From Principal Sermak:

**Important Dates:**

- February 17 & 18: No School
- February 22: Winter Dance, 8:30-11pm
- February 26: Early Release, dismissal 12:35pm
- March 9: Spring Sports begin (be sure you have a current physical on file)
- March 10: 8th Grade Parent Transition Meeting, OHS Aud, 6:30pm
- April 14: SAT and PSAT 9 (JR and FR only, no school for SR and SO)
- April 15: ACT WorkKeys and PSAT 10 (JR and SO only, no school for SR and FR)

*The class of 2022 is looking for parent volunteers to chaperone the winter formal dance* on Saturday, February 22nd, 2020. The dance is from 8:30 - 11:00pm and chaperones are needed from 8:00-11:00pm. Please fill out this google form if you are interested and contact Trisha Funk with any questions or concerns. Thank you! [https://forms.gle/L53WD1YURtTWWjAB6](https://forms.gle/L53WD1YURtTWWjAB6)

**School News:**

Read all about the Feb 6th flex presentation "OHS Teachers as Authors" in the library blog: [Balancing Books and Technology](#).

**2020-2021 Scheduling:**

Counselors will be visiting OHS English classes the week of February 24 to explain the 2020-2021 scheduling process and to hand out paperwork. 9th-11th graders without an OHS English class will be invited to a scheduling presentation during Flex on February 27. If students are unable to attend the Flex presentation or are absent during a classroom presentation, scheduling materials will be available in the Counseling Office.

Signed scheduling paperwork will be collected during counselor meetings as follows:
- Week of March 2 - 9th graders will meet during science classes
- Week of March 9 - 10th graders will meet during social studies classes
- Week of March 16 - 11th graders will meet during social studies classes

*Students who are not enrolled in grade level science or social studies classes, or are absent, will meet with counselors on Friday of their designated week*
February 14, 2020

Dear Students and Parents:

This letter is to give you information regarding Dual Enrollment at Okemos High School. Historically, school districts have allowed their students to attend courses at local colleges or universities while they are concurrently enrolled in high school, in an effort to meet students’ needs and interests. This is called *dual enrollment*.

Effective, April 1, 1996, Public Act 160 created the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act, which directs school districts to assist students who are in the dual enrollment program in paying tuition and fees for courses at Michigan public or private colleges or universities (the dual enrollment program applies only during the academic school year), if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The student has earned a Michigan Merit Examination (MME) endorsement in the content areas in which he/she intends to dually enroll, if such an endorsement is available. The student is eligible to take courses in subjects for which there are no endorsements such as computer science, vocational education, world language courses not offered by the school, and fine arts programs, as permitted by the district.
2. Public Act 594 of 2004, one of the pieces of legislation that created the MME, requires the Michigan Department of Education to set the passing scores on the readiness exams that are used to determine eligibility for dual enrollment. These readiness exams are the MME, the PSAT, and the ACT. The MME legislation indicates that the Superintendent of Public Instruction is to:
   
   Determine qualifying scores for each subject area component of a readiness assessment that indicates readiness to enroll in a postsecondary course in that subject under this act.

For sophomore and junior students who wish to take advantage of dual enrollment, but do not have MME scores (since the MME is not taken until the spring of the junior year), the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) has established passing scores on three other examinations, the ACT, the ACT PLAN assessment and the College Board PSAT assessment. Students seeking dual enrollment in the sophomore year will need a qualifying ACT score, since they will not have had the opportunity to take the ACT Plan or PSAT. The ACT Plan, PSAT and ACT can be used by juniors to qualify for dual enrollment. Once juniors participate in the MME in the spring of their junior year, their MME scores will be used for dual enrollment decisions.

The passing scores on the readiness assessments are shown on the next page: Okemos Public Schools will not fund a student's dual enrollment until Okemos High School is in receipt of the qualifying scores.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Test Section</th>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>Minimum Dual Enrollment Qualifying Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXPLORE</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Science</td>
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<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLAN</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Reading</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Science</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<tr>
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<td>English</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading</td>
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<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Science</td>
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<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPASS</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
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<td>Reading</td>
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<td>88</td>
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<tr>
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<td>English</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>77</td>
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<td>MME*</td>
<td>EIA</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Science</td>
<td>Science</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>2100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSAT 8/9</td>
<td>Critical Reading</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Reading and Writing</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSAT 10</td>
<td>Critical Reading</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Reading and Writing</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
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<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSAT/ACT</td>
<td>Critical Reading</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Reading and Writing</td>
<td>460</td>
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<td>SAT***</td>
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<td>ACCUPLACER***</td>
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* MME scores are based on the Spring 2016 administration of the M-STEP exams
** PSAT 11 and SAT Scores are from the new redesigned administrations starting in 2015-16
***There are no state approved scores for Accuplacer. Accuplacer qualifying scores are typically specific to an Institution of Higher Education (IHE). In cases where Accuplacer scores will be used, it is best to contact the IHE to see what scores they accept.

3. The student is enrolled at Okemos High School in at least one high school class. The student’s high school schedule is shortened in proportion to the number of college classes in which the student is dually enrolled.

4. The college course(s) is an academic course not offered at OHS. An exception to this could occur if the Board of Education determines that a scheduling conflict exists which is beyond the student’s control.

5. The college course is not a hobby, craft, recreation or physical education course and is not a course in the subject areas of theology, divinity, or religious education.

School districts are required to pay the lesser of: (a) the actual charge for tuition, mandatory course fees, materials fees and registration fees; or (b) the state portion of the student’s foundation allowance, adjusted to the proportion of the school year the student attends the post-secondary institution.

If a student meets all of the above conditions, is approved to register at the post-secondary institution, registers for a course and then later decides to drop the course, the student will be responsible for the tuition.

Please review the contents of this letter. If you believe you are eligible for dual enrollment, you qualify for tuition and fee support, and you wish to participate, please contact your counselor. This contact must be made before enrolling in college classes.

Sincerely,

Christine M. Sermak, Principal
Counseling News:

SCHOLARSHIPS:
SENIORS: - check out the scholarship binder in the Counseling Office for a number of various scholarships available. Included are the Okemos Masonic Scholarship (due 3/2/20), the Tyler Oakley Scholarship (due 4/22/20), the “Heart of a Mom” Honorarium (due 5/1/20), and the Never Back Down Scholarship (for lacrosse athletes due 5/1/20). Also check the OHS website under Counselors - Post-Secondary Options - Scholarship Information for a list of various scholarships as well.

The OHS Counselors are pleased to announce that the Okemos Education Foundation has approved a grant to provide many new materials to the Zen Den, including a weighted lap blanket, sound machine, rock garden, and meditation books. Our counseling office lobby now has a tea station and essential oil diffuser. We encourage all students to stop by the office for a cup of tea or to use the Zen Den if they are experiencing any stress or anxiety. Thank you to the OEF!

Athletic News:
Athletic Calendar: https://www.okemosk12.net/domain/3116
Participation Fee: https://okemosk12.revtrak.net/athletics/#/list

Senior Spring Athletes- If you are a Senior and played on the varsity in a Spring Sport last year, we are coordinating a picture to be used for a Spring Sports Poster. In order to have it in time for the Spring Season, we need to take this picture before Spring Sports begin. The picture will be taken in the Wood Gym on Thursday 2/20 at 2:50PM. Please make arrangements with your Spring Sports coach for any uniforms, apparel or equipment you want/need for the picture. Posters will be available (hopefully?) at Meet the Chiefs on March 17th and in the Athletic Office after Meet the Chiefs.

Home Games Week of February 17th

Tuesday
FR/JV/VAR Girls Basketball vs East Lansing- 4:00/5:30/7:00PM

Senior Spring Sports Picture- Thursday 2/20 at 22:50PM in the Wood Gym
Spring Sports season begins on March 9th, but only for those athletes that have a completed physical on file in the athletic office. Please take care of this so you don't miss out on the start of your season! Spring Sports down time is from March 1-8, no organized team activities are allowed during the down time.

Booster’s Club: The Booster Club is moving forward with the Banner Project. We will be selling sponsors for each sport's banner at a cost of $300 with $100 going to the sport of the sponsor’s choice. If interested in sponsoring or providing a business who might be interested, please contact Kari Ann Brown at kariann1963@gmail.com. We will have our next meeting Monday February 24, 2020 at Henry's Place at 7:30. Please join us!

District News:

Headlee Restoration for Special Education:

Dear Staff and Families,

On March 10, 2020, a question regarding a Headlee Special Education Restoration will be on the ballot. If approved, this would generate approximately $2,300,000 for students with special education needs in the Ingham ISD service area, which includes our school district. This restoration would cost homeowners with a market value of $125,000 or a taxable value of $62,500, $15.24 per year or $1.27 per month.

The Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution caps property tax increases at 5% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. Since the growth rate of property values sometimes exceeds the rate of inflation, the actual millage rate is rolled back and decreases when this occurs. The amount of the rollback is called the Millage Reduction Fraction (MRF). In the Ingham ISD service area, the special education millage has eroded .2438 mill since 1988. As a result, Ingham ISD has been collecting less millage than originally approved by taxpayers for special education students. If approved, this would restore the .2438 mill for special education that was previously approved by voters to the original amount of 4.75 for a period of 20 years.

For more information, to review frequently asked questions or view the ballot language, please visit the Ingham ISD website at www.inghamisd.org.

Board of Education Meeting Summary- Please click on the link for a summary of our latest meeting of the Okemos Board of Education: https://www.okemosk12.net/Page/520
Okemos Archery Club
Asian Buffet Fundraiser

No need to bring a flyer or email!

Located in the Target Plaza, across from the mall
Happily serving the area for over 20 years!

Dine at Asian Buffet on
Tuesday, February 18th
between 5pm - 9pm
and a portion of your purchase will support the
Okemos Archery Club!

Address: 4920 Marsh Rd, Okemos
Join us as we recognize the proud history of Okemos athletics by redesigning and installing new Championship Banners at our Okemos High School competition venues! Recognition in the gymnasium has not been updated in over 4 years. We are compiling an accurate history of team titles across all levels, from Leagues to State Finals. Beginning in the gym, all 28 Varsity sports will receive an individual banner listing the achievements of the past, with room for titles of the future. Phase two of the project will see the installation of banners at each of our competitive venues, specific to the sports held at each.

Your Okemos Athletic Boosters are committed to our mission of supporting Okemos athletics!

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT :: SPONSOR A SPORT

- Championship Sponsor Banner: $300 annually
- $100 of the proceeds from banner will be earmarked for the team of your choice. If different than “Team Banner”, please indicate below.
- Space sold on a ‘first-come, first serve’ basis per sport.
- Dimensions: 4’x2’ horizontal
- Logo Artwork: .pdf, .jpg, .png formats only

Design accommodations can be made for non-standard dimensioned logos. Layout will be performed by OAB, sponsored by both client & Okemos Public Schools.

For sales & information, please contact Karl Ann Brown at:
Phone: 517.896.5208 OR Email: karliann1963@gmail.com
Introducing the SAT Practice Test!

Okemos High School and Sylvan Learning are teaming up to help you prepare for the SAT.

The SAT exam is coming - are you ready?

Workshop includes a 30 minute presentation on tips and strategies, followed by a full length practice test.

Students will also receive 30 days access to sylvanprep.com which has a video review for each question on the test.

Saturday, March 7th
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Okemos High School Commons

Just $20

To register, fill out the form below and return it, along with your payment, to Mrs. Williams in Room C227. (Make checks to Okemos High School 2800 Jolly Rd. Okemos, MI 48864) You must register by March 4th. Please bring a calculator, pencils, water, and a snack.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student name</td>
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<td>Parent name</td>
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<td>Street address</td>
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<td>Email</td>
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*students will access scores via www.sylvanprep.com. Email address will be used as username
REGISTER NOW!
Space is Limited!

To register, contact:
Debra Marx-Lee
Technical Careers
at
(517) 483-5338
or marxd@lcc.edu

March 20, 2020
10am to 2pm

- Panel discussion with men of color
- Experience hands-on learning opportunities
- Learn about our Skilled Trades, Lineworker, Cybersecurity, and Public Service Career programs.
- Tour West Campus
- Industry Speakers

Lansing Community College is an equal opportunity educational institution/employer. Lansing Community College programs and activities are open for all persons regardless of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, creed, ancestry, height, weight, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, familial status, marital status, military status, veteran’s status, or other status as protected by law, or genetic information.
REGISTER NOW!
Space is limited!

To register, contact:
Debra Marx-Lee
Technical Careers
at
(517) 483-5338
or marxd@lcc.edu

February 21, 2020
10am to 2pm

- Panel discussion of women who work in trades
- Experience hands-on learning opportunities
- Learn about our welding, machining, construction and robotics programs
- Tour West Campus
- Keynote Speaker