



UPDATE

June 12, 2020

Seal of Biliteracy Honoree: Congratulations to Samantha Geis!



The New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages, in addition to English. The intent of the NYSSB is to encourage the study of languages; identify high school graduates with language and biliteracy skills for employers; provide universities with additional information about applicants seeking admission; prepare students with twenty-first century skills; recognize the value of foreign and native language instruction in schools; and affirm the value of diversity in a multilingual society.

Without a dedicated Advanced Spanish class, Samantha went out of her way to complete her speaking practice and research during her every other day study hall period. For the first half of the academic year we focused on bringing her vocabulary and speaking up to speed, usually winding our way through the hallways of the HS enjoying un cafecito o un té. The second half of the year was focused on research, writing and revision. This process went digital after the shutdown, and I'm incredibly proud that Samantha's dedication to earning the Seal never wavered.

Congratulations Samantha for your dedication, unstoppable work ethic, and patience. You are very deserving of this honor.

Onondaga Tigers: Section 3 Scholar Athletics Honors:



Congratulations to Raymond Anderson and Lauren Myer the 2020 Section III Scholar Athlete Award winners. Raymond also won the "Coach D Award" for his extracurricular activities and community service. The ceremony will be televised on Monday at 6:00 pm on CW6, Channel 6. Congratulations Ray and Lauren on your recognition.

Mr. Cambareri and 7th & 8th Grade Chorus rocks it out



OCS Virtual Choir #2 - We Will
Rock You / We Are The
Champions - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvuiLgIJ0EQ>

www.youtube.com

Fraudulent Unemployment Insurance Alert:

We have been informed there is a well-organized fraud attempt aimed at **private businesses** and **school districts** regarding New York State's unemployment insurance program. The fraudulent activity started in Western New York and has found its way to Central NY. A few employees in the region have received written unemployment claims that include an individual's name, social security number, and home address. The documents appear to be genuine and often contain correct personal information.

Currently, the FBI is conducting an investigation as this is occurring in multiple states around the country. The FBI recommends that individuals whose identities are involved in such fraudulent activity notify the New York State Department of Labor. We are being told the perpetrators of this fraud are sophisticated and have gathered their information from outside sources. There is no indication that there has been a breach in the data housed at the CNYRIC. If you receive information from the NYS Labor Department (DOL) that you **did not request** contact them and your employer's human resource department immediately to take appropriate action to protect your identity.

Important Calendar Dates:

- **June 12th from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**- Rockwell, Grade 2 Farewell Drive-Thru.
 - **June 13th from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** - Rockwell UPK Parade.
 - **June 15th at 6:00 p.m.** - Rockwell, 4410 Preschool Moving Up Celebration for children going into Kindergarten, Hudson Ave. parking lot.
 - **June 16th - Budget Vote** - Absentee Ballots MUST be received at the District Office through the mail by 5:00 p.m.
 - **June 16th at 6:00 p.m.** - Wheeler, 6th Grade Celebration Drive-Thru, sponsored by the PTO.
 - **June 17th - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL/DISTANCE LEARNING - HOORAY!**
 - **June 17th at 6:00 p.m.** - BOE Meeting Virtual - Election Results [Click here for viewing options](#)
 - **June 18th through June 24th** - Wheeler, school material pick-ups and turn-ins.
 - **June 23rd at 5:30 p.m.** - OCS Code of Conduct Public Hearing Virtual- Sharing changes and legal updates for 2020-2021 school year. For viewing options see the OCS District main webpage
 - **June 23rd at 6:00 p.m.** - BOE Meeting Virtual - [Click here for viewing options](#)
 - **June 26th - Graduation Ceremony Date 6:00 PM** *See information below for details.
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*OCS Graduation Planning



Interim guidance from NYS Department of Health allows to plan Graduation for **June 26th at 6pm** in the stadium with all of the seniors in the bleachers. Under this current

guidance from the Governor, we are limited to graduating candidates and **four** guests. This allows us to stay at or under the 150 person limit. Guests will be able to rotate in groups onto the football field when their son or daughter is being called to receive their diploma and awards to take pictures and watch them cross the stage. Guests will be able live stream the ceremony while the groups ahead of them receive their diploma.

This year, regardless of the ceremony choice, we are also producing a virtual graduation film to air on television on channel CW6 (CNY Central). This film will show our student speeches and also honor each individual student. Stay tuned as planning and finalization continues. We will keep posting graduation updates frequently as guidance changes and are hoping to finalize by June 22nd.



REMINDER TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO VOTE

Ballots Due to District Office by June 16th at 5 pm by Mail-in ONLY

Date of the Election: June 16, 2020 (via absentee ballot only by 5:00 PM);

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 preceding 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.
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Absentee Ballot: In accordance with Executive Order 202.26, absentee ballots will be mailed by the District. At least one (1) absentee ballot will be provided per household. If a household requires additional absentee ballots, please contact the District Clerk at 315-552-5001 or email jwoody@ocs.cnyric.org

Absentee Ballot Questions and Answers:

1. **I did not request an absentee ballot. Why did I receive one in the mail?** This year, the Governor's Executive Order requires the District to send an absentee ballot and postage-paid return envelope to all qualified voters. Because of the Executive Order, all qualified voters are treated as though they applied for a ballot for the reason of "temporary illness," regarding concerns about a contraction of COVID-19.
2. **How did the School District create its list of qualified voters?** We used the District's previous voter records, the Onondaga County Voter Registry, the Tax Roll Property Owner Report list, and the Schooltool database to generate a list of qualified voters. In an attempt to reach voters that would not fall into these categories, the District sent the postcard notice with information as to how to request a ballot if someone is a qualified voter, and have publicized this on our website.
3. **How is the School District protecting my confidentiality if I sign and address the absentee ballot envelope?** Your vote will remain anonymous. During the opening of ballots, the signed ballot envelope will be used to verify the ballot was returned by someone to whom it was properly issued. The envelope will then be opened and the absentee ballot inside will be removed, still folded, and will be separated from the signed ballot envelope. Before ballots are counted, they will all be placed in one central receptacle, mixed up, and drawn out at random as they are unfolded and counted.
4. **The instructions on the absentee ballot instruct the voter to sign the envelope attesting to a declaration which includes a statement that the voter is unable to appear to vote in person "because of the reason stated on my application heretofore submitted . . ."**
Since I did not request the ballot, should I sign the envelope? Yes. A ballot cannot be counted if this statement is not signed. The language on the envelope is the required language under the New York Education Law. The Executive Order did not waive this language requirement and therefore it must remain on the envelope despite the unique circumstances of the all-absentee ballot election. This year, because of the Executive Order, all qualified voters are treated as though they applied for a ballot for the reason of "temporary illness," regarding concerns about a contraction of COVID-19.
5. **I received an absentee ballot addressed to someone that doesn't live at my address. Can I complete the ballot even though it wasn't addressed to me?** No. If this situation applies to you, please contact the District Clerk at 315-552-5001 or email jwoody@ocs.cnyric.org to confirm you are a qualified voter and to be added to the District's list. If a ballot is received by the District from an individual who is not on its list of qualified voters, it cannot be counted.

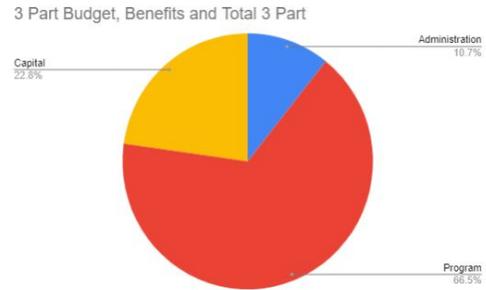
Budget Information:

On June 16, 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



*More 2020-2021 Budget information is continued below.

Reminder: 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 enrichment programs; if such a program becomes available, we will let you as soon as we have the information.



Onondaga High School Is One of the Top in the Country

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.

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. June 15, 2020 - Five days of meals (covers 6/16, 6/17, 6/18, 6/19, 6/22)
2. June 22, 2020 - Five days of meals (covers 6/23, 6/24, 6/25, 6/26, 6/29)
3. June 29, 2020 - To Be Determined
4. Summer- 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. More guidance from NYS forthcoming to see if we qualify for a summer program.

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>

Kindness in Action #OtherPeopleMatter

Happy Friday to Everyone,

Today, while reflecting on our world of distance learning, current events, and social distancing over the past three months, one word came to mind: **KINDNESS**. We have been living in some challenging times and frustrations can come out quickly and unexpectedly. Lots of good is still happening and we can be part of it by practicing patience and bringing out kindness in everyone. This year schools have worked to build and reinforce positive character strengths and traits daily. Here is a video that speaks volumes and transcends all that surrounds us at home, at work, with our family and in our community. You can watch the video using the URL below or click the picture to the right:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwAYpLVyeFU>



#OtherPeopleMatter

It looks to be another great weather weekend. I hope you all have a chance to relax and enjoy time with family and friends. We are entering another phase of opening, which is exciting as with each phase we progress to something closer to getting back to normal!

In case you were not able to view the video, please take a moment to watch this. It is a really nice message and very uplifting. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Have a nice weekend and be well.

Sincerely,

Rob Price, Superintendent