

# Orchard Park Schools Update

November 2022

## November Highlights With Superintendent, Dave Lilleck

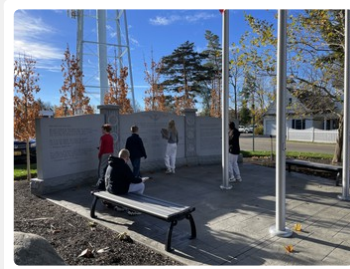
November Update from Superintendent Lilleck



## Thank You Veterans

### Mr. Jafarjian's Students Visit Veterans Park

On Wednesday, November 9, OPMS Social Studies Teacher, Mr. Jafarjian took his classes to visit Veterans Memorial Park. Students worked with a partner to complete a scavenger hunt to learn about the park. The goal was to have students connect with their community by doing a deep dive into what Veterans Park. They viewed statues, read plaques and generally got to know this beautiful space. The students then walked back to school and discussed what they had learned.

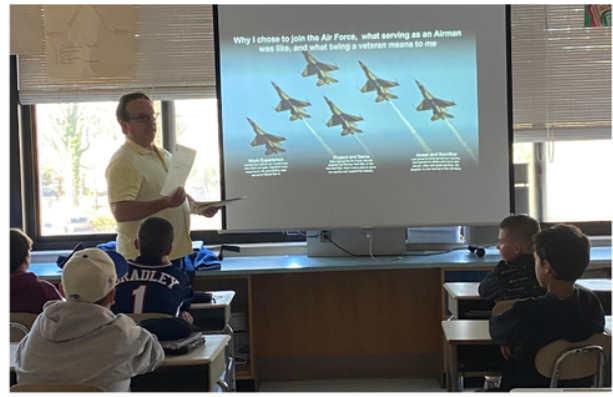


On Thursday, November 10th Veterans Day was celebrated throughout the District!



The Mariner base at Orchard Park Middle School invited veterans from each branch of the military to speak with students on their base on Thursday, November 10. Thank you: Mr. Akios: Army, Mr. Rothenberger: Air Force, Mr. Cassidy: Navy, and Mr. McPherson: Marines!





**Fourteen Senior-Athletes Committed To Play Their Sports at the Collegiate Level Next Year**

**ORCHARD PARK ATHLETICS**

Gabriel D'Angelo, Hudson Valley, Baseball / Brooke Halter, Utica University, Gymnastics /  
 Charles Fischer, Mercer University, Golf / Brennan Hart-Nova, Sacred Heart University, Tennis /  
 Maura Langdon, SUNY Cortland, Lacrosse / Robert Leach, St. John Fisher University, Baseball /  
 Jack Lucidi, College of St. Rose, Lacrosse / Frank Neeson, Cortland, Lacrosse /  
 Sullivan O'Brien, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Lacrosse / Molly Ryan, Daemen University, Volleyball /  
 Rosalie Takacsy, Eastern Michigan University, Soccer / Kailey Vaillancourt, Clarion University, Softball /  
 Joscelyn Wabick, Utica University, Gymnastics / Nicole Woroszylo, Duquesne University, Rowing /

## SABAH

Students in the New Rising learners class at Eggert Elementary and a Special Education class at Orchard Park High School have the opportunity to go and skate with SABAH once a week throughout the school year. During each session the students work on developing their skating skills. This is an amazing opportunity and experience for our students! Check out the video below to see some clips of their first day on the ice!



SABAH



## National STEM Day

In honor of National STEM Day earlier this week, we wanted to share some of the STEM learning that is going on in our classrooms throughout the Orchard Park Central School District.

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. STEM education teaches kids more than science and mathematics concepts. The focus is on hands-on learning with real-world applications that help to develop a variety of skills.

## National STEM Day at Orchard Park CSD



## SRP Recognition

Tuesday, November 15 is SRP Recognition Day. Our school-related professional employees include nurses, teacher aides, bus drivers, bus aides, monitors, cleaners, mechanics, secretaries, clerks, technology aides, computer support personnel, laborers, and custodians. These professionals are partners in the success of our students. They come to work with a “can do” attitude and know that they make a positive difference every day, no matter their role, and are a key component in a student’s educational success. Their work, time, care and effort, means so much to our teachers, administrators, parents, and students. We should be thanking them each and every day.



## **Orchard Park High School Recognized as 2022 National Blue Ribbon School**

November 3 and 4, David Lilleck, superintendent of schools along with Jon Wolf, OPHS principal and Emil Erlandson, OPHS Technology teacher attended the 2022 National Blue Ribbon Ceremony in Washington D.C.





## Author Jerry Pallotta Visits Windom Elementary

Author Jerry Pallotta presented to students at Windom Elementary on Wednesday, October 26 and Thursday, October 27. The students prepared for Pallotta's visit by reading his books, creating a variety of their own artwork, and using his books as an inspiration for their own writing. Windom even hosted a giant "Who Would Win" tournament to get ready for the visit.

Jerry Pallotta is an award winning author of children's alphabet books, imaginative fiction and the very popular *Who Would Win* series. He has been writing children's books for 30 years and has written over 90 books and sold over 10 million books. He grew up going to Peggotty Beach in Massachusetts and often uses those experiences to inspire his books.

The Windom PTO, Principal Phil Johnson, faculty and staff, and librarian Jim Clark collaborated to make this exciting and enriching experience happen for Windom students.



## South Davis Students Create A Collaborative Mural

South Davis Elementary Art teacher, Miss Bleem helped South Davis students visually represent how they will make their mark on South Davis Elementary and their community. In Art class students learned about collaborative art and what it means to work together and to plan and design their artwork to be part of a larger piece. They discussed organic lines and patterns and used the philosophy of the book *The Dot* with the idea “just to make a mark and see where it takes you”. Students followed a bingo chip around their paper with a marker to create unpredictable organic lines. The students filled in all the sections that they created with different colors and patterns using 4 different art supplies: colored pencils, markers, oil pastel, and watercolor paint. Fifth-grade students then worked together to arrange all of the individual dots, made by each K-5 student at South Davis, into a large collaborative mural in a rainbow design.





## Word Detectives at Ellicott

Students in Mrs. Silver's class are given missions each day to help them become better readers and word detectives. Their missions are strategies to improve their reading skills like, looking at all parts of the word to solve hard words. This week first graders in Mrs. Silver's class officially earned their Word Detective badges! Now that they're word detectives they'll have even harder missions to help them become stronger readers!





## Spanish Speaking World Students Study Día de los Muertos

The students in the Spanish Speaking World course have worked hard to study how Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is celebrated. Students worked in groups to create the ofrendas for deceased celebrities featuring authentic Mexican ofrenda elements and items important to the people to honor the lives of the dead.



## NYSSMA Junior High Area All-State Music Festival

Students competed at the 2022 NYSSMA Junior High Area All-State Music Festival to gain a seat in their respective honors ensemble (Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Jazz) based on their outstanding scores at the last NYSSMA Solo Festival. The students competed at Akron High School on November 4 and 5.



## STEM Club Participates In Regional Rocketry Challenge



The OPHS STEM Club did a phenomenal job representing our school on October 22 by launching their custom-built rockets at the Geneseo War Plane museum! The club had two teams participate in the Regional Rocketry Challenge, a MOOG hosted event. Teams needed to design a rocket to travel to approximately 850 feet in elevation and remain aloft for approximately 40 seconds, all while transporting a raw egg! Both teams put in a lot of hard work and brought home awards for their efforts.

Team "We're going to France, Baby!" (WGTFB) reached a height of 915 feet on their first launch and 796 feet on the second. They graciously brought 3rd place back to Orchard Park.

Dressed all in pink acknowledge to breast cancer awareness month, and to pay homage to their rocket, Team "Barbie Girls" brought home 4th place and a spirit award for their perfectly planned outfits. Their first launch went up 917 feet and the second launch reached 791 feet. This team was also awarded the "Best Second Launch" award, indicating that their adjustments between flight were excellent engineering choices.

STEM club advisor Mr. Betrus said, "I was amazed how many kids we had staying after school every day as we pushed to prepare for competition day. They made three amazing rockets that met the required criteria. What was even more exciting was that they made adjustments to their rockets during the event so that their second launches were even better than their first."



## **Third Grade Students Visit the Agricultural Education Center**

The third grade classes at Eggert Elementary went to the Agricultural Education Center at the Erie County Fairgrounds on Tuesday November 8. Students rotated through stations to learn about turkeys, fall harvest foods, and Thanksgiving celebrations. There were connections to science concepts, such as buoyancy, and ELA/social studies concepts with Native American legends. Students participated in fun activities: building a model cornucopia, making pumpkin pie, and mapping out the planting patterns representative of the Native Americans.



## Parent Information Series Continues with "Talking To Children About Tragedy"

The 2022-2023 Parent Information Series continues with a presentation by Dr. Amanda Nickerson called *Talking to Children About Tragedy*.

Given recent violent and tragic events in our community and the nation, parents often grapple with how to discuss these issues with their children. In this presentation, Dr. Amanda Nickerson, professor of school psychology and director of the Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention at the University at Buffalo, will provide tips and best practices for adults to talk with children about these topics. Representatives from the Orchard Park School District will be onsite and available to answer questions about how our schools approach these conversations with students.



The presentation will be held on November 15 at 7 p.m. in the Orchard Park High School auditorium. There is no registration required to attend this in-person event.

Dr. Amanda Nickerson is a professor of school psychology and director of the Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention at the University at Buffalo, the State University of New York. Her research focuses on school crisis prevention and intervention with an emphasis on school violence and bullying and the critical role of family, peers, and schools in preventing violence and building the social-emotional strengths of youth.

The Parent Information Series will continue in January with *Anxious Children In School*, presented by Kimberly Morrow.



**Click the November Image Below to Access the November Calendar**



## **ABOUT THE ORCHARD PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**



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@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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