

OPHS PTO NEWSLETTER

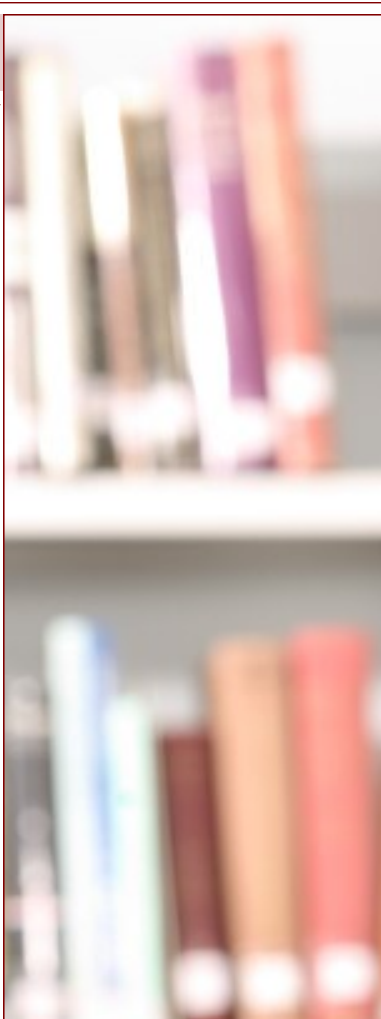


Hello OPHS Families!

This year's Staff Appreciation Lunch, which took place on Friday January 24th, was a success! We would like to thank everyone who donated food, drinks, funds, and their time to put on our Staff Appreciation Luncheon at the High School. We have received many thank you's! The teachers and staff really enjoyed it. Many thanks to our Chairperson, Nicole Curtis, for coordinating this event. She did an outstanding job!

It seems far away but the OPHS PTO will soon be making plans for the next school year. The slate of our open PTO positions for the 2025-2026 school year will be in the March newsletter. Please consider becoming involved in PTO. Everyone is welcome!

Stay warm,
Jen Domzalski, OPHS PTO President



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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



We're raising dough!

ORCHARD PARK PARENT-TEACHERS ORGANIZATION INC

**February 27, 2025
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
3995 N Buffalo Rd, Orchard Park, NY**

25%
OF NET SALES
WILL BE
DONATED*

Use code FUND4U at panerabread.com, in the Panera App, or at the kiosk in-cafe.

Online orders placed all day at your event cafe will count toward your total sales.

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the cafe to ensure your organization gets a portion of the net sales.

Panera
FUNDRAISING

*20% fundraiser: Up to 20% of net sales from your designated and registered fundraising event will be donated to your approved organization. Minimum sales of \$100 on the specified date, time and location required to receive 20% donation. 25% fundraiser: Up to 25% of net sales from your designated and registered fundraising event will be donated to your approved organization. Minimum sales of \$150 on the specified date, time and location required to receive 25% donation. General terms: Details on percentage of net sales to be donated and the minimum sales requirement will be provided during the event registration process. Fundraising events available only at participating US bakery-cafes. Fundraising event details and available dates and times for fundraising events will vary by bakery-cafe. Gift card purchases, catering orders, and orders placed on third party delivery sites are excluded and will not count towards the total net sales from your designated fundraising event. This offer will be void if flyer is distributed in or near the participating bakery-cafe on the night of the event. Fundraising events may be cancelled without notice due to abuse, error, fraud, computer error, electronic or technical malfunctions, or other unforeseen or unintended circumstances. Other restrictions may apply. For more information on how our fundraising events work, please visit: <https://fundraising.panerabread.com/faq>.

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OPHS Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Thank You!

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the PTO-sponsored OPHS Staff Appreciation Luncheon!! Whether your contribution was financial, beverages, treats, fruit, time or any combination thereof, you made a difference! Despite the challenges that the week's weather posed, the Luncheon was a success, and I couldn't have done it without you!

The staff clearly enjoyed themselves! They all said how much they enjoyed the food and the setup and how they felt appreciated. Thank you again for your support of this and other PTO - sponsored events! See you at the next event!

Nicole Curtis - 2025 Chair

PTO Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Staff Appreciation Lunch Monetary Donations

Colleen Rea

Karen Fuentes

Valerie Velasquez

Barbra Lesh

Kerry Steinagle

Lauren Sikora

Mark Blum

Jill Skoba

Courtney Wahowski

Julia Pericak

Sarah Kuska

Lindsay Wright

Margot Vincent

Lucie Bowers

Julie Serenka

Erin Mastroianni

Kristi Walh

Tara Manteghi

Kelly Kerl

Lynn Morgan

Margaret Anderson

Jill Pawlowski

Jessica Merry

Jamie McDermott

Cameron Macon

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, 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.**

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 **February 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.

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 Homecoming Refreshments and Coat Check (Sept)

National Society of Science Scholars Reception (March)

Spring Fling Homecoming Dance (April)

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

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! *****



Please be aware of SCAM PTO Emails!

Beware of suspicious emails! Phishing scams are on the rise and scammers are using PTOs to carry them out. If you receive an email or text that looks like it's coming from a member of the PTO, the PTO Board, or a PTO Chairperson, but it seems suspicious, **DO NOT OPEN IT**. Check the "from" email address or phone number. It may say it is coming from someone within the PTO, but if the actual email address or phone number is not that person's personal contact information, or if it is not from "notify@membershiptoolkit.com", it could be a scam!

Many of these communications appear to be asking the recipient to buy gift cards, or they may be asking for the recipient to simply respond to the sender. Once a reply is sent, another request will come asking for money or gift cards. Other communications may include a link to click or a website to visit, which could end up being harmful. When in doubt, please check with the person from whom it appears the communication is being sent.



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 **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

Community Sponsor (\$150)

American Legion Post 567

Chiro First Wellness Center

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



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

\$20.25 CLUB (cont.)

Lindsay Wright
Erin Mastroianni
Parkland Professional Park

\$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

Donations are current through 2/1/2025



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
Heather Kasprowicz

\$20.28 CLUB

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

Donations are current through 2/1/2025



COUNSELING DEPARTMENT INFORMATION



February News

From the High School Counseling Department

- College Night will take place Thursday, February 27th at 7 pm 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.
- 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 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 [Buffalo National College Fair](#) will take place on March 19th and 20th, with morning and evening sessions at the Buffalo Convention Center. Interested juniors are invited on a field trip to the fair on March 19th. Permission slips are due to the House 2 Office by February 28th.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 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.



DAYS OFF & EARLY DISMISSAL

EARLY DISMISSAL: 2/14

DAYS OFF: 2/17-2/21

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). 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.





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