

ORADELL PUBLIC SCHOOL 2013-2014

OUR CHILDREN, OUR HOPE, OUR FUTURE

MAY 2014



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LOOKING AHEAD TO 2014-2015

It seems like just yesterday I was writing the *2013 Back to School Newsletter*, excitedly sharing about changes at OPS. Now, here we are, with just five weeks left in our school year; and again, I'm talking about changes!

As an administrative team and as a school community, we are always looking to find balance – balance between holding true to the traditions of the past while also initiating changes for the future. Traditions like the DARE program and the Camp Bernie

trip, the OPS Musical and the Science Fair, each, plays a part in what makes OPS a wonderful place for children. The changes initiated are about identifying ways to make OPS even better. Every decision made, every step taken, is the result of significant research and deliberation.

So, if it feels sometimes like it is hard to keep up with new initiatives and new routines, know that every change we make is for one reason . . . because our children deserve the very best!

---- Megan Bozios

School Supplies 2014-2015

The PTA is once again selling school supplies for September. Place your order online at schooltoolbox.com before June 6th, and your child's school supplies will be waiting in his/her classroom on the first day of school. If you choose not to purchase school supplies through the PTA, you can find supply lists on the OPS website.

A New Approach to Upper Elementary Instruction at OPS!

During the past two school years, we have had six sections of 6th grade, which allowed us to utilize a two-house system (placing three teachers in each house with one teaching math, one literacy and one science/social studies). However, for the next several years, we will only have five sections of sixth grade; this impacts our current two-house structure. As a result of this change and because of the increased rigor of the academic standards in math and literacy in 5th grade, we have decided to implement a new structure for BOTH our 5th and 6th grade students.

During the 2014-2015 school year, EVERY 5th and 6th grader will have TWO teachers, creating five teams of two teachers across 5th and 6th grade. One teacher will teach reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary and other language arts related topics. The other member of the team will teach math, science and social studies, rotating between teaching a social studies unit for several weeks and then switching to a science unit. This approach will allow teachers to spend more time planning and focusing on specific curricular areas. It will also allow students to learn to adapt to different teaching styles. Most importantly, it encourages collaboration as teachers “share” students --- sharing what they notice about strengths, areas to strengthen, successful strategies utilized, etc.

General Education Classroom Teachers for the 2014-2015 School Year

Grade Level	Teachers	
Pre-K	Mrs. Majka	
Kindergarten	Mrs. Bendett, Mrs. Domingues, Mrs. Malwitz, Ms. Pestrichella, Mrs. Sheridan	
1st Grade	Mrs. Arfsten, Mrs. Caruana, Ms. Golden, Mrs. Kapp, Ms. Wright	
2nd Grade	Mrs. Amoroso, Mrs. Helmis, Ms. Jengo, Mrs. Kenyon, Mrs. Smith	
3rd Grade	Mrs. Lane, Ms. Pizza, Mrs. Tashjian, New Hire	
4th Grade	Mrs. Black, Mr. Durling, Mrs. Goeller, Mrs. O’Keeffe, New Hire	
5th Grade	Team 1: Mrs. McGill (M) & Ms. Powers (L)	Team 2: Mrs. Kennedy (M) & Ms. Carroll (L)
5th & 6th Grade	Mr. Kasturas (M) & Mr. Pi (L) Mr. Pi and Mr. Kasturas will each spend ½ their day as a 5 th grade teacher and ½ their day as a 6 th grade teacher. So, a 5 th grader could have Mr. Pi in the AM and Mr. Kasturas in the PM; while a 6 th grader would have the opposite.	
6th Grade	Team 1: Mr. Duthie (M) & Mrs. Albrecht (L)	Team 2: Mr. McGill (M) & Ms. Min (L)

** M = Math/Science/Social Studies Teacher L = Language Arts Teacher*

STEP-UP DAY CONTINUES

One June 20th, students will step-up into their new class at 11:00 AM. This will require extensive movement throughout the building; therefore, to create smooth transitions, we ask that all class parties be completed prior to 10:45 AM. Students will spend approximately 20 minutes in their new class, taking the first step towards creating a positive classroom community while learning about the adventures that lie ahead!



A Birthday Celebration Change . . .

In 2007, many school districts in our area used the New Jersey Department of Agriculture’s School Nutrition Policy as the impetus for making changes to school routines regarding student birthdays. The goal of the Nutrition Policy is to ensure that our students are fit, healthy and ready to learn! It encourages teaching and modeling about making choices and creating balance --- about learning to celebrate in ways that do not always include food. It’s time for OPS to join the many schools in the area that have found new ways to celebrate birthdays that do not include food. Starting in September 2014, students will not be allowed to bring in class food treats for their birthday. Other classroom holiday celebrations will continue as usual. We will share more information in the future about how classrooms will recognize and celebrate students on their special day!