

OPHS PTO NEWSLETTER



Hello Quaker Families,

I hope everyone has been able to enjoy this amazing Fall weather we have gotten. It certainly has been great to be able to watch our students learn, compete and enjoy our campus in the October rays of sunshine.

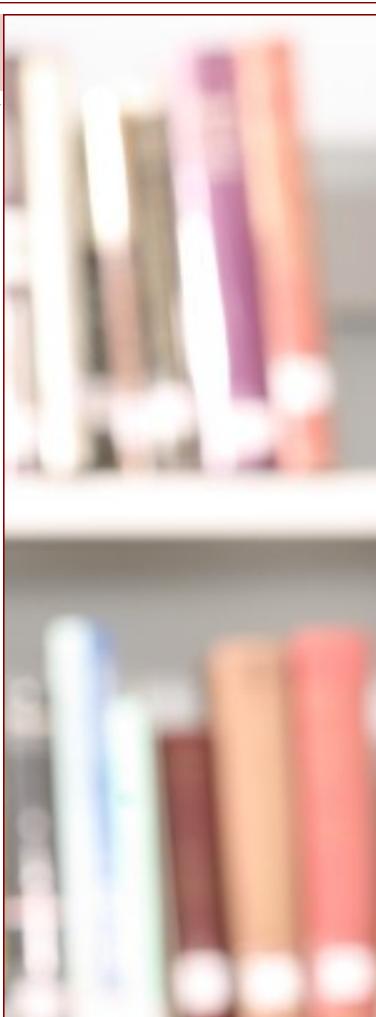
As we have settled into the year we have had a strong and positive start. Students have worked hard in the classroom wrapping up our 1st quarter of instruction. We hope that your child is sharing what they are learning in class, however, if they have left that out at the dinner table don't hesitate to ask them. We have students building gliders in Technology class, acting out Shakespeare in English class, immersing themselves in French, Spanish and Latin culture and so much more! It is invigorating to walk our halls observing all the different topics and styles of learning our students are engaged in.

It is very important that we have our Quakers in classes each and every day. We currently have a 95.4% attendance rate which is fantastic! Thank you for ensuring that your child is here ready to go every day.

We hope to see you at our fall athletic playoff games, our concerts and our fall Drama *Two Witches, No Waiting. Go Quakers!*

Sincerely,

Brandon Pafk, OPHS Principal



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

STAP Comm Adopt a Family... 2
PTO Membership Drive..... 3-4
PTO Special Thanks.....5
PTO Donations.....6
PTO Info..... 7-8
Post Prom Info.....9
Post Prom Donations.....10-11
Counseling News.....12
Days off/Early Dismissal.....13
Driver's Ed Info.....13
Music Boosters.....14

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- PTO Membership Drive
- Post Prom Information



Dear Orchard Park Community,

OPHS STAP-Comm is continuing the tradition of “adopting” a family afflicted by cancer and providing them a safe and memorable Christmas. This year we have two families of **4**.

We would be grateful to any parents or community members who would like to make contributions by purchasing gift cards as we work to provide a Merry Christmas for this family during this troubling time. We are looking for gift card donations from the following locations: **Wegmans, Tops, Walmart, Target, Amazon, GrubHub, Kohl’s, Marshalls, Sunoco, Five Below, InstaCart, TJ Maxx, Dicks, Bath & Body Works, & restaurants**, various denominations are appreciated.

We are asking that all gift card donations (have students drop off at OPHS) are received by **Wednesday, November 20th**. Please contact:



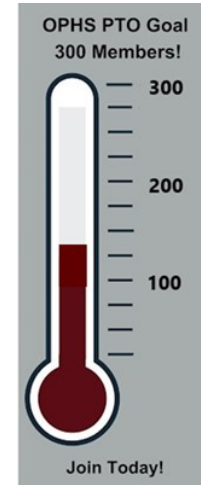
Elise Kubiak (HR 163) or Mr. Bove
(above@opschools.org) with any questions!



Thank you!

OPHS PTO Membership Drive!

Welcome to OPHS! Our PTO is excited to bring events and support our kids in activities this school year! Please support the PTO & learn more about what the PTO is all about!



The PTO NEEDS your support!

We started the drive with 100 memberships

We currently have **130** memberships - Our goal is to have **300**

Please help us to reach our goal by

Joining the PTO (\$5 Membership), and considering contributing with an extra donation!

<https://orchardparkhspto.membershiptoolkit.com/>



All parents are welcome to attend the PTO meetings! It's a great way to learn about what's going on. Get the latest information from our Principal and Teacher Rep, Parent Reps (ILC, BET, STAP-Comm) and more.

What does the OPHS PTO do?

We host 2 events celebrating OPHS staff:

Welcome Back Breakfast (Aug.)

Staff Appreciation Lunch (Jan.)

The OPHS PTO supports many events for students all school year through funding and providing volunteers.

Events include:

Ice cream at Freshman/New Student Orientation (Aug.)

Senior Tie-Dye (Aug.)

Senior Picnic BBQ lunch (June)

Fall and Winter Homecoming Refreshments and Coat Check (Sept./Feb.)

National Society of Science Scholars Reception (March)

Tri-M Music Honor Society Reception (April)

World Languages Honor Society Reception (May)

National Honor Society Reception (May)

Underclass Awards Reception (May)

Post Prom Party (May)

The OPHS PTO has representatives on many high school committees that include parents, teachers, administrators, and students. These committees work hard to solve problems and enhance the school experience as a whole for our kids.

These include:

STAP-Comm (Students, Teachers, Administrators, and Parents Committee)

BET (Building Effectiveness Team)

ILC (Instructional Leader Committee)

If you are already a PTO member, THANK YOU!

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PTO FOR THE APPLES



Biology Department Cider Day

Mr. VanDerwater brought biology to life and led over 400 Biology students in a hands-on learning experience on Monday, October 28th. Students got to make fresh apple cider with a press while learning about cell biology, ecology, and local history. Thank you to the OPHS PTO, who funded the purchase of the apples!



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

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 Meeting Dates 2024-2025

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, November 25, 2024* - 7PM

Monday, January 27, 2025* - 7PM

Monday, February 24, 2025* - 7PM

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.**

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!***
Also, you must rejoin the page each year!





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 **servicing 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, and 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 **Monday, November 25, 2024 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



\$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
Lucie Bowers
Maureen Quagliana
Renee Wall
Nicole Zelasko
Jen Domzalski
Margaret Anderson

\$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

Donations are current through 11/1/2024



POST PROM DONATIONS & SPONSORS



\$20.27 CLUB

Nancy DeBroka

Jennifer Duff

Amanda McCormick

Courtney Wahowski

Rebecca Jubulis

Maura Watson

Sarah Rera

Tammy Vitko-Woods

Kelly Kerl

Renata Doerr

Julie Szczublewski

\$20.28 CLUB

Jennifer Duff

Caren Chaffee

Amanda Talty

Sarah Jahnke

Mark Blum

Deanna McDonald

Premier Raffle Sponsor

Sam Puleo

Superintendent's CLUB

Sheila Eagan

Jill Pawlowski

Cristi Occek

Principal's CLUB

Keiko Papaj

Andrea Shurtliffe

Shannon Dommer

Chris Popek

Donations are current through 11/1/2024



November News!

From the High School Counseling Department

- 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 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.
- College Application season is underway! Students must fill out a [Transcript Request Form](#) for each college application completed. Please give your teachers and counselors at least two weeks notice when requesting transcripts and letters of recommendations. Common deadlines and Transcript Request Form due dates can be found [here](#) on the [School Counseling page](#) of the high school website.
- Parents of seniors, please encourage your student to be aware of the following college application deadlines:
 - Transcript Request Forms must be turned in to the school counselor by November 1 for a November 15 deadline.
 - Transcript Request Forms must be turned in to the school counselor by November 15 for a December 1 deadline.
 - Transcript Request Form must be turned in to the school counselor by December 11 for a January 1 deadline.
 - Transcript Request Form must be turned in to the school counselor by January 6 for a January 15 deadline.
- The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is expected to be available on or before December 1, 2024. Click [here](#) for more information.
- The NYS TAP application will open on December 1, 2024 for the 2025-2026 academic year. Click [here](#) for more information.
- Sophomores are invited on a field trip to the Ormsby Career and Technical Education Center on December 13th to observe hands-on programs available to take during their junior year. Counselors will hand out informational fliers and permission slips in HR during the week of November 18th. Permission slips are due on December 2nd.
- The Scott Krueger Memorial Scholarship application is due on Friday, November 8th. 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 2025 Google Classroom. All seniors have access to this classroom.



DAYS OFF & EARLY DISMISSAL

Days Off: 11/11, 11/27, 11/28 & 11/29

Early Dismissal: 11/15

DRIVER EDUCATION



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





Orchard Park Music Boosters

It's time to Join or Donate!!!

Visit us online at:

www.opmusicboosters.com

Who are we?

An organization devoted to enhancing and supporting Music Programs across the Orchard Park School District: including band, orchestra, chorus, and other K-12 music programs.

Who does this program benefit?

Everyone! Orchard Park Music Boosters benefits all students involved in a music program within the school district.

Why does it matter?

The O.P. Music Boosters have initiated and assisted in numerous musical projects, including partnerships with the O.P. School District, PTO, and Alumni Association to:

- Help purchase **audio equipment and music rights** to enrich operettas, plays, musicals, and other performances.
- Help purchase **new instruments / equipment** in conjunction with the school district.
- Annually funded several **student workshops** with guest artists and conductors.
- Award **music scholarships** to students pursuing the field of music in college, as well as, students not majoring in music who have dedicated themselves and made significant musical contributions while attending the O.P. School District.

What does it cost to join?

- Annual Family Membership (Min. \$10 Donation)

Other Types of Donations:

- One-Time Music Scholarship Donation (Any Amount)
- One-Time General Donation (Any Amount)
- Maroon & White Corp. Sponsorship (\$100 - \$499)
- Platinum Corporate Sponsor (\$500 or More)

HOW TO JOIN or DONATE:

1. Scan QR Code to use your PayPal account or Credit Card.
-OR-
2. Fill out the form below and mail it in with your donation.



----- Please detach and fill in form -----

Name: _____

Address: _____

School(s): _____

Grade Level(s): _____

Email (optional): _____

Type of Donation: _____

Please make check payable to:

Orchard Park Music Boosters, Inc.

Send the form & check to:

Orchard Park Music Boosters

% OPHS

4040 Baker Rd.

Orchard Park, NY 14127