From Principal Sermak:

**Important Dates:**

- **November 8**: Report cards mailed home
- **November 13, 14 and 19**: Parent Teacher Conferences (see link below to register)
- **November 14**: Fall play begins
- **November 20**: Early Release, 12:35 p.m. dismissal
- **November 21**: OEF Banquet at the Kellogg Center
- **November 26**: Winter Meet the Chiefs, 7pm
- **November 27-29**: Thanksgiving Break

- **August 3-7, 2020**: Testing Out Dates for the 2020-2021 School Year

**Student Vehicle Registration and Parking Sticker ($40.00):** Every vehicle driven to school by a student and parked in any school lot must have a vehicle sticker (see “Vehicle Registration” located on the OHS website). Please register and pay online (CLICK HERE) or come to the main office to complete the process. Note: We will be checking passes in the near future.

**School News:**

**Scheduled Parent/Teacher Conferences:** Fall conferences will be held on Wednesday, November 13 from 4:00-7:00 p.m., Thursday, November 14 from 4:00-7:00 p.m., and Tuesday, November 19 from 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Schedule your conference at: [https://www.myconferencetime.com/okemoshs](https://www.myconferencetime.com/okemoshs).

**Congratulations to Top Michigan cybersecurity students awarded at Cyber Summit:** OHS placed 1st and 4th and both teams qualified for the final round (top 10 in the state), competing against 218 teams comprised of 654 students across the state.

Congrats to team members:
- Cyberchiefs A: Jainil Shah, Tristan Lusardi and Eric Andrechek
- Cyberchiefs B: Chandan Aralikatti, Sushil Srinatha and Hanwen Zuo

For more information on the challenge, visit this [link](#).

**Okemos Percussion Group Special Performance:** Okemos Percussion Group performs unconducted chamber music written for the vast array of instruments that are lumped into the "percussion" category. This year's trio, sophomores Taryn Parry and Dominic Wertz, and junior Ryan Zink, are performing "Vagabond of Light" by Blake Tyson. The piece was composed in 2013 for Caixa Trio - a powerhouse ensemble made up of prominent university professors.

OPG performed the piece for the first time at the MSU Day of Percussion, hosted here at Okemos High School on October 27th. The ensemble received helpful feedback from a panel of
university students, and was also evaluated by MSU Professor of Percussion Gwen Dease, who invited them to perform on the MSU percussion concert on the evening of November 7th. The following week the trio will travel to Indianapolis to perform at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC) - the largest gathering of professional and student percussionists anywhere in the world. In addition to their performance, students will attend concerts and clinics by prominent artists from around the world. Anyone interested in hearing them perform is welcome to attend the MSU Percussion Ensemble concert on November 7th at 7:30 p.m. in Cook Recital Hall on MSU's campus. More information can be found at:

https://www.music.msu.edu/event-listing/percussion-ensemble-11
https://pasic.org/

Okemos Cares -- Needs your help! The goal of Okemos Cares is to provide financial assistance to students and families as we work to make high school an inclusive experience for all students, regardless of financial status. Therefore, we are creating a resource closet with toiletry items available to students in need.

We will be collecting items at the entrance of the gym at Parent-Teacher conferences on the evenings of November 13 and 14 from 4pm-7pm and November 19 from 3:30-7:30. When you are out shopping for your own family, please pick up an item or two and place it in the box found at the entrance of the gymnasium before Parent-Teacher conferences. Thank you!

Current needs:
- Soap - hand, shower, dish, laundry
- Prepackaged meals (things that a teenager could easily prepare)
- Mac and cheese
- Easy mac
- Snacks (individually packaged)
- Cereal/granola bars
- Individual milk (the ones that don’t need to be refrigerated)
- Acne/skin care
- Household cleaning products
- Girls black leggings in various sizes
- Men’s deodorant
- Women’s deodorant
- Toilet paper (individually wrapped rolls would be great but not necessary)
- Facial tissue
- Hangers (for the clothes, not wire)
- Lotion
- Boxes of tampons
- Cough drops
- Dental floss
*We need shampoo and conditioner for textured hair.
   Brands to look for: Shea Moisture, Creme of Nature, and Cantu Shea Butter

2nd Chance Retake Day: Some of you have not had retake day yet. For any student who needs a retake, and will not (or could not) attend retake day in your school or for those just needing another try, or missed both picture days - we have two in office retake dates scheduled in our Okemos location. The flyer is attached. November 25 3pm-7pm is the first day, December 5 3pm-7pm the second day. These are by appointment, and the number on the flyer should be the one number they call to schedule that retake. See flyer on last page.
OHS Theatre Department presents:

The OHS Theatre Department is excited to present this year's fall play, **RADIUM GIRLS** by D.W. Gregory. In 1926, radium was a miracle cure, Madame Curie an international celebrity, and luminous watches the latest rage until the girls who painted them began to fall ill with a mysterious disease. Inspired by a true story, **RADIUM GIRLS** traces the efforts of Grace Fryer, a dial painter, as she fights for her day in court. Her chief adversary is her former employer, Arthur Roeder, an idealistic man who cannot bring himself to believe that the same element that shrinks tumors could have anything to do with the terrifying rash of illnesses among his employees. As the case goes on, however, Grace finds herself battling not just with the U.S. Radium Corporation, but with her own family and friends, who fear that her campaign for justice will backfire. Called a "powerful" and "engrossing" drama by critics, **RADIUM GIRLS** offers a wry, unflinching look at the peculiarly American obsessions with health, wealth, and the commercialization of science.

Purchase tickets at the door or at [www.okemostheatre.com](http://www.okemostheatre.com).

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**Warren Miller "Timeless" Ski/Snowboard Movie:**

Ski Team Fundraiser: Warren Miller’s “Timeless” – December 6, OHS Auditorium, 7 pm

**Warren Miller’s “Timeless”** – Make family movie night a ski/snowboard and travel adventure and help support the OHS Ski Team by attending Warren Miller’s 70th movie on **Friday, December 6** at the Okemos High School Auditorium. Doors open at 6 pm and the movie starts at 7 pm. Tickets are $10 in advance and can be purchased at Summit Sports (2650 E. Grand River) or Moosejaw (555 E. Grand River). Tickets are also available for $15 at the door. The ticket price includes a one-year subscription to SKI Magazine, a chance to win prizes from Boyne Resorts, Schuss Mountain, Caberfae and many other prizes and giveaways. View the trailer at [warrenmiller.com](http://warrenmiller.com) or call/text 517-862-2587 for more information.

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**OHS Parent Group is a 501C3 non profit organization that relies on donations from our generous families.** Parent Group helps support teacher wish lists, Okemos Cares, teacher luncheons, SAT/ACT testing day snacks, post prom, OEF award banquet table, senior farewell, the Lanzetta scholarship, and new student orientation to name a few.

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**The Parent Group has several ways you can help:**
Amazon Smile (info was in last weeks news and notes)

**Kroger rewards:** you can register your card or if you do not have a Kroger Plus card, please go to the Kroger Customer Service desk to obtain one at no cost. If you have a Kroger Plus card already, please go to [http://krogercommunityrewards.com/](http://krogercommunityrewards.com/) to create an online account. Then sign in to enroll the program. Kroger has recently upgraded the Community Rewards system. As a result of the system upgrading, OHS Parent Group has a new NPO number EH042 to replace old NPO #16825.

**Direct donation:** You can write a check, ANY amount is greatly appreciated. Please make your check payable to OHS Parent Group. You can drop off your check in the OHS office to the parent group mailbox, OR we will have a table at PTC next week!

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**Our next meeting is January 23, 2020 at 9am in the guidance office.** Everyone is welcome.

We also have a FB parent group page if you would like to join to keep up to date.

Any questions, please contact Michelle Renfrew at bmbe01@yahoo.com.

Thank you!

Michelle Renfrew, OHS Parent Group President

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**KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS**

Okemos High School Parent Group is now enrolled into Kroger Community Rewards Program. This is an easy way to raise money for OHS!

Every time you pay for Kroger grocery shopping, OHS Parent Group will receive a portion from Kroger. It is a great way to show your support with only a few clicks on your computer, but without any monetary spending!

If you do not have a Kroger Plus card, please go to the Kroger Customer Service desk to obtain one at no cost.

If you have a Kroger Plus card already, please go to [http://krogercommunityrewards.com/](http://krogercommunityrewards.com/) to create an online account. Then sign in to enroll the program. Kroger has recently upgraded the Community Rewards system. As a result of the system upgrading, **OHS Parent Group has a new NPO number EH042 to replace old NPO #16825.**

Please swipe your Kroger Plus card when you check out at Kroger stores.

**Remember: Purchases will not count for Okemos High School Parent Group until after you register your card.**

If you have any questions, stop into their customer service desk at our local Kroger.

Okemos High School Parent Group appreciates your participation! Thank you! 😊
All we ask is that each family donate $15-$50 or any amount you wish.

What do you do? Donate what you can. It’s that easy!!
Your gift of ANY amount is greatly appreciated.

Contribution Amount:

__________$25
__________$50
__________$75

Other $__________________

We also need the following gift donations for post prom if you would rather donate an item. Please email Michelle Renfrew with the item you wish to donate.

- Dorm Refrigerators
- Futons
- Portable Speakers
- Keurigs
- Area Rugs
- Headphones
- TVs
- Anything a graduating senior would want to win.

Where does the money go?

- Teacher Wish Lists
- Okemos Cares
- Post prom
- Senior Farewell
- Renovation of outside student lunch area
- Lanzetta Scholarship
- Caught Reading Program
- Teacher Luncheons
- OEF Award Recipient Table
- Links Peer to Peer
- Post-Prom
- SAT/ACT Testing Day snacks

Drop this form off in the main office with a check payable to OHS Parent Group – THANK YOU!! ☺

Contact OHS Parent Group President Michelle Renfrew with questions -- bmbe01@yahoo.com

Name: _______________________________________________________

Email address: ______________________________________________________

Okemos High School Parent Group
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Called to Order By: Michelle Renfrew at 9:07 am

Welcome and Call to Order

Introductions were made by the Board. Michelle Renfrew (President), Noelle Burak (VP), Jackie Karamanos (Secretary), Tina Zhuang (Treasurer). All parent attendees introduced themselves.

Principal’s Report (Christine Sermak)

- Christine Sermak, Principal, introduced herself. Discussed morning drop off safety and the need to follow the rules to prevent any accidents. There is a video available on the OHS website to view the proper dropoff procedures. She is also looking into producing an additional student parking lot morning drop-off video that discusses the proper morning procedures regarding not having students cross in front of traffic (she emphasized the need for students to exit cars directly to a sidewalk).
- The OHS Building Planning Team (BPT) is looking at the possibility of changing final exams to before winter break to allow students a true break. Just exploratory at this point. Also, examining no homework over break (with the exception of AP classes that follow the pacing dictated by College Board).
- New changes in calendar highlights: 2020 – President’s Day Mon/ Tues no school Feb 17 & 18.
- Spring Break: Only the Friday before Break is off, April 3.  Spring Break: April 3 - 12
- Mental Health – Principal asked for suggestions for next semester topics. Suggestions were social media use, peer pressure and crisis management.

President’s Report (Michelle Renfrew)

- Nov 13 teacher lunch, was discussed that students will be in school. Michelle to reach out to coordinator, as the lunch is normally organized for exam time in January.
- Sending sign-up sheet around for volunteers to help with the PG table for P/T conferences.
- Need to purchase an additional table to support 3 staff members from OHS being honored at the Okemos Foundation Banquet.
- Tina Zhuang motioned that we allot $200 toward the purchase of an additional table for the OEF fundraiser honoring teachers and volunteers. This was seconded and APPROVED.
- WePay will be up and running later to collect donations for Post-prom. Prom will take place at the Radisson again and post-prom at OHS.

Treasurer’s Report (Tina Zhuang)

- Tina presented her treasurer’s report attached herein as Exhibit A. The balance is $12,568.44.
- Noelle Burak made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report. This was seconded and APPROVED.
Secretary’s Report (Jackie Karamanos)

- The minutes of the September 11, 2019 meeting were shared and accepted, with the addition of the treasurer’s report from September 11, 2019. Motion was made to accept the minutes as amended by Noelle Burak, seconded and APPROVED.
- Secretary reported on the Strategic Planning District Meeting for 2020-24 that took place on 10/16/19. The mission statement, vision and values for Okemos School District was initially discussed with the next meeting on 11/20/19.

Parent Council Representative Report (Niki Robinson)

- Niki was not present, but Karen Schapiro reported that the meeting discussed the results of the parent/staff/student survey for district strategic planning. Facilities and mental health were common concerns in the survey responses.
- Update on bond: Bennett Woods construction to alleviate traffic. For OHS: furniture, cameras in solos. Bidding has begun on security film for windows. New instruments and lockers included as well.

Important Dates:

P/T Conferences: Nov 13 & 14, 4-7pm; Nov 19 3:30-6:30. We will need volunteers to help collect donations and pass out PG flyers.

Prom/Post Prom: May 16-17
Senior farewell: May 21, 2020 7:30 pm
Commencement: May 31, 2020

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 am.

Minutes compiled by Jackie Karamanos, OHSPG Secretary

Counseling News:

College Visits:
- **United States Marines** - Tuesday, November 12 - in front of the cafeteria during both lunches
- **University of Alabama** - Monday, November 18 - in front of the cafeteria during both lunches
- **United States Air Force ROTC** - Tuesday, November 19 - in front of the cafeteria during both lunches
- **Putney Student Travel** - Wednesday, November 20 - in front of the cafeteria during lunches

2020 Advanced Placement Exams:
Reminder that all current students in Advanced Placement classes (here at OHS or online through Michigan Virtual) are **required to register for AP exams by Wednesday, November 13 before 3:00 pm**. Any students who are self-studying and would also like to take any May 2020 AP exams are also required to register by **November 13 before 3:00 pm** to avoid the $40/exam late fees. There is also a $40/exam fee for cancelling exams after **November 13 by 3:00 pm**. Please go to [www.totalregistration.net/ap/232850](http://www.totalregistration.net/ap/232850) to register or cancel all exams. See Mrs. Akers with any questions.

Signs of Suicide Presentations to 9th Grade Students:
Mr. Walton will be visiting the US History classrooms according to the schedule below to present information on depression and suicide awareness. This is a difficult, but very important topic to discuss. Students who need to be excused from this presentation may be allowed to go to the library but arrangements must be made with Mr. Walton prior. Please direct any questions about this program to Mr. Walton at hedlun.walton@okemosk12.net.

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**Five Myths About Gap Years:**
Many parents are not sure how to respond when their child expresses an interest in taking a gap year after graduation. Research is showing solid evidence that gap years can be a great experience and actually *enhance* first-year college performance.  

**Athletic News:**

The Booster Club will have their monthly meeting on Tuesday at Henry's Place at 7:30. We are also looking for a new Treasurer.

All athletic contests are available on the calendar at this link:  
[https://www.okemosk12.net/domain/3116](https://www.okemosk12.net/domain/3116)  This will include cancellations and reschedules.

Tryout/Start Dates for Winter Sports:
11/4- Hockey  
11/11- Girls Basketball  
11/18- Skiing, Boys Basketball, Wrestling  
11/25- Boys Swim & Dive

Meet the Chiefs is 11/26 at 7PM

**National Letter of Intent Signing Day** is November 13th. We will have a table and backdrop setup in the Kiva from 3-5PM on November 13th for students that wish to sign their National
Letters of Intent. If you are interested in participating, please contact Athletic Director Brian Fuller at brian.fuller@okemosk12.net

**The MHSAA Scholar-Athlete award application process:** is open to Senior Varsity Athletes with a 3.5 GPA. For more information, go to https://www.mhsaa.com/Schools/Students/Scholar-Athlete-Award

**Online Payments link for season passes and participation fees:**
https://www.okemosk12.net/Page/9024

**District News:**

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**OKEMOS BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**OCTOBER 28, 2019 BOARD MEETING SUMMARY**

*This summary is provided by the superintendent of schools and is informational only.*

**Regular board meetings air on the Okemos Channel 23. Channel 23 can also be video streamed from the Okemos Public Schools website at** https://www.okemosk12.net/domain/84.  
**Written minutes of meetings are available on the district’s web site.**

**Presentation:**

- Special Education Director Heather Pricco presented information regarding the district’s special education programming, including: the district’s current special education population; current enrollment trends; programs and services available; the IEP process; the new enrollee process; least restrictive environment; and additional support for general education staff.

**Discussion:**

- Operations Director Steve Lathrop and Construction Manager Rob Crowe from The Christman Company presented an overview of the Bennett Woods Elementary expansion and renovation project, including information regarding the bid process, timelines and next steps. Mr. Crowe also provided an update on the installation of the 3M Window Film including timelines and installation requirements.

- The board continued their discussion of the Prohibition of Referral of Assistance policy including defining the term referral or including some administrative regulations. Members inquired as to the current practice of teachers and counselors and professional standards of interaction. Members agreed to communicate with legislators directly.

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If you wish to contact the board of education: board@okemosk12.net
If you wish to contact the superintendent of schools: john.hood@okemosk12.net
Another chance to show off that smile!

Come to a Lifetouch location to have your portrait taken for the first time OR bring in your portrait package if you would like a retake.

Please call 800-352-6234 x2 to schedule an appointment for the following dates/times/locations:

Monday, November 25th, 2019 - 3pm - 7pm
OKEMOS
2187 Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864
FARMINGTON HILLS
23939 Research Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48335

Thursday, December 5th, 2019 - 3pm - 7pm
OKEMOS
2187 Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864
FARMINGTON HILLS
23039 Rosearon Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48335

Please note: no school services, such as ID cards, will be available on these dates.