

“Our Children ... Our Hope ... Our Future”

Preparing Our Students Now to Lead Tomorrow

The Oradell Public School District is committed to providing students with both the skills they need to be successful in the classroom now and with the tools they will need to be successful in the boardrooms, emergency rooms, and courtrooms of tomorrow. These key 21st century skills students will need are often referred to as the four Cs: communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity.

At OPS, we target these skills in a multitude of manners. For example, we deliberately integrate technology projects that foster collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. This includes having students make digital movies that connect to their learning about American history or by using applications such as Google Docs and classroom blogs to allow for collaboration and communication as students work on group projects or share their thinking about current events. Google



Docs also allows students and their teachers to work collaboratively, with teachers being able to instantly comment and provide feedback on student learning.

Social and emotional learning also continues to be a

district and school focus. Our goal is to provide students with the tools necessary to deal with anxiety, social pressures, and conflict resolution. Our school counselor has created numerous school-wide programs that focus on having students learn to reflect on their thoughts and actions while also developing self-regulation techniques and stronger interactional skills with their peers. Along with developing strategies for taking care of themselves, OPS is also focused on creating opportunities for students to take care of others, whether that be creating cards for troops overseas, organizing and donating to a highly successful annual food drive, participating in the Frosty's Friends program, which supplies holiday gifts for families, or collecting items for hospitalized children. Each of these service opportunities allows our community to unite together with a common goal and also allows students to see that they can impact the world.

The Oradell Public School district acknowledges that for students to be global citizens who lead tomorrow, we must educate the whole child – academically, socially, and emotionally – today.



**Oradell
Public
School
District**

**350 Prospect Avenue
Oradell, New Jersey 07649**

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ORADELL: Eye on OPS

SUMMER/FALL 2018



Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Community Members:

Parent engagement is one of the primary pillars of a strong and vibrant school community. This fall we are celebrating how much our parents add to the richness of our school community. The Oradell Public School PTA is critical in supporting the work of the district. First, they are champions of developing partnerships between families and the school, which is critical to increasing outcomes for students. Second, our PTA is committed to bringing programs and resources to support the goals of both the school and district. This year they have expanded our lunch program, and switched us over to Nicholas Markets, who now offers our students several delicious new options at lunchtime. We are looking forward to our continuing collaboration with the PTA, and with all of the parents in our community.

Another way we are seeking to increase our parent involvement is by continuing to offer Family Math Night events that allow us to showcase some of the instruction that takes place during the day. In addition, we are also working on expanding upon our offerings of Parent Academy sessions with some new topic areas. More information on those will be forthcoming soon.

October brings fall festivals, pumpkin patch visits, and Halloween! More importantly, October is National Bullying Prevention Month. This month we observed the Week of Respect (October 1-5) by providing age-appropriate instruction focused on preventing HIB, and by recognizing the importance of social and emotional learning and character education. In addition, October 15-19 are designated in NJ as School Violence Awareness Week. These weeks are reminders to our students of how important it is to make good choices. As a district, we want to encourage our students to exemplify strong character through small acts of kindness. We strive to create a school environment that is free of bullying, violence, and stigma, and with a focus on positive and ethical behavior. We are extremely grateful for the many ways in which our parents also support these efforts through reinforcement at home.

Sincerely,

John C. Anzul, Ed. D.

Superintendent



Couldn't attend the Board Meeting?

Logon to the district website @ oradellschool.org, click the Board of Education tab, and go to Board Meeting Recordings.

Did You Know...?

- ◆ In the past five years, OPS has upgraded its infrastructure to allow for wireless access throughout the building, and all students in grades 3-6 and all staff members have access to their own laptops during the school day.
- ◆ While OPS values technology education, all students in grades K-4 are also provided direct instruction in both print and cursive handwriting.
- ◆ OPS added a school counselor to the staff in 2016 to ensure that students' emotional needs were being addressed.
- ◆ OPS continues to be one of the few elementary schools in the county with a science lab and a dedicated science lab instructor.
- ◆ The OPS Odyssey of the Mind Teams have qualified for the World Championships every year since 2013.
- ◆ The Oradell Kids Foundation has donated more than \$16,000 over the past two years to provide programming and materials to enhance the educational experience for OPS students.
- ◆ In 2017, Oradell Public School was named a No Place for Hate Star School – one of the few elementary schools in New Jersey to earn the honor.
- ◆ Students in Grades K and 1 are using a new resource, “Foundations,” to ensure that while they are learning to love and comprehend text, they are also learning basic phonetic skills.
- ◆ Students in Grade 6 are utilizing a new math resource, “Big Ideas.” This is the same resource used by River Edge sixth grade classes and River Dell Middle School to ensure consistency across the tri-district.
- ◆ While OPS continues to evolve, we still embrace tradition. When this year's fifth grade travels to Sharpe Reservation, they will be continuing a tradition that began more than 40 years ago. Also, our sixth graders will participate in the HoOPS intramural basketball program, a tradition that began 28 years ago.
- ◆ In the past two years, the OPS community has donated over 2,000 items of food to Center for Food Action, over 800 pairs of pajamas to the Pajama Program of New Jersey, and too many containers of Play-Doh to count to the Pediatric Center for Tomorrows Children, along with making cards for the troops and blankets for the elderly.
- ◆ The Oradell PTA made a generous \$30,000 donation to purchase a book room with over 6,000 books for teachers to use with their students.

Did you know that the District has launched a new app to keep stakeholders up-to-date with daily happenings at OPS? Download the app at the iTunes and Google Play stores. Search for Oradell Public School.

PARCC Results

In the spring, OPS students in grades 3-6 participated in the fourth year of PARCC testing. The following tables provide a comparison between OPS students and other students in New Jersey who took this assessment in both English-Language Arts and Mathematics.

COMPARISON OF ORADELL PUBLIC SCHOOL SPRING 2018 PARCC ADMINISTRATION – ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS ORADELL TO NEW JERSEY PERCENTAGES

	Not Yet Meeting Expectations (Level 1)		Partially Meeting Expectations (Level 2)		Approaching Expectations (Level 3)		Meeting Expectations (Level 4)		Exceeding Expectations (Level 5)		Total Passing (Level 4 + 5)	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018
Grade 3	2	13.5	4.1	13.5	19.4	21.4	59.2	43.5	15.3	8.1	74.5	51.6
Grade 4	1.8	7.6	1.8	12.3	14.7	22.1	37.6	39.1	44.0	18.9	81.6	58.0
Grade 5	0	6.9	.9	12.6	11.3	22.4	53.9	47.2	33.9	10.8	87.8	58.0
Grade 6	0	6.2	3.1	13.6	16.5	24.0	59.8	41.3	20.6	14.9	80.4	56.2

Notes: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

COMPARISON OF ORADELL PUBLIC SCHOOL SPRING 2018 PARCC ADMINISTRATION – MATHEMATICS ORADELL TO NEW JERSEY PERCENTAGES

	Not Yet Meeting Expectations (Level 1)		Partially Meeting Expectations (Level 2)		Approaching Expectations (Level 3)		Meeting Expectations (Level 4)		Exceeding Expectations (Level 5)		Total Passing (Level 4 + 5)	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018
Grade 3	0	8.0	6.1	15.3	22.4	23.7	41.8	37.8	29.6	15.2	71.4	53.0
Grade 4	0	7.5	8.3	16.8	18.3	26.3	50.5	41.8	22.9	7.6	73.4	49.4
Grade 5	.9	7.5	8.7	17.0	18.3	26.7	43.5	38.5	28.7	10.4	72.2	48.8
Grade 6	0	8.5	7.2	20.1	26.8	27.9	50.5	35.6	15.5	8.0	66.0	43.5

Notes: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Oradell Public School: 90 Years Old & Still Standing Strong

Originally built in 1928, the Oradell Public School continues to be a building about which our students, families, and community can be proud. We consistently work to maintain and update the facility to ensure student safety and meet the needs of the OPS community. Over the last year, the following projects were accomplished:

- ◆ As the District's Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP) initiatives come to completion, the installed solar panels are now operational, saving money for the district.
- ◆ A full audit occurred of the internal and external speaker system, and additional speakers were added where necessary to ensure student safety in an emergency.
- ◆ One third of the building received a new roof this summer.
- ◆ Continual maintenance of trees around the building to ensure student safety as they walk to and from school also occurred this summer.
- ◆ In September, the PTA voted to engage in a long-term project to renovate the auditorium. Look for further details in future newsletters.

Board Earns Certification Award



The Oradell Board of Education was recently notified by the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) that they have earned the prestigious Board Certification Award. This award is granted to Boards of Education that have completed a rigorous series of training programs offered by NJSBA on the various aspects of Board operations. Some of the training covers areas such as Board Ethics, Finance, School Law, and Governance.

Board members worked together as a group over the past year to complete the training programs. The Board was honored for its accomplishment at a NJSBA awards ceremony (pictured above).

In the Award notification letter, Executive Director of the NJSBA, Dr. Lawrence Feinsod, wrote, "By meeting the NJSBA Board Member Academy's rigorous standards, your Board has demonstrated a high regard for effective governance and student achievement. Please note that your Board is among an elite group which has earned the award since its inception in 2007."

Week of Respect



The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act requires that the week beginning with the first Monday in October be designated as the Week of Respect in New Jersey schools. The week focuses on social emotional learning, encouraging children to see the positive role they can play as citizens of the OPS community. Activities during the week included conversations about what makes each classroom a special team, and numerous spirit days such as dressing in your most unique outfit to show that we embrace all in our community, as well as dressing as a superhero to recognize that we all have the power within us to advocate for others.

An additional highlight of the week was the PTA-sponsored Omegaman assembly, where Stone Hands taught students how each of them could be a dream maker instead of a dream breaker. These themes will continue to be reinforced during the school year.

Welcome to OPS...



Sheila Daley, School Psychologist

Ms. Daley attended Tulane University as an undergraduate and later earned a Master's Degree in Applied Educational Psychology from Northeastern University. Ms. Daley brings seven years of experience as a School Psychologist to our Child Study Team.



Linda Distler, Supervisor of Special Services

Ms. Distler has over 10 years experience as a Coordinator of Special Services. Previously, she served on a Child Study Team as the school psychologist. She has extensive knowledge of all facets of special education, education law, and supervision.



Magda Garcia, World Language Teacher

After being an OPS parent and an instructional aide, Ms. Garcia now joins us as the new World Language Teacher. Ms. Garcia is excited to share her love of the Spanish language and culture with the students.



Rosine Ghichlian, Special Education Teacher

Ms. Ghichlian is certified as both a general education and a special education teacher. She additionally brings certification in multisensory teaching and four years of classroom experience to OPS.



Mary Anne Doran, Special Education Teacher

Ms. Doran joins OPS with experience teaching both general education and special education for over 15 years. Ms. Doran is excited to share her knowledge of workshop teaching and her experience in a co-teaching model with the OPS community.



Tracy Kaminski, Third Grade Teacher

Prior to joining OPS as an aide, Ms. Kaminski taught everything from 2nd through 6th grades. She has also been an educator at the Morris Museum and the Bronx Zoo. Ms. Kaminski is highly qualified in the State of New Jersey in both Language Arts and Mathematics.



Charles Lange, Interim Director of Special Services

Mr. Lange has 43 years of teaching and administrative experience, last serving as the Director of Special Services at River Dell Regional. As such, he has great affection for Oradell and looks forward to his time here.



Gina Oldum, School Nurse

Ms. Oldum moves from the position of part-time nurse aide to School Nurse. Prior to joining the OPS health office, Ms. Oldum worked at Hackensack University Medical Center as a Postpartum Mother/Baby Nurse for 19 years.



Kristen Scanlon, Second Grade Teacher

Ms. Scanlon is a second career educator who spent the past two years in a nearby district. Previously, she was employed in Human Resources. She is currently completing an additional certification in Applied Behavior Analysis.



Victoria Smith, Kindergarten Teacher

Ms. Smith spent the past five years teaching Kindergarten and First Grade in Brooklyn, NY. Her Master's Degree focused on the area of incorporating STEM education in primary classrooms.



Danielle Westdyk, First Grade Teacher

Ms. Westdyk is certified as both a special education and general education teacher. She joins OPS after four years in another Bergen County district and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Literacy with a concentration on teaching reading.



Christine Yu, Leave Replacement Teacher

Originally from the Midwest, where she earned Bachelor's and Master's Degrees, Ms. Yu brings four years experience teaching first grade in Bergen County to OPS. She will serve as a leave replacement teacher in two different positions this year.

To Colorado and Beyond...

OPS Science Lab Instructor, Ms. Denise Kuehner, was one of nine teacher recipients of the Dr. Rochelle Abrams Scholarship, which afforded her the opportunity to travel to Colorado Springs for the Space Foundation's "Space Across the Curriculum" program to learn about space and STEM activities. As a member of the teacher



liaison program, Ms. Kuehner serves as an ambassador for space education, promoting aerospace and astronomy education. Ms. Kuehner works with OPS students in all grades, aligning her hands-on science activities with the science curriculum being taught in the classroom. OPS is one of the few elementary schools in Bergen County to have a dedicated science lab instructor. For detailed information about the happenings in the OPS Science lab visit www.opsscienceclub.weebly.com.



All in a Day's Work!



At the June Board of Education meeting, OPS lunch aide Rina Kouyomdjian was recognized for saving a child's life by performing the Heimlich Maneuver. Ms. K, as she is known by the children, has been an OPS lunch aide for over 20 years.