

Oradell Public School

AUGUST
2017

Change your view . . . Become a better you!

“We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorns have roses.” — Alphonse Karr



YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND! How many times have you heard your child say that? We have all heard that statement, and chances are, we have probably thought it ourselves as well. No matter whether you are a child or an adult, we want people to understand us. We want people to see the world through our eyes.

Developing perspective, the ability to see through the eyes of another or walk in the shoes of another, is not easy. However, just like any other skill, with practice, it does get easier. Developing our ability to see multiple perspectives helps us to grow – as individuals and as a community.

This will be a focus for us during the 2017-2018 school year as we work to “Change your view . . . Become a better you.” We will work toward developing each student’s social and emotional skills . . . skills

that assist each child in becoming not just a smart person, but a good person. To help our students, we have to practice with them as we ask, “How?” and “Why?” How does this person see this? Why is something a certain way? As we get better at asking questions, we will get better at finding solutions, instead of just identifying problems.

As we begin to strengthen our ability to see different perspectives, we will begin to be able to fight the “it’s not fair” epidemic. In the words of Rick LaVoie, “Fairness is not giving each person the same thing. It means giving each person what they need to succeed.” To help our students understand this definition of fairness, we need to help them see that each person is unique. Some differences we see, but other differences, such as our family dynamics, our learning styles, our strengths and our areas to strengthen, are invisible unless we deliberately work to get to

know each other and the perspectives that we each bring to a situation. We can help our children get better at understanding others and their perspectives when we read with them or even watch a movie. For example, when we read about the Three Little Pigs, we can ask how we think each character, even the Wolf, is feeling? When we watch Star Wars, we can ask why we think a character is acting a specific way. What may be their motivation? We can view problems through the lens of the protagonist, the antagonist and the bystanders.

Growing in our ability to understand and to work together to find solutions is our next collective step as a community. We all share a common goal – to help our children grow socially, emotionally and academically. We may sometimes have different ideas about how to do that, but if we work to understand the perspectives of others and teach our children to do the same, our community will become stronger, and most importantly, we will empower our students to reach new heights.

— Megan Bozios

Preparing for September 7th . . .

Please complete the school information forms listed below in paper form. Forms can be found on the school website at www.oradellschool.org.

*Dismissal Form

*Milk Order Form

*Annual Health Update

Please complete the following **IN THE PARENT PORTAL**:

*Student Handbook Sign-Off *Media Release *Parent Contact Information

*Emergency Contact Information (You must include anyone who may pick up your child even if you have listed them on the dismissal form.)



Meet the Newest Members of the OPS Community . . .

Each new school year brings new faces to our community; and while these changes sometimes come with a transition period, it also allows us to grow from people who bring new eyes and new ideas with them.

This year, along with welcoming several new instructional aides, lunch aides and substitutes to our OPS family, we also welcome:

- **Michelle Hawley** as Assistant Principal of Grades 3-6 and Supervisor of Math and Science. Ms. Hawley joins us after spending the past eight years in the Summit School District where she was an Instructional Facilitator. Prior to that, Ms. Hawley worked as an Instructional Strategies Specialist with IDE Corp and taught in the Cedar Grove school district.
- **Jenna Lipton** as Supervisor of Social Studies and Language Arts. Ms. Lipton joins us after serving as Instructional Coach and Reading Specialist in the Montville School District. Prior to moving to New Jersey, she taught English and Social Studies in three New York City public schools including the high performing Salk School of Science.
- **Leslie Fishbein** as Learning Disability Teacher-Consultant. Ms. Fishbein has over 25 years of experience as a special education teacher, LDT-C and special education supervisor.
- **JeeNa Kim** as School Social Worker. Ms. Kim served as Social Worker in two different NJ public

school districts and also worked for Children's Aide and Family Services and with the Division of Child Protection and Permanency.

- **Chelsey Combs** as School Psychologist. Ms. Combs brings experience both as a classroom teacher and school psychologist. She has a Master's in Teaching with certification both as a regular education and special education teacher. She then went on to earn an additional Master's degree in school psychology.
- **Rima Mason** as School Counselor. Ms. Mason is not a new face at OPS as she spent the end of last year serving as school counselor.
- **Eric Mangol** as Library & Media Specialist. Mr. Mangol is a second career educator who recently received a Master of Information degree with a specialization in Library and Information Science from Rutgers University.
- **Jean Cleary** as ESL Teacher. Ms. Cleary is a second career teacher who is eager to bring her new passion for English language learning to OPS after teaching in Passaic County last year.
- **Alexa DellaMonica** as a K-2 Special Education Teacher. Ms. DellaMonica received her degree from Towson University in Maryland and is eager to share her passion and knowledge with her students.
- **Jeff Tucker** as 3rd Grade Teacher. Mr. Tucker brings over 10 years of experience as a classroom teacher and a background as an environmental educator to our community.

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

While we have not changed the number of administrators at OPS, we have decided to change the structure in an effort to try to make our very big school feel a little smaller. Therefore, we will have two assistant principals this year. Mr. Hagopian's title has changed from Instructional Supervisor to Assistant Principal of Grades K-3 and Supervisor of Special Areas and Technology Integration. Ms. Hawley will serve as Assistant Principal of Grades 3-6 and Supervisor of Math and Science.

They will share the responsibility of third grade as we help students and families transition. If you need assistance in the beginning of the year that concerns a 3rd grade student, please contact Mr. Hagopian. As January comes round, we will switch the responsibilities to Ms. Hawley.

OPS NEWS

- We will have a minor change in our lunch schedule this year. Students in grades 1, 4, 5 & 6 will eat during the first lunch period. Students in grades K, 2 & 3 will eat during the second lunch period.
- All first through sixth grader classrooms remain nut free environments. Nuts are allowed in the lunchroom.
- Students in Grades K-5 will have a new science resource this year aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The new resource is a product of National Geographic.

REMINDERS

- Don't forget to have your child entering grades 1-6 bring in their reading log and reading project.
- Just a reminder, we continue to utilize an A-F schedule. The letter is always on the front page of the website, and your child's teacher will inform you of what special area class they go to each day.
- Don't forget to sign up for the PTA at oradellpta.org. It is a great way to stay informed.