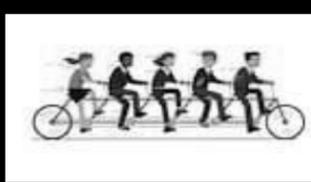


A New Approach to 6th Grade



At Oradell Public School, we embrace a developmental approach to education, acknowledging that kindergarten students need something different than third graders, who need something different

from sixth graders. It is this approach that drives everything from how we organize lunch to how we break down academic learning time. As we reflected on the developmental appropriateness of our curricular programs and operations, it became clear that our 6th grade students might benefit from an approach more akin to a traditional middle school. However, we also realized that they weren't ready for complete independence quite yet! As a result, at OPS this year we have a new "modified middle school" schedule for 6th grade.

Each of our 6th grade students attends six classes (five academic courses for 55 minutes per class and an additional 40 minute special area class). However, they stay with their same home-room of students for each of these classes. This model allows them to experience what middle school will be like with regard to understanding multiple teaching styles and juggling assignments; while also allowing us to provide scaffolds for the stu-

dents to help them be successful. For example, students check one website for homework assignments instead of checking multiple teacher pages. We believe that this approach will make the transition to River Dell Middle School easier for students and also will provide greater levels of independence and challenge which students at this age are craving.

Along with providing a schedule that meets social/emotional and academic needs, we are also incorporating developmentally appropriate curricular activities. This year began with the sixth grade students participating in a day of team-building activities to build a positive culture and also begin to get them thinking about how communication, collaboration and risk-taking are important parts of being good learners and 21st century citizens. We also are providing students with a new class this year called "Applied Learning." The focus of this class is to have students utilize skills and strategies learned in their other classes in a project-based format, while also nurturing the wonder and love of learning that is an important part of being a life-long learner.



Oradell
Public
School
District

350 Prospect Avenue
Oradell, New Jersey 07649

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ORADELL: Eye on OPS

FALL 2019



Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Community Members:

Our new school year is off to a great start. As I've visited our classrooms during these first few weeks of school, I have loved watching our children taking ownership of their learning. From the first day of school, teachers have been helping students to be academically, emotionally, and socially prepared for learning. I've seen incredible lessons on math and reading projects, compelling technology lessons, and much more. Our classrooms are exciting places filled with discovery. I'd like to thank all our families for helping make the start of the school year so positive.

As you know, we have made some changes to our schedule, and to the locations of two grade levels. We've also been working to increase the number of available small group instructional spaces by renovating our basement area to accommodate our gifted and talented program, an office, professional development space, and a Faculty Room. That will allow us to open more small group spaces on our second floor. Even amid all these transitions, the hallways are filled with the sounds of new and old friends learning together. I am a strong believer in the power of "collective efficacy". The best definition of efficacy as it relates to education is: the more you believe you can impact students, the greater the impact you will have on students. There's now decades worth of research showing that a teacher's belief in their own abilities significantly increases their ability to reach every student, no matter the child's background. Our staff believes in your students and is prepared to take every possible step to help each child reach their full potential.

Under the exemplary leadership of our Board of Education and our entire team of administrators, OPS has strengthened its commitment to academic excellence by building a network of programs and services to meet each students' unique academic, social and emotional needs. Our focused instructional programs and robust learning environment have raised the bar for middle school readiness, and have accelerated our students' continued academic success.

Thank you for all you do to support our students!

Sincerely,
John C. Anzul, Ed.D
Superintendent

Did You Know...?

- There have been numerous classroom moves this year. Please pay careful attention to the notice regarding arrival and dismissal locations as our 3rd and 4th graders have switched spots.
- K-2 students have a new Language Arts curriculum this year. A staff committee worked diligently during the 2018-2019 school year to revise the curriculum.
- Our 1st and 2nd grade classrooms had new SMARTBoards installed this summer, and our 5th graders will utilize new Chromebooks this year to increase the effective integration of technology into the teaching and learning process.
- Our lunch periods are slightly different this year; please pay attention to that section in the Parent/Student Handbook. You can also find the new times on the OPS website under "Our School."
- In an effort to better prepare our students for middle school we will be implementing new classroom/teacher schedules for our 4th, 5th and 6th graders. Our 6th graders will have five teachers and our 4th and 5th graders will have a separate teacher for language arts.
- OPS continues to work to develop strong relationships with its parent community. During September, over 250 parents attended Parent Academies focused on developing their understanding of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying legislation and strengthening their toolbox on how to help their children deal with conflict. Additionally, 70 parents attended Parent Academies focused on helping kindergarten and 1st grade students reinforce phonics skills at home.
- Science Lab instructor Denise Kuehner recently received a grant for over \$5000 to purchase iPads for the science lab to facilitate consistent integration of technology into lab activities.

Upcoming Board Meetings for 2019-2020 that may be of special interest:

Public Board Meeting*

Presentation on State Testing Results	October 30, 2019
Board Reorganization	January 2020
Budget Presentation	March 2020
Honoring of Retirees	June 2020

*check our website for additional updates

2019 NJ-SLA Results

In the spring, OPS students in grades 3-6 participated in the fifth year of NJ-SLA 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 2019 NJ-SLA 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
	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019
Grade 3	3.0	14.0	4.0	14.4	18.0	21.4	63.0	42.8	12.0	7.4	75.0	50.3
Grade 4	0	8.6	4.0	12.6	5.0	21.4	45.5	39.1	45.5	18.3	91.1	57.4
Grade 5	1.8	7.4	4.5	12.5	9.0	22.2	40.5	45.6	44.1	12.3	84.7	57.9
Grade 6	1.8	7.3	0.9	12.6	3.6	23.9	55.9	40.9	37.8	15.2	93.7	56.2

COMPARISON OF ORADELL PUBLIC SCHOOL
 SPRING 2019 NJ-SLA 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
	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019
Grade 3	0	8.0	5.9	13.9	19.8	23.0	51.5	41.2	22.8	13.9	74.3	55.1
Grade 4	0	8.6	5.0	14.7	18.8	25.7	49.5	43.3	26.7	7.7	76.2	51.0
Grade 5	0	6.4	7.1	20.9	17.0	25.8	40.2	35.8	35.7	11.0	75.9	46.8
Grade 6	0	9.6	6.3	22.5	25.2	27.4	45.0	33.1	23.4	7.5	68.5	40.5

Open Circle: Shaping the Citizens of Tomorrow



As part of the District's ongoing efforts to embrace and teach the whole child, this year, all classrooms in grades K-5 will implement the Open Circle curriculum (developed by Wellesley College). Open Circle was chosen by a team of teachers and administrators last year after reviewing numerous Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curricula. Open Circle was chosen because, along with providing teachers the resources for direct instruction regarding SEL skills, it also provides a common language and routines for the entire school community.

This summer, classroom teachers who will use Open Circle received two days of training on how to best implement the curriculum and integrate social emotional learning into their classrooms. More training will be scheduled for additional staff members and parents throughout the year. Our goal is to create a foundation of consistency with regard to language and action as we help our students develop into self-directed, resilient and productive citizens.

At least twice a week during the school year, each K-5 class will meet in a circle for approximately 15 minutes. Lesson topics will include listening well, including one another, cooperating, understanding feelings, teasing, bullying, recognizing differences among people, getting calm, problem solving, positive self-talk, and more. The goals of the lessons are to create a safe, caring and highly engaging classroom environment, and to give children the skills they need to succeed academically, solve interpersonal problems and build positive relationships. For more information about Open Circle, please visit www.open-circle.org.

Welcome to OPS...

Teachers and Administrators



Amy Brancato (Supervisor of Language Arts and Social Studies)
 Ms. Brancato brings ten years of teaching experience, teaching multiple grades from Kindergarten through 6th grade. Additionally, she brings experience as a literacy coach and as a director of curriculum with her to OPS.



Lisa Minasian (4th & 5th Grade Teacher)
 Ms. Minasian will be filling in while Ms. McGrath is on leave. Ms. Minasian brings 13 years of experience, primarily as a 4th grade teacher, to her position.



Sean Kelly (Physical Education Teacher)
 Mr. Kelly is returning to OPS after spending several years here as an instructional aide. Mr. Kelly brings five years of experience as a Physical Education teacher with him (most recently in a Bergen County middle school), and he is excited to return to the elementary school setting where he can build students' confidence while also strengthening their minds and bodies.



Christie Nobre (6th Grade Reading Teacher)
 Ms. Nobre brings many experiences to the classroom, including working as an ABA aide and as a track coach. She is excited to bring new ideas and perspectives to the classroom to ensure that all students develop a love of reading.



John M. Marmora (School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary)
 Mr. Marmora will assume this role for OPS beginning October 2019. Prior to taking on this position, he was the Assistant Business Administrator/Assistant Board Secretary for Nutley Public Schools and also served as the District Accountant for the Paramus Board of Education.



Rebecca Rosen (Special Education Teacher)
 Ms. Rosen brings eight years of classroom experience along with a master's degree in Collaborative Education and certifications as an elementary teacher, teacher of reading, and teacher of students with disabilities with her to OPS. Along with a wealth of classroom experience, Ms. Rosen also has a background as a competitive swimmer and swim coach!



Ilene Miller (Occupational Therapist)
 Ms. Miller brings many years of experience in both medical and educational settings to OPS. Ms. Miller's experience includes educating staff and parents as well as providing occupational therapy evaluations and services that support self-regulation, transitions, fine motor and visual motor, perceptual and self-care skills.



Melissa Ramirez (Financial Clerk)
 Ms. Ramirez is very excited about the new school year and states that she has met wonderful people thus far who have been very welcoming towards her. She hopes to continue meeting new people and building strong relationships as the school year progresses.

Our 6th graders began the year with team building activities that focused on how collaboration and communication can lead to success



In an emergency plane landing, students had to give specific direction and act based on the guidance of their peers.



While working together to untangle the knot made by students' arms, students were challenged to work on their communication skills.



Using PVC pipes cut in half, students were challenged to make balls of different sizes travel from 1 starting point and end up in a coffee can, encouraging problem-solving and collaboration amongst the group.