



SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEF

Dr. Genelle Morris

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 2 | October, 2023

A Message from Dr. Morris:

A Remarkable October, Anticipating an Exciting November

Dear Husky Community,



As the leaves change their colors and the air turns crisp, it's time to reflect on the many achievements and events that made October an extraordinary month in our school district. I am also delighted to share what lies ahead in November, filled with promise and excitement.

October Highlights: Celebrating Achievements

Student Success: Our students continue to excel academically, athletically, and creatively. I am proud of the achievements of our young minds, and I look forward to watching them grow and thrive throughout the school year.

Extracurricular Activities: Our students continued to shine in various extracurricular activities, from debate clubs to music ensembles, showcasing their talents and dedication. Our Huskies are excelling in sports such as volleyball, soccer, and cross country.

Professional Development: Our educators have been actively engaged in professional development to enhance their teaching skills further, ensuring that they provide the best education to our students. In October, we held a staff development day for our staff, filled with a variety of professional learning events scheduled for teachers and staff. The Keynote Address was delivered by John Krownapple, of Dignity Consulting. John's keynote address, "Belonging Through a Culture of Dignity," shared his experiences in working with schools across the country to create school communities where students, families, and staff can thrive and achieve through the honoring of dignity. Last year, each building principal and their School Building Team (made up of teachers, counselors, and support staff), spent six days with John as they did a deep dive into his book, "Belonging Through a Culture of Dignity." From this work, the School Building Teams requested that John present to the entire staff an overview of what it means to create a sense of belonging in schools through the lens of honoring the dignity of all. This Keynote Address kicks off Year 2 of this work with John and a second set of School Building Teams and supports our strategic plan.

Looking Forward to November: A Month of Opportunities

Student Board Members: We are very excited that two seniors applied and will be presented to the board of education this month to serve as our very first student board members! Their dedication and commitment have earned them this significant responsibility. We look forward to their positive impact in our district and welcome them to the team!





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A Message from Dr. Morris (continued):

Proposition # 1: I would like to remind you about the upcoming Constitutional Amendment vote on November 7, 2023. The proposed amendment to Article 8, section 4 of the Constitution removes the special constitutional debt limitation now placed on small city school districts so that they will be treated the same as all other school districts.

This November 7, a YES vote will allow small city school districts to operate under the same debt limit as all other non-city school districts in New York State. Currently, small city districts are limited to a 5% debt ceiling rather than the 10% debt ceiling all other non-city school districts operate under law.

Many of New York's 57 small city school districts must break up needed construction and improvement projects into a series of small projects spread over many years to remain under their debt limit. A 10% debt limit will allow such projects of larger scope and scale to be completed sooner with better financial efficiency.

The small cities, such as Olean, were named in the NYS Constitution in 1951 as a way to give control and responsibility for their fiscal affairs. This 5% limit is the lowest included in the Constitution or in Statute and now, in 2023, does the opposite, limits a small city district's ability to control their fiscal affairs.

Voter approval of the proposed constitutional amendment would not give small city schools special treatment—it would allow them to have the same debt limit as their suburban and rural counterparts. A YES vote will not raise your taxes.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for impactful change for small city school districts such as Olean. This referendum deserves your full and enthusiastic support.

Veterans Day: On November 10th, we will honor and express our gratitude to the brave men and women who have served in our armed forces. Our schools will have special events and activities to commemorate Veterans Day activities. On behalf of the entire district, I would like to thank our veterans for their service.

Winter Preparations: November also marks the beginning of our preparations for the winter season. Snow will happen! We will ensure our schools are ready for the colder weather and that our students are safe and comfortable.

The Olean City School District continues to be a place of growth, learning, and community. I am proud of our students, educators, and the school community for making October memorable. As we move into November, I am optimistic that it will bring new opportunities and accomplishments for us all.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our students' success. Let's embrace the coming month with enthusiasm and dedication! Together, we will make November a time of growth, learning, and achievement.

Dr. Genelle Morris

Superintendent
Olean City School District



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October is National Principal Appreciation Month:

Every October, National Principals Month shines a spotlight on the transformative power of our school principals. These leaders, with their resolute vision and unwavering dedication, aren't merely running schools—they're molding futures, shaping communities, and paving pathways to success for every student. Special thanks and kudos to our Olean City School District Principals and Assistant Principals.



November Coffee with the Superintendent:

The November Coffee with the Superintendent is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2023 from 7:30am to 8:30am at the Washington West Elementary School. If you are interested in attending, please pre-register by emailing Melissa Biddle, OCSD Public Relations Specialist at mbiddle@oleanschools.org.



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School Board Recognition Week:

New York State School Boards Association and Olean City School District recognized the week of October 16-20 as School Board Recognition Week. During the week, we acknowledged school board members and their commitment to Olean City School District students. Recognizing school board member service should be a year-round endeavor, but designating one week to highlight these volunteers' efforts ensures they receive some of the thanks they deserve.



Julio Fuentes
President



Kelly Keller
Vice-President



Ricky Bee
Board Member



Daniel J. Farnham
Board Member



Lee W. Filbert
Board Member



Mary Hirsch-Schena
Board Member



Ira Katzenstein
Board Member



Alan Peters
Board Member



Kevin Stevens
Board Member





November Open Swim Hours @ OIMS:

Wednesday, November 1	6:00pm - 8:00pm
Tuesday, November 7	5:30pm - 7:30pm
Thursday, November 9	5:30pm - 7:30pm
Tuesday, November 14	5:30pm - 7:30pm
Thursday, November 16	5:30pm - 7:30pm
Tuesday, November 21	5:30pm - 7:30pm
Wednesday, November 29	5:30pm - 7:30pm



Kick for the Cure:



On October 16th the varsity girls' soccer team hosted a scrimmage with the Portville soccer team. Parents and staff generously donated baskets for a cancer basket raffle. Parents worked the table and sold t-shirts, bracelets, and tickets for the raffle. The purpose of the benefit was to support an Olean student that is battling liver cancer. With the support of the community the team was able to raise over \$1,600.



Lotus Award Recipient:

Leah Graves, Job Coach for Olean High School students, recently receiving a Lotus Award from the Family Voice Advocacy (FVA) Group. The FVA Group is an organization of people in the area, who share the energy, insights, and desire to make the world a better place. The Lotus Award recognizes professionals who dedicate their time and skills to the growth of the community.

Leah was recognized for her ongoing dedication to Olean High School students and their families as well as engaging the students in the community. She is constantly helping students and families advocate for themselves, teaching them about services available in our area and assisting them with getting started.

We are proud of Leah's work and wish her continued success!



Senior Football:

On Friday, October 13th, Senior football players chose a staff member who has had a positive impact on them and asked them to wear their jerseys.





Harold Dutton Spotlight Award:



During the month of October, the following students were awarded with the Harold Dutton Student Spotlight Award:

- Aubery Cowles
- Trevor Crouch
- Oasis Dwailbeebe
- Brody Frame
- Carmen Germain
- Ryan Goodsell
- Jaiden McFadden
- Mrs. D'Yvonne Portlow
- Terry Singh
- Joshua Slawson

Individuals who received the October Harold Dutton Award were seen doing the right thing, showing good character, performing well in school or other positive actions are recognized for living up to a model set by a former district employee, Mr. Harold Dutton.

Congratulations!



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Professional Development Day, October 27th:

Olean City School District Faculty and Staff had a day full of interactive learning and planning with our Huskies in mind on Friday, October 27th. The morning began with a networking opportunity for all followed by a Keynote Address delivered by John Krownapple, of Dignity Consulting.

John's keynote address, "Belonging Through a Culture of Dignity," shared his experiences in working with schools across the country to create school communities where students, families, and staff can thrive and achieve through the honoring of dignity.

The day finished with break-out sessions for all in attendance.



Red Ribbon Week:

Spotted in the halls of Washington West Elementary for Red Ribbon Week were some husky pups that are kind to their mind - and kind to their friends, too!





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Halloween Festivities:





Senior Spotlights:

Every issue of my Superintendent's Briefs will introduce and celebrate all of our hard-working Senior Scholars in their last year before they prepare to move on to college or careers at the end of the year. We are certainly husky proud of them all! All Seniors will be featured so continue to check back for more spotlights!



Name: Sophie Bartman

Highlight of HS career: Playing JV and Varsity volleyball

Plans after High School: Become an athletic trainer for a school or professional sports team.

Advice for underclassmen: Study, do your homework early, and try things you've never done before!

Senior Shout Out: Along with my friends and family, I want to thank all of the teachers who have helped me throughout my time in the high school — Ms. Dunbar, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Edwards, and Mr. Perry. I'm so grateful I was able to have been in the classroom with you and I learned so much from you all.



Name: Marah Morehouse

Highlight of HS career: Any year after 9th grade.

Plans after High School: Enter the workforce.

Senior Shout Out: Mrs. Rakus, Mrs. O'Brian, Mr. Kruse, Mr. Lapi



Name: Sarah Jordan

Highlight of HS career: Being able to cheer for the Varsity Cheer Team.

Plans after High School: Go to college to become an elementary school teacher.

Advice for underclassmen: Just push through, it is worth it.

Senior Shout Out: I would like to thank my friends and family for supporting me over the years!



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Senior Spotlights:



Name: Grace Haynes

Highlight of HS career: The performance of Little Women the Musical and Junior prom.

Plans after High School: I intend to attend Houghton University in the Fall of 2024. I will (hopefully) be a part of their honors program and going to London.

Advice for underclassmen: Do your best. That's all people can expect of you, and all you can do. (please note that this advice was given to me, I cannot take credit for it. Thank you to the person who said this, you know who you are)

Senior Shout Out: I would like to thank my parents for always supporting my crazy ideas (like, seriously crazy), my music teachers for teaching me to be proud of the music in my soul, my friends for giving me the most whacky memories of high school imaginable, and Austin Burdick for making me laugh on even the rainiest day. Much love and appreciation to y'all!



Name: Alexandra McFall

Highlight of HS career: Being involved in the music program, the teachers are amazing.

Plans after High School: Go to college for nursing.

Advice for underclassmen: Be respectful to your teachers and don't be afraid to ask for help, they are a resource - use them.

Senior Shout Out: Kacy French Wallace Eaton for always believing in me.

Stay in Touch:

Stay in touch by signing up to receive my digital Superintendent Briefs. Please click on the link provided in the initial facebook posting regarding this issue of the brief. If you have news you would like to potentially be included in an upcoming edition of the Superintendent's Brief, please email our Public Relations Specialist at communications@oleanschools.org. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at huskystrong@oleanschools.org



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