

OP Schools Update

June 2023

Congratulations 2023 Graduates!

The Class of 2023 is an outstanding representation of young leaders who will work to improve our community. They have collectively earned over 14.7 million dollars in scholarship money, have given back to the community through volunteer work, and have advocated for causes that are near and dear to their hearts. We are exceptionally proud of all they have done in Orchard Park and we look forward to seeing what they accomplish in the future!

Scroll to the bottom of the newsletter to see more graduation photos!



Congratulations Retirees

Congratulations to our retirees. Collectively, our retirees have worked in the Orchard Park Central School District for more than 677.8 years! We will miss their experience and knowledge, and we thank them for their continued dedication to our district. We wish them well in their future endeavors!



A Message from Mr. Lilleck

I wish all of you a fun and relaxing summer with family and friends. I appreciate the strong relationship that we have with our parents, guardians, and community members as we work together to maximize the potential of all of our students. It has been a fantastic year as we continue to reflect and grow in our mission, we look at things a bit differently than we may have in the past; through a lens of celebrating our diversity and examining ways in which we can grow to be more inclusive and equitable. This work continues to allow us to build upon the foundation of excellence that has been in place in OPCSD for decades.



I would also like to congratulate my colleague Lisa Krueger, Ed.D, who has served as our district's Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Pupil Services in our district. Dr. Krueger has been appointed as the new Superintendent for the Newfane Central School District and will be leaving this summer. Newfane is a very special place to Dr. Krueger as she is an alumna of Newfane. Her knowledge, experience and leadership will be greatly missed here in Orchard Park.

Enjoy the summer! Relax, spend quality time together, and recharge and see everyone for the 2023-24 school year!

Class of 2023 Top 10



The Top 10 graduates pose for a group photo outside of the Orchard Park High School.

One member of the Top 10 chose not to be recognized.

[Complete Top 10 Bios and Information](#)



Owen Duckham

Owen Duckham will be attending Northeastern University to study Computer Science. Owen hopes to be able to responsibly advance the field of machine learning (AI) and use technology to help resolve systemic societal problems. Owen is the son of Elizabeth and Alan Duckham.



Ashley Ferguson

Ashley Ferguson is the Class of 2023 valedictorian. She will attend the University of Virginia to study Medical Anthropology and Neuroscience. She hopes to improve our healthcare system and work toward reestablishing patients' health as a priority. Ashley is the daughter of Kimberly and David Ferguson.



Lillian Gottstine

Lillian Gottstine will attend St. John Fisher University to study Biology in hopes of becoming a genetic counselor. Lillian hopes to change the world by seeing the good in all people. Lillian is the daughter of Amy and John Gottstine.



Meghan Graulich

Meghan Graulich is attending Clarkson University to study Biomedical Engineering. In the future, she hopes to improve medical technology to help those with health issues. Meghan is the daughter of Wendy and Kurt Graulich.



Michael Hill

Michael Hill will attend Ohio State University in the fall to study physics with hopes of working in space exploration. Michael plans to make the world better by working to advance our understanding of the world and people around us. Michael is the son of Michelle Bailey and Christopher Hill.



Olivia Kirk

Olivia Kirk will be attending Xavier University to study Biomedical Sciences. She hopes to find a career where she can work with and help people every day. She values kindness and aims to always spread smiles to those around her. Olivia is the daughter of Allyson and Kevin Kirk.



Madison Rozic

Madison Rozic is the Class of 2023 salutatorian. She will be attending Williams College to study Political Economy and Studio Art. Madison plans to pursue a career in international humanitarian law, which will allow her to fight for human rights on a global scale. Madison is the daughter of Pam and Mike Rozic.



Maura Schaff

Maura Schaff is attending the University of Utah to study Business and Entrepreneurship. She plans to create positive change in the business world and use her knowledge and skills to better herself and a future company. She also aims to be a positive influence on those around her and encourage others to appreciate the life we have. Maura is the daughter of Jennifer and Michael Schaff.



Nicholas Turner

Nicholas Turner will attend SUNY Binghamton in the fall to study Spanish. Nicholas plans to become a Spanish teacher and in doing so aims to make the world better by inspiring education. He plans to motivate students to understand the value of education and to pursue the things that interest them. Nicholas is the son of Ellen Saeli and Steven Turner.

South Davis Students Create Their Own Drip Paintings

In June, several South Davis Kindergarten, first and second classes learned about Jackson Pollock and his famous “drip paintings” with Miss Bleem, the art teacher. The students were artists in action as they learned about ‘process art’. The classes enjoyed the process, let the art flow, and left with some incredible artwork!



Eighth Grade Celebration

On Friday, June 9, eighth graders enjoyed a day of celebration in anticipation of their transition to Orchard Park High School in the fall. It was a day filled with awesome activities, including a dunk tank, bounce houses, a photo booth, and more!



Ellicott Student Council Donates Art Supplies to Children of the Military

Ellicott's Student Council fundraised for the second year in a row in support of Operation COM (Children of the Military). Student Council was able to raise about \$350 dollars and used it to donate art supplies for their summer program.



Students at Eggert Elementary Turn Quotes into Vibrant Keepsakes

Students in Health and Wellness class at Eggert Elementary researched quotes that had meaning or were inspirational to them and transformed them into keepsakes. Students worked on making designs with washable markers and dry-erase boards to create colorful backgrounds to display their quotes.



Scholastic Achievement Recognition Dinner

This year, the Erie Niagara School Superintendents Association hosted the annual Scholastic Achievement Recognition Dinner at Salvatore's Italian Gardens, on Thursday, May 18. The top three students from all public, private, parochial, and charter high schools in Erie and Niagara County were recognized.

This unique program is sponsored and supported through a strong school-business-community partnership along with the Erie Niagara School Superintendents Association. To date, they have honored more than 8,800 public, private, and parochial school graduating seniors for academic excellence. Orchard Park celebrated Ashley Ferguson, Meghan Graulich, and Madison Rozic.



Third Graders at Windom Cruise to the Erie Basin Marina 🚢

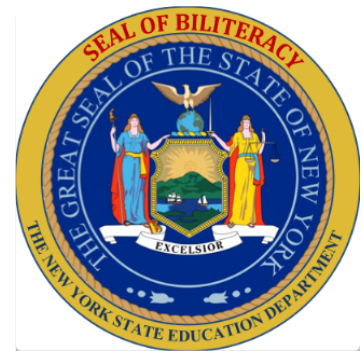
In June, Windom Elementary's third-grade students went on an exciting field trip to the Erie Basin Marina. Prior to the outing, the students learned about the Erie Canal and the significance of trade with Canada. Students and staff enjoyed a great experience aboard the Miss Buffalo.



Seals of Biliteracy

Seventeen members of the Class of 2023 received Seals of Biliteracy on their diplomas!

- Sofia Baker, Abby Campion, Peter Falcone, Ashley Ferguson, Vivian Mutty, Madison Rozic, Maura Schaff, Elliot Stephenson and Nicholas Turner received the seal in English and Spanish.
- Nicholas Boswell, Madeline Mogavero, William Ramsey, and Rosalie Takacsy received the seal in English and French.
- David Mioviski received the seal in English and Macedonian.
- Aglaya Zinenko received the seal in English and Russian.



Two students received TWO Seals of Biliteracy, also known as the Seal of Triliteracy.

- Maili Novak received two seals for English, French, and Czech.
- Megan Woodward received two seals for English, French, and Spanish.

DARE Graduation

In June, fifth grade students at South Davis and Windom Elementary graduated from the D.A.R.E. program. The students spent the 15 weeks of the program meeting with Orchard Park Police Officer Kristen Mazur, learning and discussing ways to appropriately make decisions that could impact their lives.

Through this program, students acquire the knowledge and skills needed for responsible decision-making using the D.A.R.E. Decision Making Model. They also learn to navigate challenges like negative peer pressure, ensure their safety on social media platforms, understand the risks associated with alcohol, tobacco, and vaping, and tackle the issue of bullying.

Congratulations fifth graders! 🎉



OPHS COPS Students Visit the Unified Court System

At the end of May, the COPS (Crime or Punishment in Society) class at Orchard Park High School went on a field trip to the Unified Court system in Buffalo. The class was able to see arraignments in City Court, the holding cells and learn about the process for the Erie County Sheriffs department, meet Judge Carney, and a tour of Family Court.



ArtSplash

ArtSplash the annual district-wide art show was held in May. ArtSplash provides an opportunity for Orchard Park students in elementary, middle and high school to showcase their talents and passion for creativity in an authentic presentation. It is a true collaboration between the school district and the community. The district is proud of our students and our outstanding art teachers who help and guide students to realize their creative potential regardless of their career aspirations.



7th Annual Shoe Fashion Show

Elements of Fashion students at the high school held a shoe fashion show on May 31, 2023. Students painted and decorated shoes of their choice and displayed them during the fashion show that the students planned.



Groundbreaking

On Wednesday, May 24, the District broke ground on the first phase of our capital project that voters overwhelmingly approved in May of 2022. Work at the athletic complex has already begun. We thank the community for all of their support.

Educational Facilities Project



End of the Year Elementary Highlights🌟



Writing Celebration 🖋️

First Graders at Windom enjoyed an end-of-the-year writing celebration!



Pen Pals 🐦

Students at Ellicott and South Davis were Pen Pals this year, writing to each other every month. They were able to meet at the Pen Pal Picnic in June.



Baby Chicks 🐣

Pre-K Students at Eggert were able to learn about the chick life cycle and even used an ovascope to watch chicks develop inside of the eggs until they hatched!



Duck, Duck, Goose 🦆

South Davis Kindergarten classes combined to play one big game of duck, duck goose!



Snuffle Mats 🐾

Fourth Graders at Ellicott designed and created "snuffle mats" (to encourage play for pets). They also collected blankets, towels, stuffed animals, and leashes for the SPCA of Erie County.



Glow Day 🌟

Second Graders at Windom enjoyed a Glow Day!

Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

The Orchard Park High School Athletic Department is pleased to announce the 2023 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees.

The selection committee has chosen the following individuals among many student-athletes, coaches and administrators who have contributed to Orchard Park's long and proud tradition of excellence in the area of scholastic athletics. This year's inductees are Phil Aronica (class of 2010), Emily Girasole (class of 2009), Jason Januszkiewicz (class of 1997), John Klanac (class of 2006), David Patronik (class of 2002), Lalaine Podkulski (class of 1972), Sandy Trampert



(Coach) and the 2015 Orchard Park Varsity Softball Team.

The selection to the Hall of Fame compliments each individual's highly successful athletic career at the Orchard Park High School and their accomplishments beyond their years as a student at the Orchard Park High School.

The Hall of Fame festivities are planned around the 2023 OPHS Homecoming Weekend. This year's homecoming is Saturday, September 30, 2023. Our inductees will be honored in the homecoming parade, at a brunch in the OPHS Cafeteria and introduced before the varsity football game.

Upcoming Alumni Events



2023
OPHS ALL CLASS REUNION
And Scholarship Fundraiser
.....
FRIDAY, JULY 28 ~ 7 - 11 PM
.....
Wings Meeting Place
3964 California Rd, Orchard Park

LIVE BAND FEATURING "THE DAWGS"
TICKETS ~ \$25 Pre Sale \$30 at the Door

This year we will be awarding a scholarship to an Orchard Park Senior who is pursuing a career in the Trades.

ALUMNI ~ FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!





GOLF

TOURNAMENT, LUNCH & RAFFLE



SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

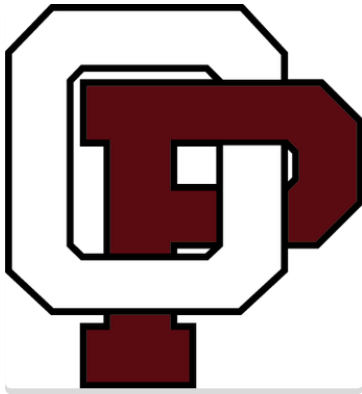
Golf: Harvest Hill Golf Course, 3052 Transit Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127

Lunch: Buffalo's Best Grill, 3700 Southwestern Blvd., Orchard Park, NY 14127

 **REGISTRATION:** <https://quakersconnect.org/>

[Register Here](#)

Congratulations Graduates 🎓



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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