

ORADELL PUBLIC SCHOOL 2015-2016

OUR CHILDREN, OUR HOPE, OUR FUTURE

MAY 2015



INSIDE . . .

- Staffing for 2015-2016
- 5th & 6th Grade Structure
- A Note about the Spring

STAYING ON THE PATH!

May is one of the most difficult months of the school year. For students, the temperature is rising and bedtimes are extending; it feels like summer is here. Yet, we still have two more months – two more months of homework, of tests . . . of learning. It also can be a time of conflicted emotions for students as they start to think about what it will be like to leave the teacher and classroom they have called home for 8 months.

It can also be a tough time for parents as they begin to predict what the next year will hold for

their child. And, it is also a busy time for staff as they work on putting together class lists and begin to think about report cards, putting an end to one year, while simultaneously ordering supplies and beginning to prepare for the next.

It isn't easy. The way we help each other is to continue to communicate, continue to stick to routines and continue to have trust in each other. If we can do that, we will not only ensure a wonderful end to this school year but also a great beginning to the next.

School Supplies 2015-2016

The PTA is once again selling school supplies for September and information will be distributed by them during the week of May 11th. Place your order online, 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 in June.

Upper Elementary Instruction at OPS!

For several years at OPS, we 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, this year and for the next several years, we will only have five sections of sixth grade, which impacts the 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 implemented a new structure for BOTH 5th and 6th grade students.

During the 2015-2016 school year (as was the case 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 2015 – 2016 School Year

Grade Level	Teachers	
Pre-K	Mrs. Majka	
Kindergarten	Mrs. Bendett, Mrs. Domingues, Mrs. Malwitz, Ms. Pestrichella, New Hire	
1st Grade	Mrs. Arfsten, Mrs. Caruana, Ms. Golden, Mrs. Kapp, Mrs. Mohr	
2nd Grade	Mrs. Amoroso, Mrs. Helms, Mrs. Christofol, Ms. Telfer, Ms. DeLucia	
3rd Grade	Ms. Pizza, Mrs. Tashjian, Mrs. Kenyon, Mrs. Blakeslee, Mrs. Sheridan	
4th Grade	Mr. Durling, Mrs. Goeller, Mrs. O’Keeffe, New Hire	
5th Grade	Team 1: Mrs. Giacomini (L) & Ms. Powers (M)	Team 2: Mrs. Kennedy (M) & Ms. Carroll (L)
5th & 6th Grade	Mr. Kasturas (M) & New Hire (L) Mr. Kasturas and New Hire 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 the new teacher 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

On June 22nd, 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!



Thinking about the Summer . . .

Time and time again, we have spoken about the importance of developing the whole child and the importance of connecting home and school. Summer is just around the corner. We will expect all students to keep a reading log over the summer. Research shows that students can regress several months by not reading over the summer. Please begin discussing with your child what books they’d like to enjoy this summer.

Additionally, it isn’t too late to sign up for SUMMER EXPLORATIONS. Explorations provides students a wonderful opportunity to develop knowledge in a new area, to hone their skills and to have a little fun. The Summer Explorations catalog and registration can be found on the front page of the Oradell Public School website.