

# MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

## LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

**Dear OCS Community,**

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen educational funding, Governor Hochul tasked the Rockefeller Institute with a comprehensive analysis of the Foundation Aid formula—critical in determining how much state aid each school district receives. In response to this review, the Governor's Executive Budget proposal, released this January, includes a \$1.46 billion increase to Foundation Aid, representing a 5.8% boost overall. For Onondaga Central School District, this translates to a proposed increase of \$698,081, or 10.54%, a significant improvement compared to last year's modest increase of just \$1,373 (0.02%).

While this increase is welcomed, the District has faced the dual challenge of stagnant aid in recent years and rising operational costs. As a result, this year we have had to rely on fund balance and reserves to bridge the gap in our budget. Despite these financial pressures, we remain committed to preserving the quality of education our students deserve. We are currently working to finalize the 2025-26 budget, which will be presented for Board of Education approval in April.

As we plan for the upcoming school year, we are excited about the opportunities ahead, including the introduction of a new mathematics curriculum and the start of significant renovations as part of our 2026 Capital Project—projects designed to enhance the learning environment for years to come. Our focus remains on making strategic, thoughtful decisions that balance fiscal responsibility with maintaining and expanding the educational experiences that benefit all students. Additionally, as we are unable to forecast state and federal direction with respect to school funding, this year we will focus on reducing the use of fund balance and reserves to balance the budget with strategic reductions.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to shape a budget that reflects our commitment to excellence in education.

*Rob Price*

**Rob Price,**  
Superintendent of Schools



**Onondaga**  
Central Schools

SCAN FOR  
**OCS CALENDAR**



### Board of Education Election

Three seats (3-year terms each) will be open on the Board of Education. Interested candidates for one of these seats on the Board of Education must obtain a petition at the District Office between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 4466 South Onondaga Road, Nedrow. Petitions must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the district. Petitions must be returned by the end of business on April 21, 2025 by 5 p.m. to be included on the voting booth ballot.

If you have any questions, please call Joseph Sterbank, Business Administrator, at 315-522-5001.

### Qualifications for candidates for the Board of Education are:

- » Must be 18 years of age
- » Must be able to read and write
- » Must be a resident of the District for the year immediately prior to the date of the board election (May 20, 2025)
- » Not more than one member of a family residing at the same address shall be a member of the same board of education in any school district
- » Cannot be an employee of Onondaga Central School District

## Student Voice to Join Onondaga Central Board of Education Under New NYS Law

Exciting changes are coming to the Onondaga Central School District! In a move that promises to amplify student voices in district decision-making, New York State has passed legislation requiring all public school districts to include a high school student member on their Board of Education. This landmark change will take effect on September 1, 2025, and Onondaga Central is preparing to embrace this opportunity.

The new law, signed by Governor Kathy Hochul, recognizes the importance of student perspectives in shaping educational policies and practices. By including a student voice on the board, districts can gain valuable insights into the student experience and ensure that decisions reflect the needs and interests of the entire school community.

This is a significant step towards empowering our students and fostering a more inclusive and representative educational system. We believe that students have a unique understanding of their educational journey, and their input will be invaluable as we work to improve our schools.

The legislation mandates that each district establish a process for selecting the student board member. While specific details are still being finalized, Onondaga Central is committed to creating a fair and transparent selection process that encourages broad student participation. The district is exploring various options, such as student elections, applications or a combination of both.

We want to ensure that every high school student in grades 10-12 has the opportunity to be considered for this

important role. We are committed to developing a selection process that is inclusive, equitable and reflects the diversity of our student body

The student board member will be an ex-officio, non-voting member, meaning they will attend board meetings, participate in discussions and offer their perspectives, but will not have a formal vote or will not attend executive sessions. This role will provide students with a unique opportunity to learn about school governance, develop leadership skills and advocate for their peers.

This is an incredible opportunity for students to make a real difference in their schools and communities. We encourage all eligible high school students in grades 10-12 to consider participating in the selection process and becoming a voice for their fellow students.

Onondaga Central is excited to welcome a student member(s) to its Board of Education and looks forward to the positive impact this change will have on the district. The district will announce further details about the selection process and eligibility requirements in the coming weeks and months. Stay tuned for updates on this exciting development!





**Enriching School Year for Rockwell UPK Program**

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) has had a busy school year to date. Students have embraced a wide range of engaging activities, from exploring fire safety with local firefighters to creating colorful art, collaborating in English to spell letters with their bodies and delving into STEM projects that spark curiosity.

They've also enjoyed hands-on culinary experiences and team-based activities in gym, fostering creativity, problem-solving and healthy habits. These experiences have created a joyful learning environment that supports growth, teamwork and a love for discovery.



**Onondaga Central School District Art Teacher Showcases Talent in Local Exhibit**

The Onondaga Central School District is proud to announce that one of its talented art educators is participating in a prestigious exhibit at the Fayetteville Free Library. The showcase, organized by the New York State Art Teachers Association (NYSATA) Region 3, features works from local art teachers.

Representing Onondaga Central School District, Jackie Passetti is exhibiting a collection of three paintings and two block prints. Each piece reflects the creativity and skill

that inspire her students daily. All display tags at the exhibit prominently feature the schools and districts represented by the participating artists, highlighting the vital connection between educators and their communities.

The exhibit celebrates the artistry and dedication of Region 3 members, reinforcing the importance of arts education in schools. For more information about the exhibit, please visit the NYSATA Region 3 website at <https://www.nysata.org/region-3-central>.



## OCS Ski Club Hits the Slopes

OCS Ski Club ventured onto the slopes this winter! It is an excellent opportunity for both beginners and amateurs. A special thank you to OCS seniors who are also Ski Instructors at the mountain. Huge shoutout to the seasoned crew for guiding a first-timer safely through the experience. The students loved it, and a big thank you is due to Ms. Zieniuk for bringing Ski Club back to OCS.



## 7th Grade Students Shine with Eye-Catching Optical Art Illustrations

Seventh-grade art students recently showcased their creative skills by completing a series of stunning Optical Art illustrations. These captivating works demonstrate the students' ability to blend colored pencils seamlessly, creating the illusion of curved, three-dimensional shapes.

The project challenged students to control pencil pressure and experiment with blending techniques, resulting in rich shadows, vibrant highlights and unique color combinations. Students expressed excitement in designing their pieces and were inspired by the diverse interpretations their classmates brought to the assignment.

## Update Regarding Academic Letter Banquet

We would like to inform you about an important update regarding the Academic Letter Banquet. Traditionally held earlier in February, we are moving toward having an **Academic Letter Breakfast that will be held May 20 at 8 a.m.** We hope this adjustment will enhance participation and enjoyment for everyone involved.

The decision to move away from the banquet was influenced by a significant price increase of almost 40%, making it difficult to justify. The students who will be honored achieved honor roll all six marking periods last school year. Please mark your calendars. Invitations will be sent out soon.

We appreciate your understanding and support as we make this transition.



# ☆☆ HONOR ROLL ☆☆

**7TH GRADE**

Adams, Kara\*  
 Batschelet, Grace\*  
 Berger, Charlotte\*  
 Berger, Julia\*  
 Bergman, James\*  
 Bey-Wright, Epiphany\*  
 Braun, Clara\*  
 Brooks, Jansen\*  
 Burns, Madison\*  
 Campbell, Jayden\*  
 Claflin, Johanna  
 Conway, Callin\*  
 Cox, Bryson\*  
 Cox, Sophie\*  
 Crysler, William\*  
 Decker, Mason  
 Forest, Kylie\*  
 Gemmell, Aeliana\*  
 Gowing, Isabella\*  
 Hardwick, Aryanna\*  
 Hosler, Easton\*  
 Hudson, Bryce\*  
 Hunt, Carter\*  
 Klekochko, Stanislav\*  
 Kudlick, Samantha\*  
 Lasinski, Matthew\*  
 Lehmann, Bennett  
 Luchsinger, Liam\*  
 Luchsinger, Logan\*  
 Luton, Willa\*  
 Maloney, Weston\*  
 Marhelis, Evelina\*  
 McCoy, Egan  
 Millett, Andrew\*  
 Murphy, Austin\*  
 Murphy, Brayden\*  
 Murray, Alaina  
 Nelson, Shane\*  
 Palmer, Addison  
 Phillips, Colin\*  
 Phinney, David\*  
 Pimentel, Ne'vae\*  
 Price, Theodore\*  
 Romano, Winter\*  
 Samson, Connor\*  
 Sicignano, Vincent\*  
 Smith III, James  
 Taylor, Evan  
 Thomas, Oliver

Torres, Alvin\*  
 Vonderweidt, Jeannette\*  
 Wiley, James

**8TH GRADE**

Andino, Rosemarie\*  
 Baxter III, Bobby\*  
 Burns, Quinn  
 Cage, Gabriel\*  
 Charette, Arlena  
 Conners, Jameson\*  
 Corrente, Paul\*  
 Cruz Pagan, Nayanis\*  
 Donaghy, Kaelyn  
 Fikes, Emily\*  
 Finlay, Aden  
 Foster, Alexandra\*  
 Greene, Violet\*  
 Hass, Hunter  
 Hourigan, Andrew\*  
 Hourigan, Brayden  
 Hourigan, Taylor\*  
 Hughes, Gianna\*  
 Kallfelz, Aubrey\*  
 Kelsey, Avery\*  
 Kelsey, Jacob\*  
 Kelsey, Nicholas  
 Kgalemang, Teto\*  
 King, Carson\*  
 Kobasa, Ryan\*  
 Kyslyak, Illia\*  
 Lettsome, Ella\*  
 Marhelis, Preston\*  
 Massey, Damian  
 Meah, Shahriaz\*  
 Moore, August\*  
 Mulligan, Madison\*  
 Patterson, Sean\*  
 Pierce, Allison\*  
 Polge, Anthony\*  
 Pulver, Nathan\*  
 Relles, Coralena\*  
 Richardson, Dashawn\*  
 Roundtree, London  
 Ryan, Madison\*  
 Sanders, Zion  
 Scheve, Lillian\*  
 Shepherd, Nevae\*  
 Shute, Addison  
 Spencer, Colton\*

Tkachenko, David  
 Veri, Penelope  
 Welch, Miles\*  
 White, Iceiz\*  
 Zarnowski, Paityn\*

**9TH GRADE**

Abdurakhmanov, Daniel  
 Allen, Lucas\*  
 Barbuto, Macie\*  
 Bowens, Quan'Dai  
 Boyer, Zachary  
 Carter, Jordyn\*  
 Clarke, Kevanie\*  
 Cummings, Colton\*  
 Dixie, Gavin\*  
 Dixie, Logan\*  
 Fowler, Lucy\*  
 Francis, Colton  
 Gemmell, James\*  
 Grant, Nahzehia  
 Hennigan, Rose\*  
 Hill, Jakari\*  
 Hill, Jorden\*  
 Lasinski, Francesca\*  
 Lehmann, Jackson\*  
 Mumford, Ella\*  
 Powell, Ian\*  
 Searle, Brooklyn\*  
 Smorol, Cooper\*  
 Steeproock, Tucker\*  
 Toro, Ariana\*  
 Wadsworth, Jacob  
 Woods, Olivia

**10TH GRADE**

Adams, Nih'Jawn\*  
 Burton, Jacob  
 Cousineau, Nolan  
 Donze, Amani\*  
 Fiaschetti, Sydney\*  
 Fikes, William  
 Frazier, Mariana\*  
 Freyer, Abigail\*  
 Gabriel, Jr., Raun  
 Gomez Mejia, Mayerli  
 Haines, Tyler\*  
 Hourigan, Theodore\*  
 Hughes, William\*  
 Hunter, Trevor\*

Keane, Jayden\*  
 Knapp, Madison  
 Kobasa, Lyla  
 Luton, Reed\*  
 Marsh, Kendal\*  
 Mayotte-Woods, Kaleb\*  
 McCoy, Knoll\*  
 Miller, Jr., Sean  
 O'Dell, Addison  
 Pierce, Grace\*  
 Rhyant, Emalie  
 Smidga, Ciera  
 Smith Jr., Jamere\*  
 Spencer, Adeline\*  
 Spies, Anna\*  
 Spies, Lena\*  
 Wright, Zanai\*

**11TH GRADE**

Andino, Carolyn\*  
 Boyer, Sydney\*  
 Brasket, Avery\*  
 Brown, Maxwell\*  
 Burton, Jack  
 Cannon V, Johnny  
 Carter, Amillia  
 Cox, MacKenna\*  
 Cox, Sydney\*  
 Crews, Alex\*  
 Doner, Nathan\*  
 Fordyce, Kaleigha  
 Hall, Aaron  
 Hill, Tessa\*  
 Mahoney, Grace  
 Mayoral, Brysen  
 Mckee, Tucker\*  
 Miller, Madilynn\*  
 Montulli, Antonio\*  
 Morris, Nolan  
 Moses, Justin\*  
 Mulligan, Riley\*  
 Nett, Benjamin\*  
 Palacios Ramirez, Yoselin  
 Pierce Jr., David\*  
 Urbas, Joshua  
 Victoriano, Ryan  
 Wilhelm, Zachary  
 Wright IV, Howard\*  
 Young, Christopher\*  
 Ziebarth, Lilyann

**12TH GRADE**

Adams, Sylvania\*  
 Bellinger, Jaiden  
 Bennett, Tyson\*  
 Bloom, Olivia\*  
 Catarisano, Evan  
 Cheek, Jordan\*  
 Chen, Cindy  
 Corrente, James  
 Cousineau, Daelyn\*  
 Cruz, Adan\*  
 Davis, Gabrielle\*  
 Donath, Ella\*  
 Fikes, Lindsay\*  
 Foster, Helena\*  
 Garafolo, Kaydee\*  
 Grady, Sahara\*  
 Grenton, LaJada\*  
 Hammond, Bryan\*  
 Hayes, Lina\*  
 Holley, Jordan\*  
 Hollister Jr., Damon\*  
 Hunter, II, David\*  
 Kelsey, Alaina\*  
 LaMacchia, Emanuel\*  
 Lettsome, Deshea\*  
 Mango, Evylena\*  
 Mattox, Aliyah\*  
 Morman, Amieya  
 Parker, Miles\*  
 Robinson, Candace\*  
 Rodriguez, Keahra\*  
 Sanborn, Melissa\*  
 Schmidt, Mackenzie\*  
 Schultz, Hannah\*  
 Schultz, Leah\*  
 Schultz, Madelyn\*  
 Smith, Skylar\*  
 Sutton, Seamus  
 Toomey, John\*  
 Troch, Ryan\*  
 Vincent, Jadin\*  
 Volles, Jacob\*  
 Welch, John\*  
 Yemma, Maddox\*

\* = Indicates High Honor Roll



## Therapy Dog Program Expands to Rockwell and Wheeler Elementary Schools

Rockwell and Wheeler Elementary are thrilled to welcome Winnie Sindone as the newest member of the therapy dog program.

Winnie, an F1B Goldendoodle (75% poodle and 25% golden retriever), is considered more hypoallergenic, making her a great fit for our school environments. She will join the schools in small increments at first, gradually transitioning to being present most days alongside Mrs. Sindone.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to notify their child's building principal of any allergies or concerns related to therapy dogs.

We are thrilled about the positive impact Winnie will bring to our schools and look forward to her becoming an integral part of our community.

## Request for Non-Public School Transportation Due April 1

If you live in the OCS district but plan on having your child transported to a non-public school, a form needs to be filled out and returned to the Transportation Department no later than April 1 of the year preceding the school year for which transportation is desired. This can be found on our website



**SCAN FOR FORM**

[onondagacsd.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=1671](https://onondagacsd.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=1671)



## ART STUDENTS VISIT SCHOLASTIC ART SHOW AT OCC

Students from Painting & Drawing 1, Painting & Drawing 2 and AP Portfolio classes recently visited the Scholastic Art Show exhibit at Onondaga Community College (OCC). Led by Ms. Beckeman and Mrs. Passetti, the students explored three floors of inspiring artwork created by student artists from Central New York schools.

The field trip sparked creativity and left students brimming with fresh ideas to bring into their own work. Thank you to OCC for hosting such an inspiring event!



**MEAN GIRLS PLAY**

“Mean Girls” is a comedy/parody of high school life. It is as the opening song states, “A Cautionary Tale.” We want to make you aware that there are sensitive topics discussed (bullying, language, alcohol, etc) that may not be appropriate for some of our younger audience members. Join us April 4-6!



**OCS NIGHT OF THE ARTS**

We are excited to invite you to an evening at OCS. We are presenting the best of our talented students. The night will include galleries of student artwork (6-12) and musical performances by our students (7-12). Join us March 19!

**Accepting Wall of Distinction Applications**

The Onondaga Central School District is currently accepting nominations for the Wall of Distinction. Nomination forms are available online or by calling Janet Ferris at 315-552-5020. All nominations must be submitted by the first Friday in the month of June and may be mailed, emailed or returned to the high school office. Please address them in care of Janet Ferris, 4479 South Onondaga Rd. Nedrow, N.Y. 13120 or by email [jferris@onondagacsd.org](mailto:jferris@onondagacsd.org); cc: [tmumford@onondagacsd.org](mailto:tmumford@onondagacsd.org). The Onondaga Central School District Wall of Distinction was created in 2012 for the purpose of recognizing and honoring graduates of Onondaga Junior Senior High School. An advisory committee considers nominated graduates who have achieved a high level of prominence in their personal and/or professional lives and who have participated in

extensive community service or volunteer activities for induction to the Wall of Distinction. Each inductee has their picture and biography prominently displayed on the Wall of Distinction which is located at Onondaga Central School Junior Senior High School in the gymnasium lobby. For further information, please contact Janet Ferris at 315-552-5020. If you are interested in joining the nomination committee, please contact Tim Mumford at 315-552-5020.





## Wheeler Elementary Student Advances to Regional Spelling Bee Final

Congratulations to Henry Smith, a sixth-grade student at Wheeler Elementary, for achieving top marks in the Regional Qualifier Online test for The Post-Standard | syracuse.com's Spelling Bee.

Henry joins 19 other local students in the Final Regional Bee, taking place on March 22 at the Newhouse School at Syracuse University. The winner of this event will advance to the 2025 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

Good luck, Henry! We're confident you will "bee" amazing!

## Nurses' Corner

### American Heart Month

February was American Heart Month. Did you know?

- » More than 23,000 children experience cardiac arrest outside of the hospital each year. 40% are related to sports and nearly 20% are infants.
- » Cardiac arrest accounts for 10-15% of sudden unexpected infant deaths. Learn CPR today so you are ready and become a part of the Nation of Lifesavers.

### Physical Reminders

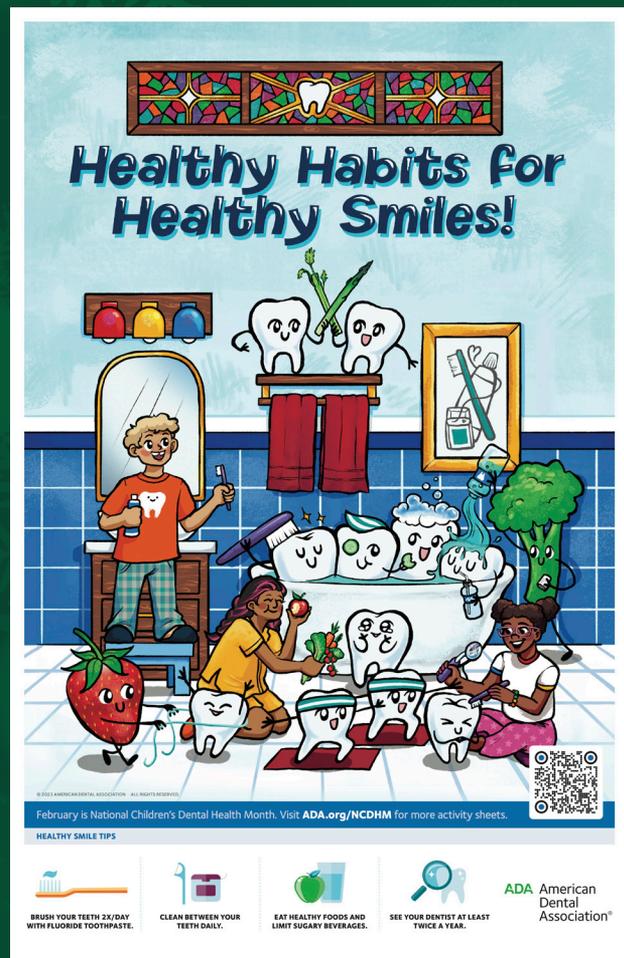
Your child(ren) need to have submitted a dental exam every year that they submit a physical (pre-k, kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th grades).

### Flu, Strep, RSV and Norovirus

Yes, there is a lot of flu, strep, RSV and norovirus going around. Please keep your child home until:

- » No Fever for 24 hours WITHOUT medication
- » No diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours
- » Frequent cough that would exhaust your child and disrupt learning
- » Green or yellow nasal drainage
- » Ear pain
- » Rash

Stay Well! Patty (315-552-5072),  
Lindsay (315-552-5052) and Kayla (315-552-5026).





**MEMORY PROJECT ARTWORK ON ROUTE TO INDIA**

Nineteen portraits from the Jr./Sr. High School are officially on their way to India as part of the Memory Project. The portraits were shipped early January to start their journey to the children in India. OCS students are excited to see the results of their work in a couple months when they will receive a video of the portrait deliveries.



**OCS AND TULLY PE TEACHERS ACHIEVING CERTIFICATION THROUGH NATIONAL ARCHERY IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

Tully and Onondaga Central School District Physical Education teachers are taking aim at enhancing student experiences by earning certification through the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP). This professional development will enable educators to introduce archery as an engaging and educational activity in their PE curriculum.



**OCS Students' Musical Talents Shine**

Six talented students from Onondaga Jr./Sr. High School auditioned for the prestigious Senior High All-County Chorus and Band at Tully High School this winter. Seniors Adan Cruz, Lindsay Fikes, Jeremiah Hammond and Deshea Lettsome, along with juniors Carolyn Andino and Riley Mulligan, showcased their musical skills in a rigorous audition process.

Andino, Fikes and Lettsome were accepted into All-County Chorus and Lettsome secured a spot for All-County Band for trombone as well. The performance was at West Genesee High School in January.

From there, Andino and Lettsome were selected to participate in this year's NYSSMA Zone 3 Senior High Area All-state Chorus. This elite group is made up of the top student musicians across New York State who performed a challenging NYSSMA level 6 solo last spring.

Congratulations to all students who represented OCS with their hard work and talent.



## Rockwell Elementary “Welcome Bags” Initiative for Newborns a Success

Rockwell Elementary staff is proud of the success of our “Born to Read” program, supporting the learning journey of our youngest community members and their families.

Thoughtful welcome bags are designed to welcome new families into the community while providing essential resources to foster early literacy and childhood development. This initiative reflects our school’s commitment to celebrating, supporting and cheering on families as they guide their little ones to grow and flourish.

The “Welcome Bags” include information on early childhood development, guidance on educational resources and details about district programs as well as a “Future Tiger” onesie and collection of books.

For more information, please contact Mrs. Madden at [smadden@onondagacsd.org](mailto:smadden@onondagacsd.org) or 315- 552-5070.

## Employment Opportunities



### School Nurse

A substitute nurse is needed 2-3 days a week during May and June at the Jr./Sr. High School. Must be an RN. Please visit our website to apply.

### Substitute Custodians

Generally needed for evening shift from four to eight hours at Rockwell, Wheeler and the Jr./Sr. High School. Some heavy lifting required. Training is provided. Contact 315-552-5090.

### Substitute Teachers (certified and uncertified) and Substitute Teaching Assistant

If interested, please visit our website at [onondagacsd.org](http://onondagacsd.org) for applications.

### Groundskeeper

OCS is seeking a full-time groundskeeper. Groundskeepers perform a variety of light and heavy manual labor tasks in the maintenance of public grounds. In addition, this position operates snow removal equipment to remove snow and does other related manual tasks during the winter. Must possess a valid NYS Non-CDL or CDL license. This is a labor class civil service position that does not require a written test.

### Substitute School Bus Driver or Bus Monitor

Retired? Looking for something to do or some extra money? Are you at least 21 years old? Do you have a driver’s license? Do you like working with kids? Come see us and we will train you! We can get you ready for your road test or teach you how to assist special needs students on the bus. No experience necessary, but is always appreciated. Please call 315-552-5090 if interested.



## ONONDAGA CENTRAL STUDENTS SHINE AT AREA ALL-STATE FESTIVAL

Onondaga Central School District proudly recognizes Deshea Lettsome and Carolyn Andino for their outstanding participation in the Area All-State Festival at Ithaca College. Their dedication and talent are a testament to the excellence of our students.

### UPK Registration Open for 2025-2026

The UPK program is open to all children who reside within the district’s boundaries and, for the 2025-26 school year, are four years old on or before December 1, 2025. Students who are school-age (turn 5 before December 1, 2025) are not eligible for UPK, but may register for Kindergarten at Rockwell. Pre-registration is open now on our OCS website through the registration page. The 2025-26 UPK registration period will close on May 1, 2025.

OCS currently offers 54 PreK seats. If there are more eligible applicants than can be served in a given school year who have registered before May 1, 2025, the district will conduct a lottery-based system to determine who may enroll in the program. Only students who have completed all paperwork to finalize the registration process will be admitted into the lottery.



**SCAN FOR FORM**  
[onondagacsd.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=2031](https://onondagacsd.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=2031)

### Kindergarten Registration Open for 2025-2026

Registration is now online. Please complete your pre-registration on our website, [onondagacsd.org](https://onondagacsd.org). Students must turn five years old by December 1, 2025 to enter kindergarten.

Once you have completed the pre-registration, you will be contacted by the registrar to complete any additional paperwork needed and finish the registration process.



### Rockwell Elementary Celebrates Mrs. Mary Beth Featherstone for Outstanding Community Leadership

Rockwell Elementary School proudly recognizes Mrs. Mary Beth Featherstone, a dedicated 2nd-grade teacher, for her exceptional contributions to fostering strong community ties and enhancing student experiences.

Mrs. Featherstone has served as a vital liaison between Rockwell Elementary and the Nedrow Fire Department, spearheading Fire Prevention Week activities. Her efforts culminate in engaging events, including firefighter visits, where students explore fire trucks and learn firsthand about fire safety.

Beyond Fire Prevention Week, Mrs. Featherstone leads Earth Day cleanup initiatives, positioning Rockwell Elementary as the headquarters for community-wide environmental efforts. Her leadership extends to organizing the annual Flag Day ceremony and coordinating with the fire department to facilitate the much-anticipated student and staff parade through the streets of Nedrow.



Rockwell Elementary extends heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Featherstone for her unwavering commitment to education, community engagement and creating lasting memories for students and families alike.



## OCS Chorus Members Shine at Festival

Onondaga Central School District proudly recognizes the following students who had the honor of performing at the 2025 Onondaga County Music Educators Association Junior High Festival at Nottingham High School.

Rosie Andino, Frankie Lasinski, Matt Lasinski, Ian Powell and Alvin Torres showcased their talents as members of the Mixed Chorus.

These students earned their place in the festival through auditions held in December, competing with students from across Onondaga County. Thank you for representing OCS so wonderfully and for creating such beautiful music.

## Rockwell Elementary PTO Hosts Valentine's Day Family Fun Night

Rockwell Elementary's PTO celebrated Valentine's Day with a fun-filled Family Night. Families came together to enjoy crafts, games and delicious treats in a festive atmosphere full of love and laughter.

The event was a huge success, bringing the Rockwell community closer and creating lasting memories for students and their families. Thank you to the PTO and all the volunteers who made this special evening possible!



## Rockwell Celebrates Attendance Awareness with Coloring Contest

In January, Rockwell School's Nurse Patty Cormier and Social Worker Kim Gdula highlighted the importance of regular school attendance through engaging presentations to students. To reinforce the message, a fun and creative coloring contest was held for grades K-2.

Winners from each grade had their posters enlarged and displayed prominently in the school, serving as a colorful reminder of the value of good attendance. Congratulations to the winners: Jimmy Titus (Kindergarten), Grace Crehan (1st Grade) and Kensley Kolwaite (2nd Grade).

Rockwell School is proud to celebrate its students' creativity while promoting such an essential message.



### Booster Club Merchandise Available Online

The Booster Club is excited about its online apparel, now live on the Athletic website! This is the perfect opportunity to show your school spirit while supporting our student-athletes.

Browse a variety of gear and represent your team with pride. Don't miss out—shop now and help make a difference.



### RHYANT BREAKS SCHOOL RECORD

OCS' Emalie Rhyant broke her personal record and the school record at the last Indoor Track meet, where she jumped an amazing 4'10" in the high jump.



### OCS Winter Track Team Crowned OHSL League Champions

The Onondaga Central School Winter Track girls' team captured the OHSL League Championship in an impressive display of athleticism and teamwork. The boys' team also achieved an outstanding 3rd place finish out of 14 teams.

#### Relay Champions:

- » *Girls 4x200:* Gabby Davis, Kennedy Harmatuk, Leah Schultz, Hannah Schultz
- » *Boys 4x200:* Jayden Mohamed, Ollie Newell, Nih'jawn Adams, Tate Sullivan
- » *Boys 4x800:* Reed Luton, Evan Cartarisano, Manny LaMacchia, Devon Munnell



#### Individual League Champions:

- » Keahra Rodriguez: *Triple Jump, Long Jump*
- » Manny LaMacchia: *3200m, 600m*
- » Jerimiah Hammond: *Weight Throw*
- » Reed Luton: *1600m*

Congratulations to all the athletes for their hard work and dedication. Go Tigers!



### OCS ATHLETES CROWNED SECTION CHAMPIONS IN TRACK & FIELD

Onondaga Central School is proud to celebrate two exceptional athletes who have claimed Section Championship titles!

Ben Nett soared to victory in the pole vault, showcasing incredible skill and determination. Keahra Rodriguez leaped her way to the top in the long jump, demonstrating outstanding talent and effort.

These achievements are a testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire OCS Track & Field team this season. Congratulations to our champions and the entire team for making OCS proud.

### OCS' Burton Recognized as Most Valuable Wrestler by Syracuse.com

Who are Section III's most valuable wrestlers at the midway point of the season? Syracuse.com wrote an article including our very own Jack Burton.

"He has an excellent work effort and elite attendance. He doesn't run around screaming like Ray Lewis and perform like Jerry Lewis. Even-keeled and always punctual. He has been a finalist in all tournaments entered this season and avenged losses to three opponents from last season," said Coach Todd Donovan.



### SCAN FOR ARTICLE

[syracuse.com/highschoolsports/2025/01/who-are-section-iiis-most-valuable-wrestlers-at-the-midway-point-of-the-season.html?gift=e959d5e5-deaa-4210-bc2b-b295757d153f](https://syracuse.com/highschoolsports/2025/01/who-are-section-iiis-most-valuable-wrestlers-at-the-midway-point-of-the-season.html?gift=e959d5e5-deaa-4210-bc2b-b295757d153f)



### GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL SENIOR NIGHT

A big shoutout to our Senior, LaJada Grenton, for her hard work, dedication and leadership on the court!



### BOYS BASKETBALL SENIOR NIGHT

Recognizing seniors Jordan Cheek, Damon Hollister Jr., Lucas McIntosh, Jesse Recor and John Toomey at the Boys' Basketball Senior Night!



### CELEBRATING HOCKEY SENIOR MCCULLOUGH

Congratulations to Liam McCullough, a dedicated senior from Onondaga Central School District, for his hard work, leadership and love for hockey.

## Marcellus & Onondaga (MO) Wrestlers Secure 7th Consecutive Championship Title at the 2024-25 OHSL Wrestling Tournament

On Saturday, February 1, 2025, the Marcellus wrestling team demonstrated their exceptional strength and determination at the OHSL Wrestling Championship held at Cazenovia High School.

With an impressive performance, MO emerged victorious, claiming their seventh consecutive league title with a total of 204 points, significantly outpacing their nearest competitor, Homer, who finished with 171.5 points.

The tournament featured intense competition among eleven teams, but MO wrestlers showcased their skill and tenacity throughout the day. Their remarkable score not only secured the championship but also underscored the depth of talent within the MO wrestling program.

MO dominated the team standings, finishing well ahead of Homer and Phoenix, who placed second and third, respectively. This victory represents a significant milestone for the MO wrestling program and highlights their unwavering commitment to improvement and excellence.

Leading the charge for MO, Christopher Doshna excelled in the 215-pound weight class, pinning his opponent, David Frazee from Southern Hills, in just 2:51. Several other MO wrestlers made notable contributions to the team's success. Doshna was joined in the finals by standout performances from Knoll McCoy at 108 lbs., who reached the finals, and Jake Burton at 116 lbs., who fought valiantly but narrowly lost by three points. Dallas Wilson at 145 lbs. also battled through a tough opponent and a deficit in the finals to secure second place. Additional strongmen and top contenders included Trevor Rankin at 160 lbs. and Elliot Barbosa at 190 lbs.

Every point counted in the consolation matches, contributing significantly to both individual and team victories. Brayden Bosrt secured 4th place at 101 lbs.,

while Blaine Haney at 124 lbs. fought hard in the semifinals but ultimately claimed 3rd place. Jack Burton at 118 lbs. triumphed in the consolation finals for 3rd, and later in the day, Anthony Decapio won his 3rd place match by decision against Adam Delcostello from Jordan-Elbridge.

With this championship victory, MO wrestlers are building on a solid foundation. The young team will return to practice to sharpen their skills for the rest of the postseason, remaining focused and determined. Their performance at the OHSL Wrestling Championship not only boosts their confidence but also positions them as formidable contenders in upcoming competitions.

### 15 of 15 Entries scored points:

- » Christopher Doshna - 1st
- » Knoll McCoy - 2nd
- » Jake Burton - 2nd
- » Dallas Wilson - 2nd
- » Trevor Rankin - 2nd
- » Elliott Barbosa - 2nd
- » Blaine Haney - 3rd
- » Jack Burton - 3rd
- » TR Decapio - 3rd
- » Jayden Abbott - 3rd
- » Brayden Borst - 4th
- » Caleb Posecznick - 6th



### WRESTLING TEAM FINISHES 2ND FOR D2 CHAMPIONSHIP

Marcellus Onondaga Wrestling team finished second place for the D2 Sectional Wrestling Championship Team Title race, getting edged out by Sherburne Earlville by two points. OCS' Jake Burton placed 3rd and Jack Burton placed 4th at the D2 Section 3 Wrestling Championship, qualifying for NYS State Wrestling Championship in Albany.

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### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Onondaga Central School PK-12 students will be proficient in all curricular areas, as measured by state, local, formative and summative assessments, by having the necessary resources in place and service learning will be implemented for all students.

### ENGAGING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Our students will learn in traditional and innovative environments that are safe, respectful, and encourage individual strengths. We will continue to utilize technology to keep student learning relevant in an effort to enhance the future success of students.

### PARENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

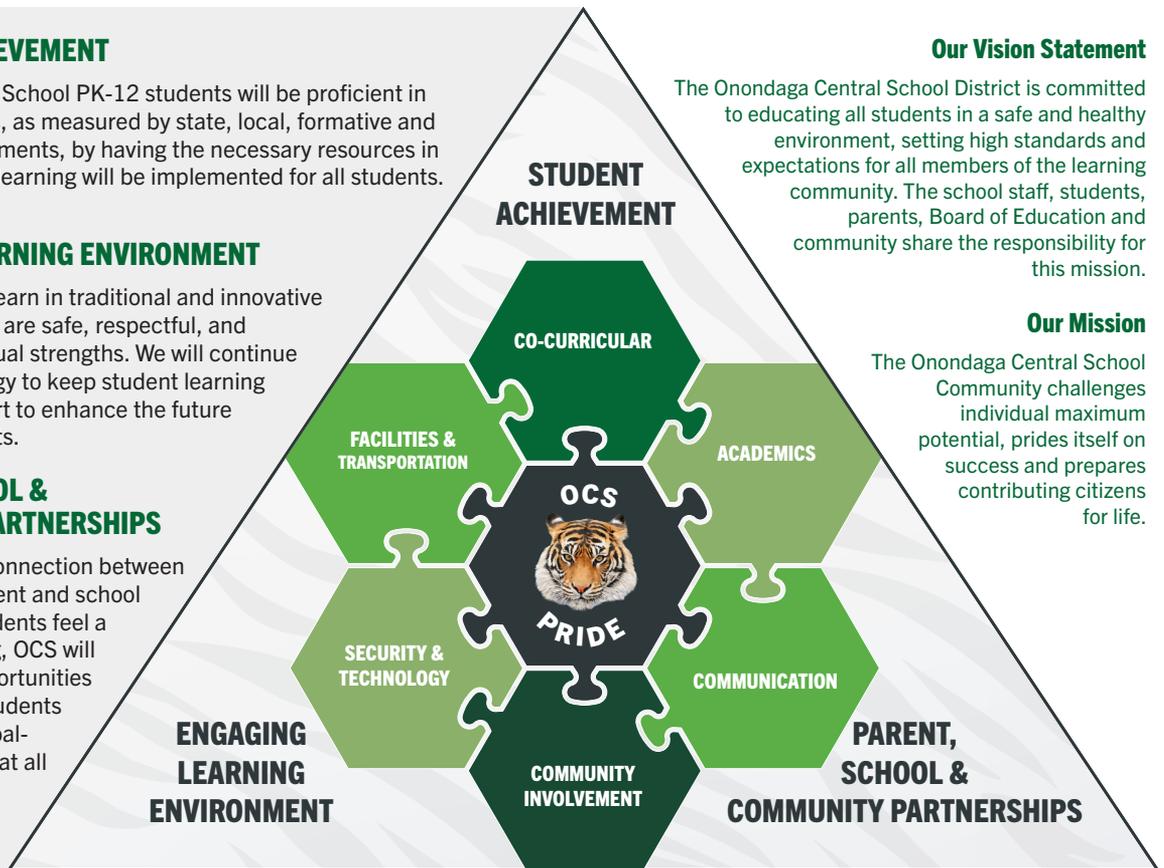
Recognizing the connection between student achievement and school success when students feel a sense of belonging, OCS will communicate opportunities for families and students to participate in goal-oriented activities at all grade levels.

### Our Vision Statement

The Onondaga Central School District is committed to educating all students in a safe and healthy environment, setting high standards and expectations for all members of the learning community. The school staff, students, parents, Board of Education and community share the responsibility for this mission.

### Our Mission

The Onondaga Central School Community challenges individual maximum potential, prides itself on success and prepares contributing citizens for life.



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