From Principal Sermak:

**Important Dates in September:**

- September 2: NO SCHOOL
- September 5: Flex Schedule
- September 11: Parent Group Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Guidance Classroom (2nd Floor)
- September 12: Flex Schedule
- September 14: Homecoming Float Building 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- September 16: Homecoming Spirit Week
- September 16: Powder Puff game, 6:00 p.m.
- September 18: Early Release, 12:35 p.m. dismissal
- September 18: Bonfire, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- September 19: Flex Schedule
- September 19: Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet
- September 20: Homecoming Parade, 5:30 p.m. and Football Game, 7:00 p.m.
- September 21: Homecoming Dance, 8:30-11:30 p.m.

**Back to School:**

**Communication Apps and Methods for Students:** We have a variety of ways the student body can stay informed with what is going on at OHS throughout the school year. Please assist your student (see below) if interested.

**NEW all school communication APP! SIGN UP TODAY!**
Download the Team Reach App
Code: ohsteam
Group: Student Body Communication

**Instagram:** ohsstuco  (follow for weekly info and reminders)

**Twitter:** @OkemosPrincipal and @OkemosHSAD

**All back to school information can be found on the OHS website:** Please visit Okemos High School > Parents & Students> and click on the relevant grade level (ie: “Freshmen Class of 2023”).

**School Hours & Schedule:** The safety of our students is of vital importance to the Okemos High School faculty and staff. Supervision is a key component of ensuring the safety of all students. Please review the following expectations, which can also be found in the 2019-2020 Student-Parent Handbook.

- **Early release days:** Students must exit and be off of school grounds by 1:00 pm. There will be no supervision due to staff participation in professional development activities. Students may only be in the building if accompanied by a coach or parent/guardian.

- **Arrival and Departure from School:** Students who remain on school grounds after regular school hours (6:45am – 3:00 pm) must be in areas supervised by school personnel. Areas where supervision may take place include, but are not limited to:
participation in athletics, conferencing with a teacher in his/her room, or being pre-registered for a program.

**Administrative Team:**
- Christine Sermak, Principal, christine.sermak@okemosk12.net, 706-4902
  Twitter: @OkemosPrincipal
- Andrea Hallead, Assistant Principal (Last Names A-L), andrea.hallead@okemosk12.net 706-4903
- Lamanzer Williams, Assistant Principal (Last Names M-Z), lamanzer.williams@okemosk12.net, 706-4905
- Brian Fuller, Athletic Director, brian.fuller@okemosk12.net, 706-4931
  Twitter: @OkemosHSAD

**Okemos High School Office Staff & Hours:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Office Hours</th>
<th>Secretary/Administrator</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>7:00 am – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Danielle Fisher</td>
<td>706-4916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>7:15 a.m. – 3:40 p.m., Monday – Thursday 7:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Friday</td>
<td>Sandy Fields Kelly Joldersma</td>
<td>706-4918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Melissa Biel</td>
<td>706-4931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin. Asst. to the Principal</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Marcy Mosher</td>
<td>706-4902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registrar</td>
<td>6:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Jennifer Parmelee</td>
<td>706-4926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidance</td>
<td>7:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Vicki Schiro</td>
<td>706-4920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Office</td>
<td>7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Dyne Jones</td>
<td>706-4900 706-4904</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I hope you had a wonderful first week of school.

Christine Sermak  
Proud Principal of Okemos High School

**Homecoming:**

**Okemos High School Homecoming**

**September 16 - September 21, 2019**

Homecoming is an exciting time of the school year as it promotes a sense of school spirit among students, alumni, and the community. As a result, there will be a variety of planned activities and events scheduled throughout the week. Students are encouraged to participate in as many activities as possible in order to foster class unity, friendships,
and a sense of school pride.

This year's Homecoming theme is Disney Pixar. Class themes are as follows:

- Seniors: Toy Story
- Juniors: Monsters Inc.
- Sophomores: Incredibles
- Freshmen: Up

**Homecoming information that is specific to each class** can be found in the Back to School folder on the [OHS website](http://www.ohswebsite.com) (see Parents & Students tab).

**Class t-shirts** have been ordered for all classes. The shirts will be on sale on a first come, first serve basis during lunch hours Monday- Thursday the week of Homecoming and will cost $15. Students can pay in cash or a check made out to Okemos High School. If students are in need of financial assistance, they can see their counselors.

**Tuesday, September 3rd: Powderpuff Coaching Applications & Permission Slips are DUE to Mrs. Harrod (D133 or D131).**

**Tuesday, September 3rd, Wednesday September 4th, Thursday, September 5th: JUNIOR & SENIOR GIRLS POWDER PUFF SIGN UP at lunch ONLY.** All money & permission slips are due by the end of B lunch on Thursday September 5th. No exceptions & no late forms excepted. T-shirts are ordered immediately after B lunch because of timing and no refunds will be made after that.

*If you need financial assistance, please make sure your student contacts their counselor BEFORE Wednesday next week.*

**Homecoming Schedule:**

**Saturday, September 14: All-school float building**

- Drop off of floats begins at 9:00am.
- Float building will take place in the OHS staff parking lot from 10am-6pm. All students are welcome and encouraged to participate. There are no signup times, simply drop by to help for an hour or two when your schedule allows. (Student council members will work with class advisors to design the floats and order building materials prior to float building.)
- There will be a community power tool area available to all classes. The senior class will be responsible for finding parent/guardian volunteers to work this area. Only hand tools (minus saws) and cordless drills are allowed at each float station. Power generators, anything that plugs in, air compressors, and pneumatic tools are not allowed at individual float stations.
- There will be a lunch break at 1pm. If willing, please consider donating (see Volunteerspot link). Food/drinks can be dropped off in the cafeteria between 12:30-1pm.
- Float judging will take place at 6pm. Results will be announced during the pep assembly and during the Homecoming football game on Friday, September 21.
- In case of inclement weather, the float building make-up day will be Sunday, September 15.
Monday, September 16: Beginning of Spirit Week.
- Spirit week dress theme for this day is **PJ Day**
- **Class T-shirts** are sold outside the Commons during lunch, beginning today for $15 (if any student needs financial assistance, please have students see their counselors).
- The **Powder Puff Football** game for junior and senior girls starts at 6 p.m. and is played on the OHS football field. Admission is free and all are welcome to attend the game. Juniors & Seniors need to see the flyer board for information on how to sign up. All students must wear a t-shirt. T-shirt money is collected with the permission slip to play. No late permission slips are accepted.

Tuesday, September 17:
- Spirit week dress theme for this day is **USA Day**

Wednesday, September 18:
- Spirit week dress theme for this day is **Jersey Day**: Get out any type of jersey and show your spirit!
- All OHS students are invited to attend the **Bonfire** from 7:00-8:30 p.m. The bonfire is held at OHS outside of D hall (north-west corner of the building between the football practice field and the staff parking lot). The marching band will play, and then there will be a DJ, dancing, food, and lots of fun. Students should park or be dropped off in the student parking lot. Please pick up students promptly at 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 19:
- Spirit week dress theme for this day is **Okemos Day**: Wear any Okemos apparel such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, sportswear, etc. Support Okemos however you can!

Friday, September 20:
- Spirit week dress theme for this day is **Class T-shirt Day**: Support your class and wear the t-shirt that goes along with our homecoming theme.
- The **Pep Assembly** is in the gym from 1:50-2:35 p.m. The Homecoming court will be announced.
- The **Homecoming Parade** starts at 5:30 p.m. The parade staging area will be in the 2/42 Church parking lots (on Bennett Road just east of the Bennett/Hulett traffic circle). From the parking lot, the parade will proceed west on Bennett, around the Bennett/Hulett traffic circle, south on Hulett, and end at the OHS stadium parking lot.
- **Float Tear Down** is immediately after the parade in the staff parking lot at 6 p.m.
  - The paint party will take place before a different football game this year.
  - Student section theme: Okemos Out! We want to see the school spirit!
- The **Football game** starts at 7:00 p.m. The float judging results will be announced and the Homecoming court will be introduced during halftime.
Saturday, September 21:

- The **Homecoming Dance** is held in the OHS Commons from 8:30-11:30 p.m. Tickets are sold Homecoming week during lunch and cost $10 each. Tickets are also sold at the door. Students may come with dates or with groups of friends. This is a dressy casual event. Students usually wear suits or dressy pants, shirts and ties, and some students wear dresses that might be worn for a special occasion. As a reminder, middle school students and anyone older than 20 are not allowed to attend the dance. Guests from other high schools must complete a Guest Request form (available in the main office) and return it to the main office by Thursday, September 19.

**REMEMBER:** All Homecoming events are school sponsored, extracurricular activities, and all school policies/codes of conduct apply.

**HELP NEEDED:**

WE NEED YOUR HELP with food items as well as with tools and adult volunteers to work the tools during float building on Saturday, September 14.

WE NEED YOUR HELP with providing additional adult supervision at the Homecoming dance on Saturday, September 21.

Please click on the link below to sign up to provide items or time

[https://signup.com/go/YqaUqFW](https://signup.com/go/YqaUqFW)

**School News:**

**Student computers** - Students will be required to **show picture I.D. or other form of I.D.**

- *New students* distribution will take place on Thursday, September 6 during Flex in the OHS Kiva.

**2018-2019 Textbook Fees & Unreturned Books** – Please stop by the main office on the first day of school to pay any textbook fees or return books from last year. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

**School Store Orders**: The school store is hosting a web store from now until September 4th for the community to order Chieftain apparel. I was wondering if both of you could help spread the word. I emailed John Hood so that building principals could add the information to their News and Notes. I was hoping that the two of you could tweet the web address to all of your followers. The information including the web address is below -

The Okemos High School Store is offering a spirit wear sale through an online web store. BSN (formerly Johnny Mac's) is the company used to host the store. Click

[https://www.bsnteamssports.com/shop/CPscWc4xJd](https://www.bsnteamssports.com/shop/CPscWc4xJd) to access the store. **Please note all orders**
must be placed on or before September 4th. Items will be mailed to your home address approximately two weeks after the web store closes on September 4th.

Seniors:

Senior Pictures: for the class of 2020 are due Monday November 4th. Please see website for all requirements before submitting and setting up appointments.  Yearbookokemos.weebly.com
Please send all senior pictures to seniorpictures@okemosk12.net

Counseling News:
College Visits:
Allied Academics  - Thursday, August 29 - in front of the cafeteria during both lunches
Northwood University  - Tuesday, September 3 - in front of the cafeteria during both lunches

PSAT/NMSQT:
Each year between eight and fifteen Okemos High School juniors are honored as National Merit Semi-finalists by earning a qualifying score on the PSAT/NMSQT. National Merit Semi-finalists tend to be students who have taken advanced courses and have a strong academic profile. Historically, many juniors and some sophomores have taken the PSAT/NMSQT for practice with standardized testing. All sophomores will take the PSAT10 in the spring of 2019 and therefore will not participate in the PSAT/NMSQT this October.

While any junior is welcome to take the PSAT/NMSQT, students who are seeking to do so for practice are better served by utilizing the free, comprehensive and personalized SAT preparation resources made available by Khan Academy. Visit https://www.khanacademy.org/sat for more information.

For the 2019 PSAT/NMSQT, students will be registering online. This registration will take a few minutes and can be completed from any computer with internet access.

Online exam registration began on Monday, August 19, 2019 at 7:00 am and will end September 18, 2019. The cost for the PSAT/NMSQT is $25.00. Students who register after September 18, 2019 through October 14, 2019 will be charged a $10.00 late fee.

In order to register, students should visit www.TotalRegistration.net/PSAT/232850 . To complete registration, students must answer all of the required questions. Registration is not complete until students have printed the pdf of the confirmation page that is provided at the end.

Okemos High School is excited to offer families the convenience of paying exam fees online at the time of registration. Please be sure to have a debit or credit card available before beginning registration. Paying online is a great way to make sure that payment has been made.

Here are the important dates for the registration process:

  ● Monday, August 19, 2019 at 7:00 AM - Registration Began
  ● Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 11:59 PM - Regular Registration Ends
  ● Thursday, September 19, 2019 - Monday, October 14 - Late Registration Period
    ○ Because tests must be ordered in advance, test administration is only guaranteed to those students who submit their registration form and payment by 9-18-19. After September 18, registration will only be open until space is full.
- Thursday, October 17, 2019 - Students who signed up during Late Registration must attend FLEX in the counseling office.
- Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 2:35 PM - Registrations that have not been paid for will be canceled.

Please contact Carrie Inglis at carrie.inglis@okemosk12.net or 517-706-4923, if you have questions or require financial assistance.

**SPRING 2020 AP EXAMS**: Online registration has opened for Spring 2020 AP Exams. Students will register through Total Registration. More information is available on the OHS Counseling website under Academic Resources or go to [https://www.okemosk12.net/Page/2839](https://www.okemosk12.net/Page/2839). This is only for current AP students or students planning to take exams this spring. Please contact Mrs. Akers in the Counseling Office with any questions.

**Counseling Advisory Group Seeking New Members**: The OHS Counseling Advisory Group includes parents and students who meet once or twice a year to give feedback on counseling services and generate ideas to improve our program. If you are interested in joining the group or would like more information, please contact Mr. Walton at hedlun.walton@okemosk12.net.

**Athletic News:**

**Home Athletic Contests- Week of September 1, 2019**

**Wednesday 9/4**
- Varsity Golf vs Holt @ College Fields 3:15PM
- Soccer vs Holt-4PM
- Volleyball vs Mt. Pleasant- 5PM

**Friday 9/6**
- Varsity Football vs Ann Arbor Skyline

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

Please come and join us for our next meeting.

Tuesday Sept. 10th @ Center of Social Dance
2807 Jolly Road (across the street from OHS)
@ 7:30pm

We would love to have you join us and share your ideas!

Our current Treasurer needs to step down next year. If you would be interested in finding out more about how you can help in that position, please contact Larry Gerhardt at larry.gerhardt@comcast.net.