

# QUAKER NEWS



## FROM THE DESK OF MR. PAFK:

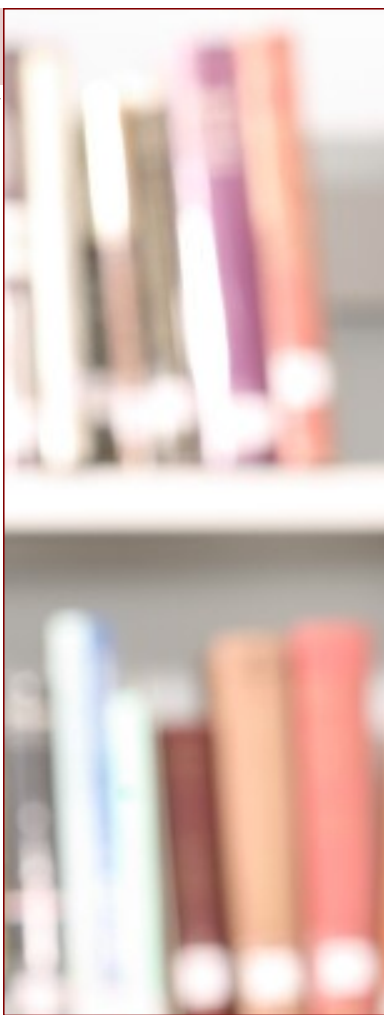
We are off to a fantastic start to our 2023-2024 school year. Our hallways are filled with smiles, conversations of what is happening at athletic events or marching band competitions, and students are busy fueling their interests with the many clubs and activities that are being offered. Utilizing these various opportunities is a great way to explore what drives and motivates as well as builds friendships and deep rooted connections to our school community.

We held our in person Open House on Thursday September 21st and it was a huge success! It is not surprising that we have great energy and enthusiasm from our students as our parents and families exuded that same energy throughout the evening. Our virtual Open House can be accessed on the school's website and will remain active through Monday October 2nd.

Homecoming 2023 is almost here complete with a week of Spirit Days, pep rally, Friday night Flag Football game, parade, carnival, Football game, and Homecoming Dance. Not only does this bring a level of excitement to our school but it is also a great time to reflect on the pride we take in what we do. You should have received a communication providing more information regarding these events in your email, however, you can also access them through our Virtual Backpack on the school website.

It has been such a great experience, for me personally, to be reconnected with all of you and to be able to be part of another momentous chapter in your children's life. We have something special here in Orchard Park and I am honored and humbled to be a part of it. I look forward to seeing you in the stands, on the sidelines, or in the seats throughout the course of this year. Thank you for supporting your children, our school, and our community. Go Quakers!

Mr. Brandon Pafk, OPHS Principal



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Homecoming Info.....	2-3
Counseling Office Info.....	4
PTO Info.....	5-11
Driver's Ed Info.....	12

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Join in the family-friendly homecoming weekend events!
- Please consider attending our PTO meetings!

# 2023 Homecoming Dance

## *Purchase Your Tickets ONLINE!!*



**Who:** Only Orchard Park High School students (grades 9 – 12)

**Date:** Saturday, September 30, 2023

**Time:** 7:30 – 10:30 p.m.  
(Doors will open at 7:00, and students will not be admitted after 8:30 p.m.)

**Place:** Orchard Park High School gym

**Ticket Sales:** Tickets are \$22 (online only)

**\*Tickets will be sold online from Thursday, September 21 through Thursday, September 28 ONLY!  
Students' current OPHS student ID will serve as the ticket.**

Orchard Park High School has the pleasure of having one of the most well attended homecoming dances in the area. We are proud of our reputation for providing our students with a happy, healthy, and safe evening that they are sure to remember.

**All Orchard Park High School rules as outlined in the *Orchard Park High School 2023 – 2024 Student Agenda and Handbook* apply to the Homecoming Dance.**

Please review with your child the enclosed information regarding our expectations for the Homecoming Dance. These expectations are designed to help ensure that our students have another safe and fun-filled evening.

**Keeping Kids Safe (KKS) Meeting:** In order for students to attend an Orchard Park High School dance, parents/guardians must view the “Keeping Kids Safe” (KKS) video and acknowledge they have done so before their students may purchase a Homecoming ticket. The video is linked on the Parent Portal as “KKS Signoff.” **The final opportunity to meet this requirement is the last day of ticket sales, Thursday, September 28, 2023.**

## Tickets

Homecoming dance tickets are to be purchased **ONLINE** on the Orchard Park Central School District website at <https://www.opschools.org/hsdance>. Once there, click on the Homecoming Dance link found on the left-hand side of the page. At the time of ticket purchase, students will have to choose which door they would like to enter when they arrive at the dance, either Baker Rd. or Freeman Rd. side. This is done to expedite getting students into the building.

Upon entering the dance, **ALL STUDENTS** must have their current OPHS Student ID, which will serve as their ticket.

**NO ID = NO ENTRANCE TO THE DANCE!**

## Drop off / Parking

Students, whether driving themselves or being dropped off, should arrive and park on the side for which they purchased their ticket. They may leave the dance through either exit.

## Appropriate Dress

Dance attire is **SEMI-FORMAL** and should be in line with the code of conduct as published in the 2023 – 2024 *OPHS Student Agenda and Handbook*.

Attendees should be dressed with the following guidelines in mind:



- A collared shirt, tie (long or bow), dress pants, belt, and dress shoes. (A jacket or sport coat is nice but not necessary.)

- Dresses, dressy pants, skirts, and shoes that are safe and comfortable being worn all night.

- **For health and safety reasons, students may not go barefoot at any time.**



- Students wearing informal attire, such as shorts, t-shirts, jeans, Crocs (or other foam shoes), or gym shoes will not be allowed entrance.

- Students will be denied entry at the discretion of administration for items that are not expressly mentioned here but that are deemed inappropriate at the time of arrival.

## A Note

*Your child's health and safety is of utmost importance for us. Please feel free to call the school at 716-209-6242 with any questions.*



## From the High School Counseling Department:

- The High School Counseling department met with the Junior and Senior classes the first week of school for the Fall College Assembly. A plethora of information related to the college planning process including SATs, recommendations, athletics, applications, financial aid, SCOIR, and much more was discussed.
- The Eastman School of Music, in collaboration with The Juilliard School and Ithaca College will co-host the Upstate New York Music College Fair on Monday, October 16th. Please visit the [Eastman](#) website for details and registration information.
- The Western New York Collegiate Consortium of Disability Advocates will be hosting a college night for students with disabilities interested in learning about the transition from high school to college. The event will take place at Daemen University on October 17th, 2023. Colleges and agencies that support this transition across the state will present valuable information. Please visit the [WNYCCDA](#) website for details and registration information.
- The OP Pride application is due November 1st! Any interested seniors should apply! The application is available on the [School Counseling page](#) of the high school website.
- OPHS is a test center for the October ACT, November SAT, May SAT, and June ACT. Please visit the [ACT](#) and [SAT](#) websites for details and registration information.
- During the months of September and October, the High School Counselors met with seniors for their Senior Check-In to discuss post high school plans. Options including college, trades, military, and employment were discussed.
- The High School Counseling department hosts a Google Classroom for each grade level. Ask your child to login 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.
- The Scott Krueger Memorial Scholarship application will be available the week of October 9th. Each year, two OPHS seniors are chosen to receive a \$10,000 annual scholarship valued at \$40,000 over four years. Applicants must have a GPA of 90% or above, have 4 credits of math and science, and have participated in at least one season of athletics at OPHS. Additional information and the application are available on the Scholarships-Class of 2024 Google Classroom. All seniors have access to this classroom.

Dear High School Parents:

Welcome or welcome back! We hope that you had an enjoyable summer and that you are excited that your child will soon be heading back to school. The **PTO is looking forward to supporting the students, teachers, staff and families and returning to our schedule of events and activities for the year!** Towards this end, *we hope that you will consider getting involved.* Here are a few ways to do that:

**Join**

**Join the PTO** - Membership is only \$5 and can be done quickly and easily online, through Membership Toolkit. **Instructions for joining online can be found in this packet.** **Emails related to PTO-sponsored events, activities and volunteer opportunities are sent to members through the Membership Toolkit website, and members have access to the online directory of all PTO member families.** You can choose to volunteer IF you wish too - never any pressure, we just really appreciate your membership!



Join the **Orchard Park High School PTO Facebook page**. We use the page to keep parents informed about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities, and we share other information important for high school parents. The page can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1396662093956394/> or by searching "Orchard Park High School PTO" on Facebook.



**PTO meetings** - We meet at OPHS in the LMC (Library) in the back room, it is located on the second floor across from the house 2 office. A list of meeting dates is included in this packet. **Our Schedule is mainly the last Monday of the month**, however due to holidays, we may need to adjust. This year May's meeting is a bit earlier in the month. We do not meet in December.



Stay informed. Read the **monthly PTO newsletter** available on the HS website (click on "Parent Resources" and then "PTO"). The newsletter contains information about what's happening at the High School, and often contains requests for volunteers. An email will be sent when the newsletter is posted.



**Volunteer to help.** As volunteer opportunities become available throughout the year, they will be communicated through PTO emails, on the Facebook page and in the monthly PTO newsletter.

*We hope you enjoy the last days of summer!*

Tracy Brege, President  
[tracybrege@verizon.net](mailto:tracybrege@verizon.net)

Donna Aylsworth, Vice President  
[donna.aylsworth@verizon.net](mailto:donna.aylsworth@verizon.net)

Nicole Avitahl-Curtis, Secretary  
[NAvitahl-Curtis@outlook.com](mailto:NAvitahl-Curtis@outlook.com)

Karen Fuentes, Treasurer  
[karen.fuentes8888@att.net](mailto:karen.fuentes8888@att.net)

## OPHS PTO Membership: Instructions to Join Using Membership Toolkit Online



Membership dues for the 2023 - 2024 school year are just \$5.00 per family.

The PTO will be using Membership Toolkit again for our communications, online store, online membership, volunteer signups and directory.

- If you DO NOT have a Membership Toolkit account from previous years, please follow steps #1 - #11 to create an account and join the PTO.

OR

- If you already have a Membership Toolkit account, please LOG IN and follow steps #7 - #11 below (You may omit steps #1 - # 6)



### To create a Membership Toolkit account:

1. Go to <https://orchardparkhspto.membershiptoolkit.com/>
2. Click the “Register / Log In” button
3. Click the “Create Account” button on the right side of the page underneath “New User?”
4. Provide your first and last name, email address, create a password and click the “Verify My Email” button
5. Go to your email and click the “Verify My Email” button
6. Enter your password where indicated on the verification screen and click the “Create Account” button

## To join PTO:

### 7. Click on “Step 1: Family Information”

- Provide or confirm the requested information.
- Click the “Next Step” button.

*Note: if you indicate that you want the second parent to be able to manage the account, they will receive an email and will have to accept your invitation to do so. They will need to create their own account.*

### 8. Proceed to “Student Information”

- Click “Add Student” to enter your first OPHS child’s name and grade.
- Do not enter Classroom Teacher.
- If needed, click “I have another student” to add additional OPHS children to your profile.
- When all HS children have been entered, **click the “Save” button in the lower right side of the page.**

### 9. Click on “Step 2: Directory Publish Preferences”

- You can also choose which information you would like shared in the directory by unchecking any boxes containing information you wish to keep private.
- **Click the “Save” button in the lower right side of the page** to save your preferences.

### 10. Click on “PTO Membership 2023-2024” under “Store & Data (Information) Forms” to complete your membership.

- Click the “down” arrow to the far right of the “Membership for Families” section and select the number “1”
- If you choose to make an **optional donation to the PTO**, please enter your donation amount in the box to the right of the “Donation of your choosing” under **“General Fund Donation.”**
- Click **“Add to cart and checkout”**
- If you choose to make an **optional donation to Post Prom**, you will have the option to do so on the “Checkout” screen.
  - You will receive a message that states, *“Note: You have not completed the following optional forms. You should consider reviewing them before completing your transaction: Post Prom Donation 2023-2024”*
  - Click the link that says, “click here.” This will take you to a page with multiple donation options
    - If you choose a predetermined amount, select the drop down box under “Qty” and make your selection
    - If you make a donation of your choosing, please scroll to the bottom and enter the amount of your gift next to “Post Prom General Donation.”
  - Click “Add to cart”
  - Click “Proceed to Checkout”
- For any store purchase, you can pay online through your PayPal account or using a credit or debit card or mail a check or cash to “OPHS PTO, 4040 Baker Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127.”

\*\* Volunteer opportunities will be posted through the Membership Toolkit as they become available.

## **OPHS PTO Facebook Page Information**

***Please join the OPHS PTO Facebook page!***

It's a convenient way to find out what's going on at the High School, stay informed about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities and stay updated on other information important for high school parents.

To join, go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1396662093956394/>

or enter "Orchard Park High School PTO" in the search box on Facebook.

***\*\* Please be sure to answer the "membership questions" prior to submitting your request to join the page! \*\****





## PTO Meeting Dates 2023-2024



**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, September 25, 2023 - 6PM**

Monday, October 30, 2023 \* - 7PM

Monday, November 27, 2023\* -7PM

Monday, January 29, 2024\*- 7PM

Monday, February 26, 2024\* - 7PM

Monday, March 25, 2024\* -7PM

Monday, April 29, 2024\* - 7PM

**\*\*Monday, May 20, 2024\* - 6PM - (Post Prom Meeting at 7PM)**

\* Post Prom meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on these dates, beginning in October

\*\* Please note time change from standard meeting schedule

## PTO Event Dates OPHS 23/24

Tuesday	Aug 29	Senior Tie Dye	10am-1pm
Wed	Aug 30	New Student/Freshman Orientation	6pm-8:00PM
Thurs	Aug 31	Welcome Back Breakfast	7:30am-10:00am
Sat	Sept 30	Fall Homecoming Dance	7:00pm
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Sept 25</b>	<b>PTO Meeting</b>	<b>6:00pm**</b>
Mon	Oct 30	Post Prom Meeting	6pm
Mon	Oct 30	PTO Meeting	7pm
Mon	Nov 27	Post Prom Meeting	6pm
Mon	Nov 27	PTO Meeting	7PM
Fri	Jan 26	Staff Appreciation Lunch	All Day
Mon	Jan 29	Post Prom Meeting	6pm
Mon	Jan 29	PTO Meeting	7pm
Sat	Feb 3	Winter Homecoming	7:00PM
Mon	Feb 26	Post Prom Meeting	6pm
Mon	Feb 26	PTO Meeting	7pm
Mon	Mar 25	Post Prom Meeting	6pm
Mon	Mar 25	PTO Meeting	7pm
Thurs	April 11	Tri-M Music Reception	7pm
Thurs	April 18	World Language Honor	7pm
Mon	Apr 29	Post Prom Meeting	6pm
Mon	Apr 29	PTO	7pm
Fri	May 10	NHS Reception	7pm
<b>Mon</b>	<b>May 20</b>	<b>PTO Meeting</b>	<b>6pm**</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>May 20</b>	<b>Post Prom Meeting</b>	<b>7pm**</b>
Wed	May 22	Underclass Awards	7pm
Fri	May 31	Senior Picnic	
Sat	June 1	Post Prom	Late Night

\*\*Please note time change from standard meeting schedule to avoid STAP-COMM conflict

# 2023 – 2024 OPHS PTO POST PROM INFORMATION



The Post Prom Party is the largest PTO event of the year and will be held on June 1, 2024 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 2023, the PTO gave away more than \$10,000 in prizes and more than \$2000 in cash, with one lucky senior winning the grand prize of \$2023.

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 **signing up to serve on the Post Prom Committee**. 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:

\$ 20.24	2024 Club (2025, 2026, and 2027 Clubs also available)
\$ 50.00	Principal's Club
\$100.00	Superintendent's Club
\$150.00	Community Sponsor
\$250.00	Activity 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

You can sign up to become a member of the Post Prom Committee through your Membership Toolkit account

The first **Post Prom Committee** meeting will be held on **Monday, October 30, 2023 at 6:00 pm**

## **DRIVER EDUCATION**

Check the district website in November for information on the Winter/Spring session of Driver Education.



## **5-HOUR PRE-LICENSING COURSE**

5-Hour Pre-Licensing Courses will be held on the following dates in room 115 at the Orchard Park High School:

- Monday & Wednesday, October 16 & 18, 2023 6:30-9:00pm
- Monday & Wednesday, December 4 & 6, 2023 6:30-9:00pm

You must attend both sessions and be 16 or older and have a valid NYS Learner's Permit. There is a \$40.00 fee. Sign up and pay online on the district website under Community Education 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.

