

ONONDAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



*Onondaga Central Schools
wishes you and your family
a joyful winter season and new year filled with
happiness and hope.*



Senior High Chorus performed in the Festival of Trees at the Everson Museum in downtown Syracuse on December 8th.

*THE ONONDAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY
CHALLENGES individual maximum potential, prides itself on SUCCESS and prepares contributing CITIZENS for life.*

November/December 2023

ROCKWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On November 7, first grade students and their families were invited to a Literacy Night at Rockwell. Each student wrote about what friends do to help one another after listening to the story, "Strictly No Elephants." The students shared their writing piece with their families and practiced their speaking skills. Parents then heard a presentation from Mr. Ritz and Mrs. Killmore on how to best support their child with literacy skills at home. Students joined the teachers to play literacy games. At the end of the night, prizes were given out and every family went home with a literacy game to play with their child.



Riley and literacy night Guests



Leonardo with Mom

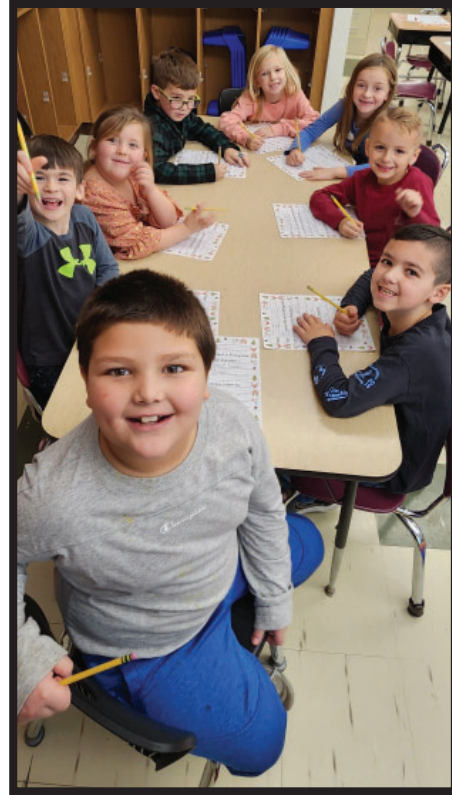


Paisley describing her work

ROCKWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Esther, Travis, Carter



Mrs. McPartland's First Grade Class



Maizzie, Pyper, Abigail, Kylee, Rosie, Makenna

First graders at Rockwell Elementary are embracing the season with gratitude and kindness! Students and families have been supporting our local food pantry by donating non-perishable food and household items. Classrooms are busy writing friendly letters to the North Pole that highlight each student's accomplishments and how they are spreading holiday cheer. We are awaiting our responses back and are looking forward to sharing our letters with each other. The entire First Grade team wishes you the joy of family, the happiness of friends, and the love of the holiday season this year!

ROCKWELL/WHEELER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dedicated Educators at Wheeler and Rockwell Dive into the Science of Reading

The commitment to lifelong learning among our educators at Wheeler and Rockwell remains unwavering, exemplifying their dedication to professional growth. Over the past two years, OCS has championed an initiative supporting elementary teachers in delving into the intricacies of the science of reading through the LETRS program.

LETRS, which stands for Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling, has provided our teachers with a comprehensive understanding of the "reading brain" and its nuances for students. This program equips educators with valuable insights into effective reading instruction, unraveling the mysteries of why certain methods work. Armed with this knowledge, our teachers are better prepared to guide their students on their reading journeys.

The journey begins with intensive in-person training sessions, laying the foundation for a profound comprehension of the science behind reading. Post-training, our educators have the opportunity to continue this enlightening exploration in collaboration with their peers. This ongoing engagement allows them to deepen their understanding of how the brain processes reading and empowers them to implement strategies that optimize their students' chances for success.

As our teachers immerse themselves in the LETRS program, they not only enhance their own expertise but also contribute to a collective effort to elevate the quality of reading instruction in our schools. This initiative reflects our shared commitment to fostering a learning environment that prepares students for success, one where the science of reading is not just studied but effectively applied in the classroom.



WHEELER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Experience the Magic of REV Theatre Company at Wheeler

Embracing the spirit of artistic collaboration, the REV Theatre Company has become a cherished presence at Wheeler throughout the year. With a passion for sharing their craft, the company engages our students through captivating live performances and insightful classroom visits, offering a unique blend of entertainment and education.

The vibrant performances have transported our students to different worlds, from unraveling the adventures of the legendary Amelia Earhart to delving into a narrative centered around community support in the aftermath of a hurricane. Additionally, they've had the privilege of embarking on an imaginative journey to the center of the Earth, creating memorable and enriching experiences for our school community.

Beyond the stage, the REV Theatre Company generously imparts their experiences and expertise, fostering an environment where our students can learn and grow. These interactions not only enhance their appreciation for the arts but also inspire creativity and curiosity.

We eagerly anticipate and warmly welcome the visits from the REV Theatre Company, as these occasions provide a valuable opportunity for our students to connect with the world of performing arts. Their presence brings a touch of magic to our school, creating lasting memories and fostering a love for storytelling and creativity among our students.

WHEELER/ JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



Wheeler ES 4th grade PE Navigating the climbing wall building self confidence, perseverance, agility, and upper strength

This year, 27 students from OCS made it into the finals for the District Wide Scripps National Spelling Bee. Students from Wheeler were 4th grader Asher Cook; 5th graders Azalea Antone and Henry Smith; 6th graders Ayanna Hardwick, Carter Hunt, Connor Samson, Kylie Forest, Liam Luchsinger, and William Crysler. Students from the Junior High were 7th graders Billy Alexander, Bobby Baxter, Alexandra Foster, Carson King, Illia Kyslyak, Ella Lettsome, Sean Patterson, Ajanae Reeves, Christian Sullivan, and Miles Welch; and 8th graders Lucy Fowler, Francesca Lasinski, Carter Lettsome, Ian Powell, Unique Reeves, Ava Scriber, Cooper Smorol, and Olivia Woods.

Each of the students attended spelling bee practice after school and participated in the OCS Spelling Bee Spelldown at the Jr/Sr High School on December 8th. The overall OCS Spelling Bee Spelldown champion was Liam Luchsinger, a 6th grader in Mrs. Breitzka's class. The top four finalists that will advance to the Scripps Regional Qualifier from Wheeler are Liam Luchsinger, Connor Samson, Will Crysler and Asher Cook. The top four students advancing from the Junior High School are Cooper Smorol, Illia Kyslyak, Francesca Lasinski, and Ella Lettsome.

Congratulations to all the participants of the spelling bee for their commitment and hard work!
We are so proud of you!



JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

The Adirondack Youth Climate Summit

On November 8th and 9th, Mr. Mauro and 5 Environmental Club students attended the Adirondack Youth Climate Summit at the Wild Center in Tupper Lake. Along with several other districts from around the state they attended workshops, lectures and presentations focused on engaging, connecting and empowering young people to take action on climate change. This was an amazing experience and students came home ready to make a difference in their school and community.



Shawn working on characterized container project



All-County band students

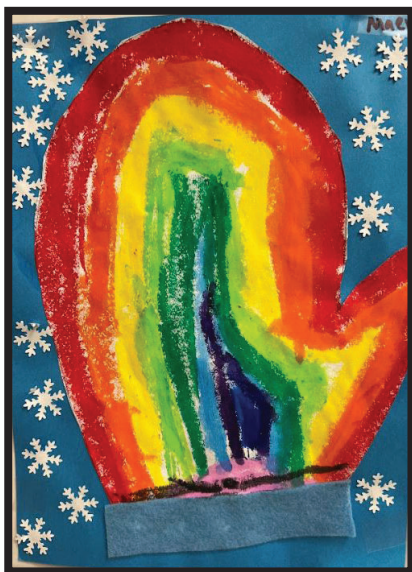
THE ARTS

Senior High All County Auditions were held at Onondaga Jr./Sr. High School on Friday, November 17th and Saturday, November 18th. Over the two days, over 15 schools from around Onondaga County auditioned to be selected to perform with some of the area's finest musicians. Throughout the weekend, our students volunteered to assist with concessions and escorting our guests around the building. 5 chorus students and 1 band student prepared and auditioned.

Deshea Lettsome and Carolyn Andino were chosen to perform in the choral group at the All County Festival January, 13th at Liverpool High School. Congratulations!



November 1st, Mrs. Passetti's art students had a great visit and presentation from the Maine College of Art & Design. The representative from Portland, ME shared information about the school's programs, art degrees, and other opportunities that exist for students at their school. He also shared what MECA&D looks for in a student's portfolio when they apply to the school.



Winter Mitten by Rockwell's Maeve Bennett



Winter Houses by Rockwell's Rylee Alexander

THE ARTS



The cast and crew of "A Christmas Carol" Would like to thank you for your generous support and patronage.



Adan Cruz set design



Stage Crew

Mark your calendars for April as we perform "ANNIE" on April 5-7

On December 14th, the Wheeler Concert Band gave their first concert of the school year. This band is composed of 5th and 6th graders with a variety of experience levels. The group played three winter and holiday themed pieces; "Jingle Bells", "Gentle Winds", and "6-Note Santa". There was also a piano duet and intermission performance by Cusik Thomas and Cayden Smorol. This concert was a culmination of the practice efforts of the students, support from families, and support from everyone at Wheeler. Our next concert will be the 2nd Annual Wheeler Talent Show on March 21st!



ATHLETICS

The Winter sports are successfully underway with our student athletes participating in Indoor Track, Wrestling, Volleyball, Hockey, Cheerleading and Basketball.

Please be sure to check our athletic website onondagacsd.org/athletics for important information regarding scheduling, practices and games, scores of contests, directions to contests and other important information. Or, simply call us at (315) 552-5022. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your support of Onondaga Athletics,

Tim Mumford



OCS Cheerleaders leading school spirit



Above Boy's Basketball at game introduction



Varsity Girl's Basketball game time strategy talk with Coach Culver



Pictured left Ryan Victoriano, OCS player with the regionally combined Hockey Team, Syracuse Cougars

ATHLETICS

At the end of each sports season, the NYSPHSAA honors those teams and individuals that excel in the classroom. Those student-athletes, teams, and schools work very hard throughout the year and deserve to be recognized for their academic success.

To receive Scholar-Athlete team recognition with a certificate, the team's average GPA for 75% of the roster must be greater than or equal to 90.00. Any GPA can be included, but if it is below a 90, they will not receive a pin.

Congratulations OCS Fall Sports 2023 Scholar-Athlete Winners

Varsity Girls Soccer
Varsity Boys Soccer
Varsity Boys Cross Country
Varsity Girls Cross Country
Varsity Cheerleading



Teammates Knoll McCoy and Jake Burton showcased their dominance in the 108lbs weight class, meeting in the finals at the Elmira Dave Buck Memorial Tournament. McCoy earned the crown battling with Burton. The two contributed to the combined OCS/Marcellus team's third-place finish at the challenging Section 4 Tournament.

DISTRICT NEWS

The OCS Booster Club is looking for your help!

We are accepting new members who would like to share in our school spirit and volunteer their time and expertise to our fundraising efforts and school activities that are run by the Booster Club. Or if you are not able to share your time, monetary donations are always welcome. Donations can be made out to OCS Booster Club and sent to the OCS High School, 4479 S Onondaga Rd., Nedrow, NY 13120 (Attention Booster Club).

The Booster Club assists both athletic and non athletic teams and clubs in their fundraising efforts along with our own fundraising. One of our largest activities we fund is the After Prom Party. The After Prom Party provides a safe and fun alternative for students who attend Prom, keeping them off the roads and out of harm's way. We have hosted the After Prom party in places like APEX and Wonder Works. Students also receive lots of fun gifts and prizes at the After Prom party.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00PM in the High School Cafeteria. For more information please email ocsboosterclub2017@gmail.com. Also look for us on Facebook.

OCS Booster Club



OCS will begin implementing a social emotional screening tool for students in Kindergarten through 12th grade starting in January. The BIMAS-2 is a check-in to see how students are doing with behavioral functioning and social emotional skills. It provides information in domains of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making. The data from the screening will help us to determine how best to support students' social emotional learning in the school setting. We will have two check-in periods this school year with the first beginning in January and then a second screening in the spring. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact our Student Services Office.

Rockwell's - Little Makers

HONOR ROLL - 2nd Marking Period

7th Grade

Alexander V, Sylvester
 Andino, Rosemarie*
 Baxter III, Bobby *
 Bennett, Connor
 Burns, Quinn*
 Cage, Gabriel*
 Cartner, Alexis*
 Charette, Arlena
 Conners, Jameson
 Corrente, Paul*
 Cruz Pagan, Nayanis*
 Donaghy, Kaelyn*
 Fikes, Emily*
 Finlay, Aden
 Foster, Alexandra*
 Greene, Violet*
 Hass, Hunter*
 Hourigan, Andrew*
 Hourigan, Taylor*
 Kelsey, Avery*
 Kelsey, Jacob*
 Kelsey, Nicholas*
 Kgalemang, Teto*
 King, Carson*
 Kobasa, Ryan*
 Kyslyak, Illia*
 Lettsome, Ella*
 Marhelis, Preston*
 Massey, Damian*
 Meah, Shahriaz*
 Miles, Joy
 Moore, August*
 Mulligan, Madison*
 Newton, Katie
 Patterson, Sean
 Perry, Hailey*
 Pierce, Allison*
 Polge, Anthony*
 Pulver, Nathan*
 Relles, Coralena*
 Richardson, Dashawn
 Ryan, Madison*
 Sanders, Zion
 Scheve, Lillian*
 Shepherd, Nevaeh*
 Shute, Addison*
 Spencer, Colton*
 Steul, Amelia*
 Sullivan, Christian
 Tkachenko, David*
 Valencia, Nevaeh
 Welch, Miles*
 White, Iceiz*
 Zarnowski, Paityn*

8th Grade

Allen, Lucas
 Barbuto, Macie*
 Boyer, Zachary*
 Clarke, Kevanie*
 Cummings, Colton*
 Dixie, Gavin*
 Logan, Logan*
 Fowler, Lucy
 Gemmell, James*
 Grant, Naahzehia
 Hennigan, Rose*
 Hill, Jakari*
 Hill, Jordan*
 Lasinski, Francesca*
 McCullough, Brayden
 Mumford, Ella
 Powell, Ian*
 Reeves, Unique
 Roundtree, Isabella
 Scriber, Ava*
 Searle, Brooklyn*
 Sherlock, Ethan
 Smorol, Cooper*
 Spieker, Aiden
 Taylor, A'nyiah
 Toro, Ariana*
 Town, Melody

9th Grade

Bennett, Grace*
 Cousineau, Nolan
 Donze, Amani*
 Fiaschetti, Sydney*
 Fikes, William*
 Fox, Olivia*
 Frazier, Mariana*
 Freyer, Abigael*
 Gabriel, Jr., Raun
 Haines, Tyler*
 Hantke, Logan
 Hourigan, Theodore*
 Hughes, William
 Hunter, Trevor*
 Knapp, Madison*
 Kobasa, Lyla*
 Luton, Reed*
 Mackey, Analeigh
 Marsh, Kendal*
 Mattison, Bryce
 McCoy, Knoll*
 Miller, Jr., Sean*
 O'Dell, Addison
 Pierce, Grace*
 Smith, Rory
 Spencer, Adeline*
 Spies, Anna*
 Spies, Lena*
 Stacy, Mason
 Wright, Zanai

* Indicates High Honor Roll



NURSES CORNER



The holidays are a time to celebrate, give thanks, and reflect. They are also a time to pay special attention to your health. Give the gift of health and safety to yourself and others by following these holiday tips:

Wash your hands often.

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.

Manage stress.

The holidays don't need to take a toll on your health. Keep a check on over-commitment and over-spending. Balance work, home, and play. Get support from family and friends. Keep a relaxed and positive outlook. Make sure to get proper sleep.

Travel safely.

Whether you're traveling across town or around the world, help ensure your trip is safe. Don't drink and drive, and don't let someone else drink and drive. Wear a seat belt every time you drive or ride in a motor vehicle. Always buckle your child in the car using a child safety seat, booster seat, or seat belt according to his/her height, weight, and age.

Be smoke-free.

Avoid smoking and breathing other people's smoke. If you smoke, quit today! Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or talk to your health care provider for help.

Eat healthy, and be active.

With balance and moderation, you can enjoy the holidays the healthy way. Choose fresh fruit as a festive and sweet substitute for candy. Select just one or two of your favorites from the host of tempting foods. Find fun ways to stay active, such as dancing to your favorite holiday music. Be active for at least 2½ hours a week. Help kids and teens be active for at least 1 hour a day.

HONOR ROLL - 2nd Marking Period

10th Grade

Andino, Carolyn*
Bass, Chasyn*
Boyer, Sydney*
Brasket, Avery
Brown, Maxwell
Carter, Amillia*
Cox, Mackenna*
Cox, Sydney*
Crews, Alex*
Doner, Nathan*
Fordyce, Kaleigha*
Hill, Tessa
Job, Savannah
Mahoney, Grace
Mayoral, Brysen
McBride, Yasmine
Mckee, Tucker
Miller, Madilynn*
Montulli, Antonic
Moses, Justin*
Mulligan, Riley*
Nett, Benjamin*
Palacios Ramirez, Yoselin
Patterson, Allen
Pierce Jr., David*
Prokopchuk, Vasyl*
Urbas, Joshua
Victoriano, Ryan
Wilhelm, Zachary*
Wright IV, Howard
Ziebarth, Lilyan



11th Grade

Almaliki, Mohammed
Bellinger, Jaiden
Bennett, Tyson
Bloom, Olivia*
Catarisano, Evan
Cheek, Jordan*
Chen, Cindy*
Cousineau, Daelyn*
Cruz, Adan*
Davis, Gabrielle*
Donath, Ella*
Fikes, Lindsay*
Garafolo, Kaydee*
Grady, Sahara*
Grenton, LaJada*
Hammond, Bryan
Hunter, II, David*
Kelsey, Alaina*
LaMacchia, Emanuel*
Lettsome, Deshea*
Mango, Evylena*
Mattox, Aliyah*
McCullough, Liam
Mohamed, Jayden
Morman, Amieya*
Recor, Jesse*
Rodriguez, Keahra*
Sanborn, Melissa*
Schmidt, Mackenzie*
Schultz, Hannah*
Schultz, Leah*
Schultz, Madelyn*
Smith, Skylar*
Sutton, Seamus*
Taylor, Jasmine*
Thousand III, Richard
Toomey, John
Troch, Ryan
Vincent, Jadin*
Volles, Jacob*
Welch, John*

12th Grade

Clos, Lindsay*
Coonradt, Lillian*
Cox, Jazmyn*
Cutri, Brayden*
Doner, Rory
Fitzgerald, Alysa*
Fowler, Caleb
Glover, D'Ziyar*
Hourigan, Charlotte*
Knapp, Delanie*
Kobasa, Devin*
Koslowsky, Emma*
Martinez Figueroa, Jacqueline
McSweeney, Kylan*
Morris, Maggieann*
Neuser, Skylar*
Power, Zoe*
Smith, Shawn*
Starkey, Joseph*
Thorpe, Heather*
Urbas, Cailie*
Vasquez Sales, Emily
Victoriano, Alan
Vincent, Chesnie*
Williams, Jack*
Williams, Patience*
Wright, Zora

* Indicates High Honor Roll



PROPOSED 2026 CAPITAL PROJECT

The Onondaga Central STEAM Learning Center:

The industrial arts renovation will provide an adaptable, dynamic learning environment that will support hands-on learning and collaboration across disciplines for years to come.

Boosting Digital Learning:

In today's technology-driven world, reliable and high-speed internet is crucial for effective education. We propose upgrading our fiber optic connections to ensure students and staff have the bandwidth needed for online learning, research, and communication. This investment will empower our community to thrive in the digital age.

Supporting Green Initiatives:

Committed to the Zero Emission Vehicle and NYS Zero Emission Bus Fleet Mandate, we propose building the necessary infrastructure to handle electrical supply, charging needs, and network requirements for electric buses and vehicles. This proactive step positions us as a leader in sustainability and creates a cleaner future for everyone.



Enhancing School Grounds:

We aim to update athletic fields for varsity baseball and modified softball, fostering a healthy and active learning environment. Additionally, improvements to roads, sidewalks, and landscaping will enhance the overall look and feel of our campus, promoting safety and community pride.

Building a Better Future:

By addressing these key infrastructure needs, we aim to create a safe, modern, and vibrant learning environment that supports the academic and personal growth of every student. These proposed improvements represent an investment in our future, ensuring our school remains a beacon of excellence for generations to come.

This comprehensive renovation project isn't just about upgrading our school facilities; it's about investing in our students, our community, and the future.

No Tax Increase:

We're committed to delivering this transformative project without raising taxes. Our innovative approach leverages existing resources and funding opportunities to prioritize both quality education and fiscal responsibility.



PROPOSED 2026 CAPITAL PROJECT

Enhanced Facilities, Stronger Community:

This project will revitalize our school with modern learning spaces, improved technology, and updated infrastructure. These enhancements will not only benefit our students and staff but also create new jobs and boost the local economy.

Investing in the Future:

By prioritizing education and infrastructure, we're not just building better facilities; we're building a brighter future for our community. This project will equip our students with the skills and resources they need to succeed in the ever-evolving world and address current and future education employment needs.

Important Dates and Upcoming Events:

January 8, 2024: OCS Facilities Committee Meeting (6:00 PM - 7:00 PM)

Jr./Sr. High School Library

January 9, 2024: Board of Education (BOE) Meeting (6:00 PM)

Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria

February 6, 2024: BOE Meeting (6:00 PM)

Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria

February 27, 2024: BOE Meeting (6:00 PM)

Rockwell ES Cafeteria

March 7, 2024: Public Presentation (7:00 PM)

Navarino Fire Department Community Room

March 12, 2024: OCS BOE Meeting (6:00 PM)

Jr/Sr High School Cafeteria

March 14, 2024: Public Presentation (7:00 PM)

Nedrow Fire Department, Small Hall

March 20, 2024: Proposed Referendum Vote

Rockwell ES and Jr./Sr High School Cafeteria Lobby (7:00 AM - 9:00 PM)

Hear Discussions and Ask Questions:

We encourage you to attend these meetings and engage in the discussions. Your voice and questions are important to us.

Additional Information:

For more details on each meeting agenda, please visit our website:

<https://www.onondagacsd.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=2255>

If you have any questions or need assistance attending a meeting, please contact us at capitalproject@onondagacsd.org or call 315-552-5000

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Onondaga Central Schools will be hosting a job fair
Saturday, January 27, 2024
10:00-12:00
JR/SR High Cafeteria

We are looking to fill the following open positions:

Teaching Assistants
Teacher Aides
Custodial Workers
Substitutes
Bus Drivers and Attendants

Please be prepared to complete an application and be ready for on-the-spot interviewing.



Visit our website for more information

<https://www.onondagacsd.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=1684>

Questions, please call (315) 552-5000.



Art Club
Sylvana, Jordan and Penelope

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

School Bus Driver

Onondaga CSD has a part-time opening for a route recently vacated. If you're looking for a part-time position with the same days off as the students, and have a driver's license, we will provide the training to become a school bus driver. Contact the Transportation Department at 315-552-5090 to discuss the job requirements.

Teaching Assistant

Onondaga Central School District is seeking a full-time substitute Teaching Assistant at Wheeler Elementary for grade 6 from 1/16/2024 through 3/14/2024. Wheeler Elementary is a 3-6 building that is located just south of Syracuse, NY. We are committed to preparing contributing citizens for life while offering a great work environment and compensation package. The successful candidate will provide individual and group support to students in grade 6 with a variety of needs under the supervision of the classroom teacher. NYS certification as a Teaching Assistant is required.

Substitute School Nurse

Responsible for building medical needs. Called on an as needed basis. Must be RN. Complete both the Civil Service Application and the Supplemental Application. Include copy of nursing license.

Substitute Courier

The District is seeking substitute couriers to deliver mail and copy material between buildings and to the post office when the permanent courier is absent. Average hours per day is 3.25. Must have valid driver's license. Training provided.

Substitute Custodians

There is an immediate need for substitute custodians to work the evening shift at Rockwell, Wheeler and the Jr/Sr High School on an as needed basis. Some day shift work is also available. You can work 4-8 hours as your schedule permits. Training provided. May require heavy lifting.

Substitute Bus Monitor

Substitutes needed to assist students while being transported. Complete both the supplemental application and the Civil Service application training will be provided.

Instructional Substitute

Substitute Teachers (certified and uncertified)
Substitute Teaching Assistants

**ONONDAGA CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
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Rob Price, *Superintendent of Schools*



By Jayvon Meyer

Calendar of Events

January

- 1 New Years Day - NO SCHOOL
- 15 Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL
- 18 Rockwell PreK Literacy Night
- 26 Superintendents's Conference Day
Jr/Sr High - STAFF ONLY
Rockwell/Wheeler - EARLY DISMISSAL
- 27 Job Fair - Jr/Sr High Cafeteria

February

- 10 High School Semi Formal
- 13 Rockwell Family Fun Night
- 19-23 Winter Recess - NO SCHOOL

March

- 20 Night of the Arts
- 21 Wheeler Music Festival
- 29 Good Friday - NO SCHOOL