# BACK TO SCHOOL 2026
# NEWSLETTER

## LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Onondaga Community,

As I begin my journey as your new superintendent of schools, I am writing to you with a sense of immense gratitude and excitement to welcome our students and staff back to our buildings for the start of a new school year. It is an incredible honor to join this district, which I have already learned is a caring community with a vibrant sense of family.

I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible preparation our staff has undertaken to ensure we are up and running for a successful year. I also want to extend a special thank you to our 12-month employees; your hard work throughout the summer has been vital in ensuring that all of our systems were in place to welcome students and staff back into a safe and supportive environment.

As we open our doors, I am eager to meet the students who make this district so special — from the early learners at Rockwell Elementary to the growing students at Wheeler Elementary and the young adults at Onondaga Junior/Senior High School.

Together, we will continue to build on our strong foundation while pursuing our shared strategic goals:

» Student Achievement: Ensuring every student is engaged and proficient.

» Partnerships: Strengthening the connection between our schools, parents, and the community to foster a deep sense of belonging.

» Engaging Learning Environments: Providing safe, respectful, and innovative spaces that utilize technology for future success.

Thank you for welcoming me into your family. I am honored to serve and look forward to the great things we will accomplish together this year.

With warmest regards and sincere appreciation,

*Robert S. Montgomery*

**Robert S. Montgomery,**
Superintendent of Schools

Onondaga Central Schools

SCAN FOR **OCS CALENDAR**

## Letter from the Jr./Sr. High School

Dear OCS MS/HS Families,

The 2026-2027 school year is around the corner, and we are busy getting ready for your arrival! We are looking forward to welcoming students back on **Tuesday, September 8th.** Classes for students in grades 7-12 will begin at **7:45 a.m.** and end at **2:20 p.m.**

The best way to stay informed is by visiting the Onondaga Central School District website calendar. We will also continue using ParentSquare to share important announcements and timely communications throughout the school year.

As a reminder, the use of cell phones and personal electronic devices, including ear buds, is prohibited during the school day from 7:45 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. This policy will be strictly enforced.

During the first week of August, OCS families will receive a ParentSquare message containing student schedules, permission slips and other important back-to-school information. Please review all materials carefully, as there are several forms that require attention from both students and parents. School supply lists are also available on the Onondaga Jr/Sr High School website. If you have any questions regarding the information you receive, please call the Guidance Office at 315-552-5023. We are happy to help.

**Welcome, New 7th Graders!** We are excited to meet you and your families at our **7th Grade Orientation & Locker Night (all grades) on Wednesday, September 2nd at 5:00 pm.** Students are encouraged to bring their school supplies to place in their lockers. Locker combinations will be listed on student schedules.

Families interested in athletics should visit the Onondaga Central School District website and use Arbiter to register their student. Please remember that all student-athletes must have a current physical on file before participating in practices or competitions.

We appreciate your partnership and look forward to another successful school year. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer, make lasting memories and don't forget to read a great book!

If you have questions regarding any aspect of your child's education, please contact us at the Jr/Sr High School at (315) 552-5020.

We look forward to seeing everyone on September 8th!

Sincerely,

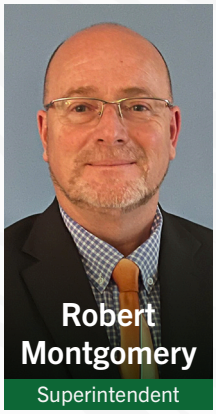
**Tim Mumford,** Principal
**Ryan Cooper,** Vice Principal

**SCAN FOR SPORTS REGISTRATION**
www.onondagacsd.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=1680

## Onondaga Central Schools Welcomes New Staff!

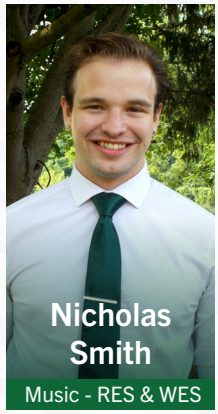
We'd like to welcome these new (and returning in a new position) Onondaga Central School District team members to our district!



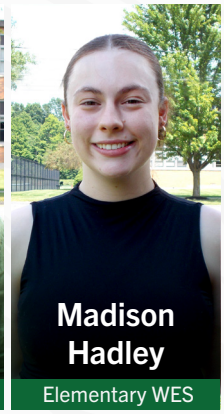












## Letter from Rockwell Elementary

Dear Rockwell Families,

There is a special kind of magic in the air as August rolls around, a mix of quiet anticipation and the growing excitement of a fresh start. Whether your family is returning to familiar hallways or joining us for the very first time, I am thrilled to welcome you to the start of another incredible school year at Rockwell!

Looking back, last year was a powerful testament to what makes our school community so extraordinary. From watching our learners flourish to coming together for beloved traditions like Friday Morning Programs, every milestone proved once again why Rockwell is truly the little school with a big heart.

As we open our doors for the year ahead, our focus remains where it always belongs: creating a warm, joyful, and rigorous learning environment where every child feels seen, supported, and inspired to grow. We have so much momentum building, along with a few exciting physical upgrades.

### WHAT'S NEW AROUND ROCKWELL?

**A Fresh Look for a New Year:** If you stop by this summer, you'll notice some active construction underway! We are giving our main office a brand-new look to create a more welcoming, functional space for our students, staff, and visitors. We can't wait to show off the finished product!

### IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

**New Family Orientation**

- Wednesday, August 26, 6:00-7:00pm
- School logistic information for parents- this presentation is geared towards adults only and for all families new to Rockwell. If you have childcare obstacles, we will have quiet activities for them to do if they need to come along.

**Popsicles with the Principal**

- Thursday, August 27, 11:00-1:00pm
- Open House Style! 11-12pm the building will be open to find your classroom, meet your teacher, and drop off school supplies. From 12-1pm we will gather on the playground, enjoy a cool treat, and let new bus riders practice boarding a real school bus!

### STAY CONNECTED WITH PARENT SQUARE

**ParentSquare remains our primary tool for all school communication.**

- Mid-August Updates: Keep an eye out on the app in mid-August for teacher assignments and busing details.
- Settings Check: Please take a moment to ensure your ParentSquare notification settings are updated to your preferences.
- Need Help? Contact Kelly Rosenthal in the main office at (315) 552-5070 if you need assistance with the app.

### REMINDERS AND SUMMER HOURS

- Pre-K & Kindergarten Registration: Registration is still open for the fall! If you know of any neighbors or friends with young children, please encourage them to contact the main office.
- Summer Office Hours: The Rockwell Office is open 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM throughout the summer. Feel free to reach out if you need anything or would like to schedule a meeting.

I am incredibly excited for this fresh start and can't wait to welcome your children back for another remarkable year!

Sincerely,

**Katelynn Killmore**
Principal, Rockwell Elementary

## NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION PLATFORM!

**Onondaga Centeral School District and The Board of Education has transitioned to Diligent Community, a new platform that will be used to continue to communicate the Board of Education meetings, agendas, minutes and other inportant resources. Access Board meeting information, agendas, minutes, updates, and other important resources all in one place. Scan the QR code to access Diligent Community and stay connected!**

**https://onondaga-csd.community.diligentoneplatform.com/Portal/**

## Letter from Wheeler Elementary

Dear Wheeler Families,

I hope you are having a wonderful, relaxing summer!

Things have been buzzing with activity here at Wheeler Elementary. Our facilities team has been hard at work, and we're thrilled to share that several major projects are finishing up. Our cafeteria has undergone a fantastic transformation, and our front entrance has been freshly resurfaced—it's all looking great!

We are also excited to welcome several wonderful new teachers to our Wheeler family. They've been in and out of the building all summer, pouring their energy into planning and setting up inspiring classrooms for your children.

**As you start planning for fall, here are a few key dates and details to keep in mind:**

- **First Day of School:** Tuesday, September 8.
- **Drop-off Details:** Doors open for students at 7:35 a.m. If you are dropping your child off, please plan to have them here by 7:50 a.m.
- **Dismissal Details:** Dismissal is at 2:12 p.m. If you plan to pick up your child at the end of the day, please notify the main office in advance so we can have them ready to go when you arrive.

Incoming **3rd Grade Welcome Night** We can't wait to welcome our incoming 3rd graders and their families on Wednesday, September 2, at 6:00 p.m. We will start with a brief gathering in the cafeteria before heading to the classrooms. I'll be there to answer any questions, and you are more than welcome to bring your child's school supplies to drop off early so they don't have to haul them on the bus on day one!

Staying Connected ParentSquare remains our primary way to stay in touch. Please take a moment to make sure your app is updated to your preferred settings. Important details—including teacher assignments and bus routes—will be posted on ParentSquare in mid-August. You can also expect regular updates there throughout the rest of the summer and all school year long.

If you aren't connected to ParentSquare yet or need help setting up your account, please give our main office a call at 315-552-5050. You are also welcome to message me directly on the app anytime.

Our main office hours are weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you plan to stop by, please give us a quick call first—I am often out of my office at meetings or around the building, and I want to make sure I don't miss you!

Enjoy these last lovely weeks of summer. We are so excited to see your children's smiling faces soon!

Sincerely,

**Erik Swanson**
Principal, Wheeler Elementary

## Transportation

As we prepare to welcome students back for another exciting school year, we are looking forward to a great start and all the opportunities a new year brings. To help ensure a safe and efficient transportation experience for everyone, we ask for your partnership.

Like many districts, Onondaga is experiencing a shortage of bus drivers. With everyone's cooperation, we are confident we can make transportation run as smoothly as possible.




**Please keep the following reminders in mind:**

- If your child's transportation needs have changed since last school year, please notify the Transportation Department as soon as possible.
- Students should be at their bus stop at least 5 minutes before the scheduled pickup time each morning. Because our buses will be transporting more students, drivers will need to stay on schedule and will not be able to wait at bus stops.
- Please limit the number of items your child brings on the bus whenever possible, as space will be limited.

We truly appreciate your patience, flexibility, and support as we begin the school year together. Working as a team will help us provide safe, reliable transportation for all of our students. We look forward to a wonderful school year!

**Matt Dodge,** Transportation Supervisor











## Summer Spectacular

A huge THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to our amazing community for your continuing support! OCS Drama club performed another successful summer production on July 30th.

We had 21 students, 11 alumni, and 5 community members perform in our Summer Spectacular. It was a magical adventure performed with fun, skill, and laughter. All of our students from Rockwell through senior high shone as they performed alongside staff members, community members, alumni, and fellow students. It was a joy to work with and a delight to watch as they explored new avenues, learned new skills, and ultimately performed an outstanding show.

Mark your calendars for our Fall production of Peter and the Starcatcher!

# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### BUS DRIVERS:

» Openings are available for part-time and substitute bus drivers. Applicants must be 21+, have a valid driver's license, and enjoy working with children. No experience necessary; paid training is available.

### SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN:

» Immediate openings for substitute custodians on the evening shift at Rockwell, Wheeler, and the Jr./Sr. High School. Day shifts may also be available. Work 4–8 hours as your schedule permits. Training provided; heavy lifting required.

### ROCKWELL ELEMENTARY LUNCH MONITOR:

» The lunch monitor supervises elementary students during lunch, promotes a safe and respectful environment, assists with basic needs, and reinforces school expectations. The ideal candidate is caring, attentive, and dependable, with a focus on student safety and well-being.

**SCAN FOR APPLICATIONS**
www.onondagacsd.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=1685

## NURSES CORNER

# Are Your Kids Up to Date on Their Vaccines?

## Don't Miss the Bus!



Check to make sure your child's vaccines are up to date **BEFORE** school starts

**Call your childs health care provider today!**

**No provider OR insurance?**
Call to schedule an appointment at the OCHD Immunization Clinic
**315.435.2074**

ongovhealth Onondaga County Health Department | Bureau of Disease Control Immunization Program

Onondaga County Immunization Coalition

**ROCKWELL ELEMENTARY**
**Samantha Reed**
sreed@onondagacsd.org
315-552-5072

**WHEELER ELEMENTARY**
**Lindsey Yonko**
lyonko@onondagacsd.org
315-552-5052

**JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL**
**Diana Abbott**
diabbott@onondagacsd.org
315-552-5026

## FALL SPORTS REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**VERY IMPORTANT!!! All student athletes will be required to have a valid physical within a year of their season start date. Now is the time to get these done!!! You can register your child for athletics in Family ID anytime within 30 days of the season start date for their sport.**

JV/V Fall sports registration opens **Friday, July 24th, 2026** and Modified sports opens on **Friday, July 31st** on Family ID [see the OCS Athletics website for direct link].

During registration, **please be sure to upload a current physical which must be dated August 1, 2025 or more recent for participation.**

Please contact the athletic office with any questions. 315-552-5022; rcooper@onondagacsd.org

**ATHLETICS START DATES FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR**
***(Start dates are subject to change):***

**Fall Sports:**

» Monday, August 17, 2026- Varsity Football

» Monday, August 24, 2026- JV/Varsity Fall Season

» Monday, August 24, 2026- Modified Football

» Monday, August 31, 2026- All other Modified Sports

**Winter Sports:**

» Monday, October 26, 2026-Modified Winter Season 1: Mod Volleyball & Mod Boys Basketball

» Monday, November 16, 2026 - JV/Varsity Winter Season

» Monday, January 6, 2027 - Winter Season 2: Mod Wrestling & Mod Girls Basketball

**Spring Sports:**

» Monday, March 8, 2027 - JV/Varsity Spring Season

» Monday, April 5, 2027 - Modified Spring Season

**SCAN FOR REGISTRATION**
www.onondagacsd.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=1680



*Go Tigers!*

ONONDAGA CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Nedrow, NY 13120
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FAX 315-552-5005
onondagacsd.org

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Pam Hanrahan
Erik Nelson
Noelle Relles

Robert S. Montgomery, Superintendent of Schools

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## SEPTEMBER

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|---|---|
| **Wednesday, September 2:** | Superintendent's Day (Staff Only) \| HS Locker Night/7th Grade Orientation, 5-6pm, Jr./Sr. High School \| Wheeler 3rd Grade Welcome Night, 6-7pm, Wheeler Elementary School |
| **Thursday, September 3:** | Superintendent's Day (Staff Only) |
| **Monday, September 7:** | Labor Day |
| **Tuesday, September 8:** | First Day for Students K-12 \| Preschool Orientation AM/PM sessions, Rockwell Elementary School |
| **Wednesday, September 9:** | First Day UPK \| PTO Meeting, 6pm at Rockwell |
| **Friday, September 11:** | Homecoming Weekend Begins \| Wheeler Glow Stick Party 2:30pm-4:30pm, Wheeler Elementary School |
| **Tuesday, September 15:** | BOE Meeting, 6pm, Rockwell Elementary School Cafeteria |
| **Thursday, September 17:** | Wheeler Curriculum Night, 6-7pm, Wheeler Elementary School |
| **Tuesday, September 22:** | HS Picture Day, Jr./Sr. High School |
| **Thursday, September 24:** | Rockwell Meet the Teacher Night, 6-7pm, Rockwell Elementary School |
| **Tuesday, September 29:** | Blood Drive, 9am-2pm, Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria \| Board of Education Meeting 6pm, Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria |

## OCTOBER

| | |
|---|---|
| **Thursday, October 8:** | Early Dismissal Drill (All Buildings) |
| **Friday, October 9:** | Superintendent's Day, Half Day for Students |
| **Tuesday, October 13:** | BOE Meeting, 6pm, High School |
| **Wednesday, October 14:** | Wheeler Picture Day \| PTO Meeting, 6pm |
| **Thursday, October 15:** | Rockwell Picture Day |
| **Friday, October 16:** | HS End of 1st Marking Period |
| **Wednesday, October 21:** | HS Picture Retake Day |
| **Friday, October 16:** | Halloween Parade, Rockwell 9:30am, Wheeler 1pm |

*Important!*

Dates and times are subject to change. Please see our website calendar for the most accurate information.



## FOLLOW TO STAY CONNECTED!

*@OnondagaCSD on Facebook and Instagram!*

Created by: CITIPR Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation

**Non-discrimination Policy:** The Onondaga Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs, activities, employment, and admissions; and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Joseph Sterbank, compliance officer/coordinator, at jsterbank@onondagacsd.org, 315-552-5001, 4466 S. Onondaga Road, Nedrow, NY 13120. Inquiries concerning the application of the Onondaga Central School District nondiscrimination policies may also be referred to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Bldg. 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202, telephone (800) 421-3481 or email ocr@ed.gov.
Any parent who believes his or her child has been denied the benefits of an appropriate education as a result of discrimination based on disability should contact the Superintendent of Schools. Moreover, any person who believes his or her rights have been violated should contact the Superintendent of Schools.