

A Glimpse into Remote Learning

On March 13th when OPS students left the building, they did not just have their lunchboxes, they also carried laptops, extra books and a mixture of apprehension and excitement. They thought they were going to learn from home for two weeks. It sounded like fun? Well, then two weeks turned to four and then six and then the remainder of the school year. And, what did we learn? Remote learning is difficult! That teacher that you are used to immediately turn to is not always there. Navigating new technology, doing it without your best friend by your side and so much more became a challenge to overcome. Yet, we have continued to overcome challenges . . . to move forward together.

During remote learning, students receive instruction via three primary means: through carefully crafted assignments housed in Google Classroom



When learning remotely, students were challenged to find the perfect workspace at home.

(this medium allows teacher and student to dialogue directly on the assignment), through live synchronous instruction where teacher and students meet in large group, small group or one-on-one instruction via teleconferencing applications such as Zoom or Google Meet or asynchronous video instruction where teachers record lessons for student to view at any time.

Students don't just receive instruction in the core contents subjects such as language arts, mathematics, science and social studies, they also receive assignments to complete in art, music, library, world language, physical education and technology. It's through these assignments where we've seen our students' creativity shine, whether they were finding objects around the house to create a color wheel, sketching their own house, or creating a digital song. Students also have opportunities throughout the week to talk with their class or in small groups with the school counselor about their emotional well being as we recognize that the whole child was impacted by this quick transition.



Students were encouraged to stretch their creativity, such as by recreating live versions of famous artwork.

As the school year comes to a close, we continue to reflect on the instructional platforms utilized for instruction and remain focused on learning from the past several months. We look forward to using what we have learned to continue to improve education at OPS.



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Oradell, New Jersey 07649

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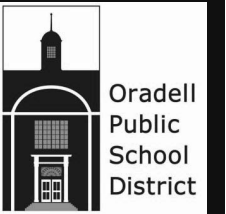
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ORADELL: Eye on OPS

Spring 2020



Message from the Interim Superintendent

Dear OPS Families, Faculty, and Community Partners,

While New Jersey is making great strides in mitigating the spread of COVID-19, we are told by governor Phil Murphy that schools cannot reopen this school year.

Recently we were informed by Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, State Director of Emergency Management that "In light of the components of Executive Order No. 107, and in the best interest of the health and safety of the public, in-person ceremonies, including graduations, parades, including "wave parades," that invite people to gather at a certain location, proms, and other similar celebrations violate the enumerated conditions of the order, and should therefore be cancelled or postponed until such time as these restrictions are lifted. Until such time, virtual celebrations and other remote forms of recognition should take the place of any in-person or public ceremonies."

While this is disappointing news and we are unable to come together to hold our annual spring events due to social distancing, we will plan alternate virtual celebrations and develop plans to honor our students.

At this time, I would especially like to congratulate the sixth grade students that will be leaving us to attend seventh grade in River Dell. Oradell has been your home for the past seven years and it is time for you to move on, a time to travel down new paths, time to make changes and time to make new choices. My heartfelt congratulations to you and your parents. I wish you the very best next year--remember Oradell Public School will always be your home!

For all those impacted by illness and loss of life during this public health crisis, be assured you remain in our thoughts. On behalf of all in our district, please accept my best wishes for safety and health in days to come.

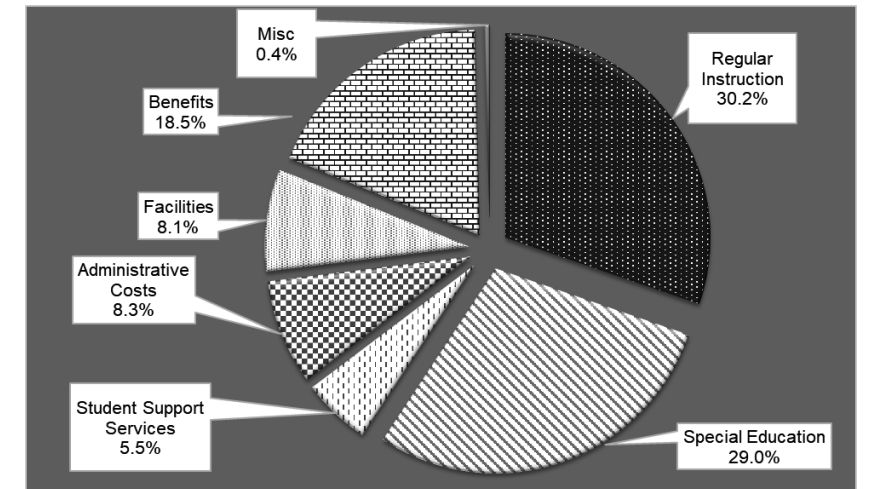
Barbara Longo
Interim Superintendent



Couldn't attend the Board Meeting?

Log on to the district website @ oradellschool.org, click the Board of Education tab, and go to Board Meeting Recordings.

Oradell Public School 2020-2021 School Budget



The 2020-2021 budget development process began in November of 2019 and is a task that demands a great deal of time and preparation. It is a collaborative process with frequent meetings between the Superintendent, Business Administrator and District Administration in consultation with the Board of Education. Multiple scenarios and assumptions are made until finally a Final Budget is agreed upon. The 2020-2021 budget has been designed to ensure that the district has sufficient funds to:

- Maintain and enhance existing programs
- Provide for staffing levels that maintain the District's current class-size
- Continue the district's technology plan to ensure its effectiveness as it relates to student achievement
- Account of additional out of district special education tuition costs

In addition to the priorities listed about, the 2020-2021 Budget will be able to respond appropriately to the many rising fixed costs the district faces while still being able to focus on what is important, preparing our students and staff with the 21st century skills and knowledge that they will need to be successful.

Estimated Taxpayer Impact					
2019-2020 Assessment	School Tax 2019-2020	2020-2021 Assessment	School Tax 2020-2021	Assessment Increase 2020-2021	Annual Increase 2020-2021
\$300,000	\$2,195	\$300,000	\$2,222	--	\$27
\$400,000	\$2,927	\$400,000	\$2,963	--	\$36
\$500,000	\$3,658	\$500,000	\$3,704	--	\$46
\$549,563	\$4,021	\$561,154	\$4,157	\$11,591	\$136*
\$600,000	\$4,390	\$600,000	\$4,444	--	\$55
\$700,000	\$5,121	\$700,000	\$5,185	--	\$64
\$900,000	\$6,585	\$900,000	\$6,667	--	\$82

*Average

OUR 6TH GRADERS REFLECT ON THEIR OPS EXPERIENCE

In these unprecedented times, we have been so impressed with the reflectiveness of our students. This is especially true in the case of our 6th graders who were presented with the opportunity to write a small vignette for inclusion in this newsletter. In a year when many of the traditional 6th grade events were cancelled, we wanted to provide them with an outlet to share thinking and be recognized. While we could not utilize all their writing, we felt that their words paint a beautiful picture of the OPS student experience. They show what our school community is all about and show us now, more than ever, why we should continue to be Panther Proud!

OUR LAST YEAR

When I remember OPS, I'll remember the end of my 6th grade year. Yes, the end of my 6th grade year was at home and not in the physical building of OPS, but I still felt a part of the OPS community. During this time, we had to work together more than ever and learn how to learn in a whole new way. I will remember how hard my teachers worked to communicate and teach us at home. I will likely never forget how upset I was to be ending my last year at OPS so differently than I had expected. Even though I didn't get a 6th grade year like all 6th grade classes that came before me, it will be something I will never forget. All of my seven years at OPS are special to me, but this last one I will always remember. --- Kathleen

THE JOURNEY

When I remember OPS, I'll remember all seven years of caring teachers, encouraging friends, memorable class trips, hot field days, and fun specials. I'll remember all of the teachers who have worked hard to help me grow, even during the coronavirus pandemic. I'll never forget all of the special memories I've made at OPS, from SHARPE to my everyday life in classrooms. When I remember OPS, I'll remember learning emotionally, mentally, and academically. I'll remember OPS being my second home, and the amazing experiences and joys that are forever in my memory. Remote learning is just a small part of my seven years spent at OPS. I'll always remember the amazing community at OPS, and every wonderful year that I've spent there. --- Audrey



Sharpe is a favorite experience of most OPS students as the class unites forming lifelong memories.

SPECIAL EVENTS



The Torch Run benefiting Special Olympics is one of the many Special Events our students participate in each year.

When I remember OPS, I'll remember the experiences. First days of school, last days of school, Halloween celebrations, holiday parties, and field days. I'll remember the anticipation that flickered and fizzed in me as the event drew nearer and nearer. I remember the smiles, the laughter, and the feeling of connectivity and friendship with everyone there, not just my close friends. The tradition of Step-up Day, which I'll miss, is definitely another OPS experience to remember. I can picture a snapshot from each of my Step-up Days, as I'm sure many people can, lined up in order in my head from my first to my last, with me smiling in each one of them as I found out who would be my teacher the next year. When I remember OPS, I'll remember thinking, there is no place I'd rather be than here. --- Tatum

FIELD DAY

When I think of OPS, I'll remember the incredible field days. These field days were the highlights of my years. I loved working as a team, trying the different challenges, and having so much fun. The points that each team earned after finishing the station gave us something to work for. Even when we did not win at a certain station, we kept going and did not give up. The most important thing that we had was fun. If one team finished before the other team, the finished team would cheer for the other team and it truly made everyone see just how much team spirit there is at OPS. We had this spirit because at OPS, everyone is on the same team no matter what. --- Evie



A favorite day for every OPS student!

BEING A LEADER



Along with safety patrol, student government is a place where students can work to make the world a better place --- here by making blankets for care facilities.

When I remember OPS, I will remember safety patrol. Although it seems like a little part of my seven years, I had an amazing time doing it! Every Tuesday and Thursday, I looked forward to watching Mrs. Velardi's third grade class before the school day began. On the first day I met with the kids, I asked them what would make waiting in the hallway fun. They all remarked "Stickers!" Every time I would watch their class, I would have to remember to bring stickers. I brought all different types: rainbow stickers, Star Wars stickers, food stickers and more. They really made my day a lot more exciting, and I hope I did the same for them. So thank you Ms. Sheridan and Ms. Stross for putting the program together. And to Ms. Velardi's class, I hope to see you again, and when I do I will have a sticker for you! --- Tessa

OUR TEACHERS

When I remember OPS, I'll remember all of my amazing teachers. From Kindergarten to now, the OPS teachers have done so much for me and the rest of my class. They have taught me skills, shared knowledge, showed me how to be kind and compassionate towards others, and SO much more! Our teachers always welcome us into the classroom with a smile and they are there every day ready to teach us. Every teacher at OPS has made my experience great in many different ways. I've learned how to multiply and divide fractions, properly draw a self portrait, and more, thanks to my OPS teachers. When I remember OPS, I'll always think of my amazing teachers. --- Riley

FAMILY

When I remember OPS, I'll remember so many FIRST experiences. I'll remember every first day of school, especially my very first day of Kindergarten (which was also my sister's first day of Pre-K at OPS)! Knowing my sister was there with me, knowing my grandma worked in the same office as my Principal and knowing that I was walking down the same Kindergarten path my mom walked down when she was going to OPS for her first day of Kindergarten made that first day much easier. My family was there with me that day and EVERY SINGLE DAY that came after. Every first day of school, every new friend I made, my first school field trip, my first field day, my first musical concert, my first instrumental concert, my first presentation for parents in front of my class, my first overnight adventure to Sharpe in 5th grade...my family helped me study and learn. I loved my time at OPS. I am looking forward to many new "firsts" when I enter River Dell, and I'm glad to have my family always there for all the first times ahead. --- Keelin

THE MUSIC PROGRAM



Our music program develops the whole child.

When I think of OPS, I'll always be grateful for the music program. In kindergarten, I detested music with a flaming passion. In second grade, I refused to sing. Now, in sixth, I'm playing Chopin and Mozart. An adversary at the start and a companion in the end, music and I have come a long way primarily because in fourth grade I moved to Oradell. At the end of each music class and instrumental lesson at OPS, I found my interest in music even more amplified. I began to take interest in other forms of music, such as classical and jazz, and even began teaching myself to play the piano. This exposure to music at OPS has changed my life in many ways. It gave me new hobbies and exposed me to different parts of the world, different cultures and different people. Thank you, Ms. Richardi and Mr. Butcher, for the gift you have given me. --- David

THE END



As our 6th graders say goodbye, they carry with them the OPS spirit.

When I remember OPS, I'll remember May 20, 2020, at 12:56 p.m. when I cleaned out my locker for the last time. I'll remember walking through the empty halls, surrounded by student artwork. I'll remember sitting at my old desk, looking at the walls of my classrooms, and remembering all of the memories we made there. I'll remember dancing in the rain with my friends and Mrs. Romer at the Walkathon. I'll remember going on a nature walk with Mr. Kasturas, and lifting over logs to see if they were decomposing. I'll remember coming up at lunch to play strategy games with Mrs. Kennedy. I'll remember all of the parties we had in the multi-purpose room. I'll remember feeling the weight of my schoolbag, and realizing it's the garbage bag with the remains of what was inside of my locker as I walked out of the building. I'll remember the feeling, of finally knowing, it was time to move on. --- Eve

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN OF ORADELL

After 31 years at OPS and 39 years dedicated to sharing her love of music with children in schools, Ms. Carol Richardi is retiring at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. As she reflected on her years at OPS, she shared that she couldn't pick a favorite memory because each one is as unique as a different jelly bean. Each musical, sing along and concert is unique to a group of children and holds its own special memories. She continued that the memories that make her smile are of the children who would visit at the end of every day to say goodbye and the sweet notes that these students left on her desk. Those sweet students also have memories of Ms. Richardi as one sixth grader, Sofia, remarked, "Ms. Richardi inspired many students throughout the years by teaching them to express themselves through music. She left her mark on OPS." Ms. Richardi was also an inspiration to her peers, as Mr. James Butcher fondly states, "Carol is someone who cares deeply about instilling a joy of music in all of her students. She has been a true mentor, not only for me but many other teachers across the state." While she looks forward to a future full of music as she continues teaching private piano and voice lessons and working with local children through *All The World's A Stage*, she may even have the time to read the books for her book club. She will miss most singing with children as she often has thought, "How lucky am I that I get to make music every day!"

FEELING SAFE

When I remember OPS I will remember all of the people that were cautious and careful about my many food allergies. I will remember how my dad made and brought me homemade pizza for six years on pizza lunch days because of my dairy allergy. I will remember the times my teachers were cautious when doing activities in the classroom. I will remember the lunch aides being careful with those who had peanut or tree nut allergies. Ms. K, my lunch aide, even went to visit my grandmother's elementary school to learn more about ways she could be careful and prepared at lunchtime! I will remember all of the class parents who called my mom and dad about what I could or could not eat. They always made sure I felt included. Lastly, I will remember all of the caring friends along the way who never made a joke or teased me and were considerate and thoughtful thinking about how dangerous an allergic reaction could be. I had a great time at OPS with wonderful memories, and I always felt safe. --- Julia



Ms. K, as she is known by the children, will be retiring as our lunch aide for 22 years.

