



OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL

Bi-Monthly Newsletter for the Okemos High School Community

IMPORTANT DATES

DIVERSITY ASSEMBLY
FEBRUARY 3

ALC CLOSED
FEBRUARY 7

NO SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 20TH

WINTERFEST WEEK
FEBRUARY 21-24

WINTERFEST DANCE
FEBRUARY 25TH

IMPORTANT LINKS

click these:

[DISTRICT CALENDAR](#)

[PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK](#)

[PARENT GROUP](#)

[PARENT GROUP BYLAWS](#)

NEXT MEETING: FEB. 10, 2023



FROM THE ASST. PRINCIPAL

Dear OHS Community,

This month, we are incredibly excited about all of the upcoming events that we have planned for students. Our annual Diversity Assembly will take place on Friday, February 3rd, and is always a highlight of the school year. We also are bringing back our Winterfest Dance, which will be preceded by a spirit week and pep assembly. Hopefully, between these events, and a day off on the 20th, students will have a chance to find some light in a typically dreary month.

We are so proud of our students and school community and all of the growth that continues to occur day in and day out.

~Mrs. Cironi

CONTACT INFO

Dr. Daniel Kemsley
Principal

Daniel.Kemsley@okemosk12.net
(517) 706-4901

Dr. Joseph Schmidt
Assistant Principal

9th and 11th Grade Students
Joseph.Schmidt@okemosk12.net
517-706-4903

Mrs. Allison Cironi
Assistant Principal

10th and 12th Grade Students
Allison.Cironi@okemosk12.net
517-706-4905

Tempie Brown
Athletic Director

Tempie.Brown@okemosk12.net
517-706-4935

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

NHS INFORMATION

It's that time of year again-time to apply to NHS!

- If students are eligible to apply to NHS, they and their parents/guardians should have received an emailed application on January 31st at 3 pm.
- Applications are due printed out to the OHS main office no later than February 24th at 2:35 pm
- Students and parents/guardians will be notified of acceptance via email by the end of March
- NHS Induction will be on April 26th in the evening at the OHS Auditorium
- Questions should be emailed to nhs.okemos@okemosk12.net

STUDENT CELEBRATION

MSUFCU is bringing back it's Student Art Exhibit and we have a number of Okemos students with art in the exhibit. Voting is open from January 25-February 22, 2023. Please use the QR code/link on the poster below to vote! Congratulations to **Tristan Baraburiye, Elena Garbaccio, Jasmine Chow, Sudhiksha Damodara, Leah Elliot, Seoeeun Lee, Elise Seydel, Rosie Bills, Tatiana Gramlich, and Aaliyah Valles.**



@msufcuart   

ANNOUNCING THE RETURN OF THE MSUFCU **STUDENT ART EXHIBIT**

EXHIBIT & VOTING OPEN
January 25 to
February 22, 2023

AWARDS CEREMONY
Sunday, March 5, 2023
MSU Federal Credit Union's
HQ1 Building

 **VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE AT:**
msufcuart.com or
MSUFCU Headquarters



IMPORTANT COUNSELING INFORMATION

A reminder that applications are due by 3:00 pm on February 3rd for all 2023-2024 application-based classes (Advanced Placement, Science Research, Journalism, Yearbook, and advanced music classes).

Seniors: [click here](#) to check out some resources for paying for college.

[Click here](#) to check out a list of available scholarships.

SPAGHETTI DINNER UPDATE



47th Annual OMP Spaghetti Dinner

Dear Okemos Community,

It's Spaghetti Dinner Time! After a two-year hiatus, Okemos Music Patrons is excited to once again bring together our community for this long standing tradition. The Spaghetti Dinner, a lively evening of music, food and fun, will be held on **THURSDAY, MARCH 9th, 2023 from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm.**

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Many volunteers are needed for takeout, serving lines, desserts, drinks, recycling and many other tasks. Please sign up and join us in making this big community event a success!



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094FACA62BABFD0-20231>

The Okemos School District is renowned statewide for its high-quality orchestra, band, choir and elementary general music programs. Proceeds from the Spaghetti Dinner provide support to all K-12 music programs at Bennett Woods, Cornell, Hiawatha, OPM Central, Kinawa, Chippewa, and Okemos High School. OMP provides funds directly to teachers for instrument purchases and repairs, bringing in outside coaches and clinicians, piano accompanists, purchasing music scores, transportation for field trips and festivals, and so much more. The last Spaghetti Dinner raised over \$30,000 to support Okemos music programs.

Thank you so much for supporting our music students and our community!

Sincerely,
Okemos Music Patrons Board

[CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER!](#)

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

OKEMOS WOOFPACK UPDATE

Our emotional support animals, known as the Okemos Woofpack have been a welcome addition. Most recently, CeCe, Willow, Chip, and Phoebe visited the school board so that their humans could brag about how great they are all doing. The school board humans remarked that it was their favorite part of the meeting. Head to <https://www.facebook.com/okemoswoofpack> to learn more about what the pack is up to!



WITH GRATITUDE

The Okemos High School World Language Department would like to thank the Okemos Education Foundation for their generous grant supporting our ongoing professional development. Several Okemos World Language teachers will attend a two-day conference in Saline, Michigan this April thanks to an OEF Lee Gerard grant. Many thanks for your support!

GOOGLE FORM: ABSENCES

REMINDER: If you have a GOOGLE ACCOUNT and would like to report a **FULL DAY** absence for your student, please click the link below. This link is also on the OHS webpage under the "Report an Absence" tab as well. Again this form is only for **FULL DAY** absences. Thanks!

[Full Day Reporting Form](#)

FROM THE OFFICE OF DR. SLEE

January 27 was **International Holocaust Remembrance Day**, and it marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. To learn more about the Holocaust, visit the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum \(USHMM\)](#) website. Today, antisemitism, defined as prejudice against or hatred of Jews, is on the rise in the United States, and its prevalence negatively impacts many people within our Okemos community. The USHMM provides a [historical overview](#) of antisemitism, as well as a [3-minute video](#) that explains what antisemitism is.

February is **Black History Month**. In 1926, historian Carter G. Woodson and his organization, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, named the second week of February as "Negro History Week" to celebrate and honor the contributions of Black Americans to U.S. history. This week was chosen because it included the birthdays of both abolitionist Frederick Douglass and former U.S. President Abraham Lincoln. Woodson hoped that because many Black communities already celebrated these two birthdates, adding more structure and significance to the week would help extend the study of Black history. In 1976, then-President Gerald Ford broadened the event to become **Black History Month**. This month-long celebration is intended to promote and reinforce the learning of Black history that occurs throughout the year.

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. Contact the principal if you have questions or need a referral!