



Odem Jr. High NEWSLETTER

February 22, 2018
Volume 2, Issue 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board Meeting	4/9
STAAR 7th Writing	4/10
STAAR 8th Math	4/10
STAAR 8th Reading	4/11
6/7 Reading Bench.	4/11
6/7 Math Bench.	4/17
8th Science Bench.	4/17
7th Grade Alamo	4/18
6th Grade TAMUCC	4/18
8th Social Studies Ben.	4/18
Symphonic Winds. Reh.	4/25
Robstown Conc. Band	4/26
Symphonic Winds Con.	4/30
6/7 Awards 8:30am	5/1
Academic Banquet	5/1
8th Math STAAR Ret.	5/14
6/7 Math STAAR	5/14
8th Read. STAAR Ret.	5/15
6/7 Reading STAAR	5/15
8th Science STAAR	5/16
8th Social Stud. STAAR	5/17
8th Grade Celebration	5/17
Last Regular Day	5/18
Beach 2 Bay	5/19
Flex Days begin	5/21
Band Schlitterbahn	5/21
Student Council Fiesta	5/22
Planning Day	5/28

Test-Taking Strategies

Test-taking strategies are essential for students who suffer from test anxiety but help all students get mentally prepared for any type of high stakes test.

Here are few general guidelines to share with students:

1. Always arrive early to and take a moment to relax and reduce your anxiety.
2. Listen attentively to instructions.
3. Read the test directions very carefully and watch for details.
4. Start with the easiest section or questions to build your confidence.
5. Maintain a positive attitude. Don't let more difficult questions raise your anxiety and steal your valuable time. Move on and find success with other questions.
6. Do not second-guess yourself. The answer which comes to mind first is often correct. Nervously reviewing questions and changing answers can do more harm than good. (Research shows that students with test anxiety do this often)
7. Plan to finish early and have time to review over your answer choices. Make sure you have answered all the questions.
8. Eliminate unlikely answers first.

STAAR Dates

April 10: 7th Grade Writing, 8th Grade Math

April 11: 8th Grade Reading

May 14: 6th Grade Math, 7th Grade Math, 8th Grade Math Retesters

May 15: 6th Grade Reading, 7th Grade Reading, 8th Grade Reading Retesters

May 16: 8th Grade Science

May 17: 8th Grade Social Studies

Joy Lerma



Joy is a hard worker day in and day out in all her classes, has a good sense of humor, and is always willing to lend a helping hand. She is a responsible young lady and is always ready to tackle any challenge thrown her way with a smile. It is because of her great attitude that she was selected.

Justin Andrade



Justin is a charismatic and spirited young man who is very outgoing. His willingness to put himself out there, regardless of what others are doing, demonstrates his self-confidence. He also excels in his academics and is always eager to learn more. Justin is a humble and kind friend to all.

Zoey Garcia



Zoey is a self-driven and highly-motivated student who strives to excel in all she does. She has continued to go above and beyond to achieve her goals in academics and extra-curricular activities. She is an absolute pleasure to have in class as she is 100% focused at all times.

Daniel Lopez



Daniel is one of the most diligent students in 7th grade. Daniel sets his standards high and has an unwavering desire to achieve great success in all he attempts. He has excelled as an honor-roll student, athlete, Symphonic Band member, NJHS member, and Student Council member. Daniel is also a model student who sets a positive example for his peers.

Marina Moreno



Marina is new to our district this year, but she has made a great impression with our students. She is active in the classroom, track and athletics.

Marco Gonzales



Marco is always positive and ready to learn! He tackles any challenge head on and is always willing to lend a helping hand. Marco is active in sports and academics alike.

UIL—The school year is winding down, and spring UIL activities have been completed at OJHS. Students need to continue to work hard in the classroom and focus on UIL events slated for next school year. UIL provides many opportunities for all students to participate, so parents encourage your students to find an event that interests them and start practicing.

Technology—

Hello Parents, I'd like to you know about technology news from our district. We are increasing the number of Chromebook carts per campus, which is helping us get closer to our 1:1 initiative. A new marquee that will serve the Elem and Intermediate campuses is going to be installed in the next few weeks. Also, the OHS campus has two new computer labs on the way, this will support our certification program. Our students access to technology is our priority and we want to give them every opportunity for success here at OEISD.

Jose Carlos Avila,

Technology & Network Director

ESL/ELL State testing season is just around the corner, and teachers and students are inevitably feeling the pressure. However, for students classified as English language learners (ELLs) this time of year comes with an added level of stress. These students are not only managing the anxiety all students experience knowing that their academic understanding is about to be put to the test; they're also dealing with the added challenge of navigating the experience in a language that may still feel foreign.

Nonetheless, come testing day, many ELLs will be expected to show what they know on a test written in English. How can we take steps to level the playing field for ELLs, and ensure that standardized testing does its job of measuring concept knowledge—not language proficiency?

Help ELLs understand the importance of testing: Many other countries don't put nearly the same emphasis on testing as we do in the United States. As a result, some of your ELLs may simply be confused by the premise, or not understand what all the fuss is about. While you certainly don't want to scare them, it is important to explain what high-stakes state tests are, what they are used for, and why they're important. This background knowledge can go a long way in motivating your ELLs to put forth their best efforts as they prepare for when testing day rolls around.

Social Studies—Social Studies students in 8th grade at Odem JH have been spending some of their time on the Civil War during the 5th Six Weeks. Students learned about the causes of the Civil War, the differences between the North and the South, major military battles and military leaders. One of the many activities the students created was a landmark describing a major battle of the Civil War or the Mexican-American War. Students learned about the significance and importance of U.S. landmarks and how they tell a story of events that occurred in the past.

Perfect Attendance

6th Grade—David Bevly, Noah Brown, Isabella Flores, Joaquin Gamez, Leonardo Garcia, Nathaniel Garcia, Jadelynn Hall, Javier Martinez, Jose Medina, Johanthan Perez, Adam Romero

7th Grade—Matthew Acosta, Alysha Beltran, Ricardo Bravo, Leon Brown, Pedro Diaz, Juan Gomez, Beau Hill, Marisela Lopez, Isaac Lugo, David Martinez, Harley Molsbee, Daniela Morales, Isabella Salinas, Armando Villasenor

8th Grade—James Adams, Josh Adams, Mia Aviles, Brandon Beltran, Isiah Brown, Jenna Chapa, Evelyn Contreras, Michael Edwards, Elijah Friedrichsen, George Garcia, Arabella Garza, Robert Garza, Lauro Gonzalez, Abigail Kennedy, Benjamin Lerma, Cesar Lopez, Torri McClellan, Lahni McCloskey, Nicole Ortiz, Diego Rodriguez, Dylan Tijernia

Swim Lessons

\$60.00 per child- Two week sessions

- ✓ Register anytime in the office
- ✓ Make-ups will be held due to rain only on MONDAYS
- ✓ Classes are Tuesday — Friday

Session I: June 5- June 15 PM 2weeks

Session II: June 26-July 6th AM 2 weeks

Session III: July 17 - July 27 PM 2weeks

AM Times: 11 am, 11:30 am, & 12 pm

PM Times: 5:30 pm, 6 pm, & 6:30 pm



OJH Symphonic Winds Earns Sweepstakes

The Junior High Bands have been busy recently. On March 6th, Symphonic Winds went to UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest in Goliad. They earned the top rating from all of the judges for their stage performance on their prepared music and earned a Superior Rating for their performance in Sight Reading as well. This earned the group their 5th consecutive Sweepstakes award. This is the longest streak in OJH history.

On April 4th, Concert Band went to UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest at San Diego High School. This was the first time Concert Band has attended contest in 4 years. They did an outstanding job on the Stage earning a Superior Rating for their three prepared pieces of music. They concluded their contest with an Excellent rating on the Sight Reading piece. This marked the second time in School history that the concert band brought home a plaque for their performance!

Symphonic Winds will be performing at the Crossroads Contest in Robstown on April 26th. This performance will be recorded to enter the band in the Association of Texas Small School Bands Outstanding Performance Series Competition. On April 30th, Symphonic Winds will have their Spring concert with High School Band at the High School Cafetorium. May 3rd, Concert Band and Beginning Band will have their Spring Concert at the High School Cafetorium.



Coach Huerta, Odem Athletic Director—Our JH competition season has come to end, but not without a strong showing at the JH track meet. The 7th grade girls finished 2nd at the district meet with the 8th grade girls coming in 3rd. 7th grade boys finished 3rd and the 8th grade boys brought home a District Championship. One important note is that all summer camps have been set. Basketball (2nd-6th grade) is June 5th-8th, Basketball (7th-9th grade) is June 18th-21st, volleyball is June 11th-12, and football is July 26th-27th. For basketball camp info you can email Coach Antonio Ramirez at ramireza@oeisd.org. For volleyball information email trujillom@oeisd.org. For football please email huertaa@oeisd.org. We would like encourage all Odem Junior High students and their families to take an interest in and join our athletic programs. For more information please visit www.odemowlathletics.com.

April National Autism Awareness Month

Nearly a quarter century ago, the Autism Society launched a nationwide effort to promote autism awareness, inclusion and self-determination for all, and to assure that each person with ASD is provided the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life. This year let's go beyond simply promoting autism awareness to encouraging friends and collaborators to become partners in movement toward acceptance and appreciation.

Let's embrace a new perspective. For over 50 years The Autism Society has worked in communities (both large and small) to ensure their actions, through their services and programming, supported all individuals living with autism. Let's expand this work to focus on the rest of us – ensuring acceptance and inclusion in schools and communities that result in true appreciation of the unique aspects of all people. We want to get one step closer to a society where those with ASDs are truly valued for their unique talents and gifts.

Celebrate 2018 National Autism Awareness Month! National Autism Awareness Month represents an excellent opportunity to promote autism awareness, autism acceptance and to draw attention to the tens of thousands facing an autism diagnosis each year.

Yolanda Alvaro, Director
Special Ed./Dyslexia

Reading—For every public school district in the state of Texas, state testing takes place in the middle of the spring semester. For some students, this can be a stressful and overwhelming time of year. As the time to take these tests approaches, parents please stress the importance of the test and make suggestions that will help your child keep calm. The best thing any student can do to prepare and rid themselves of testing jitters is to think positively, be open-minded, and do what you can in the weeks prior to prepare for their upcoming tests. STAAR tutorials are taking place daily, teachers are eagerly prepping students during STAAR blitz, and have done their best to teach them strategies throughout the school year to prepare them for their exams. Please encourage your child to attend tutorials and review their testing strategies with them. It's important that they approach their test confidently, their teachers have done so much to prepare them. Together we can help our students find success on their STAAR tests.

Gifted and Talented—Students that have been referred for Gifted and Talented program are currently being tested. Also, all kindergarten students are assessed using teacher input, a kindergarten portfolio, and an online NNAT-3 assessment.

The Selection Process includes the following:

1. Nominations will be requested in the spring semester.
2. The GT testing window is held during the fifth and sixth six-weeks.
3. Entry into the gifted and talented program will be at the beginning of the fall semester.
4. In order to facilitate the selection decisions, a matrix will be prepared for each students. The matrix is used to organize and evaluate student performance on selection criteria.
5. The GT committee may consist of the building administrator, counselor, grade level teachers and GT coordinator.
6. The GT Committee members make decisions regarding the selection process, furloughs, exits from the program, and transfers.

If you have any questions, please call me at 361-368-3881, ext. 268.

Esmeralda Martinez, 504—

What information is used in doing an evaluation under Section 504?

Under Section 504, no formalized testing is required. The 504 Committee should look at grades over the past several years, teacher's reports, information from parents or other agencies, state assessment scores or other school administered tests, observations, discipline reports, attendance records, health records and adaptive behavior information. Schools must consider a variety of sources. A single source of information (such as a doctor's report) cannot be the only information considered. Schools must be able to assure that all information submitted is documented and considered.

Can a student be placed under Section 504 without parental knowledge?

No. Parents must always be given notice before their child is evaluated and/or placed under Section 504 (34 C.F.R. §104.36). Parents must also be given a copy of their child's Section 504 accommodation plan if the committee determines that the child is eligible under Section 504.

Will a student still be in the regular classroom or will he/she be in a "special class"?

A Section 504 eligible child will always be in the regular classroom. Accommodations that are appropriate and have been agreed upon by the 504 committee will be implemented in the regular classroom.

From: Janie Luna
Dept.
lunaj@oeisd.org
264
Food Service Newsletter

Cafeteria

361-368-8121 x

The cafeteria department continues to work hard to provide a healthy and delicious meal for all our OEISD Students. They make sure that all meals are ready to be served in all 3 dinning areas in a timely manner.

A reminder to all parents and guardians that every student in OEISD will receive Free Breakfast and Free Lunch every day at each campus until the end of this school year (2017-2018). If your child chooses more than one main dish or other extra items, your child will need to pay in cash or use their account with sufficient funds.

You can find our menu in our district website under Food Services.

Have a Happy Spring!

Yvette Maldonado
Custodial Dept.

Keeping our schools clean, create a positive learning environment for our OEISD students continue to be our number one priority.

With springtime weather, allergy season is high. With this in mind, the custodial departments is working hard to help minimize allergy symptoms for our students, faculty, and staff.

Please remind your children to always flush and to always wash their hands.

OEISD Custodial Department

Yvette Maldonado

maldonadoy@oeisd.org

Science- Throughout the year, students at OEISD have engaged in exceptional learning in science. From egg incubation, to growing plants, and dissecting specimens; students across the district continue to participate in a variety of learning opportunities. As we begin to wrap up the year with the final six weeks of school, please keep in mind that learning continues throughout the summer!

Summer is the perfect time to encourage students to explore and build on their knowledge as they enhance their critical thinking and creative thinking skills. Almost every activity a child engages in involves science; for example, exploring outdoors, exploring the kitchen, growing plants, building something and examining the night's sky. Below are a few resources to consider when encouraging science exploration at home.

CTE- A huge thank you to the OHS Counseling Department for providing a very informative parent meeting on dual credit and continuing education. We had a great turnout! Just a reminder that we will be having pre-scheduling night at OHS on 4/16 for 9th and 10th graders and on 4/23 for 11th and 12th graders. Are you interested in attending The Craft Training Center to receive a certification in welding? What about a certification in the medical field? We offer several career pathways right here on campus. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the high school should you have any questions on scheduling. We are looking forward to growing our programs and offering the very best for our students.

OEISD Maintenance Dept.
Arnold Maldonado
361-368-8121, ext. 266

Spring is here and the maintenance and grounds department are working at keeping our campuses neatly mowed and clean.

Spring Sports are also up and running, so the maintenance and grounds crew are also working hard on maintaining Owl Stadium ready for our track athletes, as well as the baseball field for our Odem Owls Baseball Team and the Softball Field for our Lady Owls Softball Team.

We also want to thank you for your patience during the demolition process of our old buildings. Water had to be shut off, electricity had to be shut off for the safety of the demolition crew.

Please continue to observe the district's cross walks by stopping in these areas. We also ask that you observe the "SLOW" signs painted/displayed throughout the district. Slow and Safe driving around Owl Square ensures the safety of all our students/faculty and staff.

Roel Arguelles, Transportation

arguellesr@oeisd.org
Rolling Out Success at OEISD
361-368-8121, ext. 266

The Transportation Department has been very busy this six weeks. With spring sports up and running our department is busy getting the buses ready for these extra curricular activities as well as for our daily routes.

We run daily inspections (all fluids, tires, etc.) on all the buses to make sure they are safe to run. Our number one priority is to transport our students safely to and from their homes or extra curricular activities.

Parents and Guardians, please remind your child that when they are riding the bus that they need to practice safety procedures.

◆ Stay in your seat

◆ Follow the bus driver's directions.

Also, for the safety of our students, please observe this very important traffic rule: **When a school bus has the stop sign out and the red lights flashing, on a two-lane, undivided roads, drivers are required to stop in both directions.**

Message from the School Nurse:

Summer is almost here and warmer days are around the corner. When children are outdoors, it's important to protect their skin to prevent melanoma and skin damage from too much sun exposure. Every child needs sun protection. The lighter someone's natural skin color, the less melanin it has to absorb UV rays and protect itself. The darker a person's natural skin color, the more melanin it has. But both dark- and light-skinned children need protection from UV rays because any tanning or burning causes skin damage. Here are the key ways to protect children's skin:

1. Use sunscreen
2. Avoid the strongest rays of the day (from 10am to 4pm)
3. Cover up
4. Wear sunglasses
5. Double-Check Medicines.

OJH NJHS—Congratulations!

19 OJH students were inducted into NJHS. The inductees were; Justin Andrade, Alyssa Benavidez, David Bevly, Joshua Chavira, Claudia Covarrubias, Joaquin Gamez, Leonardo Garcia, Jonathan Loredo, Javier

Martinez, Traci McClellen, Ebin McCloskey, Ryan Mendez, Dezirae Moreno, Joshua Obregon, Madison Bevly, Torin Falcon, Marianna Gomez, and Gabriella Gonzales. A special "Thank You" to all of the NJHS members and OJH faculty and staff who helped make



OJH Track Season Comes to an End!



Congratulations to our Special Olympics Champions!



Clarissa Moreno, Parent Involvement Coordinator News

Great jobs parents, we had a successful 5th Six weeks. OEISD staff would like to thank you for sending your child to school on time and ensuring they are prepared for class. Let's keep up the great work!

Thank you to all OEISD parents who attended the Parental Involvement Conference in Sinton. We enjoyed the keynote speaker Rosie Sanchez presentation covering the ways to help keep our lives less stressful. I hope you left with valuable information.

STAAR Updates

As you know parents, STAAR is always a topic for discussion. STAAR is around the corner and it's imperative to get your child ready! Please ensure your child is getting plenty of rest each night. If they are attending tutoring, talk to them what they learned. Ask them what you can do to help them prepare for the test. Remember parents, you are the biggest help in your child's education.

Resources

Please view the link below.

How can you help you child prepare for STAAR exams? Please click on the link below for tips and an informative video.

<https://texasassessment.com/families/how-to-help-my-child-prepare/>

Dr. Veronica Gutierrez
Curriculum Director/Math Instructional Coach

Why is Math Important to Our Students?

Students who take algebra and geometry go on to college at much higher rates than those who do not (83% vs. 36%).

Most four-year colleges require three to four years each of high school math and science for admission.

Almost 90% of all new jobs require math skills beyond the high school level.

Entry-level automobile workers must use advanced mathematics formulas to wire a car's electrical circuits.

Strong math skills are needed for understanding graphs, charts, and opinion polls in a newspaper, for calculating house and car payments, and for choosing a long-distance telephone service.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 361-368-8121 ext. 232 or gutierrezv@oeisd.org.

District Liaison— **EARLY OWL LITERACY**

Mommy and Me Swimming

It's time to start making plans for the last Early Owl Literacy class of the 2018 school year. I hope you will make plans to join us. **YOU AND YOUR 0 to 3 YEAR OLD**, whether you are the child's parent, grandparent, guardian or baby sitter, are invited to join us on **May 8, 2018**, at the Odem Pool for a special Mommy and Me Swim class. We will recap our literacy strategies and learn a few new ones while learning to swim and play safely in and around the water. I hope you will join us for a good time.

If you have any questions and/or need a ride to the elementary, contact Leigh Ann Ray. rayl@oeisd.org or

(361)815-6235

All 'A' Honor

6th Grade: Justin Andrade, Claudia Covarrubias, Joaquin Gamez, Javier Martinez, Traci McClellen, Ebin McCloskey, Daniel Seaney

7th Grade: Madison Bevly, Anna Decker, Emma Doria, Julietta Esqueda, Julian Gomez, Beau Hill, Bella Kholomeyev, Daniel Lopez, Miranda Pena, Emilee Sturgeon

8th Grade: Krista Beltran, Evelyn Contreras, Catalina Gamez, George Garcia, Arabella Garza, Robert Garza, Jacob Gomez, Alyssa Martinez, Torri McClellen, Nicole Ortiz, Katherine Rodriguez

'A' and 'B' Honor Roll

6th Grade: Eric Aguirre, Mario Benavides, David Bevly, Joshua Chavira, Isabella Flores, Leonardo Garcia, Nathaniel Garcia, Matthew Guzman, Ryan Mendez, John Nino, Jessalyn Ortiz, Bailey Rodriguez, Julian Romero, Vanessa Saucedo

7th Grade: Matthew Acosta, Jasmine Bigner, Karla Covarrubias, Torin Falcon, Zoey Garcia, Marianna Gomez, Esai Gonzales, Mary Navarez, Shamanda Navarez, Kalista Ocana, Aaliyah Parraz, Eduardo Rivera, Isabella Salinas

8th Grade: James Adams, Mia Aviles, Isiah Brown, Nicholas Chavira, Brian Cisneros, Alejandro Cruz, Lizbeth Cruz, Santos DeLaTorre, Martin Doria, Xavier Drennon, Matthew Dunlap, Marco Gonzales, Abigail Kennedy, Jeslyn Luna, Alexis Martinez, Mark Moreno, Christina Ortiz, Antonio Rubio, Dylan Tijernia

CONGRATULATIONS!

Evelyn Contreras

is our perfect attendance winner for the 5th 6 weeks!

He will be recognized at the board meeting on May 14.

Chess Club—The chess club continues to grow. We have anywhere from 9-15 students attending on Wednesdays. Junior high and high school students attend periodically to assist the younger players.

Library-Congratulation's to the students who met their AR Goal!

The libraries have been busy with patrons. Junior high students have been checking out books to help meet their AR goals. They have also been checking out books to help with various research projects for classes. The library also has several databases available to all students at all campuses on their website. Please contact your campus librarian if you have any questions regarding the databases.