

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2024

## LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

**Dear Stakeholders,**

I hope you're enjoying a wonderful summer filled with relaxation and fun! As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we have been busy offering enriching programs designed to help students learn, explore and grow during their summer break. I encourage you to take a look at our newsletter, which highlights some of the exciting enrichment programs we hosted this summer.

I'd also like to remind you that the school year will officially begin on September 4 for K-12 students, while pre-K classes will start on September 5. The 2024-2025 District Calendar highlights the important dates and features important information for all stakeholders, plus shows off some of our student artwork that we are proud of.

This coming school year, we have many exciting plans in store for both students and staff. One of our key focuses for pre-K through sixth grade will be exploring new math curricula and evaluating options for potential adoption next year. We are thrilled to announce that we have received \$441,000 in grant funding for two electric buses. However, early estimates suggest that this funding will only cover about 40% of the total costs.

We will be sharing more details about the proposal and referendum that we will present to voters this December, as voter approval is required for school bus purchases according to current legislation.

We are eagerly looking forward to welcoming students back to classes and engaging them in extracurricular activities this September. If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Warm regards,

*Rob Price*

**Rob Price,**  
Superintendent of Schools



**Onondaga**  
Central Schools

SCAN FOR  
**OCS CALENDAR**



### Letter from the Jr./Sr. High School

Dear OCS MS/HS Families,

The 2024-2025 school year is about to begin, and we're all busy getting ready for your arrival. We are looking forward to your first day of school on September 4. Classes will start at 7:45 a.m. and end at 2:20 p.m.

The best way to stay connected is through the Onondaga Central School District website's calendar. We also are continuing to use ParentSquare, which will allow us to push out communications in a timely manner.

The use of cell phones and personal electronic devices including ear buds between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 2:20 p.m. will be monitored by the staff in zones labeled as Red and Green. In a Red Zone, cell phones, earbuds or personal devices are not allowed under any circumstances to be used and will be strictly enforced. All classrooms and hallways will be designated Red Zones for the 2024-2025 school year. The only area that will be designated as a Green Zone is the cafeteria during 7th period lunch.

During August, OCS families should have received a ParentSquare message that includes student schedules, permission slips and other important information. There are many forms that students and parents need to review, so please pay careful attention to the packet checklist and instructions. School supply lists are also available on the Onondaga Jr./Sr. High School website. If you have any

questions regarding the information you receive over the summer, please call the Guidance Office at 315-552-5023, and we will be happy to assist you.

**NEW 7th GRADERS:** We look forward to meeting you and your parents at our 7th Grade Orientation on September 3 at 5 p.m. You are encouraged to bring your school supplies to this very important event!

For those interested in athletics, please go to the Onondaga Central School District's website and utilize Family ID to register your child. Athletes must have a physical to participate in practices and games.

We appreciate you reading through the entire letter and gaining the information you need to help start your child off to a great year. We also appreciate your partnership with us in providing the best education possible for your child. Until September, have a wonderful summer, have fun and read a great book!

If you have questions regarding any aspect of your child's education, please contact us at the Jr./Sr. High School at 315-552-5020.

Sincerely,

**Tim Mumford**  
Principal

### New Staff Team Member Faces in Our Schools

We'd like to welcome new Onondaga Central School District team members for the 2024-2025 school year!





## Letter from Wheeler Elementary

Dear Wheeler Families,

I hope your summer is going well! Things have been busy at Wheeler. Many students participated in our Summer Enrichment Program as well as the Town of Onondaga's Parks and Recreation program.

In addition to the students-centered activities, we also have teachers in and out of the building as they plan and set up for the fall. Along with the teaching staff, the facilities team is busy getting the building ready for fall. Classrooms are emptied out, cleaned top to bottom and a fresh finish is put on the floors. The rooms look great!

Our first day of school this year will be Wednesday, September 4. The building will open for students at 7:35 a.m. If you are planning on dropping your child off at school, please plan to have them here by 7:50 a.m. The day ends at 2:12 p.m. and if you plan to pick your child up from school, we ask that you contact the office ahead of time so we can make sure your child is ready for you.

Our primary means of communication with parents will continue to be ParentSquare. If you are not already connected with ParentSquare and need assistance with setting up your account, please contact Jennifer Williams in the Main Office at Wheeler (315-552-5050) for assistance. Most of our summer information went out on ParentSquare

in early August. Look for updates there throughout the summer and all during the school year. You will also get your child's classroom assignment through ParentSquare in August.

On Wednesday, August 28, at 6 p.m. we will host a welcome for our 3rd-graders and their families. We'll start with a brief introduction in the cafeteria and then a visit to the classrooms. Teachers will not be here that night, but I will be there to answer any questions you might have. You'll also be able to drop off things in your child's classroom so they don't have to carry them to school on the bus.

If you have any questions or concerns as your child prepares for the fall, please don't hesitate to call or email. The Main Office is generally open from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on weekdays. Please call ahead if you plan to stop by as I am often away from my desk at meetings or attending to other duties throughout the day and I want to make sure we have time to meet if you have questions. Enjoy the rest of your summer and we'll see you soon!

Sincerely,

**Warren Smith**

Principal, Wheeler Elementary

## Public Announcement for School Meals

### Special Provision Options (Provision 2 Non-Base Year & Community Eligibility Provision)

The Onondaga Central School District announced an amendment to its policy for serving meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the 2024-2025 school year, which would allow for all children at all schools/sites to be served one free breakfast and one free lunch daily.

#### For additional information please contact:

**Emily Cullen, Food Service Director**

West Genesee CSD  
5201 West Genesee St  
Camillus, NY 13031

[ecullen@westgenesee.org](mailto:ecullen@westgenesee.org)  
315-487-4661



### Letter from Rockwell Elementary

Dear Rockwell Families,

It's hard to believe that summer is winding down and another school year is just around the corner! This past year at Rockwell has been an absolute joy. I've been so impressed by the students' enthusiasm, the staff's dedication and the overall sense of community that makes Rockwell the little school with a big heart.

We accomplished so much this past school year. Our second year of full-day pre-K was a resounding success, and our kindergarteners are more prepared than ever for their educational journey. We were also thrilled to continue to host Friday Morning Program, Meet the Teacher Night, Halloween Parade, Family Fun Nights, Parents as Reading Partners and more. It's wonderful to share these special moments with our Rockwell families!

This summer, our team has been diligently preparing for the upcoming school year. Teachers have collaborated on curriculum development. Students have been participating in a variety of enriching activities, such as caring for our new Community Garden, going on local hikes and completing STEAM activities and field trips. It's been inspiring to witness our students continue to learn and grow throughout the summer.

As we eagerly anticipate the start of a new school year, please ensure your ParentSquare app is updated to your preferred settings. This will be our primary communication tool. If you need assistance, please contact Kelly Rosenthal at the main office at 315-552-5070. Important information, such as teacher assignments and bussing details, will be shared on ParentSquare in August. Feel free to reach out to me directly on ParentSquare with any questions or concerns.

To welcome our new families, we will host a New Family Orientation on August 26 from 6 to 7 p.m. Additionally, we invite all Rockwell students and families to our Popsicles with the Principal event on August 28. Enjoy a popsicle, play on the playground, and drop off school supplies to your new classroom. We'll also have a school bus on-site for new bus riders to practice boarding.

The Rockwell Office will be open from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. throughout the summer. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need anything or would like to schedule a meeting.

I hope you all enjoy the remainder of your summer. I can't wait to welcome your children back to school in the fall!

Sincerely,

**Katelynn Killmore**

Principal, Rockwell Elementary

### We can't wait to welcome you for the 2024-2025 school year!

**AUG. 28 | Popsicles with the Principal**

11 AM - Rockwell Elementary

**AUG. 28 | 3rd Grade Welcome Night**

6PM - Wheeler Elementary

**SEPT. 3 | Locker Night/7th Grade Orientation**

5PM - Jr./Sr. High School

**SEPT. 4 | K-12 First Day of School**

**SEPT. 4 | Pre-K Orientation**

Rockwell Elementary

**SEPT. 5 | First Day of Pre-K**

Rockwell Elementary

**SEPT. 13-14 | Homecoming Weekend**

**SEPT. 19 | Meet the Teacher Night**

6PM - Rockwell Elementary

**SEPT. 25 | Curriculum Night**

6PM - Wheeler Elementary







## Game Day at Rockwell Elementary Highlights Teamwork

Rockwell Elementary Game Day was a fantastic celebration of fun, teamwork and friendly competition. Students cheered each other on, showing off their skills and sportsmanship. Laughter and cheers filled the air as students participated in both classic and creative games.

## 'Frozen' the Musical by Wheeler Elementary Students

The curtains opened to reveal vibrant sets and costumes for Wheeler Elementary's production of 'Frozen,' a childhood favorite. The young actors performed their hearts out as the audience, filled with parents, teachers and friends, beamed with pride.



**SCAN FOR VIDEO**  
youtu.be/RZ0n7ToCyLs



## 2024 SUMMER ACADEMY

Students spent part of their summer honing their English and Social Studies skills followed by a curriculum in Social-Emotional Learning and Leadership training during the seventh and eighth grade summer academy. The summer academy instructors were Mrs. Richer, Mrs. Delgado, Mrs. James, Ms. Zieiniuk, Mrs. Stanton and Mr. Zimmerman.



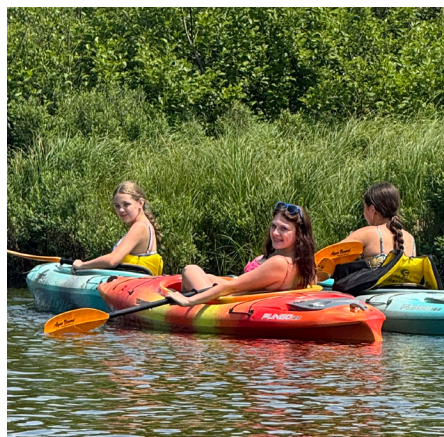


### OCS Students Take Home Second Place from Envirothon

Three Onondaga Central School District students from the environmental club competed in the regional Envirothon competition at Friends of Rogers Environmental Center in Sherburne, NY.

Riley Mulligan, Sydney Boyer and Lindsay Fikes placed second for all schools competing from Onondaga County. Throughout the day, they answered questions on topics such as forestry, soils, aquatics, wildlife and current environmental issues.

They also gave a presentation to a panel of judges on the topic of solar power in school districts and the costs and benefits associated with such a project.



### OCS FITNESS CLUB

The OCS Fitness Club traveled to Old Forge for a two-day camping trip. The club first kayaked the Big Moose River, then hiked Bald Mountain. After that, they enjoyed camping out with card games, swimming contests and, of course, s'mores by the campfire. Fitness Club would like to thank Mrs. James and Mr. Miller for accompanying the club to Old Forge.





### Rockwell Flag Day



**SCAN FOR VIDEO**  
youtu.be/oq84vcpwyAE



Rockwell Elementary's Flag Day is a hometown favorite as students and the community celebrated with a vibrant parade. Dressed in red, white and blue, the children proudly marched, waving flags. Teachers, parents and community members lined the path, cheering and capturing moments on their cameras.

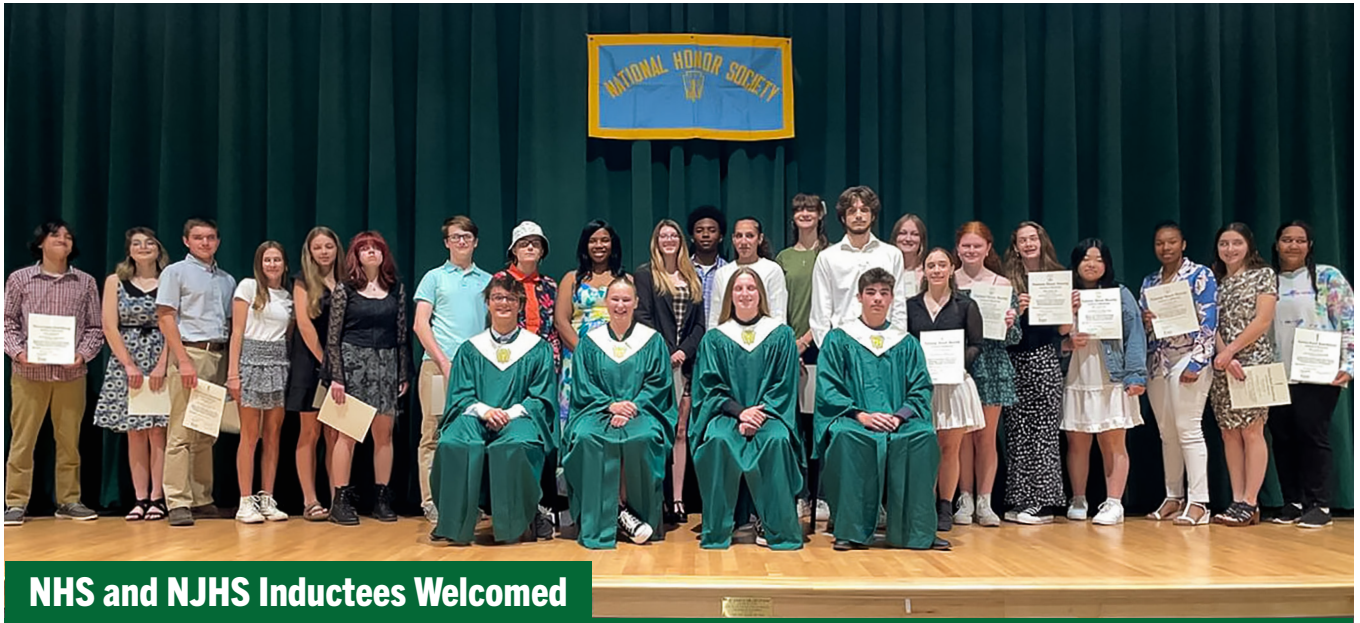
## Student Services Department Welcome Back

The Student Services Department has been busy over the summer getting ready for the 2024-2025 school year. We are excited to welcome students back in September. Part of our summer planning has included planning for our BIMAS-2 administrations. We will be expanding to three sessions so that our screening provides three snapshots during the school year, much like we do with our academic screeners.

We will be starting our 504 plan annual review meetings in November and our Committee On Special Education Meeting annual reviews are scheduled to begin in January and be completed by June. If you are new to the district and your student has an IEP or a 504 plan, please feel free to reach out to our office with any questions you may have.







### NHS and NJHS Inductees Welcomed

#### National Honor Society

Olivia Bloom  
Jordan Cheek  
Cindy Chen  
Lindsay Fikes  
Sahara Grady  
David Hunter

Deshea Lettsome  
Evylena Mango  
Kylan McSweeney  
Keahra Rodriguez  
Melissa Sanborn  
Mackenzie Schmidt

Hannah Schultz  
Madelyn Schultz  
Skylar Smith  
Jadin Vincent

#### National Junior Honor Society

Sydney Fiaschetti  
Mariana Frazier  
Abigael Freyer  
Reed Luton

Knoll McCoy  
Grace Pierce  
Adeline Spencer

### OCS STUDENT COMPLETES LARGE MURAL

OCS student Jaiden Bellinger, 11th grade, recently completed a large mural in Mrs. Bort's math room.

Art Teacher Jackie Passeti commented on how much thought Bellinger put into the large extra project including things that are meaningful to Mrs. Bort. OCS is proud of the creativity of our students!





## Share your input on the Foundation Aid formula for state education funding

A study is being done by the Rockefeller Institute of Government to assess the State's Foundation Aid education funding formula and discuss potential changes to how the formula works.

As part of the Foundation Aid Study, the Rockefeller Institute wants to hear from education stakeholders across New York State, including students, their parents and families, teachers, school staff, and administrators.

You can provide feedback and input on the Foundation Aid formula in two ways:

1. You can submit written comments on the Rockefeller Institute website.
2. You can register to speak at public hearings happening in New York City, Buffalo, Farmingdale, Laurens, and Guilderland.

For more information on the Foundation Aid formula, the Study, how you can provide written feedback, and the upcoming public hearings, please visit [rockinst.org/foundation-aid-study](https://rockinst.org/foundation-aid-study) or scan the code.



### Pre-K Graduation Ceremony



The Rockwell Elementary Pre-K graduation ceremony was a heartwarming celebration of the youngest learners' achievements. Parents and family members, with cameras in hand, cheered and applauded, capturing every precious moment. It was a beautiful farewell to a wonderful year, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the children's educational journey.



## Important Security Update: Implementing Device Verification on ParentSquare

There is an important update to the ParentSquare login process on web and mobile apps coming soon.

To maintain the overall security of the ParentSquare platform, **device verification through multi-factor authentication (MFA) will soon be implemented for all users.** This means that when users log in via a mobile or desktop device, they will be required to enter a verification code to confirm that they control the device they are using.

Device verification helps protect your ParentSquare account from unauthorized users. ParentSquare is making this change to proactively address online threats and ensure that your data remains secure even if your login credentials are compromised.

While MFA is becoming more common as a security measure, the ParentSquare team and OCS is committed to helping make this transition as smooth as possible.

- » This change will be slowly rolled out to users.
- » For the initial release, users will be able to bypass device verification in order to ensure that all staff, students and parents can access ParentSquare as the school year begins.
- » After the initial rollout, device verification will be required every six months.



### Wheeler Race Day Gets Kids Active

Wheeler Race Day was a thrilling event for the elementary students, who eagerly gathered on the school track. The races were filled with cheers and laughter as kids zipped around the track, competing in friendly heats. Teachers joined in the fun, cheering on the participants and ensuring everyone had a great time.







## Summer Enrichment Highlights

Summer was busy for many students who participated in enrichment activities from robots to cooking.

Students worked collaboratively on Sphero Robots that teach STEM and computer science concepts with a multi-sensory approach.

The Trail Trotters group took a hike at Pleasant Valley Preservation and Pratt's Falls, exploring all that nature has to offer.

The themed Lemonade and Tutor program offered students a chance to enhance their skills in reading, writing, math and science through engaging activities, culminating with a lemonade taste-testing event.

Perhaps one of the most amazing projects was the Community Garden at Rockwell Elementary. Children who grow and harvest their own food can develop a positive attitude toward fresh fruits and vegetables, which can help them recognize their preferences and try new foods. Caring for plants teaches kids responsibility and patience as they learn that plants need to be watered and cared for regularly to thrive.



## 2nd Grade Rockwell Students Visit Wheeler

Rockwell Elementary second-graders visited Wheeler Elementary to tour the building as they prepare for the transition to third grade.

Students had the chance to meet third grade teachers, who put together a fun meet-and-greet presentation. They also got to visit the library, gym, art room, music room, a classroom and the cafeteria. Cafeteria staff even prepared a quick snack.

The tours were led by members of the Wheeler Student Council, providing leadership opportunities for students.







**AWARD WINNING PROVIDER OFFERING CARE FOR 16 YEARS  
WITH OVER 100 LOCATIONS IN FOUR STATES & GROWING!**

## HEALTHY KIDS @ ROCKWELL ELEMENTARY



For over 16 years, Healthy Kids has been providing Before and After School, Summer Camp and Early Learning Programs with over 100 locations throughout the country.

### Before School Program

Drop off as early as 6:30am

Tuition Rates K-12 years

4/5 days per week: \$233 per month

2/3 days per week: \$176 per month

1 day per week: \$108 per month

Drop In: \$25 per day per month

Tuition Rates PreK

4/5 days per week: \$255 mper month

2/3 days per week: \$193 per month

1 day per week: \$116 per month

Drop In: \$27 per day per month

### After School Program

Pick up as late as 6:00pm

Tuition Rates K-12 years

4/5 days per week: \$345 per month

2/3 days per week: \$260 per month

1 day per week: \$156 per month

Drop In: \$37 per day per month

Tuition Rates PreK

4/5 days per week: \$378 per month

2/3 days per week: \$285 per month

1 day per week: \$168 per month

Drop In: \$40 per day per month

### Questions? Reach Out!



[healthykidsprograms.com](https://healthykidsprograms.com)



[registration@healthykidsprograms.com](mailto:registration@healthykidsprograms.com)



845-330-0200

### Childcare Tuition Assistance

We are proud to work hand in hand with the NY Child Care Assistance Program. This program helps eligible families with some or all of the cost of child care. The income levels have recently increased which means more families are qualifying!

Visit our website or reach out to our Subsidy Specialist for more info!

[subsidy@healthykidsprograms.com](mailto:subsidy@healthykidsprograms.com)



## Facts About the Class of 2024

# 44



students in the graduating class

(all are eligible to receive a Regents Diploma)

# 15

students eligible to receive a Regents with Advanced Designation Diploma

# 4

students eligible to receive a Regents with Advanced Designation with Honors Diploma

# 33

students will attend college

# 15

students will attend a 4-year college

# 16

students inducted into the National Honor Society



Salutatorian

**LINDSAY CLOS**

GPA: 99.91.



Valedictorian

**DEVIN KOBASA**

GPA: 100.84.

# 5

students will attend trade school

# 21

students earned up to 40 college credits at OCS

## Save the Date! Bus Proposition Vote Slated for December 3

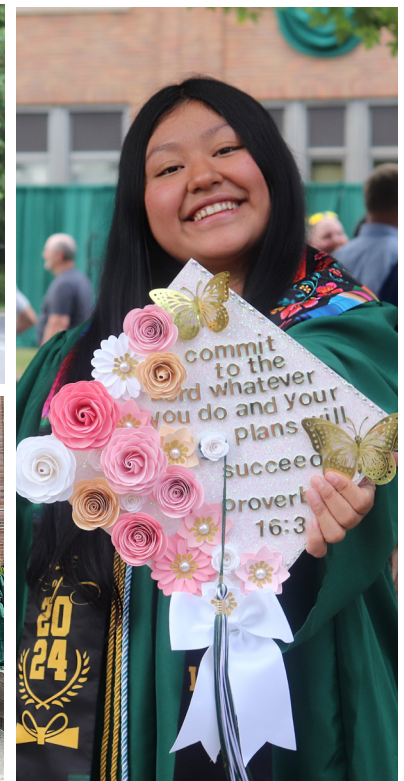
Onondaga Central School District will have a school bus proposition up for vote on December 3.

In the Governor's budget passed by the New York State Legislature and signed by Governor Hochul, the State established a deadline for the transition to zero-emission buses. Specifically, all school buses purchased by 2027 must be zero-emission buses, with the entire fleet transitioned to zero emission by 2035. In 2022, voters

across NYS overwhelmingly voted for the Clean Air, Clean Water and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act (Bond Act) which includes \$500M to support the transition to zero-emission school buses. NYSEDA has established the NY School Bus Incentive Program (NYSEBIP) to achieve these State public purposes and assist school districts in meeting the zero-emission bus timelines.

More information will be forthcoming.





**Onondaga 2024 Graduation**





## SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT RECIPIENTS

### Athletic Awards

**Most Outstanding Athlete**

Devin Kobasa  
Charlotte Hourigan

**Earl Fletcher Sportsmanship Award**

Brayden Cutri  
Zoe Power

**A-1 Trophy Award**

Caleb Fowler  
D'Ziyar Glover

**Varsity Club Distinguished Athlete Award**

Mohammed Almaliki  
Skyler Neuser

**Scholar Athlete Award**

Devin Kobasa  
Delanie Knapp

**OCS Perseverance Award**

Jack Williams  
Lillian Coonradt

**Barb Olsen Competitive Spirit Award**

Joseph Starkey  
Emma Koslowsky

### Academic Awards

**SEAC Awards - Student Exceptional Academic Commitment**

Lindsay Clos  
Lillian Coonradt  
Delanie Knapp  
Devin Kobasa  
Brayden Cutri  
Chesnie Vincent  
Jack Williams

Charlotte Hourigan  
Cailie Urbas  
Jack Williams  
Lillian Coonradt  
Heather Thorpe  
Kylan McSweeney  
Joseph Starkey  
Patience Williams  
Mohammed Almaliki  
Kenadie MacDermont

**Seal of Civic Readiness**

Lindsay Clos  
Jazmyn Cox  
Brayden Cutri  
Delanie Knapp  
Devin Kobasa  
Emma Koslowsky  
Kylan McSweeney  
Maggieann Morris  
Skyler Neuser  
Zoe Power  
Shawn Smith  
Joseph Starkey  
Heather Thorpe  
Chesnie Vincent  
Jack Williams  
Patience Williams  
Hannah Woods

**United States Air Force Scholar Athlete Award**

Delanie Knapp  
Devin Kobasa

**NYS Comptroller Award**

D'Ziyar Glover

**LeMoyne Heights Award**

Brayden Cutri

**Presidential Awards**

Devin Kobasa  
Lindsay Clos  
Chesnie Vincent  
Delanie Knapp  
Maggieann Morris  
Emma Koslowsky  
Zoe Power  
Lillian Kahley  
Skyler Neuser  
Brayden Cutri

**Otisco Lake Preservation Association Scholarship**

Lillian Coonradt

**Seal of Biliteracy**

Delanie Knapp  
Devin Kobasa  
Emily Vasquez-Sales  
Alan Victoriano  
Patience Williams

**Triple "C" Awards**

Brayden Cutri  
Maggieann Morris

**Bausch & Lomb Science Award**

Devin Kobasa

**Firefighter's Association for the State of New York (FASNY)**

Brayden Cutri



## SCAN FOR SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT VIDEO

[wevideo.com/view/3481436467](https://wevideo.com/view/3481436467)

ONONDAGA CENTRAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
4466 South Onondaga Road  
Nedrow, NY 13120  
315-552-5000  
FAX 315-552-5005  
onondagacsd.org

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit #8

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Maggie Mahoney, President  
Michael Kobasa, Vice President  
Laurel Bennett  
Tara Carter-Lettsome  
Noelle Relles  
Kyle Kolwaite  
Nathaniel Brown

Rob Price, Superintendent of Schools

### 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

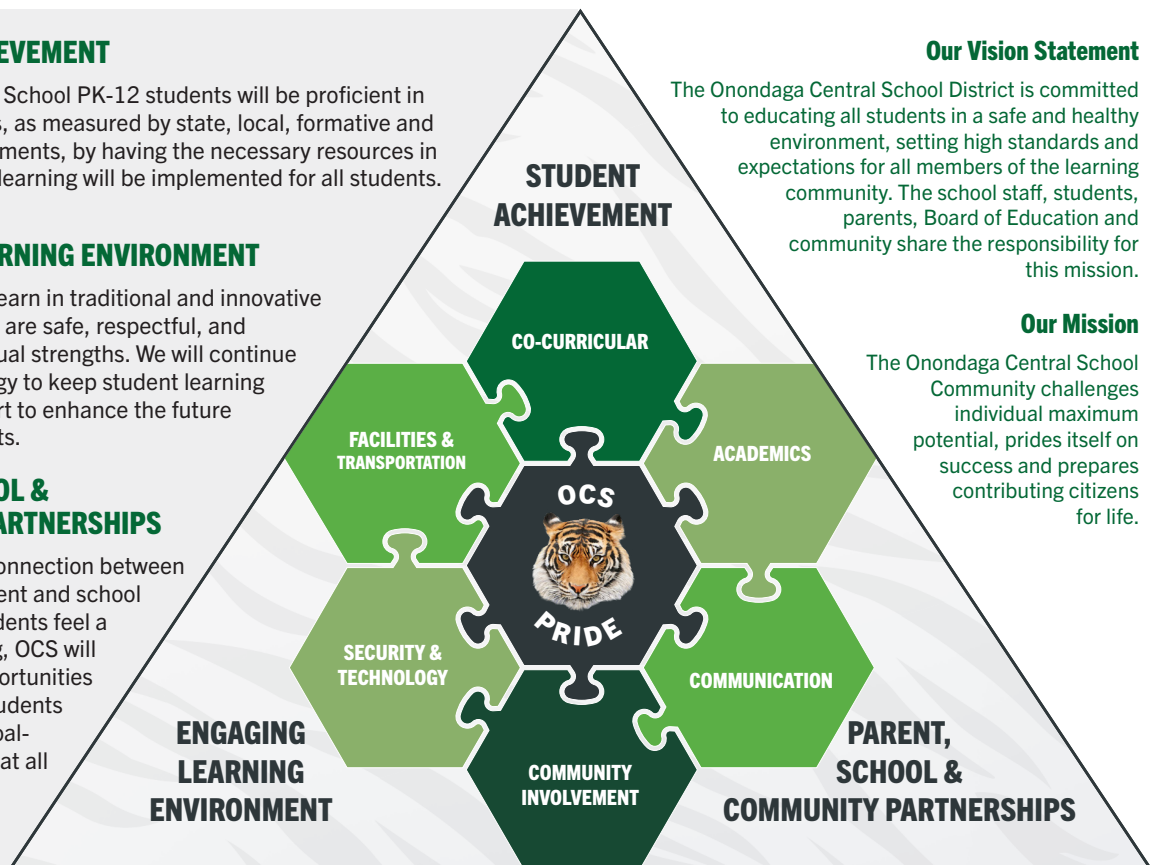
Recognizing the connection between student achievement and school success when students feel a sense of belonging, OCS will communicate opportunities for families and students to participate in goal-oriented activities at all grade levels.

### 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 6. Visit our website for the full list of honor roll students!

Created by:

