



Oyster River High School News

December 8, 2023

Hello Parents & Guardians,

I unfortunately need to report there have been two (2) more instances of hate speech found in the high school. One was in the elevator, scratched into a piece of plastic. It was found on 11/30, but we are unable to establish when it was actually written. We do know it was between the beginning of October and November 30th. The second example of hate speech found was this week. The “n” word had started to be carved into a bathroom stall wall; it was unfinished. We are currently investigating these incidents.

MOR, recently wrote an article that I have attached here. It gives a basic timeline, with some added information we’ll be looking into. From the article, it appears there have been incidents on the buses that we will start investigating. [Hate Speech New Hampshire \(mor.news\)](#)

We will continue to work on educating our school community on the effect these actions have. At the parent forum, we explained the timeline of educational events the district is already planning to further address this issue. We will continue the conversations with our students, as well as continue and add to the protocols in place to aide in stopping this behavior. We ask that you continue these conversations at home also. Conversations about hate speech, as well as asking your student to share any information about vandalism. Please have them tell a trusted adult.

At the parent forum, one audience member asked about the balance between safety/catching who is doing this and learning. To learn, students need to feel safe. We will continue to work hard and make sure students have a safe, trusting, inclusive, accepting culture and space.

Rebecca

New

All Students

The January workshop date ie. No school for students, has changed. Originally the workshop date was 1/22, Monday. Because the primary is being held on 1/23, Tuesday, the School Board has voted to move the workshop day to 1/23, Tuesday. I will send reminders and the midterm schedule will include this week in January so parents and students can plan.

The Senate food drive is going on until 12/20. Remember to check expiration dates of donated goods. Suggested items are listed on the flyer attached to your donation box. Please remind students that these items benefit End 68 Hours of Hunger in our district and are sent home in shopping bags with kids, so large heavy items are not ideal for this food drive.

The ORCSD Transportation team will be collecting food and money donations for End 68 Hours of Hunger before the winter concerts taking place at the Oyster River Middle School on December 12, 13, and 14. An ORCSD school bus will be parked near the entrance and donations can be left in the bus driver's care before the concerts. A list of needed items can be found here and you may view the poster here. No glass containers and no "family" size items please. Checks can be made payable to "End 68 Oyster River".

Freshmen fundraiser!  [OnlineOrderingFlyer-2023-SC 1.pdf](#)

Parents of Seniors

Diplomas are being ordered in early January.

Senior Week is being planned by the Senior class officers.

Project Graduation has fundraisers to help with the cost of the activities for all of our Seniors immediately after Graduation.

Senior January COLLEGE Application Deadlines. Regular decision deadlines are quickly approaching for those college bound seniors who are looking to complete their first round of applications. Please note that your school counselor and teachers writing letters for your applications need your information three weeks prior to your first deadline. It is recommended you get this done **prior to break**. Also, ALL seniors should have met with their school counselor on future planning. If you have not had your meeting yet, set one up! You can access your school counselor's online booking on the home page of the website, stop in the office or use a QR code.

PROJECT GRADUATION DONATIONS/SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

This event is especially important for the class of 2024, whose 8th grade milestones were ENTIRELY CANCELLED due to COVID. Thank you for helping to give them a special night they deserve!

EVERY year this is executed and paid for by a volunteer group of parents of the graduating class. Families are not charged for this event to be inclusive for all.

You can help by [making a tax deductible donation HERE!](#) Own a business? You can sponsor there too and we provide free advertising for YOU! (click the link below)

[Oyster River Alumni Association](#)

oralumni.org

Project Graduation is an annual all-night event created to promote a safe, substance-free evening for graduating seniors and occurs all graduation night. We appreciate you!

Parents of Juniors

Now is a great time for students to learn more about CTE options in the Tri-City area. ORHS students can apply to take CTE program offered at Dover, Somersworth and Rochester. The application process will start when we arrive back from break. Students who want to learn more about any of these programs should apply during this time. This will allow you to travel to the center, observe the program and talk with the teacher to learn more before you make

your decision of attending. Find the full list of CTE programs offered at each school on the last page of our Program of Studies. You will also see a link to each school's website with full descriptions of each program.

Parents of Sophomores

Now is a great time for students to learn more about CTE options in the Tri-City area. ORHS students can apply to take CTE program offered at Dover, Somersworth and Rochester. The application process will start when we arrive back from break. Students who want to learn more about any of these programs should apply during this time. This will allow you to travel to the center, observe the program and talk with the teacher to learn more before you make your decision of attending. Find the full list of CTE programs offered at each school on the last page of our Program of Studies. You will also see a link to each school's website with full descriptions of each program.

Parents of Freshman

Now is a great time for students to learn more about CTE options in the Tri-City area. ORHS students can apply to take CTE program offered at Dover, Somersworth and Rochester. The application process will start when we arrive back from break. Students who want to learn more about any of these programs should apply during this time. This will allow you to travel to the center, observe the program and talk with the teacher to learn more before you make your decision of attending. Find the full list of CTE programs offered at each school on the last page of our Program of Studies. You will also see a link to each school's website with full descriptions of each program.

Here is the flier for the 2027 fundraiser:  [OnlineOrderingFlyer-2023-SC 1.pdf](#)

Important Dates

December 11	Red Cross blood drive at ORHS
December 12	High School Orchestra concert (at ORMS)
December 14	High School Band concert (at ORMS)
December 15	Chaos & Kindness
December 19	High School Chorus concert (at ORMS)
December 22	Early release (12:10)
December 24- Jan 1 January 2	No school- holiday recess Back to school

Athletic Features

Athletic Schedule: [games December 11-17.pdf](#)

Community Features

WANT TO SUPPORT YOUR PTO?

There are two ways to give to support the ORHS PTO! Your PTO provides educational opportunities for parents, supports all school improvement efforts and supportive activities for staff such as the Appreciation Lunch and wish list items.

Fair Trade Holiday Sale

The holidays will be here soon! Check out all the ethical sustainable handcrafted gift items available. 25% of everything you buy goes directly to our PTO initiatives.

<https://fairtradecaravans.com/fundraiser/orhs-pto/>

OR

Just give us tax deductible money! Simple!

<https://orhs-pt-community-support-fundraising-appeal-fal-49094.cheddarup.com>

Weekly Features

Bobcat of the Week: Student

I would like to nominate Maya Grainger for BOW. She has been the president and organizer of Best Buddies for the past few years. She is excellent at organizing activities and making sure the advisors know what the plan is. She is a wonderful leader and still humble. She makes everyone in Best Buddies feel valued and is able to go with the flow! Thank you for your dedication Maya!

Bobcat of the Week: Staff

Ms. Beranger is one of the most positive and hardest working people I know! She has faced various changes and challenges this year with a smile on her face. Ms. Beranger's impact reaches far beyond her role as a case manager but everything she does, she does with passion and grace. We are lucky to have Ms. Beranger! 2. I would like to nominate Ms. Beranger for Bobcat of the Week. She always makes us feel welcomed and special. She teaches us important things and we love to cook with her on Wednesdays. She always plays music in her classroom, which makes us feel special. Ms. Beranger is always smiling and makes sure we are taken care of.

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