



OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL

Bi-Monthly Newsletter for the Okemos High School Community

IMPORTANT DATES

WINTER RECESS!

DECEMBER 19-
JANUARY 2

SEMESTER 1 EXAMS

JANUARY 11-13

LIBRARY CLOSED AFTER SCHOOL

JANUARY 10, 11, 12

NO SCHOOL

JANUARY 16

IMPORTANT LINKS

click these:

[DISTRICT CALENDAR](#)

[PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK](#)

[PARENT GROUP](#)

NEXT MEETING: JAN. 20, 2023



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear OHS community,

One thing I love about our students is that they really care about academics. Sometimes, though, their work/life balance gets a little skewed. Like all of us, they need to recalibrate.

They need a break. We are going to take a break.

No homework; no projects; no quizzes or tests; and hopefully, no studying at all! PowerSchool will be turned off.

Hot chocolate, sledding, visiting family and friends, getting outside, sleeping in, staying up late, video games, reading fun books and watching movies...ALL APPROVED ACTIVITIES!

Seriously, my wish is that our students get a lot of time to relax and recharge. I hope you are well, Dr. Kemsley

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DEI INFORMATION

The Winter Solstice occurs on December 21 at 4:48 pm EST and is the point at which the path of the sun in the sky is farthest south. At this point, the sun travels the shortest path through the sky. This results in the day of the year with the least amount of sunlight, which also gives us the year's longest night. In the days and weeks before the Winter Solstice, days become shorter and shorter. On the solstice, the Northern Hemisphere will have 8 hours and 46 minutes of daylight and then winter begins. Many cultures and Indigenous communities around the world celebrate the Winter Solstice, as it is considered by some to mark the death and rebirth of the sun. For more information, check out "[What's the winter solstice?](#)" on the National Geographic Kids website or "[8 Winter Solstice Celebrations Around the World](#)" from the History Channel.

As a reminder, Okemos Public Schools has partnered with Child and Family Charities to provide a mental health clinic within Okemos High School. This opportunity is made possible because of the Expanding, Enhancing Emotional Health (E3) grant through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Adolescent Health Center Division. The clinic will provide on-site comprehensive mental health services from mild to moderate severity of need. There will be a full-time therapist at the OHS clinic five days a week and will be able to serve all OPS youth ages 5 to 21 years. If you're interested in services for your student, please complete [this referral form](#). If you have additional questions, please contact Dr. Lara Slee, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (lara.slee@okemosk12.net, 517-706-5011).

FUTURE AFTER SCHOOL LIBRARY CLOSINGS

AS A REMINDER, OUR ACADEMIC LEARNING CENTER IS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS TO HAVE A SAFE, QUIET PLACE TO GO AFTER SCHOOL. HOWEVER, THERE ARE A FEW DATES WHEN WE WILL BE UNABLE TO OPEN THE ALC FOR VARIOUS REASONS. PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR A LIST OF THOSE DATES. THANK YOU!

1/10/2023 Teacher Staff Meeting
1/11/2023 Half Day
1/12/2023 Half Day
1/25/2023 Early Release Day
2/7/2023 Teacher Staff Meeting
2/22/2023 Early Release Day
3/7/2023 Teacher Staff Meeting
3/8/2023 Early Release Day

3/23/2023 Half Day
4/4/2023 Teacher Staff Meeting
4/26/2023 Early Release Day
5/2/2023 Teacher Staff Meeting
5/17/2023 Early Release Day
6/6/2023 Teacher Staff Meeting
6/7/2023 Half Day
6/8/2023 Half Day

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Okemos Music Patrons is excited to announce the return of the Spaghetti Dinner, an evening filled with food, music, and fun that benefits all K-12 music programs. Mark your calendars for one of the biggest events in Okemos, Thursday, March 9, 2023, 4:30 - 7:30 PM @ OHS. Tickets coming to you via music students in January. **Opportunities for volunteers, committee chairs, and sponsors are available now.** For more information, sign up at: www.okemosmusicpatrons.org. Questions? Contact us at omp@okemosmusicpatrons.org.



FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

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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