

Family Engagement News

by: Cindi Rhoades

Happy Summer! I hope every family is taking time to spend some great quality time together and have some fun. I really enjoyed my time down South with my kids and grandson! There is nothing quite like family time! I have learned in life that we must actually make time to spend with family or the everyday grind of work and responsibilities get in our way to spend that quality time. Remember that kids, as they grow up, won't remember how much money you made, how clean the house was, or any of our other many responsibilities, but they will always remember the time we spent with them making memories!

We had some awesome events in July including two days of Free Family haircuts thanks to the wonderful teachers and students from both the Olean and Ellicottville Cosmetology classes at BOCES. See below for some great pictures! We had over 65 people take advantage of this awesome event. We also brought back the Summer STAR program for grades K-5 and had about 163 kids participating in this wonderful program. Stay tuned for next month's addition to see some great photos! We have a few things going on in August and September, and are making plans to bring in more family engagement type activities for the 2024-25 school year.

Kindergarten and Pre-School screenings will be taking place on August 6th, 7th, & 26th. We also did a few days in July. If you haven't already, call Jacki Falk in Central Registration at (716) 375-8998 to register your child and schedule a screening. Registration can be completed by stopping by our Central Registration Building at 402 North 7th Street in Olean, Remember, bring in 3 proofs of residency, your child's birth certificate, and any custody papers. You can also email Jacki with any questions at jfalk@oleanschools.org.

East View will hold their Open House on **August 29th** from 4-6 PM for students and Parents, so stay tuned for more information to follow on this. We will also continue to offer the Back Pack Program at East View this coming school year.

Washington West will also have their Open House on **August 29th** from 4-6 PM for students and Parents, so stay tuned for more information to follow on this. We will also continue to offer the Back Pack Program at Washington West this coming school year.

OIMS held many days of Open Swim for families throughout the district. We are so lucky to have this great opportunity for all families to enjoy the pool. **New this year:** OIMS will be having their first annual 4th grade Student & Family Orientation Night on **August 26th from 6-7 PM**. We are so excited to get this started for the 2024-25 school year, and strongly encourage all incoming 4th graders and their parents/guardian to attend this amazing event! Then of course OIMS will have their annual Open House for grades 5-7 on **September 3rd from 4-6 PM**, so keep an eye out for more information on these events. I can't stress enough how important it is for your child's success, to get and stay involved in school activities, especially as they get older and more independent.

OHS will have their 2nd annual 8th Grade Student & Family Orientation Night on **August 27th from 6-8 PM**. I would love to see 100% of the families come in for this special and very informative event. This will be for all incoming 8th graders and their parents/guardians. School starts on **September 4th** and OHS will have their annual Open House that afternoon from **4-6 PM**, so keep an eye out for more information on these great events!

The **Special Education** : If you are a student with a disability and are an incoming Junior or Senior, and you haven't yet filled out your paperwork for ACCES-VR (transitional services), we will have a Junior/Senior & Parent Night to help with this on **October 9th from 6-7 PM** at the PLC (Central Registration) 402 N. 7th Street. Paperwork for this will be sent out in September. If you would like to fill the application out before that, just give me a call at (716) 375-8031. We have also planned to bring in at least two workshops from Parent Network, one scheduled for **October 16th** and one for **March 12th**.

The Olean City School District is pleased to announce that we are working on bringing a free dental clinic to all our buildings and expanding our Back Pack Program. We are also very excited about two huge events we are planning. The first is our 2nd annual **Welcome Back** event on **September 21st** in the area around the track at OIMS, **from 10 AM-noon** which will be open to all students and their families as well as any community members. This is a free event to showcase the many resources we have in the area and how important you all are to us! Next, we will have our annual free **Community Thanksgiving Dinner** on **November 16th** so mark your calendars! We will continue to offer several parent engagement activities this coming school year. I can't stress enough the importance of the community as a whole interacting with the school and getting involved! Board of Education (BOE) meetings are held at least once a month and all community members are encouraged to attend these meetings and have a say in policies, practices, budgets, etc.

SAVE THE DATES:

Monday August 26th 6-7 PM OIMS 4th Grade Student & Family Orientation Night

Tuesday August 27th 6-8 PM OHS 8th Grade Student & Family Orientation Night

Thursday August 29th 4-6 PM EV & WW Open Houses

Tuesday September 3rd 4-6 PM OIMS Open House

Wednesday September 4th- School Begins for all students

- 4-6 PM Open House at OHS

Saturday September 21st – Welcome Back Community Event 10AM-Noon

Wednesday October 9th- 6-7 PM ACCES-VR Night

Wednesday October 16th- 6-7:30 PM Parent Network Workshop

Saturday November 16th- Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Did you know that there are plenty of resources available on our website? Just go to www.oleanschools.org and under the **Community Schools** you will find the **Family Engagement Page**. Here you will find plenty of resources and we will continue to update these. There is also a **Calendar** and a **Community Events** section that includes both things through the school and a section for events out in the community for families to participate in! New items are listed almost daily so check it out. We also added a section for **Newsletters** that will be posted monthly. Also, there is a family resource page for each of our buildings through Parent Square. If you know of an event in the community and don't see it listed there, feel free to contact Cindi Rhoades at (716) 375-8031 or crhoades@oleanschools.org and fill me in.

Enjoy the pictures below of some events we had in July!

