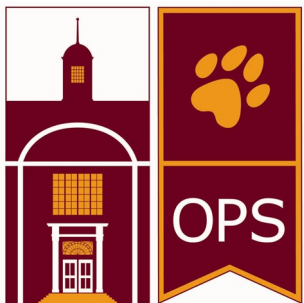


Oradell Public School

Moving Forward... Together

OPS UPDATES

- There have been lots of 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 will 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 "School."
- This year our 4th grade students will have two teachers: one for language arts and one for math, science and social studies. Our 6th graders will have five teachers in an effort to help better prepare them for middle school.



August 2019

A Note From the Principal

There is something special about learning to ride a two-wheeler bike for the first time. There is a sense of pride mixed with just a little bit of fear. The feeling of independence and confidence that comes with reaching that milestone. Most of us, however, don't get to that point alone. We have that mentor that holds the back of our seats to keep us steady. We have the cheerleaders who tell us we can do it. We may even have someone who modeled for us how to be successful. We learned how to move forward and successfully did move forward because of the collective efforts of many.

Our school community is no different. We move forward by working together. This year at OPS is all about "Moving Forward ... Together." We will talk about how a bicycle is made of many parts that work together; and, when each part is strong, the bicycle moves

forward faster and more efficiently. We will look at how each of us individually is like a bicycle, made up of many parts. Together we will reflect on our individual strengths, weaknesses and challenges, and talk about the resiliency needed to move forward. We will look at the characters in *The Infamous Ratsos*, *The Losers Club* and *Merci Suárez Changes Gears*, and discuss how they overcame challenges to move forward.



We will talk about how our classroom community and our school community is also like a bicycle with each of us as a part. Our community is strong when we each bring our

strengths forward — whether by helping a peer, volunteering a service or sharing an idea. We are strong when interdependence is at the core of who we are, when we learn to rely on each other, developing mutual respect and trust, and keeping our own identities while also fostering a collective OPS identity.

Simply put, every member of the Oradell Public School community wants the same thing — the very best for our children. We want them to learn and to grow, to be happy and to be kind. Our goal is the same. This year is about continuing to move forward to give our children what they need to achieve their dreams and goals. This year is about remembering that we are all part of something bigger.

This year at OPS is about ... #MovingForwardTogether.

— Megan Bozios

Preparing for September 4th...

Please complete the school information forms listed below in paper form.

Forms can be found on our school website at www.oradellschool.org.

* Annual Health Update * Dismissal Permission * Milk Ordering

The following forms need to be completed in the parent portal:

* Media Release * Student Handbook Sign-Off

* Emergency Contacts Update

- Please make sure to list all people who can pick up your child from the Nurse!
- Please make sure you have chosen the options for how you would like to be contacted.

If you click every phone number listed, all of those numbers will receive "Snow Day Announcements." If you do not click text, you will not receive text blasts.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- We utilize an A-F schedule. The letter is always on the homepage of the website. Your child's teacher will inform you of the special area class schedule.
- All students will dismiss at 12:30 on September 4th. Our Kindergarten students ONLY will dismiss at 12:30 on September 5th and 6th so individual student data can be gathered during screening appointments. YMCA aftercare will be on-site for the half days.
- Don't forget to sign up for the PTA at oradellpta.org. It is a great way to stay informed and to order lunch. Again this year, families can order from Nicholas Markets on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Please see the PTA website (oradellpta.org) for more information.
- Remember to notify the main office when your child is going to be absent. To simplify this process, parents can digitally submit an absence via the link on the homepage of the OPS website.
- Only Kindergarten parents may accompany their children to the classrooms on the first day of school. If you are attending the PTA Welcome Back breakfast, please enter the building through the doors on Center Street by the green awning.
- All classrooms with the exception of Kindergarten are nut free. Although there is a dedicated nut free section of the lunchroom, the room is not nut free.
- All parents who did not attend the HIB training this past spring and who plan to volunteer within the school building in any capacity this school year must attend an HIB training on one of the following dates:
 - * September 10 @ 9AM
 - * September 11 @ 2:30 PM
 - * September 12 @ 6:30 PM
 - * September 24 @ 7 PM

Meet the Newest Members of the OPS Community...

Each school year brings new faces to our community. New faces bring new perspectives and new ideas to OPS, which help all of us grow. Along with welcoming several new instructional aides, lunch aides, and substitutes to our OPS family, we also welcome:

- **Sean Kelly** as 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 (mostly 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 mind and body.
- **Ilene Miller** as 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, and fine motor, visual motor, perceptual and self-care skills.
- **Lisa Minasian** as 4th/5th grade Math/Science/Social Studies leave-replacement 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.
- **Christie Nobre** as 6th grade Reading teacher. Ms. Nobre brings many experiences to the classroom, including experience 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.
- **Rebecca Rosen** as a 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!

Open Circle: Getting to the Heart of Learning

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 at the Wellesley Centers for Women, 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 explicit 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 special 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 the self-directed, resilient and productive citizens that are spoken about in the District's mission statement.



A minimum of twice each 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.

Stay tuned for more information from your child's teachers and in our weekly Community Flash as together we learn key vocabulary terms and strategies. For more information about Open Circle, please visit www.open-circle.org.