



Oyster River High School News

February 16, 2024

Hello Parents & Guardians,

We have one more week for Freshmen - Juniors to request classes for next year. After vacation, our Counselors will spend the first three weeks meeting with students individually to review their requests, compare graduation requirements, and look over teacher recommendations. This is a time students can still change their class requests, but only through the Counselor.

After speaking with parents over the past two months, we have added an evening for parents to explore and ask questions about the many opportunities students have through Mr. Peschel, our ELO Coordinator. Monday night, February 19th, he will walk through the application process for CTE and the various programs at each center. Explain "What is an ELO?" and how does a student earn credit? We'll also look at our Early College offerings and other opportunities for students. We hope to see you there!

Have a good weekend!
Rebecca

New

All Students

FIRST time event: **Pathways & Possibilities!** On February 19th, at 6:00pm, in the high school auditorium, our ELO Coordinator (of the year 2022) Mr. Peschel, will give a presentation on CTE (Career Technical Education), ELOs (Extended Learning Opportunities), Early College (formerly Running Start), Internships, and other opportunities. We talk about these things when students first get to high school, but we've had questions from parents on how they work. Here is an opportunity for you and your student to learn about these individualized pathways for your student's passions.

Girls Swimming won Runner Up in the Division II State Championships this past weekend!

Girls In-Door Track won First place in the Division II State Championships this past weekend!
GREAT JOB to Both Teams!!

We had 9 teachers nominated for Teacher of the Year NH!! Congratulations to:

Gabrielle Anderson	Social Studies
Jaclyn Jensen	Social Studies
Karen VanDyke	Social Studies
Peter Harwood	Math
Erica Cooke	Math

Jarika Olberg	Music
Andrea von Oeyen	Music
Sara Cathey	Science
Corey Blais	English

[Paris/Madrid](#) (link to tentative itinerary) **APRIL Break 2025**: Ever thought about traveling to another country to experience the language and the culture you've studied in school? Want to see a new side of the world and explore the possibilities of studying language? April Break 2025 Passports Travel Company will be offering a Private Tour chaperoned by Oyster River High School World Language Teachers Ms. Heaney and Mrs. Sant. Interested in learning more with no commitment? Attend one of two information sessions online or in person (attendance is required for application to the trip, if neither works with your schedule, please reach out to kheaney@orcsd.org to schedule an individual meeting) student and one guardian should attend. The two information sessions will be held at the high school on Friday February 16th (tonight) at 6 p.m. and Monday February 19th at 5 p.m. Please use the [LINK here](#) to join our mailing list for information and reminders. Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions!

Class of 2027 Fundraiser: "Would you like to take a break from cooking while supporting the ORHS Freshmen class at the same time? Then consider dining in or getting takeout from Clark's American Bistro on Wednesday, February 21st. They have a great new menu which now includes some delicious pizzas! Hope to see you there!"

Parents of Seniors

The PTO is hosting a College Financial Planning event on March 7th at 6:30 pm. [Flier](#)

Senior Yearbook Ads are on sale until **March 15th**! You can purchase and ad at: yearbookforever.com

From Counseling: Hello Class of 2024 and Families, New information about the FAFSA and financial aid offers has caused Granite Edvance (formerly the NH Higher Education Assistance Foundation) to change their approach to programming for seniors for this unique year only. As you may have heard, the U.S. Department of Education recently [announced](#) another delay in FAFSA processing. FAFSA information will not be sent to colleges until mid-March, instead of February as earlier announced, which means there will be a **delay in the release of financial aid offers**. With that in mind, Granite Edvance will be maximizing their resources for the Class of 2024 by providing **Paying for College 101 virtually every week this spring**, so that students and families can access the information on the timeline that works best for them. **This means the in-person session originally planned for April 18th at ORHS has been cancelled.** To register for one of the webinars, please visit Granite Edvance's website: <https://graniteedvance.org/find-your-direction/upcoming-events/>

Parents of Juniors

If you are interested in learning more about CTE, ELOs, Early College (this used to be Running Start), internships, and other opportunities for your student to explore their passions and different pathways, please join us on February 19th at 6:00pm in the auditorium. Mr. Peschel, ELO Coordinator, will give a presentation and be able to answer questions from students and parents.

We will be having a college fair at ORHS on April 8th. Over 70 colleges will be in attendance. More information to come.

The PTO is hosting a College Financial Planning event on March 7th at 6:30 pm. [Flier](#)

Students in 11th grade that have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher should keep an eye on their school email for a formal invitation to apply to the Oyster River Chapter of the National Honor Society. Emails will be sent to all eligible student during the week of February 19th and mandatory informational meetings will be held the week of March 4th.

Mark you Calendar: Applying to College 101 Night. Tuesday, March 12th at 6pm in the ORHS Auditorium. Selecting colleges and applying for admission can be overwhelming. There are applications to be completed, deadlines to meet, essays to write and policies to understand. This session is intended to educate the student and family about the college admission process and is appropriate for high school juniors and parents, but all high school freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are welcome to attend. Topics include narrowing your list, questions to ask on a college tour, college essay pointers, the application timeline and the basics of financial aid. Attendees will receive The College Insider.

Parents of Sophomores

If you are interested in learning more about CTE for Juniors (your kiddo is a rising Junior!), ELOs, Early College (this used to be Running Start), internships, and other opportunities to explore their passions and different pathways, please join us on February 19th at 6:00pm in the auditorium. Mr. Peschel, ELO Coordinator, will give a presentation and be able to answer questions from students and parents. The application process for CTE is happening currently.

Students in 10th grade that have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher should keep an eye on their school email for a formal invitation to apply to the Oyster River Chapter of the National Honor Society. Emails will be sent to all eligible student during the week of February 19th and mandatory informational meetings will be held the week of March 4th.

Mark your Calendar: Early College and Career Planning ,Tuesday, May 7th at 6pm in the ORHS Auditorium. Join an Education & Career Counselor from Granite Edvance for this informative presentation! It is never too early to start planning for high school and beyond. During this session, we'll discuss how and why to explore your interests and aptitudes- what you like and what you're good at- and how these factors contribute to your education & career path. We'll cover how to prepare for the next steps in your journey, including maximizing your time in high school. Attendees will also get a brief intro to the college application and financial aid processes. Attendees will also receive Granite Edvance's Early College & Career Planning Guide. In addition, our own Extended Learning Opportunities Coordinator, Sean Peschel, will discuss options students have through ORHS to expand their learning and career exploration through CTE, internships, and more!

Parents of Freshman

STAR testing for math is the 19th.

If you are interested in learning more about CTE for Sophomores (your kiddo is a rising Sophomore!), ELOs, Early College (this used to be Running Start), internships, and other opportunities to explore their passions and different pathways, please join us on February 19th at 6:00pm in the auditorium. Mr. Peschel, ELO Coordinator, will give a presentation and be able to answer questions from students and parents.

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Important Dates

February 19	Pathways & Possibilities-Learn about CTE, ELOs and more 6:00pm
February 23	Progress Reports
Febraury 5-23	Students request courses for the 24-25 school year
Febr 26-March 1	Vacation Week
March 7	Student Art Show- Durham Public Library 5:00pm
March 15	No School- Teacher Workshop Day
March 22, 23, 24	Spring Musical- <i>Little Women</i>
April 3	SAT, PSAT testing
April 5	End of Quarter 3

Athletic Features

Athletic Schedule: [February 18-22](#)

SAU Features

School Resource Officer Appreciation Day

February 15 is School Resource Officer (SRO) Appreciation Day! Durham Police Officer Michael Nicolosi has served as SRO for four years. Additional details are [available here](#).

New Hampshire SAS Testing Dates

Information for grades 3-8, and 11 is [available here](#).

REACH Summer Camps

ORCSD is collaborating again this year with the Town of Durham Parks & Recreation Department (DPR) to provide unique and engaging camp opportunities for Oyster River students between the weeks of July 8 and August 2, 2024. R.E.A.C.H. Summer Camp's [registration will open on Monday, February 19, at 7:00 a.m.](#) The R.E.A.C.H. Summer Camp catalogue is available [online](#). To register, please visit [DPR's RecDesk portal](#).

Amy Sterndale Received Distinguished Service Award

ORCSD's Distinguished Service Award is given to a member of the Oyster River community who has volunteered their service to our school community. Details are [available here](#).

Internet and Digital Safety Resources

On February 1, 2024, Detective Lieutenant and New Hampshire Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) Commander Eric Kinsman presented a free program on internet and digital safety at the Oyster River Middle School. Detective Lieutenant Kinsman generously agreed to share the following resources with the Oyster River community:

- [Sextortionfilm.com](#)
- [missingkids.org](#)
- [icactaskforce.org](#)
- [netsmartz.org](#)
- [cac-nh.org](#)
- [enough.org](#)

Community Features

Weekly Features

Bobcat of the Week: Student

Grade: varied

I would like to nominate the students who volunteered on our first Lunar New Year Community Day. A big shout out to Sam Raitt, Nyssa Rohr, Maeve Hickok, Andrew Meng, Jamie Gehling, Jillian Trezak, Maren O'Keefe, Anthony Trifiro, Alessandra Davis, Quinn Sands, Margaret Aldous, and Shepard Roberge for their incredible volunteer work!

Bobcat of the Week: Staff

Subject area or position: Para Professional

I would like to nominate Megan Hutchinson for staff bobcat of the week. She has taken on many roles here between being a paraprofessional, youth connect advisor, coach and helps run some small group interventions. She is always willing to help out and work with anyone. She is a true asset to the school and our community!

Reminders

Next week: Blue/White/Blue/White/Blue

Please remember to call or email if your student is going to be absent.
call: 603- 868-2375 Or email: ORHSAttendance@orcsd.org