

# MAY/JUNE NEWSLETTER 2024

## LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

### Dear Stakeholders,

As we approach the end of another school year, I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support, dedication and commitment to our school community.

To the staff, thank you for your tireless efforts in educating, inspiring and guiding our students. Your passion for our student success does not go unnoticed. Your hard work and dedication have truly made a difference in the lives of our students, and for that, we are grateful.

To the students, thank you for your enthusiasm, curiosity and willingness to learn. We take note of your work, creativity and resilience. You are the heart and soul of our school, and we are so proud of all that you have accomplished this year.

To the parents and guardians, thank you for your continuous support, encouragement and partnership in your child's education. Your involvement in their learning journey is invaluable, and we are grateful for the trust you place in us to educate and nurture your children.

To all our stakeholders, thank you for your ongoing support, collaboration and commitment to our school

community. Your contributions, whether big or small, have helped make our school a better place for everyone.

And to our graduates, we cannot wait to see what adventures are in store for you, and we hope you carry a little piece of OCS with you on your journey.

As we reflect on the past year and look ahead to the future, let us remember the moments of joy, growth and connection that we have shared together. Let us celebrate our achievements, learn from our challenges and continue to work together toward a brighter future for our school community.

Together, we have made this school year a success, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such incredible individuals.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer break with family and friends.

Warm regards,

*Rob Price*

**Rob Price,**  
Superintendent of Schools



**Onondaga**  
Central Schools



## Scholar Athletes Named

Devin Kobasa and Delanie Knapp, seniors from Onondaga Central School District, were named the NYSPHSAA 2024 Section 3 Scholar Athletes award-winners.

Kobasa excelled in Football, Basketball and Baseball, as well as being the class of 2024 valedictorian and a member of the National Honor Society.

Knapp showcased her talents in basketball and softball, was part of the National Honor Society and has plans to attend SUNY Cortland in the fall.

Being a Scholar Athlete means excelling both academically and athletically. It involves maintaining a high level of academic performance while also actively participating in sports or athletics. Scholar Athletes demonstrate dedication, discipline and time management skills to succeed in both areas of their lives. They prioritize their education while also committing to their athletic pursuits, showcasing a well-rounded approach to personal development.

## Physics Meets Art During STEAM Field Trip to Cornell University

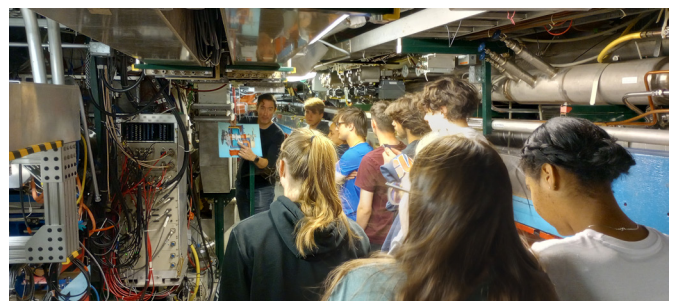
Onondaga CSD Physics and Fine Arts classes collaborated on a STEAM Field Trip to Cornell University, providing the opportunity for students to visit some unique science facilities as well as an extensive art gallery.

Art students relished the Johnson Museum of Art on campus, where they were able to view the current exhibitions and do some observational drawing in their sketchbooks.

Students also had the chance to tour the one-of-a-kind, high-energy x-ray source at the Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source (CHESS) lab; thousands of industry professionals, scientists and students from around the world visit this to catch a glimpse of the subatomic nature of their samples, which range from priceless artifacts and works of art to components for robotic probes that are to be sent to distant planets.

Students were able to travel to the very heart of the facility, inside the spaces where research is conducted. This included the particle accelerator, which generates the beam that travels through the accelerator's mile-long ring.

All students also enjoyed a walking tour of the campus while visiting the different facilities.



## Rockwell Pre-K

Is your child turning 4 years old by December 1, 2024? Onondaga Central School District's Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program is now accepting registrations for the 2024-2025 school year! We now have additional seats available!

### Why Choose UPK?

- » Learning Through Play: Our UPK program provides a fun and engaging environment where children learn through play-based activities.
- » Social and Emotional Development: The program fosters social interaction, emotional growth, and helps prepare your child for a smooth transition to kindergarten.
- » Experienced Teachers: Your child will be guided by qualified teachers who specialize in early childhood education.
- » Convenient Schedule: The UPK program runs five days a week, following the school district calendar (September-June) with 180 days of instruction. Our UPK program is one of the only programs in the area that follow the same hours as our school-aged students, from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- » Transportation Provided: Once your child turns 4 years old, transportation to and from school is available.

**ONONDAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ROCKWELL ELEMENTARY  
UNIVERSAL PREK  
REGISTRATION**

- ✓ Full day 4 year old PreK
- ✓ Additional seats are now available- SIGN UP TODAY!
- ✓ Transportation available!

Scan here to complete a simple survey

### Eligibility and Registration

The UPK program is open to all children residing within the Onondaga Central School District boundaries who turn 4 years old by December 1, 2024. Registration is open now on the district website or call Rockwell Elementary at (315) 552-5070 to learn more and get started!

## Wheeler Students Journey Through the Stars

Students at Wheeler Elementary got a starlit experience thanks to the Starlab Portable Planetarium that travels to schools and is used as a hands-on laboratory for discovery.

Fourth-grade classes each took turns throughout the day entering the planetarium that was setup in the gym for an interactive presentation. Planetarium Specialist John Clancy took each class on a journey through the planets and stars, a fully immersive experience of the solar system.

Students saw the night sky as it appears in real life, with the advantage of having Clancy point out constellations and planets throughout the presentation, which aligns with New York State Learning Standards for Mathematics, Science and Technology.

The planetarium program is made possible through OCM BOCES.





## OCS FFA Travels to Buffalo for NY State FFA Convention

Members of the Onondaga Central School District Future Farmers of America Chapter joined more than 2,000 of their fellow NY FFA members in Buffalo, NY for the New York State FFA Convention.

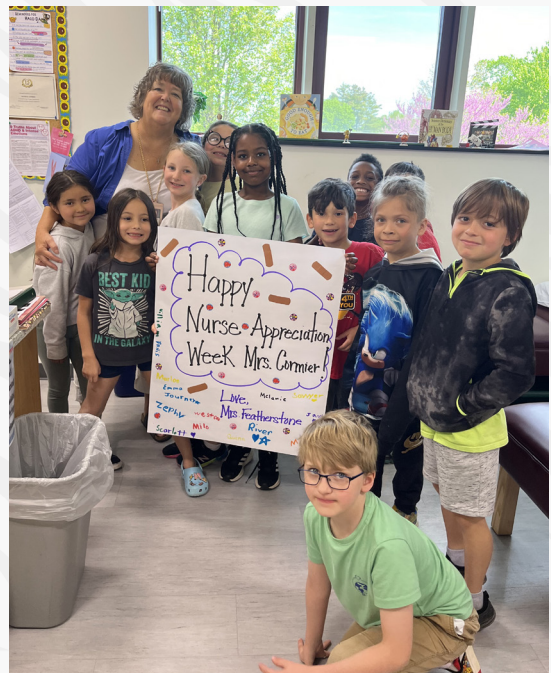
While there, members participated in leadership workshops, engaged in community service projects, attended agriculture industry tours and competed in Career Development Events (CDEs).

Madilynn Miller, Yasmine McBride and Brayden Cutri competed in the Floriculture CDE, where they demonstrated knowledge and skills important to careers in the horticulture and floral industry. Ian Powell and Francesca Lasinski competed in the Agriscience Fair and took first place in the Division 2 Environmental Services and Natural Resource Systems category. Ian and Francesca qualified to advance and compete at the national level.



## FORENSIC SCIENCE CLASSES

The Forensic Science classes were treated to a presentation by Mr. Ron Ryan and Mr. Jerry Payne, Onondaga County Fire Investigators. They taught the classes the basics of fire, including what is required for a fire to burn, some chemistry about fire, how fire behaves and how to determine the source, or point of origin of a fire. This presentation kicked off the unit on arson.



## NURSE APPRECIATION WEEK

Onondaga Central School District expresses their appreciation to our amazing school nurses during Nurse Appreciation Week: Kayla Geariety, Lindsey Yonko and Patty Cormier. Thank you for all you do to keep our students safe and healthy.



### Inspiring the Next Generation of Girls in STEM

Onondaga Central School District students had the opportunity to explore STEM-related careers at the Onondaga Community College “Girls Going Tech” event, sponsored by Micron.

The students spent their morning engaged in STEM-related activities that included electrical schematics and circuits, binary bracelet building and auto technology activities.

Following lunch, they also had the opportunity to talk with OCC students and alumna who work in STEM-related fields.

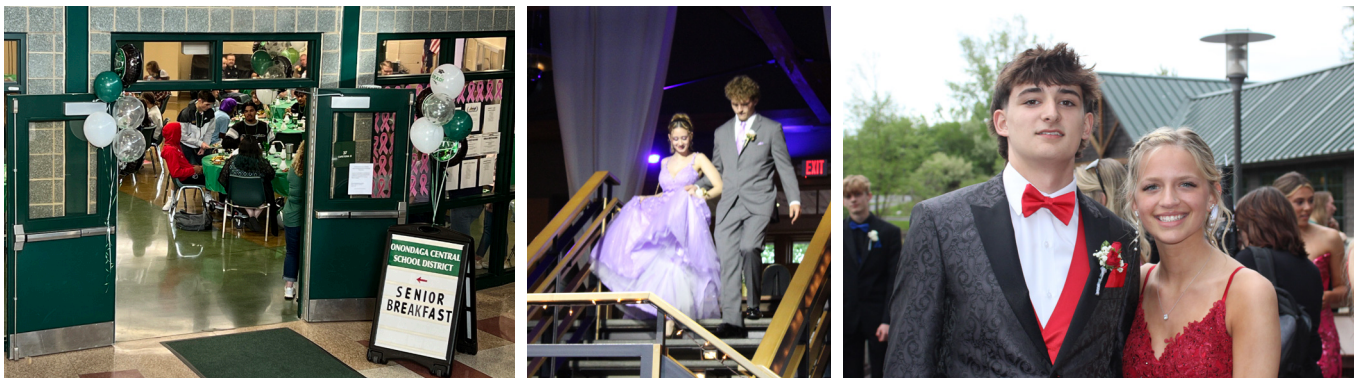
The “Girls Going Tech” event is modeled to blend STEM activities with mentorship, allowing middle school students to explore careers in tech.



### Giving Back to the Community

On Thursday May 16, members of the High School Honor Society, Key Club, Character Ed. Club and Class of 2026 spent their afternoon volunteering at South Onondaga Cemetery. Students worked hard to help clean up debris, leaves and sticks from the winter, and completed other yard work to help the cemetery prepare for Memorial Day. We look forward to planning another volunteer trip next spring. It was a great day to be a Tiger!





## Senior Celebrations

**SCAN FOR VIDEO**  
[youtu.be/6aGwWy6QAuU](https://youtu.be/6aGwWy6QAuU)

From prom to the senior breakfast, the end of the year was full of festivities celebrating our senior students.



### Feats of Clay

OCS students competed against 600 other students of Central New York at the Feats of Clay competition, which was held at the Everson Museum and coordinated by CiTi Arts-in-Education services.

## OCS Announces 2024 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The valedictorian for the class of 2024 is Devin Kobasa. He is the son of Robyn and Michael Kobasa. He will graduate with a weighted and cumulative grade point average of 100.84. Devin earned this impressive grade point average while completing a rigorous and demanding program of study. Devin will earn 25 college credits from Onondaga Community College, 12 college credits from Tompkins Cortland Community College and 3 credits from Syracuse University Project Advance. He also earned qualifying scores of 4 on the AP World History: Modern, AP English Language and Composition and AP United States History exams. In May 2024, he will challenge the AP Psychology and AP Government and Politics exams. Devin was also the recipient of the University of Rochester Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award.

Devin is a two-sport Varsity athlete. He competes on the Varsity Basketball and Varsity Baseball teams, where he served as team captain. He is President of National Honor Society, President of the Class of 2024 and Treasurer of the Robotics Club. He also finds time to work at Gannon's Isle Ice Cream and umpire for Syracuse Little League.

In the fall, Devin will study Physics at Clarkson University.

The salutatorian for the class of 2024 is Lindsay Clos. She is the daughter of Tanya and Andrew Clos. She has earned a weighted and cumulative grade point average of 99.91. She has earned 22 college credits from Onondaga Community College, 20



college credits from Tompkins Cortland Community College and 3 college credits from SUNY Oswego. She has earned qualifying scores of 3 on AP English Language and Composition, 4 on AP World History and 4 on AP United States History exams. She will challenge the AP Government and Politics exam in May 2024.

Lindsay is President of Varsity Club and an active member of National Honor Society. In the past, she participated in German Club and competed on the basketball team. Currently, she is employed at Green Hills Farms and is a talented musician.

Lindsay will study Chemical Engineering at LeMoyne College in the fall.

Congratulations to the entire class of 2024. The OCS team is proud of your accomplishments.

### Born to Read!

The Rockwell staff is excited to introduce a new initiative to support the learning journey of our families. We are preparing “Welcome Bags” for the newborns in the Onondaga Central School District. These bags will serve as a small token of welcome and provide our families with helpful resources to support early literacy. Our entire school community is excited to celebrate with you, support you and cheer you on as you watch your little one grow and flourish. We want to assure you that we are here to support you every step of the way. From providing information about early childhood development to offering guidance on educational resources and programs, our goal is to partner with you to create a positive and enriching experience for your family.

In order to start this initiative we are asking families who are expecting a child to complete this short form so we have a way to contact you.



For more information, please contact Mrs. Madden at [smadden@onondagacsd.org](mailto:smadden@onondagacsd.org) or (315) 552-5070.

### Jason Johnson Honored at “Tools for Success” Ceremony, Outstanding CTE Student

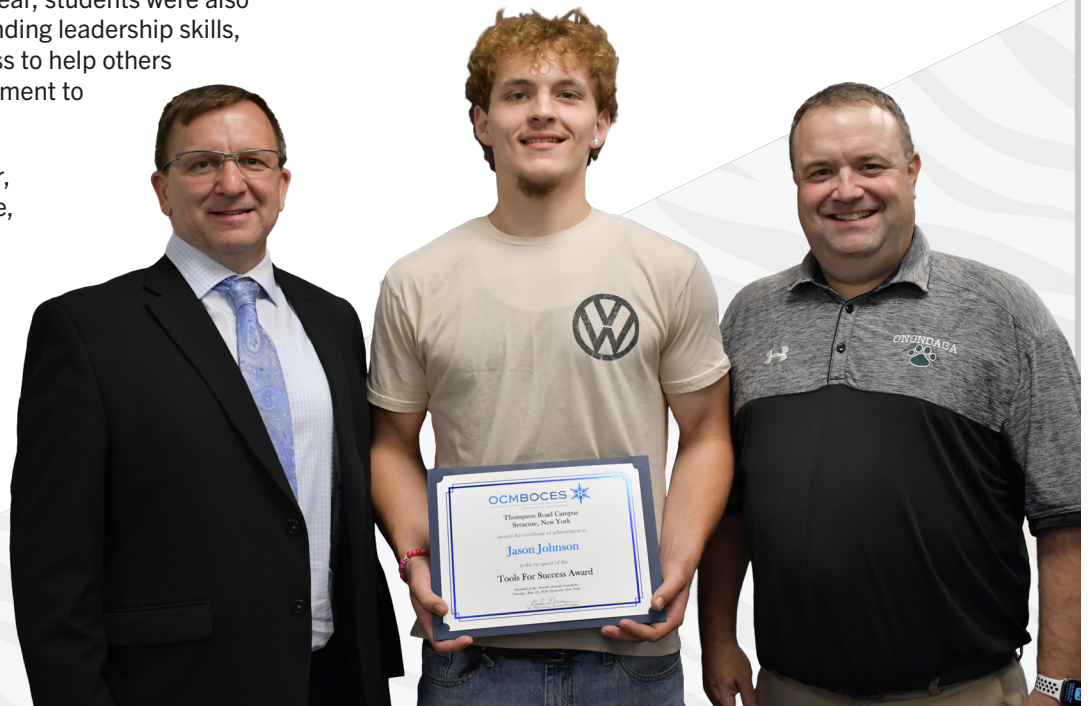
Onondaga Central School District’s Jason Johnson was honored as one of ten exemplary Career and Technical Education (CTE) students at the OCM BOCES annual “Tools for Success” ceremony.

To qualify for a “Tools for Success” award, students must demonstrate proficiency in their program, have good classroom attendance and participation and consistently show a positive attitude. This year, students were also commended for having outstanding leadership skills, strong work ethics, a willingness to help others in the classroom and a commitment to learning and improving.

Johnson’s Instructor, Isaac Fair, described Johnson as a reliable, respectful, diligent and self-confident young man who has made “significant strides in his technical abilities, social skills and interactions with others.”

He also noted that Jason’s “positive attitude, sense of responsibility and enthusiasm are evident in all he does.”

Jason has earned his Maintenance & Light Repair (MLR) ASE certification, a crucial step for the technical endorsement in his field. Jason plans to further his knowledge of automotive skills at the Universal Technical Institute (UTI).





## OCS Student Inducted into Rotary Interact Club

Fourteen students at Seven Valleys New Tech Academy in Cortland vowed to put “service above self” and volunteer for their community as part of their induction into the Rotary Interact Club on May 23 at the OCM BOCES Cortlandville Campus, one of which was OCS student Noah Miles.

The new inductees joined 23 classmates already participating in the club, which partners with the Cortland Breakfast Rotary Club. During the ceremony, students shared a slide show of this year’s activities, including yard work, helping with the “Loaves and Fishes” food giveaway and participating in the annual Tioughnioga River cleanup.

Don Richards, president of the Cortland Breakfast Rotary Club, spoke at the ceremony with Jackie Burke, the club’s president-elect and chair of the Interact Club.

“I’m very grateful and very thankful they are involved with us,” Richards told the crowd of family, friends, students, district administrators, Board of Education members and



other community leaders. “Every project we do, they are eager to help.”

Returning Interact Club member Alannah McMahon from OCS also attended the ceremony in support of Miles and other peers.

## Students Moved by Mock DWI Staged Event

Just short of prom season, Onondaga Central School District sponsors a staged Mock DWI vehicle crash scenario in collaboration with community agencies, which paints a picture of just how serious drinking or using drugs and driving really is.

During the staged event, OCS students have the opportunity to act out roles of drivers and victims, complete with make-up and replica wounds.

Local police, ambulances, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and more were onsite demonstrating what emergency protocols would look like. An Onondaga County Sheriff’s helicopter even flew in for the event.

Onondaga Central School District personnel and staff hope that the simulated crash was an eye-opening experience for students that will help them make safe driving choices in the future.





## Six OCS Students Earn Seal of Biliteracy

Six Onondaga Central School District students were recently awarded with the New York State Seal of Biliteracy after they presented foreign language projects to a panel of teachers at the WCNY Building in Syracuse.

The NYSSB recognizes students who have attained a high level of foreign language proficiency in high school as well as a high level of proficiency in English, and in some cases, a third language. Several panels of experts evaluated around 20 different languages during the day.

OCS students earning the distinction were: Alan Victoriano, Devin Kobasa, Delanie Knapp, Emily Vasquez Sales, Patience Williams and Emanuel LaMacchia.

“This is the culmination of months of hard work, which was capped off with a 10-minute presentation in the target language followed by questions that must be answered in the target language,” said OCS German Teacher Chris Solan. “Their hard work deserves praise and recognition so please congratulate them on their success. Personally, I would like to thank the several teachers, administrators, parents, our wonderful librarian and mentors who helped support these hard-working students to achieve such an honor.”

For more information on what the NYSSB is and what is required to achieve it, visit: [www.nysed.gov/world-languages/new-york-state-seal-biliteracy-nyssb](http://www.nysed.gov/world-languages/new-york-state-seal-biliteracy-nyssb)

## Redhouse Theater Company Performs at Rockwell Elementary

Redhouse Theater recently performed for our students at Rockwell Elementary, providing students with both an entertaining and educational Arts in Education immersive experience.

Redhouse offers quality educational productions that travel to schools throughout Central New York, striving to arm students with a deeper understanding of character, in hopes of collaboratively creating citizens and leaders who will enhance our communities and country.



*Once Upon a time,*  
 Onondaga Central Drama Club  
 is Proud to present

**INTO THE WOODS**

*Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim  
 Book by James Lapine*

*Join us on  
 August 9th & 10th*

*Come early and have a picnic dinner, play lawn games, meet the cast and get your picture taken with a princess, prince or a witch!*

*Tickets available at the door.*



**Celebrating Elementary All-county Participants**

Alvin Torres (6th grade), Wyatt Burton (5th grade), Avery Powell (5th grade), Matthew Lasinski (6th grade) and Hadley Bennett (6th grade) were chosen to participate in the prestigious OCMEA's 2024 Elementary All-County Festival this spring. They had the opportunity to rehearse with fellow chorus and band students from all over Onondaga County, culminating in a spectacular performance held at Corcoran High School.



**OCSD DRAMA FIELD TRIP**

OCS Drama thoroughly enjoyed their field trip to see the famous Broadway musical "Six" at the Landmark Theatre in downtown Syracuse. It was a great opportunity for our students to watch professional performers put on an incredible show.



**ROCKWELL STUDENTS WEAR GREEN/BLUE FOR NEUROFIBROMATOSIS**

On May 17, students in Mrs. Catalina's class at Rockwell Elementary all wore blue and green in support of a fellow student for World Neurofibromatosis Awareness Day.



### Onondaga Fine Arts Performances



**SCAN FOR VIDEO**  
[youtu.be/F1FYHAnKW5U](https://youtu.be/F1FYHAnKW5U)

Spring was in full bloom, and so was our student talent. From classical to contemporary pieces, our students showcased their passion for the arts during band and chorus performances.



**Wheeler Running Club**

At Onondaga Central School District, our students are not just hitting the books but also hitting the track. Several times throughout the school year, Wheeler Elementary hosts a running club during the afterschool program. More than half of the Wheeler student body is lacing up their sneakers to jog along the track or traverse the cross-country trails, cultivating healthy habits and demonstrating a commitment to fitness and well-being.

**OCS Students Place in CNY Rocket Team Challenge**

On Saturday, June 1, Onondaga Central School District freshmen Mariana Frazier, Sydney Fiaschetti and Abby Freyer placed second in the senior (high school) division of the MOST CNY Rocket Team Challenge.

The CNY Rocket Team Challenge is an annual student STEM competition in model rocketry. Teams of four to eight students design and assemble a model rocket kit provided by the MOST.

On competition day, teams submit their rocket for judging on the quality of their construction, knowledge of the subject, how well they estimated their trajectory and whether or not their “eggstronaut” survived its ride into the sky.



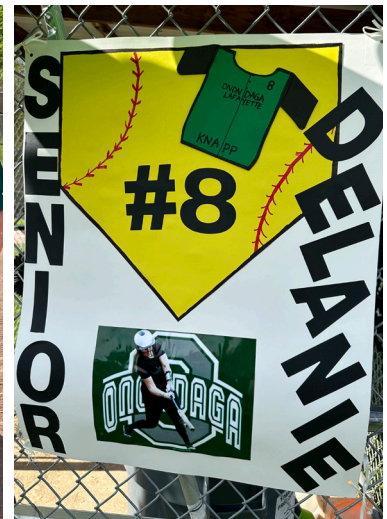


## Boys Baseball

### Varsity

The fourteen players of the varsity baseball team showed up every day, facing a tough schedule with determination and teamwork. The coaches would like to recognize our four seniors—Lilly Coonradt, Devin Kobasa, Alan Victoriano,

and Jack Williams—for their dedication to the program over the years. The coaches are confident that with continued hard work and commitment over the summer, the team will achieve even greater success.



## Girls Softball

### Varsity

Finishing 9-6 last year was a good starting point to grow from. The girls learned and helped their coaches understand their goals for softball, present and future. The young team did a great job learning how to work together as a collective unit. The coaches can't wait to work hard over the summer, fall and winter and come back even stronger next season.

### Junior Varsity

The Junior Varsity Softball team had another great season. With a mix of players from both Onondaga and LaFayette, we worked hard to finish the season 5 - 6. The JV level is working to prepare the players to play at the Varsity level. This year was full of growth and learning opportunities. The players gained new skills and knowledge about the game. On the off season, the coaches look forward to continuing this growth and preparing for next season.

## Track and Field (Boys/Girls)

### Varsity

Both the girls and boys varsity track teams finished the season with six wins and one defeat. Keahra Rodriguez (long jump, triple jump), Emmett Dix (intermediate hurdles), Ben Nett (pole vault), LaJada Grenton (high hurdles), the girls 4x100m relay team (Rodriguez, Hannah Schultz, Gabby Davis, Brielle Nels) and the boys 4x800m relay team (Dix, Manny LaMacchia, Reed Luton, Devon Munnell) all earned 1st team, all-league honors. The following week saw Keahra win the class championship in the long and triple jump as did Emmett Dix in the 3000m steeplechase. Furthermore, the boys 4x800m relay team set a school record and won the classes as well.



## Tennis (Boys/Girls)

### Varsity Only (mixed competition)

The Varsity Tennis season came to an end along with the continued rainy weather. We said goodbye to four-year member, three-year Varsity member Caleb Fowler at first singles, three-year member, two-year Varsity member Brayden Cutriat second singles and two-year member, one-year Varsity member Maggieann Morris at first doubles.

They will be sorely missed. Tigers finished the season with two wins in a very competitive schedule against mostly Class B schools. Everyone improved their play and had fun. The coaches are looking forward to next season with summer play and possible tennis camp.



# SCAN FOR SPORTS RECAP VIDEO

[youtu.be/vXLa2LOgf9Y](https://youtu.be/vXLa2LOgf9Y)

ONONDAGA CENTRAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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Nedrow, NY 13120  
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### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Onondaga Central School PK-12 students will be proficient in all curricular areas, as measured by state, local, formative and summative assessments, by having the necessary resources in place and service learning will be implemented for all students.

### ENGAGING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Our students will learn in traditional and innovative environments that are safe, respectful, and encourage individual strengths. We will continue to utilize technology to keep student learning relevant in an effort to enhance the future success of students.

### PARENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

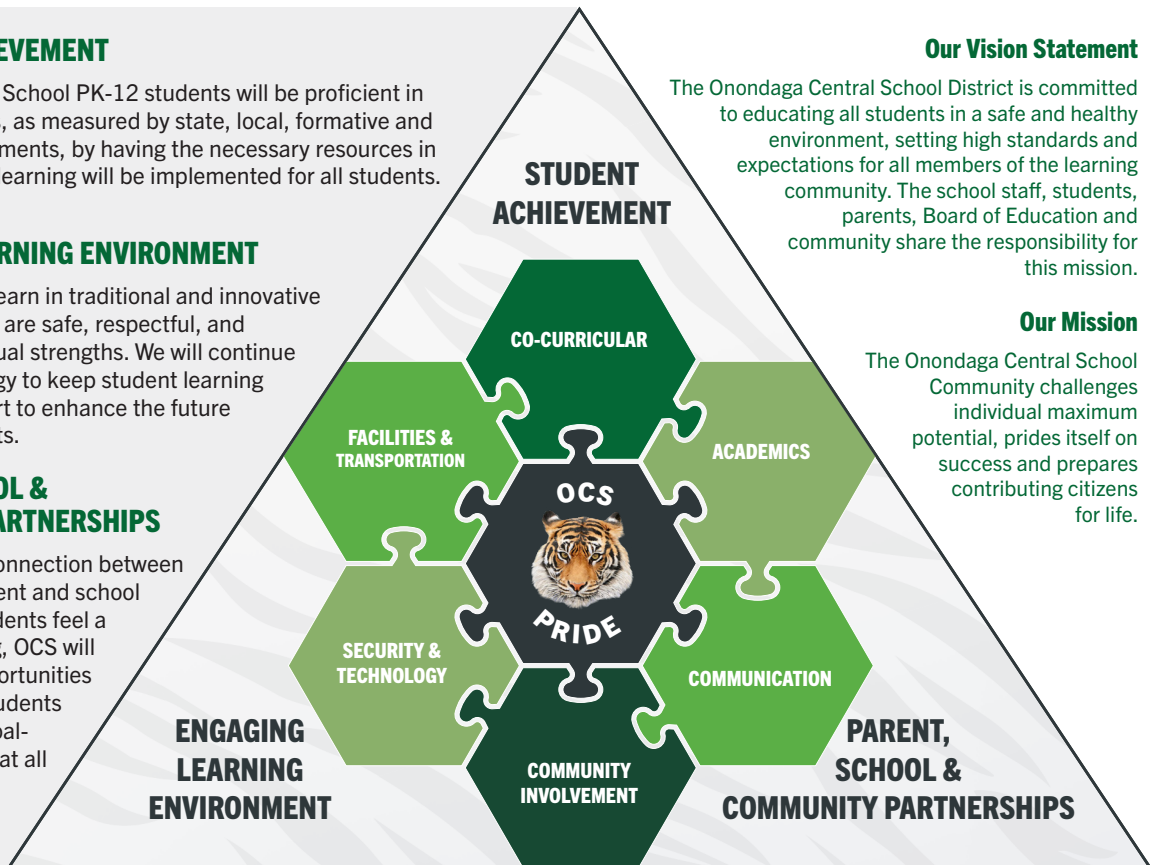
Recognizing the connection between student achievement and school success when students feel a sense of belonging, OCS will communicate opportunities for families and students to participate in goal-oriented activities at all grade levels.

### Our Vision Statement

The Onondaga Central School District is committed to educating all students in a safe and healthy environment, setting high standards and expectations for all members of the learning community. The school staff, students, parents, Board of Education and community share the responsibility for this mission.

### Our Mission

The Onondaga Central School Community challenges individual maximum potential, prides itself on success and prepares contributing citizens for life.



We are pleased to acknowledge our honor roll and high honor roll students for marking period 5. Visit our website for the full list of honor roll students!

Created by:

