



UPDATE

May 22, 2020

*"Communication is merely an exchange of information, but **CONNECTION** is an exchange of our humanity." - Sean Stephenson*

Important Calendar Dates:

- **May 22, 2020** - This date will be a distance learning day, based on all the disruptions from COVID-19 and the Governor's Executive Orders. Monday, May 25, 2020 is the Memorial Day holiday, which means no school.
- **Tentatively** we are planning on the last day of school/distance learning on **June 17, 2020**. Emphasis on tentative, because the NYS Education Department and school districts have not received clarification from Governor Cuomo's Executive Order closing schools to the end of the academic year. June 17, 2020 meets NYSED 180-day requirement and contractual obligations.
- **Budget Vote - June 9, 2020** - Please keep a lookout for the Budget Newsletter, which will be in your mailbox within the next few days. This is an important piece of information to review that includes everything in the District's budget and school board candidate elections. You can visit our website at www.onondagacsd.org and view our budget newsletter under the "Your Vote Counts" news story on the home page. Right behind that being mailed to you, you will find absentee ballots that coincide with our budget vote. Ballots **MUST** be returned to our District Office on June 9, 2020 no later than 5:00 p.m. We are installing a confidential ballot drop box at our District Office for those of you who would prefer to drop it off at any time. Thank you very much for participating and helping us provide opportunities for each student to maximize their potential.
- **June 26, 2020** - Graduation Day - ceremony plans are being developed based on Executive Orders from NYS and Onondaga County Executive Order for social distancing.



Graduation Planning Update

OCS is in a waiting period for approval of our graduation plans. We have submitted our outdoor plans to the Onondaga County Executive's Office for approval. Given the nature of social distancing protocols and guidelines that are developed and executed across the State, this decision status is unclear. *"Interim Commissioner Tahoe also shared that NYSED is working with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Governor's Office on soon to be released guidance for conducting graduation ceremonies. Mrs. Conklin-Spillane commented that this has been a very difficult issue for building principals who are receiving a lot of pressure from parents, students and community groups. She added that guidance from the Governor could significantly ease the problem."*

High School Summer School Distance Learning

I am sure you are aware of the Governor's announcement that summer school will be delivered remotely. If your high school student needs summer school for credit recovery, I want to assure you that our counselors and school administrators are planning and designing meaningful programming for students. They are working on logistics and an update will be provided within the next few weeks. We have NOT received any information or news on options for summer school for enrichments programs; if such a program becomes available, we will let you as soon as we have the information.





Best High Schools

I am happy to report that **Onondaga Senior High School** was voted America's Best High School in 2020 by U.S. News & World Report. What an outstanding accomplishment! Congratulations to our administrators, teachers, students, parents and community! Your hard work, and support for the school makes this possible.

It's official!: **Onondaga Senior High School** is a 2020 Best High School, based on rankings that the U.S. News & World Report published this morning. Here is your school's updated U.S. News profile page, with its new National, metro-area, and school-district rankings:

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/new-york/districts/onondaga-central-school-district/onondaga-senior-high-school-13943>.

By earning a national ranking in the top 40%, **Onondaga Senior High School** achieved status as a U.S. News Best High School. Only "Best" high schools may use an official U.S. News Best High Schools badge. Hundreds of award-winning schools have

displayed these badges to enhance school spirit and to maintain attendance levels that are often crucial to obtaining adequate state funding.



About Best High Schools 2020

U.S. News [2020 Best High Schools](#) numerically ranked nearly 18,000 schools nationwide this year.

The Best High Schools rankings, available online only, are produced in conjunction with

RTI International, a global research firm. U.S. News doesn't collect data directly from high schools – all data comes directly from official third-party sources. U.S. News receives AP and IB data directly from the College Board and International Baccalaureate, respectively, for use in the rankings. The state assessment data and graduation rates are from each state, and other data comes from the U.S. Department of Education Common Core of Data.

For more information on how the U.S. News evaluates public high schools, please see the [methodology](#) and visit the [Morse Code](#) blog.




College Now Program:

Congratulations **OCS Seniors** on another successful year in the CollegeNow program between Onondaga High School and Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3). We commend you and teachers for participating and excellent work. Here is some information on what Seniors have accomplished.

TC3 has compiled a list of our graduating seniors 25 out of 67 and reported the total number of Tompkins Cortland college credits earned through concurrent enrollment and online courses; completed through Fall 2019 and credits attempted through Summer 2020.

Overall, this year's OCS seniors have earned an average of 10.08 credits each – and the highest number of credits earned was 20 that are transferable credits and part of their transcript. These students have also earned college from OCC, which we will share information in the near future. We are proud of our senior's outstanding work in CollegeNow.

Regionally, this year's seniors at all our partner schools have earned an average of 13.22 credits each – and the highest number of credits earned was 83. TC3 also shared congratulations to the 65 high school students who have earned their Associate's degree while still in high school.

A green decorative graphic in the bottom right corner, consisting of several overlapping geometric shapes in different shades of green.



Onondaga

Central Schools

Election and Budget Vote Reminder:

The Governor's Executive
Orders during the

Pandemic State of Emergency has left us with many decisions needing to happen rapidly. Our usual budget development process and communications have been changed greatly, due to social distancing. We have important information to share with you for the remainder of the school year regarding the School District Election and Budget Vote. Below is our first **NOTICE - ONONDAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2020 ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION.**

This notice is sent pursuant to New York Governor Executive Order No. 202.26 to provide information regarding the Onondaga Central School District's (the "School District") 2020 Annual Meeting and General Election.

Date/Time of the Election: June 9, 2020, via absentee ballot only by 5:00 p.m.

Date of Budget Hearing: May 26, 2020, at 6 pm; Livestreaming at <https://ensemble.cnyric.org/hapi/v1/contents/permalinks/OCSBOEmeeting/view> this option is anonymous viewing or if you would like to participate in the Budget Public Hearing with questions, you can join Zoom Meeting at:

<https://cnyric.zoom.us/j/98949777395?pwd=bGUrelR2V2hwV0tZU2RGdW9WWTZJQT09&status=success>

Meeting ID: 989 4977 7395

Password: 995298

One tap mobile +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Definition of Qualified Voter: A person shall be entitled to vote in the School District's 2020 Annual Meeting and Election, who is:

1. A citizen of the United States;
2. Eighteen years of age;
3. A resident within the School District for a period of thirty days prior to June 9, 2020; and
4. No person shall have the right to register for or vote who would not be qualified to register for or vote at an election in accordance with the provisions of section 5-106 of the Election Law.

Absentee Ballot: In accordance with Executive Order 202.26, absentee ballots will be mailed by the District. One absentee ballot will be mailed to each registered poll voter in the School District. If you do not receive your absentee ballot by 5/26/2020 or have additional qualified voters in your household, please contact Jennifer Woody, District Clerk at 315-552-5001, or

email jwoody@ocs.cnyric.org. Reminder all absentee ballots need to be returned to the District Office on June 9, 2020, by 5:00 p.m.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out to us. Thank you, your vote is important to our Community.



Onondaga
Central Schools

Budget

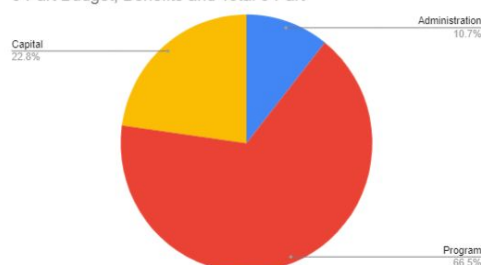
Information:

On June 9, 2020, Onondaga Central School District residents will have an opportunity

to vote on a \$22,599,385 proposed budget for the 2020-2021 school year budget. The budget calls for a 2.4% increase in spending from the 2019-2020 school year and carries a 1.5% tax levy increase. The \$522,234 increase in the general fund budget is mostly due to increases for contractual obligations and resources to maintain our educational programs and health insurance expenses.

	3 Part Budget	Benefits	Total 3 Part
Administration	\$1,923,932	\$463,344	\$2,387,276
Program	\$11,944,588	\$3,938,428	\$15,883,016
Capital	\$4,097,420	\$231,672	\$4,329,092
	\$17,965,940	4,633,445	22,599,385

3 Part Budget, Benefits and Total 3 Part



Food Service - Delivery & Donations:

For your planning purposes and the announcement of schools not returning to regular schedules this year, we are putting in place the food distribution schedule for the remainder of May 2020 through June 2020. Please see below for more detailed information:

1. May 26, 2020 - Four days of meals (covers 5/27, 5/28, 5/29, 6/1)
2. June 1, 2020 - Five days of meals (covers 6/2, 6/3, 6/4, 6/5, 6/8)
3. June 8, 2020 - Five days of meals (covers 6/9, 6/10, 6/11, 6/12, 6/15)
4. June 15, 2020 - Five days of meals (covers 6/16, 6/17, 6/18, 6/19, 6/22)

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5. June 22, 2020 - Five days of meals (covers 6/23, 6/24, 6/25, 6/26, 6/29)
 6. June 29, 2020 - Summer food distribution plans to be determined

As a reminder, anyone in the district who is in need, that currently does not receive meals, can sign up on our district webpage or [click here](#). Meals for those signed up will be delivered every Monday morning with 5 days of breakfasts and lunches for each student.

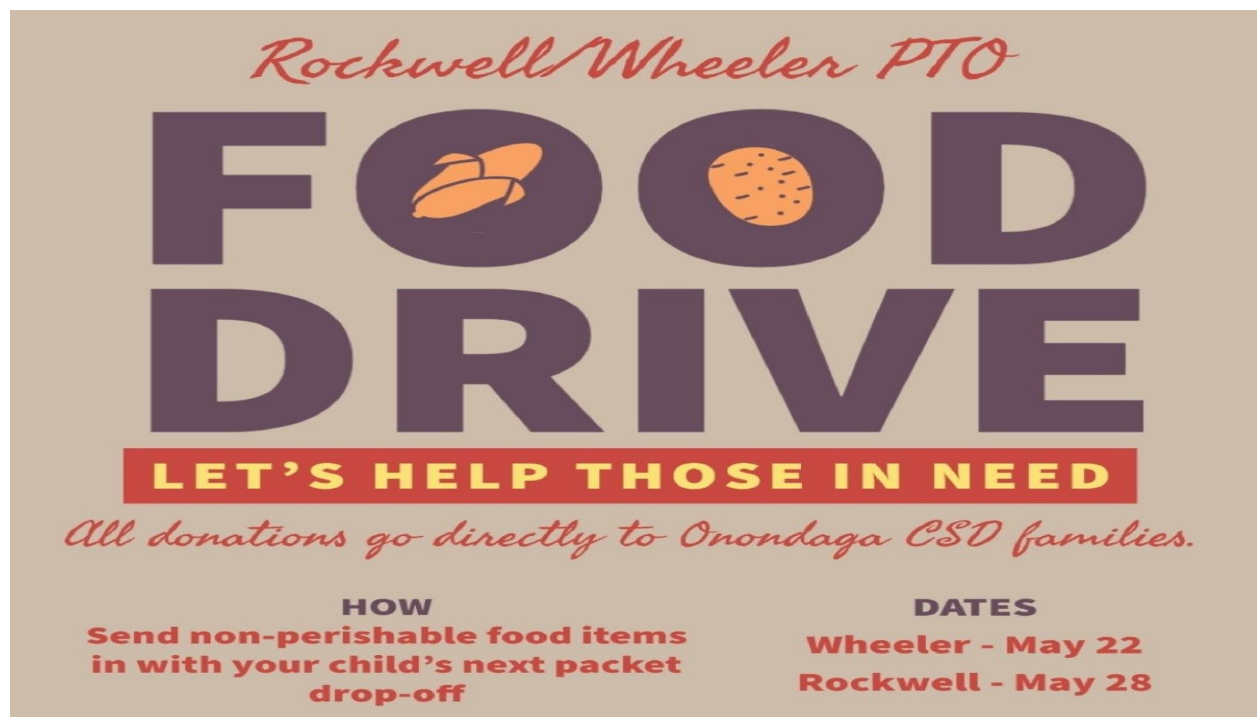
Along with providing meals to the students, the district has also set up a pantry to provide for families in the community. If anyone would like to donate, we are currently collecting food at the district office from 8 am-12 pm daily. Please contact Jennifer Woody, Business Administrator, at jwoody@ocs.cnyric.org with any questions you may have.

Please continue to stay strong and reach out to us should you have any questions or concerns.

[TIGER TV:](#)

Mrs. Paterson and her students have provided the link to this week's announcements on [Tiger TV](#) located on the [school webpage](#). The clips I get from you guys really help to make it special. Please continue to help push it out to students.

<http://www.onondagacsd.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=1718>



Rockwell/Wheeler PTO

FOOD DRIVE

LET'S HELP THOSE IN NEED

All donations go directly to Onondaga CSD families.

HOW	DATES
Send non-perishable food items in with your child's next packet drop-off	Wheeler - May 22 Rockwell - May 28

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AT Rockwell ES

Construction continues with good weather this spring and asphalt walk being installed. Many thanks go out to Assemblywoman Hunter for making this possible for the Onondaga CSD. Without her support providing a grant for the Outdoor Classroom, it would not have been possible. We will continue to keep you posted on progress along with the grand opening coming in the next few weeks.



IF YOU ARE COUNTING DOWN
THE DAYS TO SUMMER,
YOU ARE MISSING OUT ON
WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY
TO BECOME THE PERSON
YOU DREAM OF BEING.

ACADEMIC
MINDSET

In closing and to end on a high note, Onondaga County made it through the first week of Phase I. Let's hope this continues.

Sincerely,

Rob Price

Superintendent

