In the Loop

Monthly Updates from OCHS

OCTOBER 2026

SENIOR NIGHT RECOGNITION

Volleyball vs. Mission Valley on 10/01/26

- We will begin the recognition ceremony before the second match of the varsity game. Parents please meet Mr. Morgan and/or Coach Gantenbein in the cafeteria 15 minutes before the second game match.

Football, Girls Golf, Color Guard, Cross Country:

- Recognized at the home football game vs. Oskaloosa on 10/16/24
- The ceremony will begin at 6:30 pm. Please meet Mr. Morgan at the South end of the track in front of the band section at 6:20 pm to prepare for the ceremony.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 10/1 - VB Senior Night vs Mission Valley
- 10/2 - Homecoming vs Maranatha
- 10/3 - Homecoming Dance 8 pm
- 10/5 - Seniors College Apply Kansas Day
- 10/6 - Seniors Career Apply Kansas Day
- 10/7 - Early Dismissal Teacher Collaboration, ESU Marching Festival, FFA Horse and Nursery, Choir Concert
- 10/12 - No School- Teacher Professional Development, Band @ Eudora Marching Festival
- 10/13- End of First Quarter, FAFSA Night @ 6p.m.
- 10/16 - FB vs Oskaloosa (Sr. Night) and 7-12 Mass Band
- 10/19- Senior Composites & Portraits make up day
- 10/20 - Jones Project Speaker 1 pm Auditorium
- 10/21 - School Dismisses @ 12:30
  - Student- Led Conferences 3:30-7:30 pm
- 10/22 - School Dismisses @ 12:30
  - Student- Led Conferences 3:30-7:30 pm
- 10/23 - No School- Fall Break
- 10/28 - BandTober, Topeka Career & College Fair

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

Conferences will be conducted on Wednesday, October 21st and Thursday, October 22nd. Your student and their seminar teacher will be working together to set a date and time that students can share their (IPS) Individual Plan of Study. These will take approximately 20 minutes. If you would like to see other teachers based on your student's grades and/or progress, please check the schedule posted outside of the teachers classroom for availability. You may always reach out to your student's teacher by phone or email.

DID YOU KNOW?

Your student receives a letter grade for seminar. During our closed seminar days, students are working on their Individual Plan of Study and learning social-emotional lessons through our Character Strong curriculum.

SENIOR COMPOSITES

Senior Composites pictures will be Monday, October 19th. We will also have make-up picture day on the the 19th as well.

MASS BAND & CHILI FEED





The 7th and 8th grade band will be joining the high school band on October 16th for a halftime performance.
Band Booster members will also be hosting their annual chili feed. Please stop by to enjoy a bowl of chili and support the band students!

JUNIOR WORK KEYS

11th grade students took the Work Keys assessment on Sept. 30th. The WorkKeys assessment measures applied reading, writing, math, and job related skills. This test and the Accuplacer are use by our Tech School partners for student acceptance into programs.

PRE- ACT TESTING

9th Grade Students took the Pre- ACT on Sept. 29th. The Pre-ACT will help them identify areas of strength. This information can be used to research career options and inform course decisions to support their interests. Additionally, this assessment can help in identifying areas were we can provide additional support to aid in improving students scores.

OCHS Counselor's Corner

OCTOBER 2026

Parenting PRO HACK

DON'T TAKE YOUR TEENAGER'S BEHAVIOR PERSONALLY

When a teen pulls away, yells or behaves unpredictably or emotionally, it's easy to feel attacked or hurt. Jody Baumstein, LSCW, a licensed therapist with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Strong4Life, says, "A teenager's brain is not fully developed. Therefore, we have to understand that they sometimes operate in an emotional, irrational or impulsive way." It's normal for teens to respond with emotion, to barely respond at all or to make quick decisions. If you're aware that this is typical, and it's more likely to happen than not, then you may be less likely to take it personally. It's not about you—it's normal teen behavior.

https://bit.ly/3N22uMl



Apply Kansas Day(s), Oct. 5th- 9th,
Oct. 5th Seminar - Seniors will have the opportunity to apply to colleges, many of which are waving their application fee on these days. OCHS Staff will be on hand to provide assistance.
Oct. 6th Seminar - We will provide help to our career focused Seniors create their personal job application cheat sheet.

We look forward to celebrating this next step with them!!

College and Career Readiness

Juniors and Seniors (in good standing) have the opportunity to attend a College and Career Readiness Fair in Topeka on Oct. 28th, 2026

JOB SHADOWING

This is a chance for high school students to receive first hand knowledge and experience in exploring careers in our community and the work environment by observing. Parents, family, friends can be great starting places for these days. HS Counselors are also happy to help look for options as well. 9th & 10th Graders are allowed 1 Job Shadow Day,11th & 12th Graders are allowed 2.

On visits days:

1) Student is responsible (prior to the shadow day) for getting permission forms to HS Counselors and letting teachers know of their absence.
2) Parent/Guardian need to call the office to let them know their child is on a Job Shadow Day,
3) Student needs to go talk with a HS Counselor about their visit went.

In order for this absence to not count against the student's attendance, program guidelines and completion of documentation are required.

OCHS STUDENTS IN GOOD STANDING MAY BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM.

Financial Aid Night

Senior Financial Aid Night is an informational event designed to help students and their families understand the financial aid process for college. Attendees will learn about different types of financial aid, including grants, scholarships, work-study programs, and loans. Families can complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), receive tips for researching scholarships, and guidance on managing college expenses. Parents and students are encouraged to attend.

October 13th 6:00-7:00 PM HS Media Center

-Washburn University Financial Aid representative will be there to assist.
-Students please bring your school issued chromebook

College Visits

OCHS encourages students to get on campus and learn first hand what type of college environment will be a good fit for them. Juniors get 2 college visit days and Seniors get 3.

On visits days

1)Parent/Guardian need to call the office to let them know their child is going on a college visit,
2) Student is responsible for letting teachers know ahead of time and getting homework,
3) Student needs to go talk with a HS Counselor about their visit went.

These days do not count against their attendance.