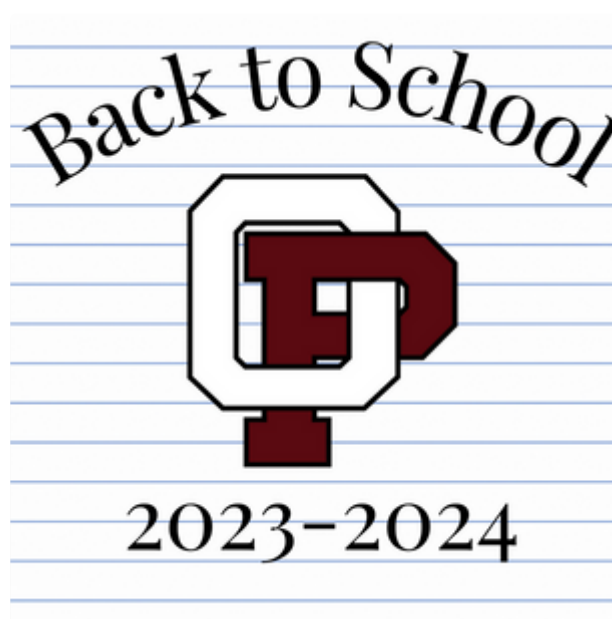
It is essential that anyone who feels they may be eligible for free and reduced meals to fill out the 2023-2024 Free and Reduced meal application that is available below. Procedures are in place to protect the privacy of students participating in the free and reduced program. Receiving Free and Reduced meals does not solely benefit the student receiving the meal, it also benefits the district community; depending on the amount of need within our district, we will receive/be eligible for additional funding. Completed applications should be sent to J. Schwarz at 4040 Baker Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127.

Free and Reduced Meals/Milk

My School Bucks

Printable OP Signs for Back to School Photos

Click the Back to School image below to access printable OP signs to use for your annual back to school photos!



Calendar Distribution

The Orchard Park Central School District will be distributing calendars beginning Friday, September 1, 2023. 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 September 1. 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 Tuesday, September 5. 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 1, 2023:

- 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 2023-2024 school year.



New Staff Orientation

In August the District welcomed new faculty and staff at the New Staff Orientation held at Orchard Park Middle School. New staff members participated in a fun video sharing a little bit about themselves with the Orchard Park Central School District Community.

New Staff 2023



Welcome New Administrative Team Members



Krista George

This summer Krista George joined Ellicott Elementary as the Assistant Principal. She joins Orchard Park from the Depew Union Free School District. Krista plans to work to uphold a student-centered environment that allows students to explore and learn at Ellicott Elementary.



Stephanie Hall

Stephanie Hall joined Eggert Elementary as the Assistant Principal this summer. She comes to Orchard Park from the Grand Island Central School District. Stephanie hopes to bring a team mentality to Eggert as she plans to work with families, faculty, staff, and administration to ensure success for all students.



Jaimie Knight

The Orchard Park Middle School welcomed Jaimie Knight as one of the two new Assistant Principals this summer. Jaimie comes to Orchard Park from the Hamburg Central School District. Jaimie considers it a privilege to serve in a leadership role that allows her to contribute to the growth and development of the students, staff, families and greater Orchard Park community.



Dan Reiford

Dan Reiford joined Orchard Park High School as the House III Principal this summer. He comes to Orchard Park from the Cheektowaga-Sloan School District. Dan is eager to start the school year and begin supporting and building relationships with the faculty, staff, students and parents with the Orchard Park High School community.

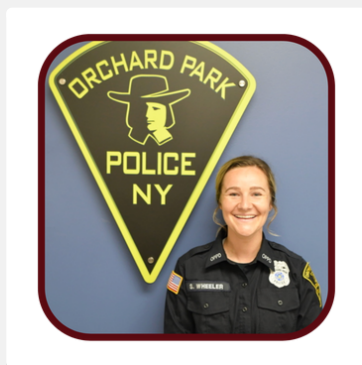


Katelyn Welker

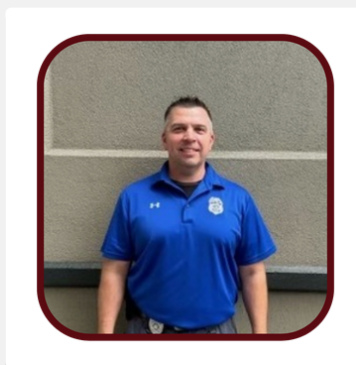
The Orchard Park Middle School welcomed Katelyn Welker as one of the two new Assistant Principals this summer. Katelyn comes to Orchard Park from the Pioneer School District. Katelyn strives to work collaboratively, communicate effectively, and be a reliable administrator.

Welcome Elementary School Resource Officers

Beginning this fall, the District will welcome two elementary School Resource Officers, Officer Wheeler and Officer Putnam. Officer Wheeler will be the School Resource Officer at Eggert and Windom and Officer Putnam will be the School Resource Officer at South Davis and Ellicott.



Officer Wheeler



Officer Putnam

Pathway to Presence✓ A Goal for Increased Student Attendance

The Orchard Park Central School District will be partnering with families during the 2023-2024 as we strive to maximize the potential of each student everyday. One of the most important components to achieving this goal is to have students in school, ready to learn, each day. Just missing a few days each month (even in kindergarten) can add up and result in academic and social gaps. Statistically, students that are chronically absent are at a higher risk of dropping out of school, which can directly limit future aspirations. This year we will be launching a proactive approach to assist students and families to overcome attendance barriers by connecting students and families directly with school staff or our Family Solutions Center.

According to Attendance Works, a nonprofit that advocates for policies to improve school attendance, nationally, the percentage of students chronically absent doubled during the pandemic and is higher than ever, at more than 20%. Chronically absent is defined as missing at least 18 days in a school year. Missing direct instructional time can have an impact on academic achievement. As we navigate new “norms”, we are recognizing attendance needs and want to partner with families and the community to build resilience and provide support for success.

With this in mind, as a District, it is important for us to understand the attendance barriers facing students and families. Having two-way, pro-active communication is essential to this understanding, which is why this fall families will begin receiving information on how many days your child has missed school. We recognize that student absences can accumulate without us realizing how many have occurred, and are often due to illness or other unexpected circumstances.

If you begin to notice your child struggling with coming to school, please reach out so we can work together. We are excited for our families to join us on the Pathway to Presence and help all of the children of Orchard Park CSD maximize their full potential!

Virtual Backpack

The Virtual Backpack is a place where you can find informational flyers from the school, the PTO, and community organizations that were distributed previously in paper form. They are posted as printable PDFs to afford easy access for parents and will remain posted throughout the school year.



Please note: On occasion, a school may opt to send home a paper copy about an event; however, community organizations may only submit flyers in PDF form for posting to our Virtual Backpack.

If your non-profit group has a request to have a flyer approved for posting to the Virtual Backpack, please email the flyer to jbecker@opschools.org for consideration of approval by the Superintendent or designee. Please have your flyer approved at least 10 business days prior to your event.

Virtual Backpack

Community Education Registration Available Online

The Community Education course catalogue is now available online! Visit www.opschools.org/communityed to research, register and pay for Community Education classes.



Parent Portal

At least one parent from each student household should maintain a Parent Portal account and ensure that the email address and phone number are current. If you have login problems, please click the **Parent Portal HELP** button located at the bottom of the portal login screen. One login will provide access to information for all of your children.

With this account, you will have access to: Report Cards, Attendance History, Bus Information, Student Schedules, Test Scores and Parent Notification Preferences.

If you already have an account, you do not need to re-register each year. Parents who prefer to have information mailed home should make a request directly to their child's school building.

If you do not receive an email OR have any problems, please contact pshannon@opschools.org for assistance.

Parent Portal

Incident Command Training

On August 17, 2023, the Orchard Park CSD administrative team engaged in professional development and training with the Orchard Park's Chief of Police, Chief Fitzgerald. Incident Command System training, or ICS, is a training that the District has undergone in years prior, and it is essential to ensure we are revisiting training and onboarding new members to our team. ICS training established a command structure, with common language and protocols, to ensure that any incident involving

health and safety can be addressed in a highly effective manner. The District appreciates the partnership we have with the Orchard Park Police Department.



Investing In Our Future Educational Facilities Project Updates



The Investing In Our Future Educational Facilities Project was overwhelmingly approved by voters in May of 2022.

We are currently in Phases I and II of the project. Phase I includes the replacement of the athletic turf field at the high school. The Quaker Stadium will be ready for competition by Homecoming weekend. Phase II of the project includes all elementary playground updates. Playground work will be complete

between early September and late October and will include inclusive areas for students and areas for Pre-K students.



This view is from the new home bleachers which are under construction and not yet completed in the photo. You can see the completed new artificial turf and the relocated visitor bleachers at the far side of the field. 📍 🗺 🏗



The former Eggert playground has been completely removed. All of the new equipment has been installed. The poured in place rubber pathways are in place and the artificial turf surfaces are nearly finished! We can't wait for the Eggert students to test it out as the school year begins!



The existing playground at Windom has been completely removed. Some former pieces of playground equipment are being given to the Town of OP Recreation Department for reinstallation at one of their playgrounds. Windom's playground is built into a hill and this view is from the bottom of the hill looking up towards a large focal point structure near the center of the new playground. Check out this awesome slide which is approximately 18 feet long and follows the contour of the hill.



ABOUT THE ORCHARD PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

 Facebook


 @OPSchools


The Orchard Park Central School District covers approximately 50 square miles and includes portions of six adjacent townships: Orchard Park, West Seneca, Hamburg, Boston, Elma, and Aurora. We have four elementary schools, a middle school and a high school, serving more than 5,000 students.

We are continuing a long tradition of excellence in academics, athletics, service, and the arts. Our schools are known for outstanding academic achievement at all levels. More than 90 percent of our graduates advance to higher education.

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