

## All Students to Receive FREE School Breakfast and Lunch for 2026-27

The Owen D. Young Central School District qualifies again for participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). That means ALL students will receive FREE breakfast and lunch this school year. The district received this designation based on factors that revealed a need for financial assistance for district families.

"This benefits our district and helps to alleviate some of the economic pressures our families are facing," said Superintendent Brennan Fahey.

The CEP provision does NOT cover the costs of additional a la carte items (milk, yogurt, ice cream, cookies, etc.) Students may purchase these items with cash, or through a digital EZSchoolPay account. Funds may be added to your child's account by check (made out to OHM BOCES Food Service), made online (<https://www.ezschoollpay.com>), or send cash in a labeled envelope to school with your student.

Families are encouraged to help our school district receive the maximum funding and resources needed to support all students by completing a CEP household income form, which can be completed online in 10 minutes or less at <https://ezmealapp.com/>

Contact Kate Dorr at OHM BOCES by email [kdorr@oneida-boces.org](mailto:kdorr@oneida-boces.org) or call 315-223-6068 if you have questions about Food Services at ODY.



## Superintendent's Message

Dear ODY families,

I hope you had a chance to unwind and spend quality time with family and friends over the summer—and are now energized and ready for school to begin!

As we kick off the new year, I want to share an update on the state's Portrait of a Graduate initiative. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) has indicated that beginning in the 2027–28 school year, passing Regents exams will no longer be mandatory for earning a high school diploma. This change reflects a shift towards a more comprehensive measure of student achievement and readiness that moves beyond test scores alone. It is important to keep in mind the transition to a new competency-based diploma and a detailed plan for evaluating student proficiency are still being developed. We will continue to share information with our school community as NYSED provides additional guidance and as these changes take effect.

A few notes about staffing: Principal Christine Tucker will be on maternity leave at the beginning of the school year. Our congratulations and well wishes to Mrs. Tucker and her family on the recent birth of baby Eleanna! Please join me in welcoming our new K-12 school counselor Laura Eysaman, special education teacher Hanna Young, physical education teacher Jace Fox and Luke Brach, high school math teacher who served here as a long-term sub last year. In addition, Mark Dunn, former school administrator who is stepping out of retirement and into the role of athletic director this year to support our student-athletes and coaches.

I look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday, Sept. 8 and the start of what promises to be another successful school year.

Sincerely,

Brennan Fahey, Superintendent of Schools



## STEM Spotlight: Students learn coding can "bee" fun!

Elementary students were busy bees exploring coding and robotics by programming and testing mini robots called Bee Bots. Throughout the summer learning program, students exercised their problem-solving skills, worked together in teams, and discovered just how much fun STEM learning can "bee" through hands-on activities.

# Teacher named NY Visionary Educator

ODY teacher Erin Folts is receiving well-deserved recognition for her engaging and innovative approach to instruction that makes learning both meaningful and fun for students!

Mrs. Folts, who teaches fourth and fifth grade students, was recently named the 2026 New York Visionary Educator by the New York State Association for Computers and Technology in Education (NYSCATE) at its summer conference.

Technology Integration Specialist Heather Shaffer nominated Mrs. Folts for this award because of her exceptional ability to combine innovative technology integration, student-centered learning, and inclusive classroom practices.

In a summarized version of the nomination, Ms. Shaffer wrote:

“Erin weaves high-impact technology integration into every corner of her curriculum – from a Shark Tank project where students designed their own corporate branding, to geography-based video game maps built in Canva, to Channel 5 News, her student-run newscast. She built a classroom culture so inclusive that during student government elections, one student independently translated campaign materials into Spanish so a newly arrived peer would feel included. To celebrate her students’

hard work during state testing season, Erin transformed her classroom into an immersive airplane simulation – complete with boarding passes and a cockpit view – using it to deepen ELA skills while giving her rural students a sense of the wider world.”

As the Visionary Educator award winner, Mrs. Folts has been invited to present a model lesson in collaboration with Ms. Shaffer at the 2026 NYSCATE Conference in November. Congratulations, Mrs. Folts!



## ODY welcomes new school counselor

Please welcome Ms. Laura Eysaman to the ODY family, where she will serve as our K-12 school counselor!

Ms. Eysaman comes to ODY with more than 15 years experience as a school counselor in the valley, having spent several years in the role at Dolgeville Central School District and the past two years at Herkimer BOCES as the Career and Technical Education (CTE) and P-Tech counselor.

Ms. Eysaman looks forward to getting to know our students, supporting their growth, and partnering with families and staff throughout the school year.

### Former school admin steps out of retirement to serve as AD

We are also pleased to announce the return of Mark Dunn – a familiar face for our ODY community – who will serve as athletic director this year. Mr. Dunn brings valuable experience and a supportive presence to our athletics program. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Dunn and wishing all of our student-athletes, coaches and teams a successful and exciting season. Go Wildcats!



## Save the Dates!

Open House: Sept. 16

PTO Meeting: Sept. 30

Families are invited to ODY's annual K-12 Open House on Wednesday, Sept. 16 from 5:30-7 p.m. Open House is an opportunity to meet your children's teachers, visit their classrooms, and learn more about curriculum and class schedules.

While there, stop by the PTO table to learn more about the organization, share your ideas and sign up to volunteer as we explore ways to strengthen community and support our students and our school!



The PTO is back, and we want you to be part of a fresh start. Join the PTO at our first meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 4:30 p.m. Scan the QR Code to sign up and voice your ideas and help decide how we can best make a difference for our students.

## District Communication Procedure: A guide for parents & the community

Parents and community members often request help in knowing the best way to communicate with the school. The communications chart below will serve as a helpful resource. By contacting the following people in prescribed order, questions will be answered more efficiently. The district's main number is 315-858-0729. A staff directory may be found online at [www.odyoungcsd.org](http://www.odyoungcsd.org).

| Questions About   | 1st Contact       | 2nd Contact             | 3rd Contact | 4th Contact |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Health Concerns   | Building Nurse    | Mrs. Tucker             | Mr. Fahey   |             |
| Student Concerns  | Classroom Teacher | Mrs. Eysaman            | Mrs. Tucker | Mr. Fahey   |
| Transportation    | School Bus Driver | Mrs. Tucker             | Mr. Fahey   |             |
| School Safety     | Mrs. Tucker       | Mr. Walker              | Mr. Fahey   |             |
| Budget            | Mr. Seifried      | Mr. Fahey               |             |             |
| Special Education | Classroom Teacher | CSE Chair-Mrs. Rockwell | Mrs. Tucker | Mr. Fahey   |
| Curriculum        | Classroom Teacher | Mrs. Tucker             | Mr. Fahey   |             |
| Athletics         | Coach             | Mr. Dunn                | Mr. Fahey   |             |
| Food Service      | Cafeteria Staff   | Mrs. Dorr               | Mr. Fahey   |             |
| Building Use      | Mrs. Miller       | Mr. Walker              | Mr. Fahey   |             |
| Technology        | Mr. Luckman       |                         |             |             |

## Summer program combines learning and fun!



The summer program mixed it up this year as teachers leaned into their strengths and interests to provide fun and engaging activities and experiences to support students' reading and math skills. Approximately 35 students from grades K-6 were immersed in learning with plenty of hands-on activities and adventures that included field trips to the Fish Hatchery in Van Hornesville, Fort Klock in St. Johnsville and Glimmerglass State Park in Cooperstown.

# Annual notifications and important announcements

## Notice of Residency

The district has a policy for student residents that, according to education law, entitles them to attend public schools maintained in the district in which they reside. The district also has a non-resident policy that allows students who do not legally reside in the district to be approved for attendance in the district's school under certain conditions.

Families of non-resident students must submit a request in writing to the Superintendent. Enrollment determination will be made in the best interest of the District and the student, taking into consideration the student's academic, disciplinary and attendance records. Tuition will be determined each year at the re-organization meeting.

## Parent Notification Regarding Teacher Qualifications

In accordance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, parents and guardians have the right to request specific information about the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teachers. As a parent/guardian of a student in the Owen D. Young Central School District, you have the right to request the following information:

- If the teacher has met New York State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas he or she teaches;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status for which the state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- The teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees; and
- If your child is provided services by any instructional aides, if similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

Requests for information about the qualifications of your child's teacher(s) can be directed to Mr. Brennan Fahey, at 315-858-0729. All requests will be honored in a timely manner.



Eleven high school students were inducted into the National Honor Society, and three 8th grade students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society at a ceremony in June. Both chapters recognize students who have an overall average of 85% or higher and have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship and character. Congratulations to all!

## Data Privacy and Security

The Owen D. Young Central School District seeks to use current technology, including electronic storage, retrieval, and analysis of information about students' education experience in the District to enhance the opportunities for learning and to increase the efficiency of our district and school operations. The Owen D. Young Central School District seeks to insure that parents have information about how the District stores, retrieves, and uses information about students, and meets all legal requirements for maintaining the privacy and security of protected student data and protected principal and teacher data, including Section 2-d of the New York State Education Law. To further these goals, the Owen D. Young Central School District has posted this Parents' Bill of Rights for Data Privacy and Security:

1. A student's personally identifiable information cannot be sold or released for any commercial purposes.
2. Parents have the right to inspect and review the complete contents of their child's education record. The procedures for exercising this right can be found in Board Policy #7240, Students Records Access and Challenge. You may access this Policy from the District's website.
3. State and federal laws protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information and safeguards associated with industry standards and best practices, including but not limited to encryption, and firewalls. Password protection must be in place when data is stored or transferred.
4. A complete list of all student data elements collected by the State is available at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/sirs/documentation/NYSEDstudentData.xlsx>. A copy may be obtained by writing to the Office of Information & Reporting Services, New York State Education Department,

Room 863 EBA, 89 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12234.

5. Parents have the right to have complaints about possible breaches of student data addressed. Complaints should be directed in writing to the Chief Privacy Officer, New York State Education Department, Room 863 EBA, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12234.



Owen D. Young Central School District marked its 96th commencement in June. We are proud of the nine scholars who earned their diplomas. Congratulations Arianna Bevers, Isaac Burditt, Riley Constantinetis, Elliott Frasier, Vera Korol, Isabelle Peeters, Yurem Santis Aguilar, Alexis Stoddard and Cameron Wisbeski.

\* Supplemental Information About Third Party Contracts: In order to meet 21st century expectations for effective education and efficient operation, the District utilizes several products and services that involve third party contractors receiving access to student data, or principal or teacher data, protected by Section 2-d of the Education Law. The District recognizes that students, parents, and the school community have a legitimate interest in understanding which of the District's vendors receive that data, for what purpose, and under what conditions. The District has undertaken the task of compiling that information, and of insuring that each new contract adequately describes (1) the exclusive purposes for which the data will be used, (2) how the contractor will ensure that any subcontractors it uses will abide by data protection and security requirements, (3) when the contract expires and what happens to the data at that time, (4) if and how an affected party can if and how an affected party can challenge the accuracy of the data is collected, (5) where the data will be stored, and (6) the security protections taken to ensure the data will be protected, including whether the data will be encrypted.

### Asbestos Notification

Federal regulations require that schools be inspected for the presence of asbestos, a potentially toxic material that has been used in the construction industry for years. The Owen D. Young Central School District buildings have been inspected for asbestos containing-materials. The results of these inspections are contained in the Asbestos Management Plan. The state authority in charge of asbestos has approved this plan.

The Asbestos Management Plan includes the results of all the inspections conducted on all district buildings. It also contains the results of the material samples which were taken during the inspections and the records of any damage or removals.

The Asbestos Management Plan is available for review during regular working hours at the school office. On request, a copy of the plan will be made for a nominal fee to cover the costs of copying and handling.

The Asbestos Management Plan shows the amount of asbestos present in the district's buildings as well as the specific locations of

the asbestos-containing materials.

For more information regarding the Asbestos Management Plan, please contact Mr. Walker, Asbestos Designee, at 315-858-0729.

### Title 1 Complaint Procedure

Any school parent or teacher or other interested person or agency may file a complaint concerning violations of ESEA Title 1, Parts A, C, and D, or of the General Education Provisions Act, or of Section 100.2(ee) Academic Interventions Services of the Regulations of the Commissioner.

All complaints must:

- Be written;
- Be signed by the person or agency representative filing the complaint;
- Specify the requirement of law or regulation being violated and the related issue and/or the concern;
- Contain information/evidence supporting the complaint;
- State the nature of the corrective action desired.

Complaints and appeals regarding Title 1 should be sent to:

New York State Education Department,  
Title 1 School and Community Services Office  
Room 365 EBA  
89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12234

### Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited At School

The Dignity for All Students Act is a state law that went into effect July 1, 2012. The intent of the law is to provide all public school students with an environment free from discrimination,

## Notifications and announcements, cont.

bullying, and harassment, as well as to foster civility in public schools. The Dignity Act also focuses on prevention of harassment, bullying and discriminatory behaviors through the promotion of educational measures meant to positively impact school culture and climate, including instruction in safe, responsible use of the Internet and electronic communications.

In plain language, students should understand that:

You should never feel that it is not safe to come to school and participate in all school activities. You should never be prevented from concentrating on your schoolwork because another student or a school staff member is teasing you, making fun of you, pushing you around, or threatening you in some way because of your race, color, weight, national origin (where your family comes from), ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or for any other reason.

A student may not act toward another student in a way that reasonably might make that other student feel threatened or unsafe or that might reasonably make that other student unable to concentrate on school work because of the other student's race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or for any other reason. It is against school rules for any student or school staff member to do this by physical actions or by verbal statements, including electronic messages. This kind of conduct is prohibited on school property, on school buses, and at all school-sponsored events.

Changes to the law effective July 1, 2013, include specific information prohibiting harassment, discrimination and bullying, including cyber-bullying, and require school administrators to take action regarding conduct that may take place off school property when that behavior creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, and/or where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property. This is to serve as a reminder that we consider the safety of our students extremely important.

### Integrated Pest Management

The Owen D. Young Central School District uses current Integrated Pest Management Practice to reduce the use of pesticides in our building and on our grounds. It may be necessary to use pesticides periodically during the school year. New York State law requires that schools maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notice of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- Anti-microbial products
- Nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper-resistant bait stations

in areas inaccessible to children

- Nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper-resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children
- Silica gel and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams, or gels in areas inaccessible to children
- Boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate
- The application of EPA-designated biopesticides
- The application of EPA-designated exempt materials under 40 CFR §152.25
- The use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets.

In addition, there will be no written notice of such application when a school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72 hours following an application. In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good-faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list. If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in the school, please send a letter requesting such. Be sure to include your name, day and night-time phone numbers, and your complete address. Send this information to the main office at PO Box 125, Van Hornesville, NY 13475. Please feel free to contact Mr. Walker at 315-858-0729 for further information on these requirements.

### Student Accident Insurance

Owen D. Young Central School District carries student accident insurance through Commercial Travelers Mutual Insurance Company. Students are covered while on route to and from school, during school session and during practice or play of interscholastic sporting events. Should your child become injured, the proper forms may be obtained from the nurse's office. Upon completion, the forms are submitted through the school Business Office.

### Notice of Compliance

The Owen D. Young Central School District hereby advises students, parents, employees and the general public that it offers employment and educational opportunities, including vocational education opportunities, without regard to sex, race, religion, age, color, national origin, qualified disability, marital status, genetic predisposition or carrier status. Inquiries regarding this nondiscrimination policy may be directed to:

Title IX Coordinator, Fred Seifried, business manager, or Section

**NEW THIS YEAR: Water Safety Notification***State law requires school districts to provide water safety information to families. guidelines*

The safety of our students and families is our top priority. To help prevent water-related injuries at New York's lakes, rivers, beaches, and other recreational areas, State Education Law requires school districts to share water safety and drowning prevention information with our communities. We also include this information in our local health and physical education programs, as required by state law.

Please review these essential safety guidelines with your family to ensure everyone stays safe when near water:

- **Never Leave Children Unattended:** Always designate a sober, focused adult to watch children whenever they are in or near water, including backyard pools and bathtubs.
- **Practice Safe Swimming:** Encourage your children to only swim in designated areas where a certified lifeguard is on duty. Teach them to use the buddy system and never swim alone.
- **Wear Life Jackets:** Children, inexperienced swimmers, and everyone participating in boating activities should always wear a properly fitted, U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket.
- **Learn CPR and Swimming Skills:** Enrolling children in swim lessons and having adults trained in CPR are among the best ways to prevent drowning fatalities.

By practicing these simple habits, we can enjoy all that our local environment has to offer while keeping safe. For further details on outdoor and winter safety, families may consult the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: <https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/swimming> or <https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hiking/winter-safety>.

504 Coordinator, Diane Rockwell, CSE Chairperson, Owen D. Young Central School.

For more information or assistance with registering, please contact the Guidance Department at 315-858-0729, ext. 4.

**No Child Left Behind Military Recruiter Policy**

In accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act, it is required that upon request made by military recruiters, educational agencies must provide access to secondary school student names, addresses and telephone listings. Students or parents may also request that such information not be released. If you want your child's information withheld and not released to military recruiters, please send written authorization of such to the Guidance Office at your earliest convenience.

**Homeschooling Info/Policy**

If you plan to home school your child, you must submit a letter of intent to Mr. Brennan Fahey, Superintendent. You will then be mailed a packet containing the description of our Home Instruction Service provided by Herkimer BOCES, Commissioner's Regulation 100.10 describing the requirements of Home Instruction, and sample individual Instruction Plan (IHIP) forms and quarterly report forms.

Please mail your letter of intent to:  
PO Box 125  
Van Hornesville, NY 13475

**Parent Portal**

Please consider signing up for our SchoolTool Parent Portal if you have not already done so. The Portal is updated daily and provides you internet access to your child's attendance and grades.

**Electronic Surveillance**

Owen D. Young CSD uses video equipment to assist in building and transportation safety and security. Cameras are placed at entrances and hallways, both inside and outside of the building. There are also cameras on school-owned buses. The purpose of the cameras is primarily building security and safety, but students and parents must be informed that the video footage is sometimes scanned in situations where incidents involving students may have happened. If the camera footage indicates that a child has misbehaved in any way, administration will use those image to give consequences, as necessary.

**Notification of Safety Drills**

The New York State Education Department requires that districts provide advance notice to parents/guardians within a week of the planned safety drill.

Lockdown drills are intended to prepare students and staff to respond to an emergency that is occurring inside a school. State law requires that all schools conduct at least eight evacuation and four lockdown drills annually.

In addition, schools must design safety drills and trainings that are developmentally and age appropriate and that do not cause unintended trauma to students, staff and families.



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Ethan Durham, Trustee

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Adriana Snyder, Trustee



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### September

|     |                                       |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 1-2 | Superintendent's Conference Day       |
| 8   | First Day for Students                |
| 16  | Open House, 5:30-7 p.m.               |
| 21  | Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m. |
| 30  | PTO Meeting, 4:30 p.m.                |

### October

|    |                                                           |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 9  | 11:30 a.m. Dismissal —<br>Superintendent's Conference Day |
| 12 | NO SCHOOL Columbus Day                                    |
| 14 | Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m.                     |

### November

|       |                                                           |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 9     | Board of Education Meeting,<br>Founders Study, 6:30 p.m.  |
| 11    | NO SCHOOL Veterans Day                                    |
| 23    | 11:30 a.m. Dismissal —<br>Superintendent's Conference Day |
| 24    | 11:20 a.m. Dismissal —<br>Go Home Early Drill             |
| 25-27 | NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break                              |

### December

|       |                                       |
|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 4     | Senior Citizens' Holiday Luncheon     |
| 7     | Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m. |
| 22-31 | NO SCHOOL Winter Recess               |

### January

|    |                                                           |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | NO SCHOOL Winter Recess                                   |
| 11 | Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m.                     |
| 18 | NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Jr. Day                      |
| 29 | 11:30 a.m. Dismissal —<br>Superintendent's Conference Day |

### February

|       |                                       |
|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 9     | Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m. |
| 15-19 | NO SCHOOL Midwinter Recess            |

### March

|    |                                              |
|----|----------------------------------------------|
| 8  | Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m.        |
| 19 | NO SCHOOL<br>Superintendent's Conference Day |
| 26 | NO SCHOOL                                    |

### April

|       |                                       |
|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 8     | Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m. |
| 19-23 | NO SCHOOL Spring Recess               |

### May

|    |                                                                        |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 | Annual Budget Hearing, 6 p.m.<br>Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m. |
| 14 | Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.,<br>Superintendent's Conference Day            |
| 18 | School Budget Vote, noon-8 p.m.                                        |
| 31 | NO SCHOOL Memorial Day                                                 |

### June

|    |                                                |
|----|------------------------------------------------|
| 7  | Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m.          |
| 18 | NO SCHOOL Juneteenth Day                       |
| 23 | Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.                        |
| 24 | Dismissal at 11:30 a.m., Last Day              |
| 25 | NO SCHOOL —<br>Superintendent's Conference Day |
| 27 | Commencement, 1 p.m.                           |