

# OPHS PTO NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year, Orchard Park families! I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday season filled with warmth, joy, and time with loved ones. As we welcome 2025, I hope the year is off to a fantastic start for all our students, staff, and families. January is a time for fresh beginnings, and we are excited to see what the second half of the school year holds for our OPHS community.

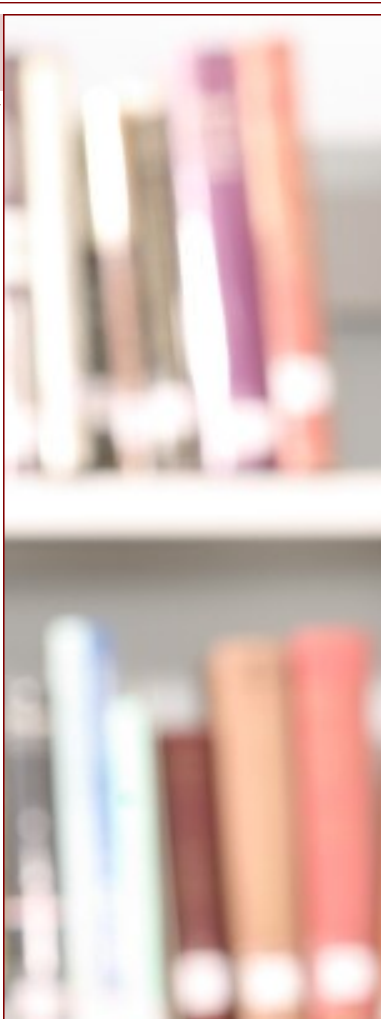
It's hard to believe how quickly this school year is passing by! The first semester has been filled with growth, learning, and achievements, and we are so proud of all that our students and teachers have accomplished thus far. With that said, there is still plenty of time to refocus and strengthen our academic efforts. The second half of the year is an opportunity to build on the foundation we've established and set goals for continued success.

As we move forward, let's support one another in creating an environment where every student feels motivated and encouraged to reach their full potential. Whether it's by attending PTO events, volunteering, or simply staying connected with your student's progress, your involvement makes a difference in fostering the strong sense of community that defines Orchard Park High School.

Here's to a productive and inspiring start to 2025!

Sincerely,

Brandon Pafk, OPHS Principal



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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Post Prom Fundraiser
- OPHS Staff Appreciation
- Post Prom Information



*Red Robin® will give*

**20% OF FOOD SALES\*  
BACK TO**

## **ORCHARD PARK HIGH SCHOOL PTO POST PROM**

**Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to  
your server to have your sales counted.**

### **FUNDRAISER DETAILS**

**3460 Amelia Dr, Orchard Park, NY 14127**

**January 23, 2025\***

**If ordering online, please follow these instructions:**

- 1** Start your order at [order.redrobin.com](https://order.redrobin.com) and select the restaurant above.
- 2** In the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraisers (To-Go Only)" and click on that item.
- 3** Click the "add" button, and then "add to bag."
- 4** Add your meal items and check out.
- 5** Arrive at Red Robin, come in, say hi, grab your food and be on your way! If your location has curbside pick-up, we can bring it to your car too!

\*Fundraiser during restaurant operating hours. Visit [redrobin.com](https://redrobin.com) and find this location to view hours.  
Donation based on all eligible net dine-in and to-go food sales only. Excludes sales from catering (at select locations), 3rd party ordering and delivery sites, alcohol, gift cards, retail, tax and gratuity. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant during fundraiser day & hours.



# OPHS Staff Appreciation Luncheon in January

## Help Needed!

**Happy New Year and Welcome to 2025!** The OPHS PTO enjoyed the events last year that we either organized or supported and which enriched the students' school experience! We look forward to continuing to support the students in 2025. The wonderful staff of Orchard Park High School are important partners in the PTO's mission to enrich the social experience of school for our kids!

**On Friday, January 24th**, the PTO wants to thank the staff of Orchard Park High School for all they do every day. We'd be grateful for your help with this Staff Appreciation Luncheon.

To celebrate the staff at Orchard Park High School, the PTO will be hosting a Staff Appreciation Luncheon. You can help us with food, your time and/or a financial contribution.

**Food Donation:** We will greatly appreciate your help! Please consider volunteering or sending in a food item to help make their day special. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Feel free to sign up to provide 2 servings of anything!

- Drinks, candy and desserts should be dropped off at the Baker St. entrance between 7:30 AM and 3:30 PM on Thursday, January 23rd.
- Fruit and desserts needing refrigeration can be dropped off at the Baker Street entrance between 6:30 and 9 AM on Friday, January 24th.

If you are providing a serving dish that you would like returned, please label it, and it will be left at the front desk to be picked up.

**Time Donation:** You may sign up to help with set up, serving or cleanup and/or to donate food or drinks. If you are interested in helping, please click on the **SignUp Genius Link Here:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0544ADAC28A3F85-47516120-staff>

**Monetary Donation:** You may also choose to help by making a \$10 financial donation to be used towards the luncheon. For this option, please click on this link: <https://orchardparkhspto.membershiptoolkit.com/form/m/289574>

*Or, if you prefer, you can mail a check or cash to: OPHS PTO ~ 4040 Baker Rd ~ Orchard Park, NY 14127.*

Questions? Contact Nicole Curtis at [navitahl-curtis@outlook.com](mailto:navitahl-curtis@outlook.com)  
or at 617-877-1103.



# 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	

### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Anyone wishing to submit information for the newsletter should email: [ophspto@gmail.com](mailto: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



**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, 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.**

## **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!***

If you are looking to become a member you can do so here:

[https://orchardparkhspto.membershiptoolkit.com/login-form?r=%2Fopen\\_forms](https://orchardparkhspto.membershiptoolkit.com/login-form?r=%2Fopen_forms)

## **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 **servng 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 **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  
Lori Matthews

## **\$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 1/1/2025



# 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  
Karry Kazial Backes

## **\$20.28 CLUB**

Jennifer Duff  
Caren Chaffee  
Amanda Talty  
Sarah Jahnke  
Mark Blum  
Deanna McDonald  
Brooke Bain

## **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  
Lynn Halter

Donations are current through 1/1/2025



# COUNSELING DEPARTMENT INFORMATION



## January News

### From the High School Counseling Department

- College Night will take place Thursday, February 27th at 7pm in the OPHS Commons. Students (and parents) from all grade levels are encouraged to attend to hear from college admissions officers on a variety of topics related to the college admissions process. This event is a “must” for any junior planning on applying to college in the fall of their senior year.
- 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.
- Students attended a scheduling assembly on January 9th and learned how to enter their course requests for the 2025-26 school year. Students need to submit their course requests through their student portal by the end of the day on Friday, January 17th. Counselors will be meeting with students individually to review/update requests starting on Thursday, January 30th. Students have until June 1st to make changes to their requests.
- Canisius University is offering the “Buffalo Promise Scholarship” beginning in Fall 2025. This scholarship (valued at full tuition) is automatically offered to accepted students from zip codes starting with 142 with an adjusted household gross income at or less than \$125,000. 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](#) on the high school website. It includes a variety of resources for students and parents.



## DAYS OFF & EARLY DISMISSAL

**Days Off: 1/20 & 1/29**

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### DRIVER EDUCATION



- Information on the Winter/Spring 2025 session of Driver Education is available on the district web site, [www.opschools.org](http://www.opschools.org).
- Currently, all line assignment numbers for this session are taken.
- Please call 209-6295 beginning January 13th to see if any spots have become available.

### 5-HOUR PRE-LICENSING COURSE

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

Monday & Wednesday, February 3 & 5, 2025 6:30-9:00pm OR

Monday & Wednesday, April 7 & 9, 2025 6:30-9:30pm

You must attend both sessions, 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/community](http://www.opschools.org/community) 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.





# Orchard Park Music Boosters

It's time to Join or Donate!!!

Visit us online at:

[www.opmusicboosters.com](http://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**