

OPHS PTO NEWSLETTER



As we welcome the arrival of spring, we embrace the season of renewal and fresh opportunities. With the days growing longer and the weather warming, it's a great time for students to refocus on their academic goals and finish the school year strong. As John Ruskin once said, *"Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, and snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather."* With the last traces of winter behind us, we look forward to a bright and busy season ahead at Orchard Park High School.

Before we fully dive into spring, let's take a moment to celebrate all the incredible achievements of our students over the winter months. Many of our student clubs and academic teams participated in regional and state-level competitions this winter. 17 members of our OPHS DECA team, that competed at Regionals in Niagara Falls in December, have been chosen to compete in the State competition that will take place in March. Our wildly talented Visual Art department students held a full blown fashion show that highlighted student shoe designs. All aspects of the show were student led and we had a wonderful turnout. Our bands, choruses, and orchestras have filled our Auditorium with sounds both familiar and unfamiliar. The exposure our directors give our students to both standard and new repertoire is inspiring. Technology students competed in the annual "Tech Wars" competition that was held in January at SUNY Niagara. Whether it was large & small bridge design, wind turbine design or a variety of other STEM challenges our OPHS students won the championship for the 5th consecutive year. Our student athletes also represented us well in both competition and the community with four teams, Boys Varsity swimming - Varsity Rifle - Girls Varsity Ice Hockey - Boys Varsity Ice Hockey, bringing home championships. Most importantly we have so many students involved in such a wide array of activities that breathe life into our work each and every day. Whether you were brand new to an activity or you are a Senior bringing home a championship we can't thank you enough for making our school such a special and vibrant place.

As the ice thaws and the sun shines a little brighter, we look forward to a Spring season filled with more exciting activities. We want all of our students to be able to benefit and to do so we need each and every student here each and every day. Attending school consistently is essential for academic success, personal growth, and future opportunities. Each day in the classroom provides students with valuable learning experiences, social interactions, and critical thinking skills that help prepare them for life beyond high school. Regular attendance builds strong work habits, responsibility, and resilience—qualities that are key to achieving long-term goals. Let's encourage our students to make the most of this time—to show up, to set new goals, embrace challenges, and take advantage of all the opportunities OPHS has to offer. Thank you for your continued support of Orchard Park High School and we look forward to an amazing Spring together!

Go Quakers!

Mr. Brandon Pafk, OPHS Principal

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Class of 2025 Fundraiser
- OP Student Benefit
- Post Prom Information
- Thank You to our Post Prom

OPHS Class of 2025 Fundraiser

Let our bunnies help you make a special day! Our bunnies will hide candy or toy stuffed eggs in yards from 8-12 pm on Easter Eve!

April 19

Let our bunnies make a special egg hunt for kids young & old!

Get Egged

\$25 for 25 stuffed eggs

\$40 for 50 stuffed eggs

\$50 for 70 stuffed eggs

\$20 for 20 Dog Treat eggs



Egg your house!!

Egg your families' houses!

Egg your friends!!

Egg your neighbors!!

All proceeds go to a great cause- keeping our graduating class safe on prom night!

Please order here:

<https://orchardparkhspto.membershiptoolkit.com/form/m/321948>





**PURCHASE OR
DONATE TODAY**

Team Tommy Fundraiser

**\$30 per
ticket**



Saturday, May 3

7 PM - 11 PM



Wings Meeting Place

3964 California Rd, Orchard Park

Special thanks to 
myDMDHERO

**Raising funds for necessary
equipment & home accessibility
modifications**

Unlimited beer and wine

Raffle baskets & 50/50

Cash bar

Door Prize

Live music

Pizza

No Animals Allowed | No Outside Food or Beverages Allowed

EMAIL US

TRParzyFund@gmail.com

CALL US

716-341-4993

OPHS PTO DONATIONS 2024 - 2025

**We would like to thank the following people for
PTO Donations!**

Nicole Avitahl-Curtis

Jennifer Bushen

Karen Fuentes

Jill Skoba

Lynn Stoltz

Autumn Houseknech

Lauren Sikora

Kristen Maloney

Valerie Velasquez

Kristen Casto

Julie Wengewicz

Anna Roberts

Lindsey Clader

Lauren Russo

Cameron Macon

Angela Stewart

Andrea McGrath

Brooke Bain

Amanda Talty

Sara Kogut

Patty Balthasar

Valerie Velasquez

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Anyone wishing to submit information for the newsletter should email: ophspto@gmail.com by the **FIRST OF THE MONTH!**

If this falls on a weekend, please be sure to get your entries in before then! Preferred document formats are **Microsoft Word** or **images** (jpg, png, etc.). PDF documents are difficult to incorporate. If you'd like us to format your information for you, just send the text and let us know to format.

PTO & Post Prom Meeting Dates 2025

PTO MEETING

Note: Meetings will take place in-person in the LMC Library on the 2nd floor of the high school. Please be certain to join PTO via the Membership Toolkit website to ensure the emails are sent to you!

Monday, March 24, 2025* - 7PM

Monday, April 28, 2025* - 7PM

Monday, May 19, 2025* - 6PM **(Updated time!)**

*** Post Prom meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on these dates.**

Post Prom Meeting

Post Prom planning is underway! Fundraising events are being planned, prizes are being collected, and entertainment options are being researched! Letters have been sent to local businesses requesting their support in the form of sponsorships, gift cards or prize donations. If you are a business owner, or you know of a business that may be interested in supporting this drug- and alcohol-free event for seniors, please encourage them to do so. Likewise, if you would like to make a personal donation, you can do so through your Membership Toolkit account.

If you'd like to help out, please reach out to Post Prom Chair Maureen Bass at MBass@abramslaw.com or join us at the next Post Prom planning meeting on **March 24th at 6:00 pm** in the HS Library/Media Center. Parents of any student in any grade can help; not just parents of seniors.

OPHS Nominations List for PTO Positions for 2025-2026: Welcome! Here is the list of open PTO positions for the next school year. This list includes Chairs needed for events and Representatives needed for committees. There are a certain number of slots available for the committees. If you're interested in chairing an event you don't have to do it alone. Feel free to ask a friend and chair the event together.

These positions are a 2 year term:

Vice President

Treasurer

Newsletter Editor

Nominating Chair

Membership Chair

BET (Building Effectives Team) Representative - 1 position

STAP-Comm (Students, Teachers, and Parents) Representative- 3 positions ILC
(Instructional Learning Council) Representative - 1 position

New Student/Freshman Orientation Chair

Fall Homecoming Coat Check Chair

Fall Homecoming Refreshments Chair

Staff Appreciation Lunch Chair

Spring Homecoming Coat Check Chair

Spring Homecoming Refreshments Chair

Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction Reception Chair

World Languages Honor Society Induction Reception Chair

Underclass Awards Reception Chair

These positions are a 1 year term and should be a parent of a senior: Senior Class
Assistants - 2 positions

Post Prom Coordinators - 2 positions

For more information regarding the duties and responsibilities of each Chair or Representative, please follow this link to read descriptions of each. [OPHS PTO Descriptions](#)

Feel free to reach out to the PTO President Jen Domzalski at jmdomzalski@hotmail.com for more information as well.





POST PROM INFORMATION 2024-2025



The Post Prom Party is the largest PTO event of the year and will be held on May 31, 2025 immediately following Prom. The Post Prom Party is a safe, alcohol-free event for OP Seniors and their Prom dates. OP Seniors do NOT need to attend Prom in order to attend the Post Prom Party.

In past years, almost 400 students have attended the Post Prom Party. The students enjoyed entertainment, refreshments, and prizes. In 2024, the PTO gave away more than \$2,000 in prizes and \$3000 in cash, with one lucky senior winning the grand prize of \$2024.

The success of Post Prom depends upon the generosity of parents, community members, and local businesses in making monetary and prize donations. The fundraising campaign begins NOW!

Please consider **making a donation** and/or **serving on the Post Prom Committee** by coming to a Post Prom meeting or emailing the Post Prom Coordinator. Donors are recognized in the monthly PTO newsletter and your donation is tax deductible.

Donations of any amount are gratefully accepted. Suggested donations levels are:

\$ 20.25	2025 Club (2026, 2027 & 2028 Clubs also available)
\$ 50.00	Principal's Club
\$100.00	Superintendent's Club
\$150.00	Community Sponsor
\$250.00	Activity Sponsor
\$500.00	Premier Raffle Sponsor

You can make a donation **online through your Membership Toolkit account**
or **you can mail it** to:

OPHS Attn: Post Prom
4040 Baker Road
Orchard Park, New York 14127

The next **Post Prom Committee** meeting will be held on **February 24th at 6:00 pm**. All are welcome to join us to help plan the party! Parents of underclassmen are encouraged to attend as well!



POST PROM DONATIONS & SPONSORS



Premier Raffle Sponsor (\$500)

Sam Puleo

Activity Sponsor (\$250)

Leo's Pizzeria

4Tth Wave Technologies, LLC

Ventura's Carstar Collision

Purtill Plumbing

Community Sponsor (\$150)

American Legion Post 567

Chiro First Wellness Center

Bauer Service Inc. Marathon/Tim Horton's

Bank Street Auto and Truck, Inc.

Illuminate Heath & Wellness

McAllister Plumbing & Heating Inc.

National Air Cargo, Inc.

OP McDonald's Restaurant

Kumon Math and Reading Center of Orchard Park

NYCM Insurance

Buffalo Sports Garden



POST PROM DONATIONS & SPONSORS



Superintendent's CLUB (\$100)

Sheila Eagan

Jill Pawlowski

Cristi Occek

Principal's CLUB (\$50)

Keiko Papaj

Andrea Shurtliffe

Shannon Dommer

Chris Popek

Lynn Halter

Lucie Bowers

Custom Donation

Thomas Johnson Realty

Prom
Night

POST PROM DONATIONS & SPONSORS



Chiro
First Wellness
Center



American Legion Post 567



Illuminate Health & Wellness



McAllister
PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING





POST PROM DONATIONS & SPONSORS



\$20.25 CLUB

Tara Rosa
Joy Higgins
Nicole Avitahl-Curtis
Tara Barclay
Jill Edwards-Tills
Nicole Danna
Sheila Eagan
Nancy DeBroka
Jennifer Carducci
Jillian Chudzik
Shannon Fisher
Danielle Schwanekamp
Jennifer Breitwieser
Jennifer Meyer

\$20.25 CLUB (cont.)

Lucie Bowers
Maureen Quagliana
Renee Wall
Nicole Zelasko
Jen Domzalski
Margaret Anderson
Lori Matthews
Lindsay Wright
Erin Mastroianni
Parkland Professional Park
Angela Dorsheimer
Louie's Texas Red Hots
Wolf Agency, Inc.
Main Street Ice Cream

Donations are current through 3/1/2025



POST PROM DONATIONS & SPONSORS



\$20.26 CLUB

Nicole Avitahl-Curtis

Karen Fuentes

Rosanne Sanchez

Erin Homer

Jennifer Breitwieser

Shannon Dehn

Jill Pawlowski

Lisa Taips

Erica Patterson

Sarah Jahnke

Erica Carr

Anna Roberts

Erin Mastroianni

\$20.27 CLUB

Nancy DeBroka

Jennifer Duff

Amanda McCormick

Courtney Wahowski

Rebecca Jubulis

\$20.27 CLUB (cont.)

Maura Watson

Sarah Rera

Tammy Vitko-Woods

Kelly Kerl

Renata Doerr

Julie Szczublewski

Karry Kazial Backes

Heather Kasprowicz

\$20.28 CLUB

Jennifer Duff

Caren Chaffee

Amanda Talty

Sarah Jahnke

Mark Blum

Deanna McDonald

Brooke Bain

Donations are current through 3/1/2025



COUNSELING DEPARTMENT INFORMATION



March News

From the High School Counseling Department

- Counselors met with all ninth and tenth graders to review/update course requests for next year. Students have until June 1st to make changes to their requests.
- All students in the high school have access to [Scoir](#), an online college and career tool. Your student is able to use Scoir from any computer with internet access once their account is activated. Most students activated their accounts this fall. However, if your child does not have an account and would like one, please have them contact their school counselor. Scoir contains helpful information for all students and will be used throughout high school to assist students with their post-graduation planning.
- The School Counseling Department recently delivered a lesson through English classes to all juniors. The lesson consisted of a review of graduation requirements and an introduction to the college process. As part of the lesson, each student received a maroon folder with useful information specific to what was discussed in the lesson. Please review this information with your student. As a follow-up, we will be meeting individually with each student to go over course selections for their senior year and to discuss their specific post-high school plans in more detail. At that meeting, they will be shown a copy of their transcript listing the courses taken, final grades, and credits from grades 9 through 10. For a detailed breakdown of the college application process, please click [HERE](#).
- The [Buffalo National College Fair](#) will take place at the Buffalo Convention Center on March 19th and March 20th. OPHS Juniors will go on a field trip to the fair in the morning on March 19th. Families are encouraged to attend the evening session on March 19th.
- Students and families are invited to join SUNY representatives for an in-person College Fair designed to provide information and answer questions about the college search process and all that is available to undergraduates at The State University of New York. The event will take place at SUNY Brockport from 6 PM to 7:30 PM on Tuesday, April 29, 2025. Register here: https://engage.suny.edu/portal/suny_college_fairs
- Beginning in fall 2025, Canisius will launch the full-tuition [Buffalo Promise Scholarship](#). This award automatically covers 100% of the cost of tuition after any government aid for up to four years of undergraduate education at Canisius for eligible accepted students from the Buffalo area. The student must currently live in Buffalo, defined as a ZIP code beginning with 142. Check out the website for information and eligibility requirements.
- OPHS is a test center for the May 3rd SAT (registration deadline 4/22/25) and June 14th ACT (registration deadline 5/9/25). Please visit the [ACT](#) and [SAT](#) websites for details and registration information.
- The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is now available for the 2025-2026 academic year. All students attending college in Fall 2025 and their parents need to complete the FAFSA. Click [here](#) for more information.
- The NYS TAP application is open for the 2025-2026 academic year. Click [here](#) for more information.
- The High School Counseling Department hosts a Google Classroom for each grade level. Ask your child to log in and check out the latest announcements.
- Check out the [School Counseling page](#) of the high school website. It includes a variety of resources for students and parents.
- Save the date - Financial Aid Night for Parents of Juniors will be held on Thursday, May 8th at 7 PM in the High School Commons.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION INFORMATION

SAT PREP COURSE

Orchard Park Community Education will be offering an **SAT Prep Course**. The course begins the week of March 24th. The fee is \$165 for the 5 week course that meets two evenings per week. Sign up and pay online at www.opschools.org/communityed or register in person at the Community Education Office (cash or make checks payable to Orchard Park Central School District). Please register by March 7th. Call 209-6295 for more information.

DRIVER EDUCATION

Information on the 2025 summer session of Driver Education will be available on the District website (www.opschools.org) in early April. All students will need to pre-register on-line. Registration dates and times will be listed. Please call 209-6295 with any questions.



5-HOUR PRE-LICENSING COURSE

5-Hour Pre-Licensing Courses will be held on the following dates at the Orchard Park High School:
Monday & Wednesday, April 7 & 9 6:30-9:00pm

You must attend both evenings, be 16 or older and have a valid NYS Learner's Permit. There is a \$40.00 fee. Sign up and pay online at www.opschools.org/communityed or register in person at the Community Education Office (cash or make checks payable to Orchard Park Central School District). Call 209-6295 for more information.

