



OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL

Bi-Monthly Newsletter for Okemos High School Community

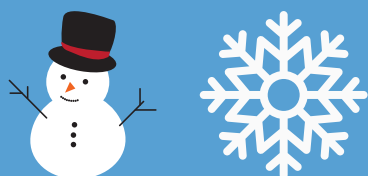
IMPORTANT DATES

EARLY RELEASE
DECEMBER 7

FINE ARTS @7:30 PM
CHOIR CONCERT: 12/13
ORCHESTRA CONCERT: 12/14
BAND CONCERT: 12/15

WINTER RECESS!

DECEMBER 19-
JANUARY 2



IMPORTANT LINKS

click these:

[DISTRICT CALENDAR](#)

[PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK](#)

[PARENT GROUP](#)

NEXT MEETING: JAN. 20, 2023



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

OHS Families,

Hello! I hope you are well. I need a little help here. I know you want your children accounted for and properly supervised. To that end, students have a few options after school. Our library is open for all student until 3:45. This is the perfect opportunity for students to get their homework done before going home. Or, students may spend time after school with a club or sport.

At 3pm, if a student is not in a club or sport and does not want to go to the library, it is my expectation they are leaving school for the day. My first priority for your children is safety. Thank you for partnering with me to communicate these expectations. I appreciate you! -Dr. Kemsley

CONTACT INFO

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Principal

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Dr. Joseph Schmidt
Assistant Principal

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Mrs. Allison Cironi
Assistant Principal

10th and 12th Grade Students
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Tempie Brown
Athletic Director

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION



DEI INFORMATION

What do we mean by “accessibility”? By design, an accessible system gives all people access to educational experiences, information, and services. Every person is given the opportunity to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services without having to ask, go out of their way, or endure exceptional barriers. Examples of accessibility: A student with food allergies can access the dinner at prom without worrying about health risks because the menu has been made available prior to the event. A teacher labels every item in her classroom with its name in English to support her students who are learning English as a second language.

The purpose of the **OPS Equity Plan** ([one-page overview](#) or [full plan](#)) is to provide the district with direction for creating learning environments that are safe, healthy, and effective for everyone, students and adults alike. Our guiding principles are: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Collaboration, Reflection, and Data-Driven Decision-Making. If you'd like to be involved in bringing the equity plan to life, please [complete this form](#) or contact Dr. Lara Slee, Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, lara.slee@okemosk12.net, 517-706-5011.

2023 DIVERSITY ASSEMBLY

FEBRUARY 3RD, 2023

Okemos High School is proud to announce the return of the Diversity Assembly. On February 3rd, 2023, OHS will run a double 3rd period so that our students can be enriched with performances by their peers.

Further information about how to audition will be communicated through morning announcements. Once performances are selected, they will have several opportunities to rehearse.

Students seeking more information should reach out to Mrs. Duffield or Mr. Hassell.

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

[Financial Aid & Paying For College Presentation](#)

[College/Military Visits](#)

[Michigan Achievement Scholarship](#)

[Post Secondary Planning for Parents](#)

Community Happenings:

Looking to work in OPS? Use the QR code below to browse open positions.



COMMENCEMENT: MAY 21, 2023

A MESSAGE FROM DR. KEMSLEY

DEAR OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL FAMILIES,

AFTER MEETING WITH THE STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP, THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT, FACULTY, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, I RECOMMENDED THAT THE OKEMOS BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE TO MOVE THE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT TO MAY 21ST. THIS DATE MORE CLOSELY ALIGNS WITH SENIORS' LAST DAY OF SCHOOL. ON NOVEMBER 28TH, THE OKEMOS BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVED THAT RECOMMENDATION. YOU MAY BE WONDERING, WHY THE CHANGE? THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION! ALLOW ME TO PROVIDE SOME INSIGHT INTO THE RATIONALE FOR OUR RECOMMENDATION FOR THIS CHANGE.

SENIORS WORK HARD FOR FOUR YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL. SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE THEIR LAST DAY, COUNSELORS AND TEACHERS ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH SENIORS TO ENSURE THEY MEET ALL OF THEIR GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, A PROCESS CALLED SENIOR STATUS. THE PROCESS HAS SEVERAL CHECKPOINTS AND DATES WHEN WE ARE MAKING CONTACT WITH OUR STUDENTS. A FIRM DEADLINE WILL BOTH BOLSTER THE MEANING OF OUR SENIOR STATUS PROCESS AND PROVIDE CLEAR EXPECTATIONS FOR OUR STUDENTS WITHOUT AMBIGUITY.

SENIORS' LAST WEEK IS A REALLY EXCITING TIME FOR THEM. THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE SENIOR PROJECT, HAVE A PICNIC, FINISH UP ANY REMAINING ASSIGNMENTS (OF COURSE) AND PRACTICE FOR COMMENCEMENT. AFTER MEETING WITH A FOCUS GROUP OF SENIORS, THEY WERE VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF KEEPING THIS MOMENTUM GOING WITH COMMENCEMENT THREE DAYS LATER. IT IS THE NATURAL CRESCENDO TO THAT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES AND EXCITEMENT.

FINALLY, SENIORS TOLD US A COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY MORE CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH THEIR LAST DAY WILL ALLOW THEM TO HAVE A TIMELY END TO THEIR HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE AND START PLANNING AND PREPARING FOR THEIR FUTURE: OPEN HOUSES, TRAVEL, WORK, AND GETTING READY FOR COLLEGE WERE ALL TOPICS OF DISCUSSION.

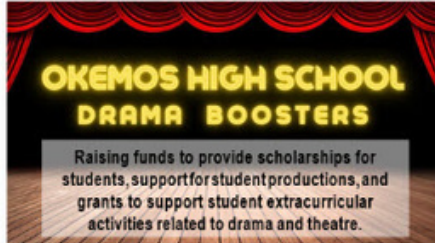
REST ASSURED, WE HAVE BEEN THOUGHTFULLY PLANNING TO ENSURE WE ARE NOT INTERFERING WITH ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTING. SIMILARLY, WE HAVE BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE MINDFUL TO PROVIDE THE PROPER SUPPORT FOR OUR STRUGGLING LEARNERS. OUR GOAL, OF COURSE, IS TO HAVE OUR KIDS PARTICIPATE IN COMMENCEMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND, AGAIN, ALLOW ME TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TELL YOU HOW PROUD WE ARE OF OUR STUDENTS.

I HOPE YOU ARE WELL,

DR. KEMSLEY

CLUB FUNDRAISERS

Visit Culver's of Okemos South
Monday, December 12th from 5-9 pm
 and we will donate a percentage of all sales to the:



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CULVERS.COM

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Visit Culver's of Okemos South
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5TH FROM 5-9 PM
 and we will donate a percentage of all sales to:
OHS CHOIR BOOSTERS

The boosters support the Chippewa Middle School and Okemos High School Choirs in purchasing uniforms, awards, celebrations, sheet music, scholarships and more.

Enjoy a delicious meal, benefit a great cause and feel good all over. Thank you for your support!

Online Ordering, Drive-Thru or Dine-In (no flyer or code needed)
 Go to Culvers.com to order online.



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WE NEED YOUR HELP TO REACH THE OHS PRESS' SUBSCRIPTION GOAL! PLEASE CONSIDER A SUBSCRIPTION TO OUR STUDENT PUBLICATION. IT REALLY IS FANTASTIC! THANKS!

THE OHS PRESS

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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